

The 2008 Rookie Scouting Portfolio©

**Game Film Analysis
Player Profiles
Scouting Reports**

**A Prospectus of Fantasy Rookies at the
Offensive Skill Positions**

By

Matt Waldman

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Matt Waldman
thegutcheck@gmail.com

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Introduction

The 2008 Rookie Scouting Portfolio is an intensive game film study of 122 eligible prospects for the 2008 NFL draft. The selection of prospects is limited to the offensive skill positions used for fantasy football (QB, RB, WR, and TE). The intent is to provide fantasy owners and draftniks information that goes beyond the general, one- and two-paragraph summaries of player strengths and weaknesses. *The 2008 Rookie Scouting Portfolio* delivers play-by-play examples to illustrate the why a player receives a certain grade.

The emphasis of game film to evaluate a player is based on the philosophy shared by some of the NFL's best personnel men in the history of the game such as Joe Thomas and Ron Wolf. Commissioner Pete Rozelle recommended Thomas to the Minnesota Vikings in the 1960's as their first personnel manager. Thomas went against the grain and built a team around scrambling QB Fran Tarkenton, a player that didn't have ideal measurements, but possessed far greater qualities that one could clearly see on the field.

By the early 70's, Thomas was doing the same thing in Miami. He drafted lesser regarded, Bob Griese over Heisman winner Steve Spurrier, traded for Paul Warfield, and picked Larry Csonka—a back most thought was too slow to be a productive NFL runner. When the Dolphins met the Vikings in the Super Bowl, Thomas had drafted or acquired nearly all the starters on both teams!

Former Packer's GM, Ron Wolf credits Thomas as a person who taught him valuable lessons about the art of personnel decisions. Wolf was the driving force behind the Packers acquiring Brett Favre. The choice of Favre was one of the cornerstones of the Green Bay franchise when they became Super Bowl Champion. Wolf was convinced Favre was a special player, not because what he saw from Favre at the combine, but film study of the future Hall of Famer's junior season at Southern Mississippi.

This is the *Rookie Scouting Portfolio's* third year in print and the feedback I have received from the first two publications has been fantastic. I believe you will be equally pleased with the depth and scope of the 2008 RSP's analysis. Rather than reading a short summary based on a grading scale that is vaguely explained, *The 2008 Rookie Scouting Portfolio* is compiled to not only give you scores, rankings, and summaries, but also provide you a play-by-play breakdown of what was observed during the game to arrive at these conclusions.

The driving force of this concept is the method and format in which the film is broken down and delivered. Each player's game performance is scored on a position-specific checklist containing all the necessary fundamentals that answer the key questions about a prospect's potential to develop into an NFL starter and fantasy asset:

- **Does the player demonstrate consistently sound techniques and decisions in game-day situations?** Hundreds of prospects fighting for NFL roster spots have the physical talent. Dozens of these players impress on the practice field, but when the lights come on, the stands are packed, and the adrenaline is pumping, even first round draft picks can fall apart. The problem has less to do with nerves and more to do with lack of preparation—long-term, daily preparation. The ability to react, decide, and execute with precision comes from techniques ingrained through hard work. These processes become second nature on the field and that ultimately leads to success. What happens on the field is almost always a product of the preparation. Bill Walsh drilled the 49ers relentlessly on the play known as “the catch.” His players thought the play would never work. Yet it was so ingrained in them when Walsh called this little-used, but highly practiced play, the team executed it to perfection when it was most needed.

- **Does the film provide examples that support or differ from the combine results?** The evaluation process is really nothing more than a recruiting process for a lucrative and demanding job. The resume consists of things like a player's stats, media guide-driven measurements, and recommendations from coaches. The NFL Combine is an extensive job interview. The NFL runs the candidate through his paces to determine if what is on the resume holds up. A series of exercises designed to test the player's physical skills, intellect, and maturity are administered in a neutral environment with the intent to provide all players an equal starting point. The combine is an important evaluation tool. Still, we all know some people perform a lot better on the interview than they do on the job. This is why the game film has such importance. To continue with the recruiting process analogy, the film is like a portfolio of work—a clear indication of the player's talents when put to practical use in real game situations. In many cases, this leads to the next question...
- **Does the player translate his physical skills to the football field?** If a WR runs a 4.6-second time in the forty at the combine, the foregone conclusion to the general public is the player is too slow for the NFL. But this combine result won't alarm those that have seen the same WR outrun a defensive back with a good angle and 4.3-speed, or separate from a corner in man coverage that has timed well in workouts. Jerry Rice had functional speed—in other words, he was a more impressive runner in pads than in shorts. Larry Fitzgerald ran closer to 4.6 than prospects with far less skill than the Cardinals Pro Bowl receiver.
- **What is the player's comfort level with physical contact?** Although it is a given football is a contact sport, the level of physical contact a player chooses to deliver or receive can vary greatly—even among pros. Wide receivers Todd Pinkston and Hines Ward are an excellent study in contrast. Pinkston was a highly regarded receiver among many scouts because of his speed, hands, and routes. Ward was a three-position player in college who lacked both polish as a route runner and an attractive 40-time. Pinkston has failed to develop into a productive starter because he doesn't have a high enough comfort level with physical contact. Pinkston has trouble releasing from press coverage, fighting for separation in tight coverage, or going for the ball in traffic. On the other hand, Super Bowl XL's MVP thrives on physical contact as a receiver, runner, and most impressively a blocker. This is a clear example why hitting is the great equalizer in football and where the film room takes precedence to the combine. Most players can perform a task with great execution in an atmosphere with minimal, or no contact, the ones that can execute under heavy physical contact, often illegal contact, are far fewer in number.

In-game commentary accompanies each checklist and is provided to illustrate the reasons behind the player score. Instead of generically describing a player's skill set, *The 2008 Rookie Scouting Portfolio* describes how the player failed or succeeded in performing each skill set in specific detail. The intent is to provide you a frame of reference behind the information and a clearer understanding of the overall assessment.

The Concept Behind The Checklist Format

The concept of delivering a grade can be a highly subjective process. Take 4-5 people with a high level of expertise in a subject, and ask them to use a numerical or letter grading scale to evaluate an individual's performance on a specific task. Odds are slim you'll even come close to a unanimous agreement without establishing more specific guidelines all can agree upon first.

The initial problem is the grading scale. Rarely do people have a clearly defined grading scale in use. For example, there are the typical corporate grading scales of 1-5 or 1-7 (1 = the lowest score and 5 = the highest score) where the joke is no one ever receives the best or worst scores. People also have vastly different ideas about the type of performance deserving of each grade. The differences in opinion increase with the range of the grading scale. Double the range from 1-5 to 1-10 and the ability to find agreement becomes exponentially more difficult and further detracts from the apparent objectivity of the evaluation.

When you examine a scouting evaluation that tells you Reggie Bush received a 9 on a scale of 10 as a receiver, how do you know what the grade is really telling you? Did the evaluator watch Bush catch the ball 9 times out of 10 opportunities? Was it 90 out of 100? Or was it just one highlight and the way a coach lauded the player's skills as a pass catcher? There can be a big difference.

How is the category of receiving defined? Does it include components like route running, the ability to gain yards after the catch, or gaining separation off the line of scrimmage with a defender in tight coverage? All of these areas deserve evaluation otherwise the assessment is incomplete and unfair. Yet, lumping together specific skills can cloud the issue. Some talent evaluators fail to communicate how they separate these skills, if they do so at all. Their audience doesn't understand why a receiver he evaluated with a high grade as a route runner can't get open in the NFL. The evaluator just gave a number but didn't explain how he arrived at that number. If asked after the fact, the evaluator might explain his system in more detail, which can appear more as a rather convenient justification.

While evaluation of human performance will always be subjective, there is a way to limit the amount of variation in the scoring process and build-in more objectivity. The best way to accomplish this feat is the two-fold approach used as the basis for the RSP's game film analysis:

- 1. Clearly define the criteria in writing.** When the performance criteria has a definition, both the evaluator and the audience gain a more accurate understanding of what is expected from the evaluation process. The checklist criteria for each position in these scouting profiles are defined for your reference.
- 2. Score the criteria with a grade of "Yes," or "No."** Once there is written criteria, the evaluator only has to grade whether the individual performed the criteria as defined. The answer is either positive, negative, or the individual didn't have an opportunity to perform the criteria.

Of course, not all graded points have equal value when evaluating a player's performance. One cannot assign the same importance to a receiver's ability to run with the ball as one does to his ability to catch it. All evaluation processes prioritize the value of each criteria point in comparison to the whole, but not all evaluation tools adequately communicate the priority.

Scoring The Checklists

The criteria in these checklists are defined and assigned a numerical value. The more essential the defined criteria point to the player's projected NFL performance at their position, the higher the assigned point value for that particular skill. The player earns all the points for a score of "Yes," or none of the points for a "No." A score of "N/A," means the question is not applicable to the situation being evaluated—for instance, a running back that doesn't have an opportunity to make a difficult/acrobatic reception in a game cannot fail this area.

All positional checklists are scored on a 100-point scale. The overall score is my opinion of each player's current skill set, and contributes to my view of his overall potential to translate those skills as an NFL professional. Fantasy owners should be able to look at these scores and determine where they can find value players in their drafts.

Range	Overall Assessment
90-100	This is a rookie with the talent to contribute at a high level for an NFL team as soon as their first year and at latest, their second season. Since rookies are rarely top tier fantasy starters, this overall number states more to their dynasty potential to become an elite fantasy contributor in the years to come. Although unlikely a player with this overall score will amass this level of production on a consistent basis to become a must start in his first year, a rookie with this score will have the best opportunity in the right situation.
80-89	This rookie should eventually contribute at a high level for an NFL team early in his career. The upper range of this score probably means the player may need 1-2 years, but will eventually develop into a solid, if not excellent NFL player. He will be a solid fantasy starter usually taken in the top 3-5 rounds of a re-draft league. A player in the lower range has a chance to accomplish the same level of productivity but may have a clearly defined weak area(s) that requires improvement. He could contribute now, but he'll have liabilities an NFL defense will be able to exploit within a game or two. Most struggling starters that may produce decent numbers but make repeated mistakes that cost their team are playing at this level. These are players best used as a situational player or reserve. If he doesn't make progress with these skills earlier in his career, he'll most likely remain a situational player or backup.
70-79	A rookie with NFL talent but falls under one of three categories: he is new to the position, lacked great coaching because his skill sets detract from his physical talent, or he has decent—if not a high level of skills—but he doesn't have the elite physical talent. Players in the upper half of this range often become starters, and sometimes stars, but the rate of progress is slower than their peers. A player in the lower half is more likely to be career back up with the ability to be productive in spot situations. These aren't players a fantasy owner will want to draft in traditional leagues, but have nice value as mid-to-late round picks in dynasty leagues with deeper rosters. Even if not drafted to a fantasy roster in their first year, a savvy owner will be aware of these players and pick up them up on the waiver wire at the opportune time.
60-69	These prospects generally have more than one deficiency in their game. The media labels these guys as "projects," if they have the physical talent. Another likelihood is the player may have excelled in college but played in a system that contributed to his success more than his individual skills. These players are long shots to develop into a quality NFL and fantasy starter. You will likely see this player on various NFL rosters or vying for playing time in other professional leagues (AFL, CFL, or NFL-Europe) early in his career. A fantasy owner in a deep, dynasty league may want to keep an eye on these players for a few years but they aren't likely worth a pick unless the league has 40+ players and 16+ teams.
0-59	A player with this low of a score has major deficiencies in his game and probably lacks the physical talent relative to the average NFL player. With time, opportunity, and coaching this player has a chance to develop into a backup, but the likelihood of this player growing into a productive starter in the NFL or fantasy leagues is too low for someone to seriously consider until that player proves everyone wrong.

Criteria Glossary

At the end of this portfolio is a glossary of every criteria point on the checklist. Each criteria point falls under a broad category that describes a group of related skill sets for the position. Each broad category has a definition as do the criteria points. Most of criteria definitions end with an example player from NFL history that demonstrated this skill. The positions and their corresponding point value are listed at the end of each section.

This scoring system models the idea that there is very little separating a great pro from a good pro. Players in an NFL training camp constitute the top percentile of college talent. Therefore the difference between the skill sets and talents of pro players within their position is far smaller than the gap among the best and worst college starters. It is important to note these scores are generally derived from one game.

Although some prospects have checklists compiled from more than one contest, if not several, this is still a snap shot of a player's career. This means there is a chance that player has demonstrated a consistent level of skill not seen in these games. Yet, the checklist is designed to point out a player's talent level separate from their statistical performance.

Quarterbacks

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the Position

Overrated and Underrated

Projects

Best by Category

Fantasy Top 15

Combine/Pro Day-Adjusted Rankings

Scouting Checklists and Profiles

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the Position

Two of 2008's top prospects are have clear starter potential. There are a few mid-level prospects with the physical skills to develop over the long haul with strong coaching, but this is not nearly as strong of a class as last year's crop. Several of the mid-tier prospects have the desired NFL physical skills, but did not develop at the expected rate in college to be considered strong pro prospects. At least two of these players will likely fight their way into a starting job within the next 4-5 years, but unlike 2006-2007 there are far fewer "heir-apparent" players in this class.

For fantasy owners, rookie quarterbacks are premium investments in dynasty leagues, but they are best avoided in typical re-drafts. Here are the top 10 single-season performances for rookie quarterbacks and their subsequent year-end fantasy ranking within the context of their position. Fantasy points are based on a general scoring system, 4 points per touchdown pass; 6 points per rushing touchdown; 1 point per 20 yards passing; and 1 point per 10 yards rushing:

Rookie QBs At Their Best						
Last	First	FF Pts	Rookie Year	Round	#	Season Ranking
Manning	Peyton	297.15	1998	1	1	6th
Kelly	Jim	287.55	1986*	1	14	5th
Moon	Warren	242.00	1984*	U	U	12th
Mirer	Rick	241.95	1993	1	2	9th
Weinke	Chris	239.35	2001	4	11	19th
Zorn	Jim	225.15	1976*	U	U	6th
Leftwich	Byron	219.75	2003	1	7	18th
Roethlisberger	Ben	219.45	2004	1	11	21st
Collins	Kerry	217.25	1995	1	5	22nd
Couch	Tim	216.15	1999	1	1	17th
Average		240.58				14th

* - Denotes player's first year in NFL, not necessarily first year in pro football. Jim Kelly was drafted in 1983 but played in the USFL until '86. Warren Moon originally signed with he CFL.

U - The player was not drafted by an NFL team.

Only 7 of the top 12 rookie fantasy quarterbacks were truly first year professionals. Moon and Kelly already had a few seasons of professional football experience, and Zorn played in a different era of offensive football. The highest-performing rookies generally put up numbers worthy of a fantasy backup. That's a late-round bargain for a backup in some re-draft leagues. Still, no experienced fantasy owner is going to build a re-draft team around a rookie. Rookie quarterbacks have a much higher value in dynasty leagues, although you don't want to build your team around one unless you have a productive veteran to keep in your lineup for the first 2-3 years.

Overrated Prospects

Chad Henne, Michigan: There are some analysts who tout Henne as an underrated prospect with future starter written all over him. Henne has the arm strength and the pedigree college program, but he doesn't have the timing in the pocket to execute under

pressure. Anticipation is a quality that is more intuitive for a quarterback and Henne lacks this skill. Although he'll be able to refine his mechanics to become a more technically sound quarterback, I believe he'll consistently struggle against NFL pressure. He's also not very mobile and if he struggles with throwing the ball too early or too late, his cement-footed lack of athleticism won't alleviate this problem, either. The only things Henne and Brady have in common are arm strength and starting for the Michigan Wolverines.

Dennis Dixon, Oregon: Dixon is not seen as a top prospect, but he will likely get drafted because he is such a threat in the open field. I don't believe he is that valuable to draft as anything other than a late second day prospect. Every year there are players who possess his athleticism that teams either overspend on because they think they can make him a great WR or develop him into a starting QB. Joshua Cribbs, Patrick Crayton, and Isaiah Stanback are all players who fit the bill here. I believe Dixon could develop into a quarterback if someone worked with his footwork and mechanics, but he does have a lot of development ahead of him. His footwork is horrible and that's just from the shotgun. He still has to learn to make good drops in pro offense.

Underrated Prospects

Sam Keller, Nebraska/Arizona State: There was a time Keller appeared to be on his way to becoming one of the top prospects at his position. He was seen as an aggressive pure passer at Arizona State who had won over his teammates with his bravado and toughness in the pocket. But after a well-publicized QB controversy where Dirk Koetter displayed a fatal lack of leadership as head coach, Keller was demoted by a very close team vote when Bobby Carpenter's family allegedly threatened to transfer after Koetter originally made the decision to give Keller his starting job back upon return from injury. Keller transferred to Nebraska where he demonstrated the humility to run the scout team for a year and learn the west coast offense—a style of play that is antithetical to his natural skills as a QB.

Keller has good downfield accuracy, stands tough in the pocket, and has demonstrated the kind of persistence that comes with experiences such as what happened to him the past two years. These are the experiences that usually happen to players early in their pro career. I believe Keller's arm, accuracy, and toughness will make him an intriguing mid-to-late round selection and in an offense that emphasizes the vertical passing game, Keller could thrive if he lands on a team that has decent pass protection.

Erik Ainge, Tennessee: Ainge has the size, athleticism, and arm of an NFL quarterback. What he didn't have at Tennessee was consistent coaching and development. Ainge began to show signs of improvement under David Cutcliffe, Eli Manning's former coach at Ole Miss. Although he played in a short passing offense, I liked what I saw from Ainge's accuracy and poise. He has the raw tools to develop into a successful NFL contributor—possibly a starter. I think he has more promise than Chad Henne.

Projects

Kyle Wright, Miami: Wright has the size, arm, mobility and anticipation to be productive in the NFL. What he lacks is confidence and consistency with his decisions. He tries too hard to force throws and make things happen rather than play within himself and the game. If he can unlearn some of these mental lapses, Wright could blossom into a quality backup with starter potential.

Paul Smith, Tulsa: Smith is a smart passer who sees the field well and has the mobility to create passing lanes. He throws very well on the run and his style reminds me a bit of Jeff Garcia's. He possesses good anticipation on short to intermediate throws, but he's a

streaky passer who takes too many chances downfield in coverage. His aggressiveness is good, but he needs to mature with his decisions in the pocket. I'm not sure he will get drafted, but I can envision him landing somewhere after bouncing around and eventually sticking.

Best and Worst By Checklist Category

The Best Quarterbacks By Category	<u>Category</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	Arm Strength	Joe Flacco	Ryan has a decent arm, but it's not even close. Flacco can throw the ball 60 yards easily.
	Accuracy	Matt Ryan	John David Booty has good accuracy as well, but these two signal callers demonstrated consistent pinpoint accuracy when they had time in the pocket.
		Colt Brennan	
	Delivery	Colt Brennan	Both have some irregularities with their delivery, but they can get the ball out accurately from different platforms. Brennan's ¾ motion will be a concern for some and Ryan's awkward weight shift for others, but both get the ball out fast.
		Matt Ryan	
	Decisions	Brian Brohm	Brohm consistently made the strongest decisions as a situational football player.
	Ball Handling	Paul Smith	No one in this class is great at play fakes, but these two QBs demonstrate thoroughness with their execution and protect the ball.
		Sam Keller	
	Pocket Presence	Brian Brohm	He feels pressure well and is equally comfortable stepping up or standing in the pocket against the blitz to make the throw.
Scrambling	Dennis Dixon	Dixon is a dynamic runner and is a weapon when he breaks the pocket. Flynn runs the ball very well for a QB. Both buy time well with their athleticism.	
	Matt Flynn		

The Worst Quarterbacks By Category	<u>Category</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	Arm Strength	Adam Trafalis	Athletic QB who lacks consistent range and accuracy over 25-30 yards.
	Accuracy	Adam Trafalis	Trafalis is more of a runner who executes a short passing game. Dixon has potential to be more accurate with an overhaul of his footwork.
		Dennis Dixon	
	Delivery	Andre Woodson	If Woodson corrects his elongated windup he could challenge for a starting job down the line. Dixon and Trafalis have footwork issues. So does Kyle Wright, but not as bad.
		Dennis Dixon	
		Adam Trafalis	
	Decisions	Colt Brennan	Brennan and Mitchell often make reckless decisions in their wide open offense that kill their team's chances of winning.
		Blake Mitchell	
	Ball Handling	Colt Brennan	For a good prospect, he carries the ball way too low and needs more work behind center with the play action game.
Pocket Presence	Blake Mitchell	This QB loses his poise under pressure and does not sense the rush effectively.	
Scrambling	Chad Henne	He can slide away from pressure, but he's no threat to break the pocket.	

The Top 15 Quarterback Prospects for Dynasty Leagues

These are my top-15 based on film study. I am leaving out players I did not study. My rankings are based a combination of collected data in this portfolio, my view of their potential fit with any offensive system, and their potential for growth based on the film study. The Score on these rankings is the highest raw checklist score performed on this player. Remember to always draft for value. My top ranked player may be valued much lower, so don't draft him early when you can get him much later.

In my opinion, the general public places too much emphasis on a quarterback's arm strength and too little on his pocket presence, ball handling skills, and decisions. Obviously, the surrounding talent is a big factor in determining a young quarterback's likelihood for success. Since this publication was written prior to the NFL draft, the rankings are a reflection of players with the greatest chance to make a positive impact with their overall skill set and how flexible their skill sets are to the widest varieties of offensive systems. In any dynasty league setting, I would be comfortable drafting the first five quarterbacks on this list. After that, it depends on the size of the league but I think the top 10 prospects all have potential to be worthwhile fantasy players within a three-year period.

1	Matt Ryan	86	6-5	218	Ryan is a strong NFL prospect, but he is a borderline system quarterback because he lacks great mobility and elite arm strength. He's a smart, aggressive player in the mold of the classic pocket passers in the NFL. He also possesses toughness and leadership that will aid his transition.
2	Brian Brohm	84	6-4	224	Brohm is a very mechanically sound QB who sees the field well and has the physical skills as a passer to become a viable starter. He needs to refine his accuracy and become more consistent with his execution under pressure and after contact.
3	Colt Brennan	84	6-3	190	A lot of people are down on Brennan because of his physical build and the fact his team was exposed against Georgia in the Sugar Bowl. The Hawaii QB remains a very accurate passer with good anticipation and mobility. I believe his score is close to the ceiling of his talent. In contrast, I believe the players above and below him have more opportunity to develop. Nonetheless, he could be excellent in the right system.
4	Sam Keller	84	6-4	230	I'm of the belief Sam Keller got jobbed by his coach at Arizona State. This is an aggressive passer who his former QB coach compared favorably to Tony Romo--and this coach actually worked with Romo in college. Keller isn't as mobile as the Dallas starter, but he is a leader who I believe will be a better pro than collegian.
5	Joe Flacco	82	6-6	230	NFL personnel types love his size and arm. Flacco draws comparisons to Ben Roethlisberger. There are similarities, but he needs more development time to see a starting lineup. He does show enough potential to develop into an NFL starter.

6	Erik Ainge	82	6-6	220	Ainge has the prototypical NFL body and he's a good enough athlete to develop into quality pro. I believe he's one of the mid-tier prospects who could become a starter in a few years because he demonstrated rapid improvement with quality coaching.
7	John David Booty	82	6-3	215	Booty lacks the elite attributes of a franchise passer, but he's good enough to develop into a back up with enough skills to be a temporary starter for an NFL team in transition.
8	Kyle Wright	80	6-4	225	Wright's career at UM was a disappointment. He has all the physical tools to be an NFL starter, but only showed flashes of his potential. If he lands in a good situation, he could develop but the odds are likely that he'll be a backup at best.
9	Andre' Woodson	79	6-4	229	Woodson is a more mobile, weaker-armed Byron Leftwich. He should make a team, but to have long term starter potential Woodson will have to correct the elongated windup in his delivery that tips off defenses.
10	Chad Henne	78	6-2	223	Henne has the skills to be a quality NFL back up.
11	Paul Smith	78	6-2	193	Mobile, aggressive, and smart. Smith could flourish in a west coast system. Otherwise a backup.
12	Anthony Morelli	75	6-4	232	Morelli will really need to refine his decision making to have a chance to stick with a roster.
13	Matt Flynn	71	6-3	227	Flynn is a tough player with excellent mobility. I believe he has an opportunity to develop into a better pro, but he'll need a lot of coaching. To get that kind of coaching he'll need to land on an NFL roster with a stable QB situation where they can afford to keep him.
14	Xavier Lee	70	6-4	234	Put Paul Smith's personality in Xavier Lee's body and you have the top prospect in this draft. Lee has skills, but could not stay in the line up. If he matures and works tirelessly, he could be an NFL starter--BIG IFS
15	Bobby Reid	68	6-3	235	I saw flashes of good downfield accuracy, arm strength and poise. He could be a worthwhile project.
16	Adam Tafralis	63	6-1	230	San Jose State
17	Dennis Dixon	57	6-4	205	Oregon
18	Blake Mitchell	53	6-3	217	South Carolina

QB Comparisons

One way to sum up a prospect is to compare him to other pros that played his position. It's also difficult to be accurate with just one player as a comparison because football players—as with anyone in their careers—have an amalgam of influences. Each prospect has skills reminiscent of multiple players so in this chart I list the players I believe are the best match for each. The order in which I list them is how I rank them (best to worst) on a spectrum of stylistic similarities. The “x” is where I believe the prospect will eventually fall along this spectrum if he fulfills his potential as a pro. The dashes indicate an approximate skill gap between the players in terms of where they fall and a slash indicates these players will likely be the same in skill set.

Rank	Name	Score	Height	Weight	Best Skills	Player Comparison
1	Matt Ryan	86	6-5	218	Pocket Presence; Accuracy; Leadership	Peyton Manning-Dan Fouts-Troy Aikman--X--- Kerry Collins

2	Brian Brohm	84	6-4	224	Pocket Presence; Decisions; Mechanics	Carson Palmer--Matt Hasselbeck-- X ---Joey Harrington
3	Colt Brennan	84	6-3	190	Accuracy; Quick Release; Mobility	Jeff Garcia--Jake Plummer/ X --Jim Harbaugh--Ty Detmer
4	Sam Keller	84	6-4	230	Arm Strength; Release; Accuracy	Dan Marino--Drew Bledsoe-- X --Scott Mitchell
5	Joe Flacco	82	6-6	230	Arm Strength; Release; Accuracy; Pocket Presence	Ben Roethlisberger--Daunte Culpepper-- X ----- Andrew Walter
6	Erik Ainge	82	6-6	220	Mechanics; Accuracy	Brad Johnson--Jason Campbell-- X --Chad Hutchinson
7	John David Booty	82	6-3	215	Accuracy; Ball Handling	Trent Green-Eli Manning--Brian Griese-- X
8	Kyle Wright	80	6-4	225	Arm Strength; Pocket Presence	Chris Chandler----Chris Simms-Rob Johnson/ X
9	Andre' Woodson	79	6-4	229	Arm Strength; Pocket Presence	Carson Palmer--Matt Hasselbeck--Brian Brohm-- X /Joey Harrington
10	Chad Henne	78	6-2	223	Arm Strength; Release	Kurt Warner--Jon Kitna---Patrick Ramsey/ X
11	Paul Smith	78	6-2	193	Delivery; Ball Handling; Mobility	Jeff Garcia--Jake Plummer/Colt Brennan--Jim Harbaugh- X -Ty Detmer
12	Anthony Morelli	75	6-4	232	Mobility	Brad Johnson--Jason Campbell--Erik Ainge-AJ Feeley-Chad Hutchinson- X
13	Matt Flynn	71	6-3	227	Mobility	John Elway/Brett Favre-Donovan McNabb-Steve McNair-----Kyle Boller/Josh McCown- X
14	Xavier Lee	70	6-4	234	Mobility; Arm Strength	Vince Young--Kordell Stewart-----Adrian McPherson-- X
15	Bobby Reid	68	6-3	235	Poise; Short to Midrange Accuracy	Steve McNair--David Garrard---Kyle Boller/JoshMcCown-Matt Flynn--- X
16	Adam Tafralis	63	6-1	230	Mobility	David Garrard-----Matt Flynn---Bobby Reid----- X
17	Dennis Dixon	57	6-4	205	Mobility; Arm Strength	Steve Young---Mike Vick---Kordell Stewart----- X
18	Blake Mitchell	53	6-3	217	Short range accuracy	Danny Wuerffel-- X

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1 pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1 pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1 pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1 pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1 pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Adam Tafralis

Date: 10/12/2007

Opponent: Hawaii

Overall Strengths:

He's a good athlete who is not afraid of contact. He has a good sense of the pass rush and slides effectively in the pocket. He can improvise to create passing lanes or gain yardage as a runner. He's not a huge running threat, but he's good enough to get 10-15 yards when necessary. He has good timing on intermediate routes up the middle of the field and a solid over the shoulder delivery.

Overall Weaknesses:

Tafralis' footwork needs refinement. He'll throw a lot of inaccurate passes in the short to intermediate range because he doesn't keep his feet under him as pressure is coming up the middle. He lacks the arm to be a pro quarterback. He loses accuracy around 35 yards and is often very inaccurate in the flat, especially under a modicum of pressure.

Accuracy:

His first completed pass was a swing pass to the slot that was thrown way too high, but the WR came down with it before he was brought down three yards behind the LOS, partially due to the hang time of the throw. His first interception was not his fault. He threw an accurate pass to his WR in the middle of the field, but the ball went through the receiver's hands while in tight coverage and the ball appeared to bounced off his body and into the LB coming across to tackle the receiver. Instead, the LB got the ball. Although throwing from the same hash, he lead his WR too far on a smash screen with 10:24 in the 1st QTR. He threw the ball a bit high with the wet conditions while under pressure with 10:00 in the 1st QTR. The ball was caught, but still high to the WR in the flat. He threw a ball to the right flat was high as well and resulted in an incompletion. His three of his first four completions were shuttle passes. He threw a ball high up the middle on 1st and 10 with 3:45 in the 1st QTR after sliding forward in the pocket to avoid the rush. He lacks accuracy while on the move in this opening QTR. Good timing on an in-route for a first down, hitting the receiver in stride so he could break the tackle of the CB as he caught the ball and gain extra yards. An accurate throw to his receiver low and away from the defender in tight coverage with 2:34 in the 1st QTR. His shovel passes on the run are accurate, but not when he's trying to thrown overhand from the pocket. He missed is receiver on a check-down crossing route with no pressure in the pocket with 14:00 in the 2nd QTR. He overthrew a flat route at the sideline on 3rd and 17 with 13:07. He threw the ball inside of his WR with coverage to the inside rather than throwing this flat route to the outside shoulder with 4:41 in the half. His second interception was the result of the 35-yard pass being thrown to the outside shoulder with the WR was open to the inside with 4:39 1 the half. He was late on a deep in on 3rd and 7, throwing it behind the WR with 13:10 in the 3rd QTR. When he has time and throws the ball down the middle, he has good timing and accuracy. He hit his WR for a 23-yard gain with 7:20 in the 3rd QTR. Nice sideline fade to the shallow pylon for the score with 5:26 in the 3rd QTR. The ball had just the right arc over the shallow coverage. Good job rolling right, stopping and throwing a 15-yard comeback to the WR with 3:45 in the 3rd QTR.

Arm Strength:

His range seems to be 25 yards and under. His 35-yard throw seemed to be a bit of a strain on his accuracy and mechanics. He had two throws in the 3rd QTR that were 35-yard passes and the accuracy was way off. One drew an interference call but the other was not even close to the WR in the end zone. The 35-yard pass that was accurate was a pass that he missed in the first half, but nailed with 2:39 in the 3rd QTR. The WR once again ran a streak and was open on the inside. This time Tafralis threw the ball over the WR's inside shoulder, hitting him 35 yards downfield and the receiver outran the defense for a 68-yard score.

Delivery:

He has an over the shoulder delivery. His delivery has a snap to it, but the release doesn't always appear very quick. He threw a deep pass 35 yards in the air to his WR on a streak, but he released the ball while moving off his back foot. A very inaccurate throw that resulted in an INT. His footwork needs a lot of development. He will try to throw the ball with awkward foot placement when he senses pressure and it really destroys his short accuracy.

Decisions:

Good job checking down to a crossing route after looking at two other options on the opposite side of the field, but he lead the check-down too far to begin the 2nd QTR. On 2nd and 3 with 5:56 in the half, he had a WR open at the sideline and a TE running a crossing route with a DB bearing down on him. Tafralis opted for the TE who was hammered and dropped the ball.

Ball Handling:

He lost the ball after his drop and bringing it back to throw.

Pocket Presence:

Excellent pump fake in the face of a pass rusher who came clean and got a yard within him from the right side and a second defender up the middle. This pump fake allowed him to slide between them and into the open flat past the right hash on the first play of the game. He delivered a shovel pass to his RB for a 15-yard gain and a first down. Nice improvisational play. Good job getting rid of the ball in the face of the rush on a 1st down pass out of a 5-WR set with 14:25 in the game. He did a decent job of sliding away from backside pursuit and delivering an accurate pass that was dropped against reasonably tight coverage with 9:25 in the 1st QTR. Good job sliding forward against the rush with 3:45 in the 1st QTR. He was late on a throw to his WR on a deep in with 13:10 in the 3rd QTR and as he was releasing, he tried to quickly turn his back to the rushing defender to take the hit this way. I think this also effected his throw.

Scrambling Ability:

Tafralis took a high shotgun snap and ran an option to the left side, turning the corner through a gap off LG for a gain of 8 yards untouched and then leaped over a blocker and a fallen defender. He landed with his back to the first down marker but rolled over a defender to get across the line for an 11-yard gain. Good awareness and burst. He tried to break the pocket after getting hit by backside pressure with 3:35 in the 1st QTR, but as he was dragging the defender forward, he was hit hard from the LB coming from the LOS to clean up the play. He will lower his head and run for yardage between the tackles, which he did for a 5-yard gain and a 1st down with 6:10 in the 3rd QTR.

Durability:

Character:

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Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
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Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
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Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

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Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

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Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

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Ints:
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Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Andre' Woodson

Date: 9/3/2006

Opponent: Louisville

Overall Strengths:

Woodson has the body of a prototypical NFL quarterback. He was already facing a 21-0 deficit on his third series of the ball game. He is a tough player who is willing to take a hit to complete a pass to his open receiver. He demonstrates good composure despite being behind at early and facing blitzes. He isn't Donovan McNabb-fast, but he has strength and can move, break tackles, and create space in the pocket with his size, agility, and a fast 1st step. He has NFL arm strength can make off balance throws when necessary. He makes a good effort to keep his feet underneath him on throws where he's rolling out of the pocket.

Overall Weaknesses:

Woodson can elude pressure in the pocket, but he's not a threat to run the football. He doesn't have downfield speed to gain separation. He sometimes stares down receivers or focuses on getting the ball only to one receiver. He tends to throw the ball into coverage and his footwork needs refinement in order for him to have sharp enough mechanics to throw with greater accuracy. His release is slower than it could be due to a windup in the delivery which also keys defenses and could create issues for him.

Accuracy:

Woodson's first throw was a bit too high. He tried to deliver a sideline streak to his WR Burton, but put too much air under the ball on a 15-yard toss. His set and throw seems a bit too sudden as if he doesn't smoothly transition from his drop to delivery and may throw off his accuracy a bit. On a 2nd and 11 with 2:26 remaining in the opening QTR, Woodson floated a swing pass to his RB in the left flat. The throw was good enough for the RB to catch the ball, but the back dropped it. Despite the throw being "good enough," Woodson could have led the back with his pass instead of under throw the ball and force the RB to turn back to the ball to face the pass. A more accurate throw wouldn't have forced the RB to alter his direction and positioning so drastically. Woodson has been throwing the ball high throughout the first half. Woodson's first score was a 74-yard WR screen pass to Keenan Burton who took the ball the entire distance for the score. The QB did demonstrate good timing and patience on the throw. His next pass was a short touchdown on a roll to the left. Good positioning and accuracy on an out in coverage which looked like the famous west coast offense play inside the five that Bill Walsh made famous with Jerry Rice. Although the DB broke up the bomb with 12:55 in the 3rd QTR, the pass was accurately thrown to the WR in stride. He might have been able to get the ball a bit further to the WR's inside position, but the incompletion was much more a product of great timing from the DB defending the pass. Nice, accurate short throw to the RB in the flat with 12:47 in the 3rd QTR with pressure in his face. The RB gained 8 yards on the play with the ball placed perfectly to him in stride. He slightly overthrew his WR running a seam route 30 yards downfield. The WR fully extended his body to dive for the football, but the ball was about a foot too far from his reach. It is possible the WR didn't run hard enough to start the route based on Woodson's reaction after the play.

Arm Strength:

Woodson can definitely throw the football 40-yards downfield. He delivered a pass 45 yards in the air from the opposite hash with :29 left in the half. With 12:55 in the 3rd QTR, Woodson unloaded a bomb 52-yards in the air to his WR David Jones and would have hit the WR in stride if the CB didn't make an excellent play to bring his hand over the WR's shoulder and bat the pass away. Woodson showed the arm strength to squeeze a throw between zone coverage to his primary WR Burton with 9:32 in the 3rd QTR for a completion. It was not a wise throw because he had to gun it past a DB in front of the WR and 3 other DBs were encircled of the WR within 5 yards, but he did demonstrate his ability to zip the ball into tight coverage. He hit his WR on a play action streak with a 38-yard throw on a line for an 88-yard score.

Delivery:

Woodson threw a really ungainly ball on a swing pass to his RB with 2:26 in the 1st QTR. The throw resulted in a drop. Woodson is standing very flat-footed in the pocket and it seems to create a bit of a problem with his delivery. He tends to throw the ball high. Woodson throws a pretty pass, but his footwork on his follow-through is a little sloppy. He doesn't fully turn his hips his throws and his foot placement is a bit too narrow when making his release. On the 3rd and 12 play with 1:58 remaining where Woodson rolled away from the pocket pressure, he did a good job of setting his feet prior to throwing the ball, but the width of his feet on this play were too wide and he overthrew the pass. The fact that his mechanics were fundamentally good under pressure is a good sign that he's coachable and with practice, he should be more accurate in these situations with work. The biggest issue his the windup to his delivery. This slows his release and is a potential problem as an NFL QB.

Decisions:

Woodson was a bit hasty in his attempt to deliver a screen pass on a 3rd and 16 deep in their own territory. The RB was not open and the Louisville defense tipped the pass at the LOS which nearly resulted in an interception. Woodson was in the pocket so he couldn't throw the ball in too many other directions or take the sack. Woodson has been fixated on Burton since late in the 1st QTR. He has attempted 6 passes in Burton's direction despite good coverage in the first half. Woodson had a ball deflected on 3rd and 2 with 12:43 in the 3rd QTR. He was trying to throw to the FB in the flat who was wide open. If he pump faked he might have had time to get the ball to the FB or dump it to the RB in the left flat. Woodson's completion to Burton with 9:32 in the 3rd QTR was not a wise throw due to the four defenders above, below, and on either side of the WR. Woodson tends to stare down his primary receiver. He did this on 4 of the six curl/hook routes thrown at Burton in the first three QTRs of the game. He had a delay of game penalty with 2:30 left when trying to check down at the line of scrimmage. On this throw he did a nice job of going to Burton as the secondary receiver, but it was a high-risk decision due to the coverage. He did throw the ball away with 2:10 left in the 3rd QTR when faced with a heavy blitz. He threw the ball to close to defens than what's a good pass.

Ball Handling:

Woodson made a good pump fake with 10:10 in the half on a short drop before attempting to deliver the ball to Burton, but he didn't have the time to set and throw with a DL in his face. Woodson delivered a terrific play fake with his free hand while crouching well enough to disguise the fake and freeze the LB coming off the blindside untouched. He delivered a perfect throw to his WR for a long score just as the LB hit him.

Pocket Presence:

Woodson was sacked on the second play of UK's first offensive series. The DT took and inside track from the right side of the line and delivered the hit and wrap. There wasn't much time to deliver the throw. On 3rd down with 2:20 left, Woodson did a good job sliding to his left when he sensed backside pressure and using a pump fake to buy extra time. He gained an extra 2 seconds in the pocket and nearly hit a receiver over the middle for a completion on a play that looked certain to be a sack, but the ball was tipped and the line was called for holding. Woodson rolled right on a designed play, but he continued to roll into the teeth of the defense rather than stop, plant, and throw when there was a passing lane and space in the pocket. This decision caused him to throw the ball too high for Burton to make the catch. He will stand in the pocket to make the throw. On a 3rd and 8 with 13:00 left he nearly completed a pass to Burton for a first down. He placed the pass a little low, but it was catchable. Woodson showed enough poise on a shotgun snap that he muffed, to pick up the ball, find his receiver, and deliver a 42-yard strike to Burton to the 2-yard line with :28 left in the half. He also knew he'd take a hit on the play but followed through. Woodson has a pretty good feel for the pass rush. He stepped up in the pocket and scrambled for an 8-yard gain on a 2nd and 11 to begin the second half and it was good timing, because the front side rush came free a split-second after he stepped up. Once again Woodson did a good job sliding to his right in the pocket and gunning a throw for a completion with 9:32 left in the 3rd QTR. Woodson took a hard, blindside shot from the OLB on his play action pass for a score from 88 yards out.

Scrambling Ability:

Woodson tried to scramble up the middle for a gain from a 5-WR set with 10:01 left in the 1st QTR. He did not appear fast or nifty with his feet. He actually appeared somewhat slow and awkward. He was brought down after gaining a yard. He is mainly a dropback passer. Woodson made a quick decision to exploit the lane in front of him and leave the pocket for an 8-yard gain on 2nd and 11 on the second play of the second half. He did not look especially quick or nimble, but he did a good job using his height to lean forward for extra yards when finishing the run. On 3rd and 12 with 2:05 left in the 3rd QTR, Woodson rolled to the right when the right DE collapsed the pocket. Woodson was able to break free of the DE's grasp of his jersey just below his armpit. The QB's size made it more difficult for the DE to bring him down with just one hand. Woodson broke free and rolled away from the left DE in pursuit before delivering an incomplete pass in the general area of two receivers up the seam about 20 yards downfield. On his last attempt of the game, Woodson faced a safety blitz with 10:35 in the 4th QTR as he was making a play fake. The safety was coming from his blindside unblocked so the moment he turned to face the LOS to set his feet the DB was literally two yards away with a DT also coming free from the same distance. Woodson made a great reaction to eliminate the DB's angle and toss him aside with his free hand, while running to the right with the DT a half yard away and an LB 3 yards away and charging hard directly in front of the QB. Woodson outran the diving DT and stiff armed the LB to get enough space to throw the ball away after breaking the pocket.

Durability:

Character:

Woodson was actually demoted to second string the summer prior to the 2006 season, but he worked hard and continued to take a leadership role throughout. He continued to try to make plays throughout this game and attempt to instill a sense of urgency in his offense, but he was pulled for sophomore Curtis Pulley with 8:42 in the 4th QTR. Of course, Pulley got sacked, fumbled the ball, and Louisville recovered it for a defensive score.

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

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Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

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

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Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

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Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

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Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Andre' Woodson

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths:

Strong armed and accurate in the short game. He's a high effort player who can make all the throws. He will stand tough in the pocket and can buy a little time under pressure. He makes quick decisions and displays a level of confidence as a passer. He is good at ball fakes and pump fakes to set up a defense. Woodson has NFL physical skills as a passer and should make a club.

Overall Weaknesses:

He is mobile enough to buy a little bit of time, but he is not much of a threat to break the pocket for big gains unless the defense blows a coverage. He has a troubling elongated delivery that could be problematic in the pros--ala Byron Leftwich's troubles as a pro. His deep throws often lack anticipation and the velocity to hit a player in stride. He often stares down his primary receiver and lacks pinpoint accuracy with throws longer than 7-10 yards. Once he gets into the 15 to 20-yard range, his throws in tight coverage sometimes lack the pinpoint accuracy important for the NFL. He will need good coaching to continue to develop into an NFL starter, because these weak areas are a lot of little things that he does well, but not well enough that could hurt him against faster and more aggressive defensive players and schemes.

Accuracy:

Nice accurate pass to the back shoulder of the WR in the flat on a half roll to the left to lead off the initial drive of the game. He hit his TE in stride on the next pass of the game, but the TE dropped the football. On 3rd and 6 of the next play, he rolled right and delivered an on target pass to the WR in the right flat on a hitch, hitting the WR on the back shoulder so the WR could turn up field and get the extra yardage needed for a the first down. He was right on time with the hitch to the same WR (Burton) on the next play, but the WR allowed the ball to go through his hands. He threw an accurate stop-fade on 3rd and 2 with 10:14 in the 1st QTR, but the CB defended it successfully. Good timing on a deep cross on 3rd and 5 for a 14-yard gain to the WR in stride. His first TD was a tipped pass to the TE on a roll right inside the 1 yard line. Although he completed a pass he threw 52 yards in the air, the WR made an excellent play to come back to the ball at the sideline. It was actually thrown a bit late and high which forced the adjustment. Very accurate swing pass to the RB for an 18-yard gain with 3:36 in the 3rd QTR. He threw the ball well behind the WR on a 3rd and 11 pass about 15 yards downfield. UK was fortunate the refs called this interference. Good zip on an 11-yard pass to Tammie, but he put it on the wrong shoulder--he threw it to the inside shoulder with the LB in tight coverage and the TE had to make an excellent play to make the catch and prevent an int.

Arm Strength:

Good velocity and distance on a deep pass down the right sideline against a corner blitz and into double coverage. He got the ball into the WR's hands, but the ball was dropped. He completed a 51-yard pass that covered a total of 52 yards in the air. Good arm strength. His 25-yard throw in the 4th QTR to Johnson had very good velocity.

Delivery:

Woodson demonstrated good mechanics on his throw while rolling to the left. He kept his body pointed in the direction of the throw and exhibited a good release on the run. Woodson has an irregular delivery where he has his elbow above his shoulder and the ball dips a bit before he brings it back up on the release. This extends the length of his delivery and could be problematic from the standpoint of both ball protection and extra time needed to deliver the ball. This is very similar to the wind up that former Marshall star QB Byron Leftwich has--it has been problematic for Leftwich in the NFL because combined with his immobility, he's a sitting duck for blitzing defenses. In fact on 3rd and 2 with 10:14 in the 1st QTR, Woodson barely got the ball out in time as the DT Dorsey was in his face just as he released. He has a noticeable lag time with his delivery. It was amplified on the deep pass to Burton in the 1st QTR that fell incomplete. He's had two balls tipped in the 1st half partially due to his elongated delivery.

Decisions:

Woodson hesitated a half-second too long on a deep out with 13:15 in the 1st QTR. As a result he tried to power the pass to his WR and threw the ball too high and too late. This forced the WR to slow down out of his break and wait for the ball. The result was an acrobatic catch that didn't count because he was knocked out of bounds. An early throw would have meant a catch without the DB hitting him at the sideline until he got a foot inbounds. Woodson has made a few plays in the 1st QTR against the blitz where he clearly recognized the defense's intention and either threw the ball to the open player or nearly completed a big play. Woodson's 1st interception was more the fault of the WR who did not continue to run back to the ball on a curl. The QB did throw the ball across the field on this play, but if the WR continues to run back to the ball, the DB does not jump the route and outmuscle the WR for the turnover. His next interception was a poor decision with 8:08 in the 3rd QTR. He faced 11 LSU players on the line on a 3rd and 8 and then the blitz up the middle got to his face, he tried to throw the ball deep in single coverage, but the pass was off target and the safety made an easy interception. Good decision in the redzone to actually throw the ball away after rolling out of pressure and not seeing an open receiver with 8:04 in the game.

Ball Handling:

Good pump fake to run off the LB to the left before he took off for a 12-yard scoring run up the middle with 1:04 in the half. Good play fake and 25-yard pass down the left sideline to his WR for a 35-yard gain. He sold the pump fake just well enough with his shoulders and head movement. Excellent pump fake to the left and then throwing to Johnson at the right corner of the end zone for a score in OT.

Pocket Presence:

Woodson is willing to buy time or take a hit to find the open man. Sometimes he will try too hard to make a play rather than throw the ball away and live another day. Woodson sensed the pass rush with 8:04 in the game and rolled right while keeping his eyes downfield. He made a good decision to throw the ball away when no one camp open.

Scrambling Ability:

His touchdown run with 1:04 in the half was clear sailing up the middle of the defense. He saw the opening, tucked it at the 15 and ran it in untouched. He is not a very fast runner.

Durability:

Character:

Was demoted in spring practice his junior year, but continued to work hard through it as a positive influence. Took noticeably more vocal leadership of the team in the locker room after losing 49-0 to LSU as a junior. KU won 10-straight games after this game.

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Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name:

Anthony Morelli

Date:

10/20/2007

Opponent:

Indiana

Overall Strengths:

Morelli has a strong arm and accuracy on throws on short passes. He throws on rolling both moving left and right with accuracy. I like his presence in the pocket, he senses the pressure and demonstrated a few times that he can slide away from pressure and still look downfield for the open man. He is mobile enough to gain yardage after the pocket collapses and he executes pump fakes very well.

Overall Weaknesses:

His accuracy gets spotty on throws more than 15 yards downfield and his decision making under pressure when he isn't breaking the pocket needs work. He illustrated that he is prone to throw the ball into coverage or up for grabs. He will not throw the ball away when forced out of the pocket. He lacks touch on throws that have to go over a defender and require less velocity and more arc. Unless the defense is playing a basic zone look, he often sticks to surveying a quadrant of the field and throwing in that direction. I think Morelli can develop into a depth chart quarterback capable of solid play in stretches.

Accuracy:

Morelli's first pass came out of the spread formation and it was a short flare to the slot receiver in the flat behind. He did a good job squaring his body to the receiver and delivering with an over the shoulder motion on target to the WR on the run for a first down. He led the receiver very well and that made the difference. They ran the same play on the next snap but just to the opposite side with the same result, a first down. On the next play, Morelli completed a short pass to his WR in motion on a designed roll to the left. The pass was a bit behind the WR, but he made the adjustment to catch the football. Morelli's interception was a very inaccurate deep throw. He severely overthrew the football. On 1st and 10 with 2:15 in the 1st QTR, Morelli made an excellent throw to the receiver in the left flat while rolling left under pressure from the LB. Good technique to square up and deliver a pass on the inside shoulder of the receiver. He was very inaccurate on a pass 15 yards downfield with :44 in the 1st QTR. His receiver broke inside and he threw it outside for a near, INT. There were two receivers in the area and he didn't see to throw it to either one. He isn't as accurate when he's trying to throw off his back foot or backing away. He doesn't show a lot of touch on passes that require it--screens lobbed over a defense, deep passes, etc. When he has time to set his feet, he can hit the intermediate routes on time. He did so with 1:12 in the half on an in-route to this WR.

Arm Strength:

Morelli showed off a strong arm on his interception. He threw the ball close to 60 yards in the air. Morelli has decent velocity on his throws. On a 2nd and 4 with 2:41 in the quarter, he threw a pass to the flat from the opposite has that got to the receiver with excellent timing in between three defenders in the zone, which helped the WR gain yards after the catch and the first down. Good velocity and accuracy on his first touchdown pass to the slot receiver running a slant. Very good velocity and accuracy on a 3rd and 5 to his WR with 1:12 in the half. Morelli's second deep throw came with 5:17 in the 3rd QTR. He executed a play action fake and half roll to the left. The DE bit but made up ground and was charging as Morelli heaved a ball 55 yards in the air to his receiver Williams in single coverage. The receiver appeared to misjudge the throw and did not run through the ball to catch it. He cut the route short. He overthrew a deep ball down the left sideline. It was in the area, but just a bit too high.

Delivery:

Morelli's first pass came out of the spread formation and it was a short flare to the slot receiver in the flat behind. He did a good job squaring his body to the receiver and delivering with an over the shoulder motion on target to the WR on the run. After sliding effectively to the left off a bull rush with 6:51 in the 1st QTR he threw a streak 55 yards downfield to a safety playing centerfield in the end zone waiting for the ball. The intended receiver was running a streak and even the CB was ahead of him. Morelli has pretty sound mechanics and footwork.

Decisions:

He makes good decisions in a quick strike passing game where the majority of passes are in the flat and he's either taking 3-5 step drops or rolling and throwing to a quadrant of the field. When he has to sit in the pocket and survey his options, he isn't getting a lot of time from his offensive line. Once he bought time and ran the football. The other time he slid away, he forced the football downfield for an interception. He was very inaccurate on a pass 15 yards downfield with :44 in the 1st QTR. His receiver broke inside and he threw it outside for a near, INT. There were two receivers in the area and he didn't see to throw it to either one. This is a sign he didn't anticipate the routes well and didn't see the field clearly. Good job surveying the field against zone coverage inside the redzone with :40 in the half. He threw his second score by getting to his 3rd option on the play. Good job recognizing the corner blitz and throwing to the open receiver down the sideline on the side of the blitzing CB to get a first down. Good touch on the throw. Poor decision to throw the ball away--the only time he chose to--on a blitz which should have been an intentional grounding penalty.

Ball Handling:

His play fakes aren't very thorough. He doesn't sell them with his body or get the ball close enough to the runner. At the same time, the running game has not worked very well this early in the game and the defense isn't biting on the action. It's kind of a chicken or the egg situation with this strategy--is the fake good enough or is the play call not good for the situation? Nice pump fake to set up the draw on 2nd and 9 to start the 2nd QTR. His play fake and roll left was better than the others to start the 2nd half. He got the DE to bite hard on it as he rolled left and threw a strike to Golden in the flat.

Pocket Presence:

Morelli dropped back after a play fake with 7:35 in the 1st QTR and the LDE came free on the inside of the RT. He saw the DE as he finished his drop and did an excellent job sliding to the left and away from the pressure, but the DT looped around to his outside and Morelli and to break the pocket. He made a nice pump fake at the line of scrimmage and then tucked the ball under his outside arm and beat the LB and safety to the first down marker and the sideline. Morelli did a nice job on 2nd and 7 from the 46 with 6:51 in the 1st QTR to slide left on a bull rush up the middle. He was forced to the left on 3rd down on the opening drive of the second half and should have thrown the ball away but instead chose to attempt to reverse his field and got smacked. He sense pressure well, but he doesn't get ride of the football. The only time he threw the ball away was on 3rd down with 1:57 remaining and it should have been an intentional grounding penalty but the officials overlooked it. It was potentially a very costly decision.

Scrambling Ability:

Morelli can be very elusive in the pocket when trying to buy time. He made 3 men miss on a scramble where he spun out of a tackle and dipped away from two others with :34 in the 3rd on a 1st and goal situation. He just doesn't seem to know when to throw the ball away for just gain as many yards as he can. PSU is up by 6 and he could live for another day and diminish the chances of a turnover.

Durability:

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Blake Mitchell

Date: 10/27/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths:

When Mitchell gets protection and sets his feet, he can be highly accurate in the short range of the field.

Overall Weaknesses:

He makes poor decisions under pressure. He lacks anticipation on intermediate and deep throws. Mitchell does not have arm strength and cannot throw a ball with velocity and accuracy further than 35 yards downfield. He does not throw with accuracy moving left. He is generally a statue in the pocket. Based on this game, Mitchell might eventually make a practice squad if he continues to work on his game, especially his footwork, but it's doubtful he has an NFL career.

Accuracy:

Mitchell had a bubble screen deflected at the LOS on 2nd and 14 with 1:57 in the half. If he threw it a bit behind the WR, he could have avoided the rush and given the receiver time to do something with the ball. He delivered a very inaccurate throw 30 yards downfield to a receiver coming open. His anticipation was good, but the ball was two yards behind the receiver and way too high. A completion could have been a touchdown on this play. He overthrew his WR in the back of the end zone on a designed roll to the right from the 5 yard line. The throw was too high although the WR was facing the QB and open. He had the same problem on the next play on a half roll right and threw the ball too high despite setting his feet. He threw the ball late on a streak down the left sideline with 8:25 in the 3rd QTR. The ball was nearly picked off because the throw was late and as a result, short. If he threw it earlier, the WR makes an easy catch 3 yards deep in the end zone rather than the DB tipping the ball 5-7 yards deep and the WR is at the end line. He hesitated on a streak pattern on the left sideline and was again, late on the throw and the ball flew well behind the WR and DB with 2:40 in the 3rd QTR. Very accurate ball to his TE on the inside shoulder and away from the LB for a 1st down because he gave the TE an opportunity to gain yardage after the catch. His touchdown was to the WR crossing the end line and it was thrown in stride and over two LBs. He did not square his shoulders or show good form on a roll left, which he overshot the receiver in the flat with 1:30 in regulation.

Arm Strength:

He didn't show much velocity on his 30-yard throw that needed less loft for a chance to hit the receiver running the sideline streak. He tends to put loft under throws longer than 35 yards. Not much velocity on intermediate or long throws down the field. He did hit a deep out pattern with 3:50 in the 3rd QTR, but there wasn't a DB within 6 yards of him and the ball took a while to get there compared to a QB with greater arm strength.

Delivery:

He started the game very decisively with short drops and getting rid of the ball quickly to receivers over the middle and in the flat for small gains. He was accurate and displayed good footwork and mechanics as a thrower on his drops and delivery at this distance. He does tend to have a wind up on longer throws. Mitchell's 30-yard throw was too high and behind the WR on the 12:42, 3rd QTR route because he did not set his feet adequately when delivering the ball. His feet were actually pointing too far to the left and not down field as he began his release. He didn't take the time to turn, set, and throw in the direction of the receiver.

Decisions:

He hesitated on a very tightly thrown completion to his WR in the flat, but got the ball into his WR. On 3rd and 14 with 1:52 in the half, he had a WR getting separation on a wheel route on the right side, but Mitchell stared down his outlet receiver 5 yards down the left hash and delivered a ball in tight coverage. The receiver dropped the ball and even if he caught it, he had to make a great play to get the first down. There was another receiver on the left hatch running a seam route who was wide open if Mitchell threw it over his outside shoulder. Mitchell stared down his receiver on 4th and goal from the 5 with 10:47 in the 3rd QTR. He had 5 receivers running in the end zone, but he started down the middle receiver and threw it in the area of three people and incomplete. In a tie game with 4:07 in regulation, Mitchell got pressure up the middle on a 3rd and 22 play. He chose to throw a ball 30 yards downfield off his back foot into an area with 1 WR and 4 DBs. The ball was intercepted.

Ball Handling:

Mitchell fumbled the snap in the shotgun with 2:41 in the half. Rather than falling on the ball, he tried to pick it up and throw. He did not sense the pressure on this snap and he was fortunate he was only sacked on the play. When he got protection and stood in the pocket--most of his drive in the early 4th QTR--he is very accurate. In a tie game with 4:07 in regulation, Mitchell got pressure up the middle on a 3rd and 22 play. He chose to throw a ball 30 yards downfield off his back foot into an area with 1 WR and 4 DBs. The ball was intercepted. This is not a QB who makes good decisions in the pocket under pressure.

Pocket Presence:

Mitchell scored on a QB sneak with 5:41 in the 3rd QTR from 1 yard away.

Scrambling Ability:

Durability:

Character:

Mitchell came into this game down 14-0 with 9:48 in the half after the starter threw 2 ints and Steve Spurrier had enough. Mitchell was arrested for allegedly assaulting a bouncer at a bar in 2006 but the misdemeanor assault charges were dropped.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

68

Accuracy Score:

9

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

8

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

13

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

6

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

11

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

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

Pocket Presence Score:

14

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

5

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

2

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name:

Bobby Reid

Date:

12/28/2006

Opponent:

Alabama

Overall Strengths:

For as sophomore he showed some poise as a reader of defenses at the LOS, playing well in the pocket as a passer, and throwing the football away when needed. He has a strong arm and demonstrated some nice accuracy and adjustments to receiver's routes in tight coverage. He throws a good fade route on a consistent basis and demonstrates decent pump fakes and shoulder fakes. He is athletic enough to gain yardage outside the pocket. He's a raw prospect, but has a lot of talent. He has a chance to develop as a practice squad player and eventually a depth chart backup. If everything clicks well for Reid in his career he has the physical skills to be the starter and some natural poise and decision making as a passer that make him an intriguing project.

Overall Weaknesses:

His accuracy in the short game is lacking. He does not set his feet consistently in the pocket and this contributes to his ability to deliver throws on target. He's fast enough to gain some positive yardage, but he's not a dynamic runner. He threw the ball in double coverage on a few occasions in this game. He needs work on his drops and delivery when it comes to his footwork. His play action fakes need refinement. He has some minor character issues that could develop into a major one from a leadership standpoint if the news report about him was true.

Accuracy:

Very good ball placement on a play action seam route to his TE up the left hash with 10:32 in the 1st QTR for a 21-yard gain. What made the accuracy so good was the fact that instead of leading the TE with a pass over his shoulder, he under threw it just enough to get the ball over the trailing LB, but force the TE to turn back and catch the football. This was important because Reid saw the safety closing from the right side with an angle to the ball and the TE if he led the receiver with a throw destined to go over the TE's shoulder. Reid under threw a short pass while rolling right with 1:00 in the 1st QTR. The ball was placed at the WR's feet. Reid's 45-yard streak down the right sideline with :53 in the 1st QTR was actually under thrown. It did bounce off the WR's facemask and the receiver should have caught the pass, but Reid could have thrown the ball about 3-5 yards further and allow the WR to run toward the corner to catch the ball with more separation from the DB. He was actually a half-beat late on the release which also made a difference. Still, a very accurate throw by even NFL standards. Nice touch on a 28-yard corner route set up by a shoulder fake to the inside fake of the WR. He missed Bowman rolling right on the next play with a ball thrown too low and out of bounds as the WR was dragging in the same direction as the QB's roll. Excellent throw rolling left, squaring his shoulders on the run and hitting his TE up the seam between two defenders for a 21-yard gain. Accurate out route for 7-yards with a little over a minute in the half to Woods at the sideline about shoulder height. Reid his this TE down the right seam for a pass thrown 20-yards downfield for a completion of 30 yards. If he led the receiver a bit more, he could have give the TE a chance for another 20-30 yards if not a score. An accurate sideline fade for 25 yards that was nearly caught with one hand. The CB was penalized for pass interference. Reid's score was a corner fade to Bowman with 14:00 in the game. His accuracy on fade routes was a huge reason for big plays in the passing game. Reid threw an inaccurate fade with 7:30 in the game that the DB intercepted. It should be pointed out the WR Woods made little to no effort to defend the pass and attempt to break up the interception. This was probably the 3rd play of the game where Woods did not show high effort as a receiver when he had to contest for the pass.

Arm Strength:

Reid threw a sideline streak 45 yards in the air on 3rd and 12 with :53 in the 1st QTR with ease. Nice velocity on a 15-yard seam pass to his TE for a 21-yard gain with 9:52 in the half. All well-thrown, 13-yard pass with some zip to his WR running an out in zone coverage while the QB was rolling right on the delivery.

Delivery:

Reid had a very nice delivery with a quick release on his rollout pass to the right flat to begin the game. Reid under threw a ball to his WR in the flat on 2nd and 10 with 12:12 in the 1st QTR because no one was open as he rolled right--good decision. The 21-yard completion with 10:32 in the 1st QTR was delivered with a bit of a jump as a defensive linemen got an arm around Reid's waste as the QB was delivering the ball. Good set up out of the shotgun on a 3rd and 11 corner route to Woods, but he overthrew the WR by 5 yards. Good shoulder fake on a double move route with Bowman that faked like an in then broke as a deeper corner route to the outside. He completed the pass for a 28-yard gain. He tends to leave his feet when throwing under pressure which creates some accuracy issues in the short passing game. Poor decision to stare down his primary receiver on a play action hitch thrown from the opposite hash to his WR in the right flat. The CB jumped the route and nearly had an interception. He tends to hesitate on throws such as the deep pass to Woods in the 1st half and a seam route to a wide open TE to begin the 4th QTR that he did not pull the trigger on. Good read of the blitz off the left end, pre-snap and throwing right on a short out complete for 5 yards.

Decisions:

Reid's first pass attempt came on the first play of the game. He rolled to right and threw a bullet intended for Bowman in the flat about 12 yards downfield, but Reid did not see the LB in the flat in front of the WR (who was also double covered) and the LB nearly picked off the pass. Not a good decision at all. Reid's 3rd down attempt to Bowman during the first season was a pass thrown too wide because the DB had the jump on the ball and Reid was trying to place it only where his receiver could catch it. Reid was his second option on that side of the field and the DB easily saw that Reid was heading to Bowman next and jumped the route. Good decision by Reid on 3rd and 13 with 11:20 in the 1st QTR to check down to a run using some counter action when he saw that Alabama was faking blitz and dropping back into coverage. This check at the line resulted in the RB gaining 11 yards and then converting on 4th and 2. He used a hard count to draw the defense offside with 2:00 in the 1st QTR. Good job throwing the football away when he broke the pocket with 7:43 in the half after a fade route didn't come open. Reid and Savage got crossed up on the route the RB was supposed to run with 1:05 in the game. Reid overthrew the ball if Savage was right. If not, Savage cut his route too short and it was supposed to be a wheel route.

Ball Handling:

His play fake was very quick and not very thorough on the 4th and 2 roll for a first down with 10:37 in the 1st QTR, but the call was very effective. He also didn't carry the ball under his sideline arm. Very good job adjusting to a high, shotgun snap that nearly hit the receiver going in motion across the formation. Reid on-handed the snap and took the broken play 5 yards up the middle with 13:00 in the half. He has big enough hands to pump fake the ball with a complete motion and hold onto it. He did this on a fade route that didn't come open with 7:43 in the half and rolled right before throwing the ball away to avoid the sack. He used a shoulder fake again with 7:35 n the half setting up a fade to the left side of the field, but the play was well-covered and he threw the ball out of bounds. Reid fumble the ball on a 3rd and 1 sneak that was recovered by the WR.

Pocket Presence:

Reid's 21-yard completion the TE down the seam was even more impressive for the fact he was under pressure and had to leave his feet a bit as a DL had his arm around the QB's waist during the delivery. Good job stand in the pocket. He consistently had a tough time completing short passes when he felt pressured. He under threw three passes in the first half in these situations. Two short outs and a flat pass to the his RB with 2:02 in the half. Of course, on the next play he gets hit from behind by the backside rush and is still able to dump the ball off for an 8-yard gain to his RB up the middle. His issues appear to be with passes thrown outside the hash that require an angle of trajectory rather than straight ahead. Good job stepping up in the pocket, keeping his feet under him and throwing a perfect pass down the middle of the field to his TE for 15-yard gain. He was able to slide away from the blitzing safeties grasp, but the DE and the LB cleaned up the play on a delayed blitz that sacked Reid in the 3rd QTR with 6:30.

Scrambling Ability:

Reid executed a good bootleg on 4th and 2 against a 10-men in the box. He rolled left and gained 7 yards before getting run out of bounds. The play was so well executed, the defense bit on the fake to the point that he had an easy time getting to the first down marker. With 7:49 in the 1st QTR, he slipped on the run before for no gain and the next play he hesitated to pitch to the RB on the option and hand to keep the ball for a 1-yard loss. Although he has some speed, he lacks a great burst. He ran an option on 1st and 10 with 2:13 in the half and did well to spot a lane for a first down, but it opened as he checked to make the pitch and sucked in the defense. His speed is good enough for him to get 10-15 yard gains when breaking the pocket, but he's not a game breaker in this area.

Durability:

He red shirted due a shoulder injury that required season-ending surgery. He was also the subject of a controversial article by the Cowboy's beat writer who questioned his toughness by saying the coaching staff spread rumors about him sitting out games due to small injuries that he probably could have played with, threatening to transfer when he had to compete for the job, and having his mother feed him fried chicken in public. The writer also implied Reid had issues with his nerves before each game and lacked grit. The coach defended Reid. As a writer who has covered college sports on a smaller level but for a DIV-I team, it is quite possible this beat writer got this information from the coaching staff, wrote the article, and the coach had to defend the player when the truth appeared much harsher in print than what was expected. The writer also could have made some very strong leaps of logic here. If you believe there's some smoke here, then this is probably a good reason to discount him until he proves otherwise.

Character:

Reid tried to execute a throwback screen to his WR split to the right. His pass was on target, but the WR threw the ball back to Reid and his pass was too low. Reid nearly made a finger tip catch before it hit the ground, but the ball bounced just enough off the ground for the officials to rule it incomplete.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
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Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Bret Meyer

Date: 9/16/2006

Opponent: Iowa

Overall Strengths:

A good athlete with natural talent as a passer. He has a strong arm and is capable of throwing the ball accurately and with zip. He has a quick release and can throw the football on the run as well as in the pocket. He is a dangerous runner when he gets into the open field and has the physical tools to break a long touchdown run or threaten the edge of a defense. He is very good about protecting the football as a runner and drop back passer. If he develops his game as a passer, he could be considered a prospect for the NFL in 2008.

Overall Weaknesses:

He is still a project as a passer. He stares down receivers too often and you can watch his body language with the ball to see him trying to get a feel for the timing in the passing game and this tips off defenders. His pocket presence isn't very good. He doesn't sense pressure quick enough to buy time in the pocket and often is too late sensing the pressure to gain effective yardage outside the pocket. He has the raw skills to dramatically improve, but the question will be whether he can develop his pocket awareness which comes with playing time and is often a more intuitive skill. If he doesn't develop the knack to sense pressure and slide in the pocket, he'll be asked to try a different position as an NFL prospect.

Accuracy:

Meyer's first pass was off a play action fake from the spread formation. He attempted a throw to the flat while rolling to the right, but didn't get enough distance on the throw. He one-hopped the ball to his WR in the right flat. The ball appeared to slip from his hand. Meyer was more accurate on a 3rd and 7 completion on a slant to his WR for a first down. He hit the WR in stride. Meyer's 3rd attempt was a slant that was just long, but the WR might have caught it if he wasn't interfered with prior to the ball getting to the desired spot. A penalty was not called, but the replay clearly showed interference on the defender. On the next play he threw a well-timed corner fade to WR Blythe who leaped high over the DB and caught the ball with his hands at its highest point. He threw a very accurate slant on a 3rd and 4 into a tight window for his receiver, but the second defender in coverage stripped the ball away before the WR could gather the ball. He rolled right and delivered an accurate pass to his drag route just as he got hit with 3:02 in the 1st QTR. He's very accurate on slants, crosses, and short outs today. In fact he hit his WR in the arms on an out despite the DB on top of the receiver and called for interference. He missed on a touch pass after a shoulder-pump fake and throw to the WR on the double move route. He showed good touch over the LB on an out route between 3 defenders. Meyer threw a skinny post on 3rd and 6 with 7:55 left that was placed nicely over the LB in 2-deep coverage, but the DB broke up. Although the DB made a nice play, this was the type of pass that shows his promise as a passer.

Arm Strength:

He threw the ball with zip on an out pattern for 4 yards on their second drive and the third and four slant that was dropped. He threw a series of out patterns on the third drive that were accurate and in rhythm with good zip. His throws on intermediate routes seem to hang in the air a bit. He did make an excellent 20-yard throw from across the field to his WR on a deep curl. This was a very clear demonstration of arm strength. At the same time, the throw was a bit behind the WR and would have been picked off by a savvy NFL CB. His arm is adequate, but not elite in strength.

Delivery:

Meyer threw his first completion--a slant to the left side--with a 3/4 motion. His footwork was a bit tentative when dropping a few steps after fielding the shotgun snap. He threw it 3/4 motion on a 2nd down and goal situation with a DB coming off the edge untouched from his blindside. His 4-yard completion of an out route demonstrated that he's still raw with proper mechanics. His footwork is tentative and lacking sharpness and he has a hesitating arm motion as if he's physically marking time prior to releasing the ball. This tips off savvy defensive backs. He has a quick release when he throws in rhythm.

Decisions:

Meyer did a good job with his decisions on the move. He either threw the ball away, found a wide open receiver, or was accurate enough to get the ball to a spot only the receiver could catch. Meyer threw an accurate, intermediate curl to his WR, but did not see the TE up the seam with a 5-yard cushion on his coverage on the same side of the field. This would have been a touchdown pass with little effort. He tends to stare down his receivers on most plays. He tried to hit a corner route on 2nd and 10 with 5:20 left after the Tate interception but stared down his receiver and the safety was able to come across the field and bat the pass away. He tried throwing across this body on the next play and Iowa's safety nearly intercepted the pass. He's trying too hard to make a play in the passing game rather than use his legs to mix it up.

Ball Handling:

Meyer did a good job tucking the ball under his sideline arm on his first run--a QB draw off a play fake to the RB from the spread formation--for a 14-yard gain. He consistently demonstrated the ability to tuck the ball prior to running with it. Meyer runs play fakes frequently and does a decent job extending the arm and bending at the waist. He doesn't sell it with the timing of these motions as well as he could, but the effort is good.

Pocket Presence:

He does try to throw the ball first when pressured in the pocket. He is decisive about his choices in situations when to run or throw the football. He doesn't seem to know how to break the pocket when it collapses from the outside or it's just Iowa's defense is very fast.

Scrambling Ability:

Meyer's first run came on 2nd and 10 on the opening drive. He faked the handoff to Hicks moving left and then following the pulling guard up the middle of the Iowa defense. He showed a good burst through the line and went untouched for 12 yards before getting gang-tackled for a 14-yard gain. Meyer decided to take the ball up the middle, but only gained a yard. He did not have enough burst to get through the tight pocket on this play. On set running plays, Meyer showed a good burst. He repeatedly got caught from behind or before he took the corner when trying to break the pocket. Either the Iowa LBs were fast or Meyer wasn't as fast as advertised. He did break one past the DE with 6:35 in the half and dove forward for a first down and a 7-yard gain. He got a better spot than he should have on the play. Meyer scored on a well-blocked single wing run that he cut up between the RB and G. Meyer ran to the corner on 4th and 10 with 5:05 left. He did a full body extension to get over the line but was short.

Durability:

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

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

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Brian Brohm

Date: 9/3/2006

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths:

Brohm is an accurate passer who will stand strong in the pocket and take a hit. He consistently goes through his progressions and regularly hits his check down rather than force the football to his primary receiver. He has a quick drop and sound mechanics holding and releasing the ball. He does an excellent job seeing the field and he's a natural passer.

Overall Weaknesses:

He still needs to refine his footwork, especially when stepping up in the pocket under pressure. He's not especially mobile and his ability to elude pressure is still a question mark. His play fakes need refinement.

Accuracy:

Brohm threw an accurate, 3rd down pass with 6:40 in the 1st QTR to his WR Douglas on a short cross. The ball landed on his back shoulder and was well-timed. Nice job lofting a 25-yard fade to Carter out of the shotgun. On the next play he hit Douglas on a 9-yard slant in tight coverage and with pressure at his feet. Brohm's touchdown was a play action pass to the FB in the right flat. He did a good job leading the back with his throw so no defender could make a play on the pass. It was also a good pass because Brohm got hit just as he was finishing his follow through. To begin Louisville's 4th possession, Brohm was hit from the blindside as he threw a hitch to Douglas. The trajectory of the pass changed just enough with the hit to mess up the timing. He is very accurate on passes to RBs on screens and in the flat. He hit Bush in stride on a screen for a first down, but it was called back on a hold with 8:40 left in the half. On 3rd and 8 with 7:00 in the half, Brohm hit Douglas in stride on a 9-yard out from the slot. The timing of the pass hit Douglas in stride and helped the WR gain an additional 11 yards. Brohm nearly hit Douglas for a 40-yard completion, but the ball wasn't thrown enough to the outside where Douglas had established separation. He made a good correction on his next long pass. The coverage was better against Urrutia, but Brohm made sure to keep the ball to the outside. Although he threw the ball out of bounds, he guaranteed this time his WR was the only one that could make a play on the ball. Brohm made a pinpoint throw to his TE #81 with :58 left in the 3rd QTR off a 3-step drop. The ball was placed on the TE's inside shoulder which was the perfect place for it, because the LB in coverage was behind the TE and a CB was peeling off his assigned WR to help on the outside. This throw guaranteed that only the TE would have a chance at this ball. The throw also protected the TE because his momentum would be going back to the inside rather than towards the peeling CB. The throw was only 6 yards downfield, but it was a good example of Brohm's accuracy that is needed on the NFL level. With 14:00 left in the game, Brohm had Urrutia in single coverage down the left sideline on a 1st and 10 from the 26 yard line. His feet were set and there was no pressure, but he under threw the ball. Urrutia had to turn back to the QB and try to leap over the trailing DB to catch the pass. If Brohm lead him accurately, Urrutia would have had a simple, over the shoulder catch for a score.

Arm Strength:

Brohm tried to deliver a pass while drifting backwards against a rush but Bush dropped the pass. The pass was in the general area, but thrown with too little velocity and arrived weakly to the Rb. A stronger throw might have made it an easier ball to catch for the Rb. Brohm delivered a post to Urrutia while under pressure at the close of the 1st QTR. He got the ball right into Urrutia's numbers on a throw 35-yards down field. After Brohm missed his hitch to Douglas in the 2nd QTR due to a blindside hit, he hit Douglas coming off a slant against bracketed coverage for a 37-yard gain. It was a perfect throw that hit Douglas in stride. Brohm showed he could throw the ball 40 yards downfield with some zip on an attempt with 6:35 in the half. If he put more air under the ball in this case, and allowed the WR to angle toward the sideline, there was a great chance for Brohm to complete the pass for a score. With 7:40 left in the 3rd QTR, Brohm delivered a very accurate 18-yard out to his TE. He displayed excellent anticipation.

Delivery:

Brohm got decent depth on his 3-step drop and set quickly on a 1st and 10 with 11:00 left in the 1st QTR, but the UK defensive collapsed the pocket and hit Brohm's leg as he followed through the pass, which caused the throw to Douglas to be short. Brohm has a very textbook delivery and release point. Brohm executed a picture perfect, 5-step drop and throw on a 40-yard attempt to Douglas that was broken up by the DB. His feet bounce a bit in the pocket. When he steps up in the pocket he frequently sets his feet too wide and his throws come out inaccurate--close enough for the receiver to have a chance, but not the pinpoint throws he can make when he doesn't need to move. This is a correctable problem that will likely be fixed with practice.

Decisions:

He showed patience on his first drop, a 3-step drop where he quickly scanned the outside of the defense and then checked down to his TE on quick turnaround for 7 yards.. He had 10 receptions to 7 different receivers in the 1st half. He consistently spots the open man and had little difficulty in this contest.

Ball Handling:

Brohm's play action td pass to open the 2nd quarter was not a good demonstration of a play fake. It was a cursorily handled, but the 2nd and goal down and distance situation already had the defense playing run.

Pocket Presence:

Good toughness in the pocket to stand in and take the hit just as he delivered a 35-yard pass on a post route to Urrutia to end the 1st QTR. He got hit a few times while delivering passes in the first half. He did a good job stepping up in the pocket to deliver a 12-yard completion for a first down with 6:21 left. Good footwork, vision, and patience. Brohm was sacked for the first time in the game with 8:20 in the 3rd QTR. He didn't see his first two primary receivers come open, and he felt the backside pressure. He attempted to step up and towards his left but the LB shot into the open lane untouched and brought down the QB.

Scrambling Ability:

Brohm is coming off an ACL injury, but he showed he wasn't afraid to run the ball on a pump fake and scramble to the left with 1:53 in the 2nd QTR. He dove for the ground to avoid contact after a 4-yard gain. He lacks the speed to be a real threat outside the pocket as a runner.

Durability:

Coming off a torn ACL at the end of last season (9 months of rehab)--this was his first game back. In contrast, Bengals pro QB Carson Palmer came back in 7 months.

Character:

Brohm made a nice lead block on a reverse against a DB about 20 yards downfield to spring his WR for a 27-yard gain on the first play of the game.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:

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

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

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PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Brian Brohm

Date: 11/9/2006

Opponent: Rutgers

Overall Strengths:

Good arm strength and velocity. He has decent anticipation on deep routes. His mechanics are very sound with his drop, delivery, and release. He surveys the field well and will not only make 3-4 reads when he has time, but he'll also throw the ball away if he senses pressure and no one is open. He has enough mobility to set up in the pocket and break the pocket for small gains under pressure. He can make all the throws with his arm strength and has enough accuracy that he has a chance to start for an NFL franchise in 2-3 seasons.

Overall Weaknesses:

His accuracy could be pinpoint, but sometimes he's just a hair late with his anticipation on intermediate and deep throws. The ball still gets to the player in stride, but they have to make slight adjustments. Against tighter NFL coverage these balls would be defended more times than in college. He has a real problem with pressure in his face. He did not complete a pass in the first 2 and half quarters when pressure was within a yard of him that he could see. He also did not complete a pass on the play after any of the first 3 sacks and they were all overthrown balls to open receivers.

Accuracy:

Brohm's first pass was on time to Douglas on a deep post behind the secondary for a 45-yard gain. It was just a tad late which forced Douglas to take a bit of an awkward shoulder turn to catch the ball, but there's not much better of a throw you can make that travels 45 yards downfield and hits the receiver in stride. Very good trajectory on the throw. Brohm's interception with 5:00 in the 1st QTR was a pass thrown in the zone and the LB underneath jumped the route. At the same time, as Brohm was throwing the ball, the backside pressure forced the offensive lineman backwards and hit Brohm's front foot and shoulder as he was delivering the football which altered the pass and created the opportunity for the under thrown ball to be intercepted. Brohm threw an accurate pass to Urrutia, but the hand fighting between the WR and CB prevented either from getting to the ball. He overthrew Douglas by a half step two plays later on a seam route. His anticipation was good, but he just needed a bit more arc on the ball. He made a nice effort on a short pass while rolling left on play fake bootleg with 12:40 in the half, but the defender made a very good leaping deflection. He overthrew his WR Urrutia on a deep in with 9:24 in the 3rd QTR as he was throwing into pressure in his face. He overthrew his WR on a crossing route towards the right side. He was overthrowing balls consistently when he was in the pocket and going to the right sideline on crosses or flat passes.

Arm Strength:

Brohm's 45-yard completion actually traveled 45 yards in the air. He has more than adequate arm strength and good timing on the deep throw. He followed up this pass several plays later with a 3rd and 14 strike to Urrutia on an deep in route. The timing was good. Again it was just slightly late and forced the WR to angle his upper body a bit to catch the ball that was slightly behind him, but still very much within catch able range. Brohm's 39-yard pass off the play fake with 8:56 in the half was caught, but thrown a bit late which forced the WR to make an adjustment that prevented an INT and could have easily been called for interference. He avoided a sack by turning sideways at the last moment and then breaking the pocket for 5 yards.

Delivery:

Brohm's mechanics are fundamentally sound in terms of dropping, planting, and throwing. His angle of release, foot positioning, and hip movement are good. He also squares his shoulders and points his feet in the right direction on the move with predetermined rollouts.

Decisions:

Good job surveying the field on a 1st and goal with 7:44 in the 1st QTR before checking down to his WR on a crossing route that turned into a 12-yard gain. Brohm rolled right on a designed play with 5:45 in the 1st QTR. When he stopped to set up and throw, he sensed the backside pressure still hot on his heels, so he started back towards the right and threw the ball away when he got outside the hash--a smart play. His TD pass was a very telling trait about Brohm. On 3rd and goal with 3 receivers to the right and in the shotgun, Brohm had a lot of time to survey the field. He looked downfield to the end line first, then to Douglas running a crossing route, but as soon as he saw the defender jam Douglas in the middle, he turned his head and hit his WR cutting back to the inside for the score. Good patience and surveying the field. Nice job looking downfield before checking down to his RB in the flat with 3:53 in the half. Although there was no gain on the play, the decision was smart and the RB had room to make something happen, but just didn't make the play. Brohm read the 2nd and 19 CB blitz but tried to throw a touch pass over the defense to his WR at the LOS across the field. The ball floated after the altered release and Louisville was fortunate that Urrutia made the catch.

Ball Handling:

His play action fake on the first pass was a bit perfunctory in nature. He didn't fully extend the ball or use a hand to give the illusion of handing the ball off, but most importantly he made sure he delivered the ball quickly so the deep pass would be on time to Douglas for the 45-yard gain. Good job continuing a pass fake with a roll right after handing the ball to his RB up the middle with 8:47 in the 1st QTR. Nice body turn on a play fake at the LOS with 12:41 in the half as he rolled left. Brohm was "sacked" when the MLB blitzed and swiped the ball out of Brohm's hand as he was sliding forward. Brohm recovered his own fumble on the play with 7:47 in the half.

Pocket Presence:

Brohm dropped back and after a second, sensed the RDT coming free from his block as well as the backside pressure from the edge and rolled right while looking downfield. He made the quick decision to tuck the ball and run towards the right sideline for a gain of 3 yards. He overthrew Douglas on an out route with 1:46 in the 1st QTR. The pressure from the front side was within a yard of him as he delivered the ball in that direction and it distracted him either by confusing his depth perception of the target or just taking his eyes off the route as he followed through. Although not under pressure, Brohm stepped up in the pocket on his TD pass, which also forced the zone coverage to be drawn towards him and open up the end zone with the threat of him running the ball in on a scramble. Smart play. He rushed a throw on a crossing route after stepping up in the pocket and then feeling more pressure in front of him with 10:10 in the half. The ball was deflected on the play and nearly create an interception. He made the smart move to throw the ball away on a 3rd and 13 play while under pressure and forced to roll right with 3:13 in the half. He sensed pressure on the play after his sack with 1:29 in the half and safely threw the ball away due to the down and distance situation in the game. The 3rd sack on Brohm was a very quick-penetrating blitz and the QB had a little less than 2 seconds on a 3-step drop to get rid of the ball, but no one was open to the left side of the field and he was blindsided. He was sacked a 4th time with the RG got blown past at the snap and the DT met the QB as he was still dropping back with 4:08 in the 3rd QTR.

Scrambling Ability:

Brohm is not a very fast runner, but he was decisive on the 1st and 10 run to the right sideline with 2:36 in the 1st QTR. He tried to escape the pocket as it was collapsing with 2:04 in the half, but there were three spots at angles in front of the QB where a defender was coming free and unless he possessed a great burst of speed breaking free would be next to impossible. He sensed the rush with reasonable time but too many players were coming free for him to react. Brohm didn't see anyone open and broke he pocket for a 4-yard gain with a good stop-start move to change direction before diving forward for the positive yardage with 14:12 in the 3rd QTR. Brohm did gain 7 yards by breaking the pocket where there was a wide open lane to his left. He gained 7 yards on the run, but was caught from behind by the blitzing defenders that turned to trail him. Good job spinning to the left of the pressure up the middle and gaining 5 yards to the sideline.

Durability:

Tore his ACL as a sophomore.

Character:

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Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

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Looks off defenders [3pts]:

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Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

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Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Brian Brohm

Date: 11/6/2006

Opponent: West Virginia

Overall Strengths:

Brohm is a strong pocket passer with downfield accuracy on intermediate and deep routes. He sells play action fakes effectively. He has the arm strength to make every prerequisite NFL throw. He slides well in the pocket and sees the field very well. He will look off a safety and seems to know where his 3rd and 4th options are located with every play. He has the basic skills to be a quality starting quarterback. The question is whether he has the ability to take punishment and still be consistently accurate and poised.

Overall Weaknesses:

He sometimes tries too hard to make a play when it's wiser to throw the ball away. The problem is he'll hold onto the ball too long. He then gets erratic with his accuracy after he feels pressure. He also has chronic difficulty with the flat routes when throwing from the pocket. He over throws or under throws them despite good mechanics. His accuracy gets streaky and can't hit players on passes when throwing off balance unless they are very close and between the hashes. He's not very fast or mobile. He tore his ACL as a sophomore.

Accuracy:

Good timing on a 22-yard skinny post to start the game. He didn't lead his WR into the safety, but him the receiver near his stomach which prevented the CB in trail position from knocking it away. A very accurate pass thrown 22 yards downfield off a play fake to begin the game. The play after he was sacked, he threw a ball to the TE in the flat that was short and low, falling incomplete. The TE was wide open. Brohm's deep cross off the 7-step drop with 3:43 in the 1st QTR that was dropped was actually thrown a bit behind the WR. This is the type of throw that gets intercepted in the pros. Very good accuracy to his WR on a 14-yard comeback on the outside shoulder and away from the DB in tight coverage. His accuracy issues aren't there with screen passes because the throws are a bit more downfield and not at as acute of an angle. Excellent accuracy on a skinny post thrown from the opposite hash for a 27-yard gain but the WR fumbled the ball away. Brohm nearly threw an interception on a skinny post to Douglas if it were not for an incredibly acrobatic catch to snare it at it's highest point. Otherwise the DB playing center field gets it.

Arm Strength:

Brohm has the arm strength for the pro game. He tossed an out route from the opposite hash with enough velocity to beat a CB coming back to jump the route for the completion.

Delivery:

A good over the shoulder delivery and when his feet are planted in the ground, he's very accurate. The problem for Brohm occurs after he's sacked or gets hit. He tends to throw off his back foot on the next play. He looked left, felt pressure and flashed back to his right to hit his TE in the right flat but threw the ball off his back foot and the short pass fell short of his target.

Decisions:

Excellent read at the LOS with 1:27 in the 3rd QTR. He was behind center read the safety blitz, changed the play to he shotgun spread, which forced the defense to adjust and Brohm hit his WR on a shallow cross for a 40-yard gain.

Ball Handling:

He executed a good play fake to begin the game, dipping his head down and hunching his shoulders as he brought the ball back to his body as the RB passed. Nice shoulder fake to freeze the rush so he could set up the screen with 3:40 in the 1st QTR for a 23-yard gain and a 1st down. He consistently sucked the WVU defense into biting on the play fakes and passes in the intermediate range...hitting Urrutia for 26 yards with 12:05 in the game.

Pocket Presence:

He had a lot of time on the opening drive to complete two crossing routes and a play action skinny post. He stood tall and calm in the pocket. He was sacked with 11:42 in the 1st QTR by the edge rusher beating the TE off Brohm's blindside. The QB had less than 3 seconds before the sack, but the TE was close enough for him to get a sense of the rusher coming because of the angle he flashed past the LOS, but he didn't appear to sense it because he was in the middle of a play fake were he dipped his head to sell the run action. Brohm's biggest issue that defensive coordinators will feast upon until he shows he's fixed it, is his tendency to get jump after he's been hit. On the play after the first sack of the game he threw the ball off his back foot, missing his TE in the flat. I've seen him do this on tape a number of times. He also seems to have accuracy issues in the flat when standing in the pocket. On the play after his miss, he experienced the pocket closing in and he threw a ball that one-hopped in front of Urrutia with 10:53 in the 1st QTR. He had plenty of time to follow through, but the pressure seemed to affect him. Brohm did a good job of stepping up after a 7-step drop and delivering an deep cross to his WR, but the ball was dropped. Nice job slipping away from the front side hit on 3rd and 5 with 2:25 in the 1st QTR to slide to his right and hit his WR 5 yards downfield while on the run for the 1st down. Good job standing in the pocket in the face of a DE and firing a completion for 6 yards to his WR in the flat. Brohm was planted after he threw the ball. Brohm rolled right, stopped at the right hash and threw back to the left has about 35 yards downfield to his WR for a 40-yard gain. He over threw his RB in the flat on a 2nd and 8 with 8:04 in the half. Excellent job stepping up from the front side CB blitz to deliver a 36-yard pass to his WR down the right sideline with 4:10 in the half. It was a good throw to single coverage. It wasn't pinpoint accurate, but with a 6-6 receiver matched up on a fade route with a 5-9 or 5-10 CB, its really no contest.

Scrambling Ability:

He sensed the backside pressure on a 2nd and 14 pass play inside WVU territory and stepped up to break the pocket. He was caught from behind after gaining a yard. Brohm threw a 40-yard pass in the air to his WR at the other hash for a 40-yard gain with 9:20 in the half. If he put more on the ball or threw it a bit earlier, the WR might have been able to catch it in stride and score. Brohm escaped the grasp of two players in the backfield but was sacked in the right flat before he could get rid of the ball on 1st and 10 with 13:15 in the 3rd QTR.

Durability:

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:

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

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Chad Henne

Date: 11/18/2006

Opponent: Ohio State

Overall Strengths:

Henne has an NFL arm. He can make strong throws anywhere on the field. When his feet are set he makes accurate throws from any range and will sometimes go to his second or third receiver in the route progression. He will look off the safety and change plays at the LOS to get into a more advantageous play.

Overall Weaknesses:

Henne does not have good feet or running skills. He does not slide effectively in the pocket to elude the pass rush and will drop his eyes from the routes downfield when under pressure. Needs to learn to put a little more touch on certain short and intermediate passes.

Accuracy:

Nice accuracy on the first two short passes. The slant was thrown so well that it helped Manningham gain extra yardage. He was also right on target with a 25-yard slant to Manningham to the 1-yard line with 12:46 left in the 1st QTR. Henne threw a pass 40 yards in the air that feel incomplete. If he had put a bit more air under the ball, Manningham would have had an 80-yard score, because he put a great double move on the CB in single coverage. Henne set his feet well but did not use the best technique to get air under the ball--if he leaned back a bit more on his back foot to get the right trajectory angle, the ball would have had more arc. Henne's 25-yard completion on a skinny post in the third quarter was a great example of getting the ball placed behind the receiver so he wasn't led into the teeth of the coverage over top. Excellent timing and accuracy.

Arm Strength:

Henne's second pass was a 3-yard curl. Henne was throwing the ball from the opposite side of the field and did so with good velocity on the pass. Henne has the arm to deliver the deep ball. He threw a 40-yard pass with ease to Manningham with 4:48 in the 1st QTR, but only needed to throw it 35 yards to complete it. Henne delivered a really strong throw on a 5-step drop to Arrington on a skinny post 25-yards down the field from the opposite hash--great exhibition of arm strength. Henne under threw a deep pass for a near-interception with 1:31 left in the 3rd QTR, but he was hit as he released the ball and the result was an under thrown pass.

Delivery:

Henne's first pass was a completion to Manningham on a slant. Henne took a two-step drop and got the ball quickly out of his hands, hitting his receiver in stride. Manningham gained an additional 17 yards after the catch for a 24-yard gain. So far, Henne is throwing very catch able balls--tight spirals with good velocity and touch. Henne's release point sometimes gets a little lower than optimal, but nothing too noticeable. Henne appears to have a slower than average drop. If he doesn't improve the speed of his drops, he will get eaten alive in an NFL camp. He does throw a very pretty football and when given the time, he has the potential to develop into a solid pocket passer.

Decisions:

The first completion for a 24-yard gain was the result of Henne checking out of one play into another--a good decision because he spotted Manningham in man coverage with an LB covering Breaston in the slot. He motioned Breaston away from Manningham's side to make the slant possible. Henne's third completion was to the TE Butler on a short drag route. The QB did a good job going to his second read on the play after seeing the outside receiver on his right side wasn't open. On the 25-yard slant to Manningham to the 1-yard line, Henne did an effective job of looking off the safety in the middle of the field before looking to Manningham on the route. Although Henne didn't get the first down on his 2nd QTR pass to Breaston on 3rd down, he did a nice job going to his second read on the play. Henne's 2nd and 20 score from the OSU 37 was a good example of Henne seeing the field.

Ball Handling:

Henne used a brief pump fake before delivering a 20-yard slant to Manningham to the one yard line.

Pocket Presence:

Henne demonstrated he'd stand in the pocket and take the hit to complete a pass on a 1st and 10 attempt on Michigan's second possession of the game. He was leveled with a chest-high hit as he released a 20-yard pass to Manningham, but the WR slipped and the ball sailed incomplete. Henne is a classic drop back passer that needs to set his feet to have the most success. He was sacked with :26 in the first quarter and though he had an opportunity to find daylight or slide into an open space in the pocket, he looked awkward doing so. He dropped his eyes too early when the pressure came and limited his options. When hit, Henne will try to get rid of the ball to a safe area. He doesn't have a good sense of backside pressure. He'll step up in the pocket, but he's stiff moving around. He did a nice job stepping up with 2:20 left to deliver a touchdown pass to TE Ecker.

Scrambling Ability:

Henne is not quick of foot and there needs to be a pretty obvious opening for him to find daylight and get a minimal gain. Otherwise, he tends to run towards traffic rather than away from it. When he's inaccurate, he tends to overthrow or throw the ball too high.

Durability:

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

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Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Chad Henne

Date: 1/1/2007

Opponent: USC

Overall Strengths:

Very good arm strength and timing with downfield throws. More than adequate arm strength. He slides well in the pocket when there's backside pressure. His release and mechanics are very sound. He is a 4-year starter with all around sound fundamentals in the short and intermediate passing game. He should develop into a reliable contributor for an NFL team and if he improves his pocket awareness could challenge for a starting job in a few years.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's not very mobile breaking the pocket. Demonstrates hesitancy in the pocket and creates sacks due to this. Or he rushes throws. His timing in the pocket is a little suspect. Either too rushed or too late with some decisions. Has difficulty with pressure in his face for from an angle where he has to move laterally.

Accuracy:

His pass the WR in the flat with 12:38 in the 1st QTR was dropped. The ball was thrown a bit harder than necessary, but there was really no excuse for the receiver to drop the ball. No one was within 6 yards of him. He threw an accurate 5-yard pass to the flat to the WR while rolling to the right with 9:38 in the 1st QTR. The ball was in the WR's chest and led him enough to continue running away from the trailing coverage. Henne has nice accuracy in the short game. On 2nd and 3 pass for 6 yards to his TE in the 1st QTR, he saw he needed to place the ball to the back shoulder of the TE or else the LB would have defended the passing lane by deflecting the throw. He tried to squeeze a seam throw to Arrington in the end zone, but the ball was thrown too late if he wanted to avoided the safety coming over from the middle or thrown to the wrong shoulder if he wanted to ensure Arrington was the only player with a chance at the ball. He's not as accurate when he's delivering from awkward angles such as sliding forward and away from the backside pressure with 8:11 in the game and under throwing the ball to the WR in the flat. The WR should have caught it, but the pass wasn't very accurate.

Arm Strength:

As with his opponent--John David Booty--Henne has a good enough pro arm, but it's not elite. He hit his WR on a sideline route thrown from the opposite hash with :49 in the 1st QTR but the ball took a little longer than desired to get there. Good zip on a 3rd and 16 thrown down the middle of the field to Manningham on an in-route to start the 2nd QTR. Good timing, velocity, and accuracy on a 21-yard slant that he threw after sliding forward in the pocket with 8:02 in the half. Good arm strength on an out of 9 yards thrown from the opposite hash with :03 in the 3rd QTR. Excellent velocity and accuracy on a seam route that split the safety and CB to the TE in stride about 28 yards downfield for a 36-yard gain. Two plays later he threw a 17-yard pass from the opposite hash with excellent zip to his WR on an in-route between three players in zone coverage.

Delivery:

Henne's drop backs to begin the game looked slow. He looked a lot faster rolling to the right to complete a pass to his WR in the flat for 5 yards with 9:38 in the 1st QTR. He has a nice release, he can flick the ball quickly out of his hands on throws of 15-25 yards in distance. He has good mechanics on his drop, plant, and throw with an over the shoulder motion. He hit Arrington on a post for a 22-yards score at the top of the 4th QTR with good timing and accuracy to the inside of the WR. Nice touch on a screen pass while moving backwards under pressure to his RB with 9:29 in the 4th QTR. He lofted the ball over the defenders and gave the RB a chance to catch the ball facing the defense.

Decisions:

Henne threw the ball away to the left flat with 13:47 in the 2nd QTR when he experienced pressure from an unblocked defender. He made a poor decision on a 2nd and 8 play where he encountered heavy pressure from two defenders up the middle and to his right and tried to execute a jump pass while falling backwards from a hit. He was trying to hit his RB on a screen pass but didn't get enough arc or distance on the ball. The DE intercepted the ball.

Ball Handling:

Very good execution of a play fake to his RB on a 2nd down pass with 13:49 in the 2nd QTR, but he could not find someone open right away and the edge rusher unblocked off the left side was only fooled by the play action enough for Henne to finish his drop and look downfield for a second. He was blindsided and lost the ball with 3:25 in the 3rd QTR. There were several plays in this game where he hesitated on a pass, where he could have made a strong pump fake to at least freeze the pressure but he didn't follow through.

Pocket Presence:

Henne was sacked on the passing play of the game. He took a 7-step drop and the DT off the right side got quick pressure. Henne did a good job of stepping away, but he had a clear lane to the left of the LG and could have slid away from the pressure to buy more time. Instead he reacted by tucking the ball and running straight up field into the arms of a defender and was sacked. The second time he was sacked, the defender nearly met him in the backfield at the end of his long drop. Henne did a very good job sliding forward in the pocket as both ends collapsed the back of the pocket on a 3rd and 16 to start the 2nd QTR. This slide allowed him to deliver a 16-yard in route under the zone for a 1st down. Henne was sacked for a 3rd time with 8:48 in the half when the edge rusher came free and rolled into the QB. Henne hesitated just before this sack because sense pressure from his right. If he dropped, planted and threw the football, he probably would have avoided this sack. It was supposed to be a quick-hitting play and his hesitation was one of the factors for the sack. Good job stepping up in the pocket with 8:02 in the half to hit his WR on a slant up the middle for a 21-yard gain. He tried to step up on and 1st and 10 pass play with 7:26 in the half, but he only saw the OLB blitzing and not the corner, who blindsided him as he was sliding forward. He did a good job of avoiding a sack where he was pressured from the backside on 3rd down with 6:39 in the 3rd QTR, but he rushed the throw while rolling right and put the ball behind his WR. Once again a good job stepping up under pressure and delivering a well-thrown crossing route to his WR for a 16-yard gain with 4:04 in the 3rd QTR. Henne had an issue with holding onto the ball just a split second too long in the first half, hesitating when he was about to release the ball and he got sacked. In the early part of the 3rd QTR, he threw the ball too early. At the end of the 3rd QTR he reverted back to hesitating, got sacked and lost a fumble. Henne did well to slide forward and to his right on a 3rd down play with 8:11 in the game, but could not deliver a pinpoint, accurate pass on the play and the ball was dropped.

Scrambling Ability:

He gained three yards at the end of the 3rd QTR by sliding forward from the backside rush and decisively breaking the pocket when he saw an open lane. He did a good job sliding at the end of the run. He's not going to gain significant yardage as a runner. Even when there were no defenders to a side of the field at the LOS, he still barely gained 3 on the play. Very good velocity on seam route 23 yards downfield to the TE with 14:00 in the game. He overthrew a deep streak to Manningham with 6:13 in the game. The ball traveled nearly 50 yards downfield.

Durability:

He missed two and a half games with a knee injury as a senior and a third game later in the season versus Minnesota, but has played in every game as a freshman, sophomore, and junior.

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name:

Colt Brennan

Date:

12/24/2006

Opponent:

Arizona State

Overall Strengths:

He does a terrific job hitting players in stride from any distance. He has good arm strength and a quick release. He has excellent footwork in the pocket and can slide in either direction to create passing lanes. Brennan is capable of quick decisions and when he pairs that with his quick release, he's difficult to stop. He has enough athletic ability to gain positive yards as a runner and elude the pass rush. If he can continue to mature and put in the right coaching environment, this quarterback has the natural passing skills to be a franchise player.

Overall Weaknesses:

He takes too many chances with the football in bad situations. He's frenetic in the pocket and doesn't protect the ball well enough and stares down his receivers on deep routes. He may have a great turnover ratio in college, but if he doesn't improve his ball protection, pocket presence, and skills at manipulating coverages he will be one of those natural passes with breath-taking skills, but makes too many mistakes to fulfill his potential. He seemed to shy away from contact when forced to step into a throw against a defender coming within his line of sight.

Accuracy:

He has only overthrown one player after a quarter. The rest of his short and intermediate passes have been on target. He's been able to hit his players on short passes with accuracy rolling to the right. He is facing the #2 ranked defense in the Pac 10. Brennan led his receiver Rivers perfectly on a 38-yard TD toss on the opening drive of the 3rd QTR. His accuracy is very good. Every ball he's thrown with the exception of two have been well-placed. At the same time, he hasn't had to deliver more than two passes under pressure. When under pressure, he's actually held onto the ball too long. Brennan has terrific accuracy on his throws from every range. He hit one of his receivers right in the stomach in tight coverage from 40 yards out, but the ball was dropped. He threw it on a rope. His 3rd TD pass was extremely well-placed from over 35-yards out. His accuracy in the intermediate to deep passing game is one of his greatest strengths.

Arm Strength:

Brennan threw a nice out route to Rivers at the stop of the 2nd QTR. He demonstrates enough velocity on his throws to get the ball on time and down the field. He has the arm strength to throw the ball from a variety of locations and make a play. At the end of the half, Brennan rolled to his left and threw a pass 55-yards in the air while on the run with enough accuracy to his receiver Rivers, but the coverage was good and the DB broke up the pass. Brennan's third scoring pass was from over 35 yards out and thrown with little arc and seemingly no effort on his part—it looked like an easy pitch and catch despite having to drop the ball into some traffic on the periphery of the receiver.

Delivery:

Brennan doesn't always stand very tall in the pocket. When he does he may be 6-3, but he almost looks 6-5 because he doesn't bend his knees much when he's surveying the field after the drop in the shotgun. On the other hand, when he drops back his knee bend is very noticeable and he appears as if he's crouching. His delivery is not the preferred, over the top motion, but closer to a 3/4 release point similar to Jeff George or David Carr when at Fresno State. I think he may have problems with batted passes when operating under center versus an NFL defense. His throwing motion appears as if he's slinging the ball. His release speed is good and he does a great job of setting his feet quickly after being on the move in the pocket. He does a good job throwing from different angles and release points anywhere on the field. The decisions aren't always the best, but he keeps plays alive and can create big plays with his feet and arm. He places the ball in the perfect position for the receivers to run after the catch.

Decisions:

Brennan has a recklessness about his play. His first attempt was a first and 10 inside their own 10 yard line. Operating out of the shotgun set with 4 WRs, Brennan faced enough pressure to be forced from the pocket. As he turned up field, he spotted a WR on a crossing route and flicked a shovel pass in backhanded fashion across the field between three defenders. The pass was complete, but it was a high-risk decision in terms of down, distance, and field position this early in the game. He plays in an offense where he is encouraged to make quick decisions with the ball because it's a 4 or 5 receiver set with a lot of underneath or flat routes. Brennan shows he's capable of making the quick decision as well as surveying the field for a secondary receiver. The run and shoot offense has some very peculiar, high-risk plays. For instance, with 1:29 left in the opening QTR, Hawaii had Brennan in a 4 WR set with the RB flanked to his right. Brennan takes the snap, rolls right, while the RB goes to block the backside and releases into a screen. Brennan releases a jump pass to the opposite side of the field to the RB. The RB was wide open because the roll towards the sideline left the middle of the field bare, but from where he had to throw the ball was very high-risk. He threw against his body on a 2nd QTR play where he slid to the left and spotted an open man in the middle of the field. The pass was dropped. Brennan has a tendency to stare down his receivers, especially on deep routes where looking off the safety is very important to the success of the play. He was intercepted when attempting to throw a 9-route to Rivers with 8:05 in the 2nd QTR. The safety was over the top and Brennan stared down Rivers before throwing it. The safety easily jumped the route. He did get the safety to bite on the intermediate route and then hit a wide open Rivers on a 38-yard TD pass to open the second half. Brennan did make a good read on a corner blitz in the second half--the CB came off Rivers and Brennan read the adjustment Rivers made and hit him right on time. This allowed Rivers to gain 15 more yards for a 25-yard pass play down the sideline--all due to quick thinking. With 4 and 5 wide sets, it's difficult for a defense to double any receiver, so it's difficult to evaluate his decision making here but he demonstrated a tendency to throw the ball into traffic on short passes and these were ill-advised plays.

Ball Handling:

He also unfortunately holds the ball too low and away from his body when moving around in the pocket. On his first sack, he held the ball away from his body when attempting to fake the blitzing DB before bringing it closer to his side when wrapped up. His ball control in the pocket is a concern.

Pocket Presence:

Brennan has very good mobility. He's wiry like Jake Plummer and moves similarly to the NFL QB in terms of his speed and quickness. The Hawaii QB showed good footwork sliding in the pocket on his first 3rd down attempt. He slid to his left a few steps after taking the snap from the shotgun formation and found a huge lane to throw a crossing route to his receiver Bess for a first down. His footwork while sliding kept him in great position to remain in a throwing stance and deliver the ball accurately. Brennan was sacked with 6:12 in the first quarter when a nickel back in the slot came off his receiver on a blitz untouched around the corner. He attempted to sidestep the pass rusher once he planted after a three-step drop but could not get away. Despite his good feet, he seems frenetic in the pocket when under pressure which leads to questionable decisions. He slides very well to the left. He held onto the ball way too long when sacked the second time with 13:18 left in the 2nd QTR. He did a good job sliding to the left after a pump fake, but was in too tight quarters to hang onto the ball. He needs to learn to throw the ball away at this point. He contributed to his third sack because he instinctively tried to slide to the left rather than break the pocket to the right. He also seems to shy away from contact on blitzes. He had an open man on a deep out that he hurried the throw and didn't follow through because he was shying away from the contact. He did take a hit from the backside on the next play, but it was questionable whether he knew it was coming.

Scrambling Ability:

Brennan is dangerous outside the pocket because he is always looking downfield as a passer. Although he is the number two rusher for this team, he doesn't have a real burst or long speed. He can gain yardage, but he's not a threat that deserves special attention as a runner. He did have a 15-yard gain on a 1st down pass attempt when he saw a clear field in front of him due to the WRs running off the coverage. He was fast enough to take advantage of it.

Durability:

Brennan is skinny for his height. If he can add another 20 pounds in muscle, he'll have a build that will help him withstand punishment in the NFL. Took a pretty big hit at the end of the half, but came back on the field on the next possession.

Character:

Had a criminal issue after walking on at CU and was kicked off the team. He did walk-on at Hawaii and earned a scholarship. He seems to be repentant about his mistake and takes accountability for making a poor decision. He's a fiery leader on this team and keeps his teammates enthused during the game.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

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Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1 pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1 pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1 pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1 pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Colt Brennan

Date: 11/23/2007

Opponent: Boise St.

Overall Strengths:

Brennan has a quick release and very good downfield accuracy. He hits the deep ins, post patterns, and deep post corners very well. He can gain yardage when he breaks the pocket and he has touch in zone coverage. He demonstrates the ability to slide in the pocket. His arm strength is good enough. He demonstrated the ability to hit throws from the opposite hash with accuracy and velocity. He anticipates the location of DBs and can execute very accurate stop-fades, or out routes placed where the DBs can't get to the football. If he didn't get killed, he'd function well in a Mike Martz offense due to his release and skills on intermediate routes. He's a bit like Marc Bulger in this respect.

Overall Weaknesses:

He holds the ball too long where he needs to play more situational football (3rd down, in their own end zone, etc.). He drops the ball when he's in the pocket and under pressure. He gets skittish when the pocket tightens up and no one is immediately open downfield. He sometimes tries to squeeze throws into tighter coverage. He has a 3/4 delivery and if the pocket is tight, he has more difficulty finding passing lane.

Accuracy:

His first throw of the game was a 20-yard corner route to Bess in cover 2. He put too much air under the ball and overthrew it. The safety over top nearly picked it off, but couldn't keep his feet inbounds. An accurate 6-yard throw on the next play to the right flat for a 6-yard gain. He tossed the ball with a side arm delivery with a DT in his face. Good placement and time on a 3rd and 4 stop-fade to the left sideline for 11 yards and the 1st down with 4:23 in the 1st QTR. His 45-yard pass was very accurate because of the trailing DB who would have had the angle to intercept the ball if he led the WR any further inside on the deep post. He under threw the ball so the WR could turn and leap for it. Good touch on the corner fade with 3 WRs on the same side on a 6-yard TD strike. He dropped the ball over the WR's shoulder near the sideline and over the shallow defender. Good timing on a 23-yard skinny post down the middle of the field from his own end zone on 1st and 10 with 1:33 in the 1st QTR. The WR gained an additional 5 yards on the play for a total gain of 28. He dropped the ball in stride in the open spot of the zone. Excellent accuracy on a play that didn't look the case with :22 in the 1st QTR. He threw a typical 8-yard out, but anticipated the DB charging over the top. Brennan threw the ball high so the defender had no chance to catch the ball. The WR made the adjustment and the catch. When he has time, he will pick apart a zone. He dropped a ball over the head of an LB 16-yards downfield to the WR Bess on an in-route with 14:00 in the 3rd QTR. Brennan had difficulty with the 20-yard corner route. He missed Rivers on the route with 1:00 in the 3rd QTR after missing it on the first play of the game.

Arm Strength:

He put good velocity on a 45-yard pass to his WR. The ball was purposely under thrown so the WR could turn back to the QB and use his height to get the ball in front of the safety. The completion was for 41 yards on the stat sheet. The ball was thrown with a very good trajectory, spiral, and timing. Good zip and accuracy on a 12-yard in between the zone with :17 in the 1st QTR for a 15-yard gain. Pretty good velocity on a 9-yard out delivered from the opposite hash for a completion. Good anticipation and zip on a 17-yard pass between the zone on a deep curl for a 1st down with 6:02 in the 3rd QTR. Brennan threw a pass 45-yards in the air from the opposite hash in a tight pocket to his WR over the shoulder to the opposite sideline for a 38-yard score on the stat sheet. Excellent accuracy and zip on the throw.

Delivery:

Nice job side-arming a throw with a DT in his face on 2nd and 10 with 6:17 in the 1st QTR. The throw was an accurate, short out to the WR in the right flat which resulted in a 6-yard gain. His slant to Grice-Mullen from the slot with 5:05 was very accurate, but if the WR ran through the pattern he had a better chance to catch the ball and not get nailed by the safety over top. Instead the WR hesitate, dove and nearly got creamed by the DB. His delivery is normally a 3/4 motion. He sometimes appears to have a bit of a wind up in his motion as well. He has a quick release, but he holds the ball a bit low in the pocket. His interception was a short throw that was caught by the defensive end who avoided the chop block on the set up for a WR screen and caught the ball. Brennan's 3/4 delivery will come into question here. It was a short pass and he could have put a bit more arc on the ball but it was also a good play by the DE who wasn't blocked well enough on the play. Sometimes he under throws the ball because he delivers off his back foot. He undershot a pass to the flat for this reason with 4:07 in the 3rd QTR.

Decisions:

Brennan looked to the right on 3rd and 3, but did not see anyone open. As the pocket got smaller, he snapped his body back to the left side and overthrew his WR drifted to the outside on a 4-yard pattern. A pass that should have been completed for an easy first down. Good job finding the outlet, but not demonstrating the poise under a closing pocket to deliver the ball. With all the time he's had in this game, he does well to look at 2-3 options on his pass plays in the first half of this game. He does tend to stare down receivers under pressure. He either did not see the LB drifting back into the zone on a 3rd QTR pass or thought he could drill it over the LB's head between three defenders in zone coverage. The LB intercepted the ball. He had a great pocket to wait and throw the ball.

Ball Handling:

Brennan fumbled the football when he was hit in the back on the blindside sack in the first half from his own end zone. He got a fortunate bounce and covered it himself. He holds the ball a bit low in the pocket and as it closes in he drops the ball when he moves. He'll execute a pass fake after handing the ball out of the spread formation. He did this a few times in the game.

Pocket Presence:

Brennan looked hurried in the pocket on 3rd and 3 with 5:36 in the 1st QTR. He had pressure getting close to him, but no one was unblocked. He overthrew an outlet pass to his WR who adjusted his route from the slot to an out patter just 4 yards past the LOS. Other than the first two throws, he's had a lot of time in the pocket to stand there and deliver the ball--more than typical for a pro QB. He did a good job sensing the backside pressure with 14:52 in the half. He stepped up, but did not see anyone downfield as he drifted towards the left and up field. At that point he tucked the ball and ran for a 12-yard gain. He naturally does a lot of drifting in the pocket. His feet move steadily, not at a hectic pace, but he'll drift backwards or to a certain side of the pocket as he feels the pressure. He did a good job getting rid of the ball when the backside pressure spun to the inside of his blocker and hit Brennan in the back with his hand. Brennan then delivered the ball to his WR in the middle of the field as the DE hung on his back. The WR dropped the ball. He drifted to the left on the next play and threw a 12-yard strike to his WR on an in-route with 7:15 in the half. The ball was a bit low, but in a place on the WR would catch it between zone coverage. Brennan was hit late a few times after delivering the football in the 1st half. He was sacked from the blindside with 4:04 in the half. When in one's own end zone, it's very important to get rid of the ball if after a few seconds no one is open. Brennan has not learned this necessary point and it will hurt him in the NFL if he doesn't learn it soon. He nearly got sacked on the next play but got rid of the ball just in time. He was sacked with :38 in the half. Again, he sometimes stands in a bit too long when he feels hurried for time. It's strange that he drifts around when he has a lot of time, but he gets antsy when there is less. The reason has to do with pocket. When the pocket collapses around him, he gets hurried and plays more erratically, either rushing his decisions or hesitating with a more jerky motion--sometimes pulling his throws before finally releasing. When the pocket is off to one side or another, he drifts more comfortably and is smooth with his passes.

Scrambling Ability:

He has a decent burst. He used it to get bask the LB on a 12-yard gain with 14:52 in the first half. He clearly tries to keep his eyes downfield to throw the ball, but when he has to tuck the ball and run, Brennan has the athleticism to be an effective runner out of the backfield. His score was off a 1-yard plunge up the middle. Good job feeling the backside pressure with 6:42 in the 3rd QTR and stepping up. He broke the pocket to the left side, switched the ball to his sideline arm and gained 5 yards on the play. he saw the stunting DE coming up the middle, broke to the left side then stopped when he felt trapped. At this point he dropped his eyes from his routes and squirted up the middle for a 5-yard gain. Diving forward to end the run. His 3-yard gain with 10:04 in the game was a very good scramble where he rolled away from the pressure from the middle then rolled right, cut up field past the DL in pursuit and then dipped to the sideline when no one was open. He turned a 10-yard sack into a 3-yard gain.

Durability:

He only played a few snaps last week due to a concussion he suffered the week prior.

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

57

Accuracy Score:

4

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

1

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

13

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

6

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

13

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:

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

Pocket Presence Score:

5

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

5

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

10

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Dennis Dixon

Date: 11/4/2006

Opponent: Washington

Overall Strengths:

Dixon is a playmaker at this position. He has moments where he is highly accurate in the short passing game and can squeeze the ball in tight coverage. He has excellent mobility as a runner under center. He can break the pocket for a big gain. If he develops better mechanics his potential to become a productive college passer is very high.

Overall Weaknesses:

Although he has a high completion percentage in this game, his offensive system employs a lot of short passes that don't go beyond the line of scrimmage that count as completions. He is fairly accurate in the short game, but still inconsistent with touch passes from every distance and more traditional short routes used in pro offenses such as screens, flares, and crossing routes. The problem is lack of anticipation of his receivers and footwork when setting up to deliver the ball. He can range from very accurate to way off target. He is hesitant with his decisions after his first read and this causes him to either throw the ball late or force the ball into coverage. He's very slight for his height and goes down easily when hit. He needs to learn to keep his eyes downfield and slide away from pressure rather than duck his head and run.

Accuracy:

Dixon's first pass was a designed roll to the right off play action. He threw an ill-advised pass to this WR on a hitch that was well covered and the DB jumped the route and nearly intercepted the low throw. He did follow up with an accurate throw in tight coverage to his TE on an short out in the flat for a first down. He hit the receiver on his front shoulder with the LB nearly on top of the receiver. He followed up with an accurate pass up the middle on a crossing route for a first down. He hit the TE in stride. He made his third consecutive pass to the TE on an out on the left side of the formation in tight coverage. He had a lot of confidence in the TE and was able to squeeze the pass onto his outside shoulder. Dixon missed his WR on a corner route in the end zone--he overthrew the pass. He doesn't demonstrate good anticipation which would help him deliver a more accurate pass because he wouldn't have to throw it hard and last-minute. Although the receiver should have caught the 3rd down pass he threw from his own 5 on 3rd and 10, he could have led the WR better. Again, another symptom of lacking good anticipation of routes. His accuracy is linked to his footwork--which is inconsistent. Dixon missed a screen pass to Stewart in the left flat because he threw the ball while falling backwards. There was no rush to cause him to leave his feet while delivering this pass and the ball nearly bounced off the lineman Stewart was trailing. He led his WR perfectly on a slant 10 yards downfield for a first down with 2:47 in the half. His stance was a little wide, but he took the time to set and release. He threw the ball behind his WR on the left side on 3rd and 10 with 1:13. The CB was 3 yards off the WR but the ball was not placed in the right spot. He hit his TE in tight coverage, leading him with a throw over the inside shoulder for a 13-yard completion and first down. Dixon threw the ball late on a 7-yard hitch to his WR on the right side and the result was a throw low and away that the WR couldn't possibly expect to catch inbounds although he did get a knee down before rolling out. Again, Dixon's feet were far apart on the delivery. Even a swing pass to Stewart with 8:36 was too high and led too far, but Stewart made an excellent catch.

Arm Strength:

Dixon has the arm strength to throw the ball downfield, but the longest pass he had in the half was thrown 37 yards in the air down the seam that was actually under thrown and not with enough velocity. The ball was nearly intercepted on a diving attempt by the CB jumping the route because the pass was thrown late and with too much loft. The ball seems to hang in the air on throws greater than 15 yards. He had one ball intercepted and nearly a second pick due to the ball hanging a bit too long on a throw downfield. The ball doesn't fly off his arm with authority. It's a catch able pass, but not with a lot of zip. He has good zip on passes under 20 yards. He under threw a fade to his TE in the corner of the end zone from 21 yards away. The TE had to turn back to the trailing coverage and try to jump over the DB's head to get the ball. If Dixon threw it better anticipation, he could have hit the TE in stride rather than force the receiver to make an acrobatic adjustment.

Delivery:

He has a flat-footed delivery in the pocket when in the shotgun. He had difficulty setting his feet on a 1st and 10 throw out to the WR out of a 2-TE set. He just had to drop a step, set, and throw but he never set his feet and his throw was off balance. The ball landed low and away from the WR. Dixon does have a strong arm and quick release, but he's relying too much on it right now rather than his familiarity with routes and timing. His footwork before he throws is very poor. From one drop to the next you never know how far apart or close his feet will be. He under threw a slant on a 1st and 10 from Oregon's 5 because his feet were too far apart during his release and the ball dipped. He has decent, over the shoulder release that his compact.

Decisions:

Dixon should have run the roll out or thrown the ball away. Instead he tried to force the ball on a hitch that was nearly picked off. On an intermediate route like the corner route he overthrew with 8:47 in the 1st QTR, he hesitated in the pocket and threw the ball too late. If he threw it earlier he could have used more touch to make an accurate pass. He just doesn't effectively anticipate the routes right now. Dixon saw his first option on the right side wasn't open and appeared hesitant to check down to his 2nd option on a 2nd and 10 pass in the 1st QTR, but he threw the ball anyway it was passed right to the DB who picked it off. You could tell by his physical hesitation that he knew he shouldn't throw it, but he forced the ball. Dixon's 2nd INT was on the opening drive in the 3rd QTR. He executed a roll to the left, did a good job of setting his feet, but did not look off the safety and threw the ball into double coverage. The safety jumped the route for the pick.

Ball Handling:

He did not protect the ball adequately on his first scramble. He held the ball away from his body throughout the play. He showed this repeatedly as a runner. He carries the ball low and when he does tuck the ball, there is a noticeable gap between his elbow and his body. He has long arms so the ball looks a bit small on his forearm and there is palpable space for it to get knocked out by a pursuing defender. He is adept at the option play fakes, which he ran a half dozen times in the first half with high productivity.

Pocket Presence:

He is impatient in the pocket. On 3rd and 1 with 10:01 in the opening quarter, Dixon took a spread formation snap, looked to his right and pump faked. He saw the front side pass rush getting picked up, but reacted by taking off to the left and breaking the pocket. For the down and distance it was a good decision, but he didn't bother to scan the rest of the field with plenty of time. He actually ignored his RB wide open in the right flat before he pump faked. Out of the spread formation with 5WRs, Dixon stood tall in the pocket and delivered a well-placed pass to his WR on a in route 16 yards downfield, but the WR dropped the pass while looking at the safety 3 yards away over top. Dixon took a hit as he threw it and the WR still got hit by the safety after dropping it. He senses the rush well, but does not know how to slide in the pocket and keep his eyes downfield while remaining in a good throwing stance. This is another footwork issue coupled with anticipation of routes and reading the field.

Scrambling Ability:

He is a dynamic runner outside the pocket. On the 3rd and 10 scramble with 10:01, he put a great stop-start, lateral cut on the defender at the yard marker and made him fall down as he bounced it outside the left hash prior to the DB bringing him down by the leg on the 22-yard line for a 4-yard gain. He got 8 yards on an option run off LG with 10:45 in the half. He is fast, but skinny. He lowered his head to take on a defender at the end of the run and got stood up. He took more punishment on the play than the defender. He has excellent speed and makes good moves in space. He got a first down on the next play that was a play action half roll to the right. He looked deep and then decided to break the pocket and got about 10 yards on the play after making a man miss in the open field. He is not going to run over anyone. Dixon's scrambling style in the pocket is just like Mike Vick's. He's super quick and has great lateral movement in tight spots, but he drops his head when under pressure and loses sight of the downfield action which basically forces his hand to run unless a receiver can get behind the secondary and Dixon has enough time and space at that point to throw--which the percentages are low that he will.

Durability:

Character:

Good job making the tackle on his second INT as the S returned the pass down the sideline.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Erik Ainge

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: California

Overall Strengths:

Ainge has good accuracy in the short to intermediate range with velocity on his throws. Ainge has solid mechanics with his set and release. He places the ball where the receiver has the best chance to catch and run. His touch might be one of the stronger points of his game as a passer. There were several plays in this game where Ainge appeared to go to his 2nd and 3rd options, if not his 4th option. He has learned to check down and take what the defense gives him. He has decent awareness of pressure and is doing a pretty good job of throwing the ball away rather than forcing something. In fact he has a very good internal clock when it comes to knowing when to get rid of the ball. This will need adjustment when he gets to the NFL, because of the speed of the game, but he its clear he has that sense of when to step up or get rid of the ball.

Overall Weaknesses:

I did not see him make any deep throws, although it appears he does have the arm strength. His drops are shallow and this allows the pressure to get closer to him that he would otherwise need to allow. Occasionally he will stare down a player and can tip of a defense as to what he is doing. He will definitely make an NFL squad and should get a chance to start within 3-5 seasons, but he still has a fair amount to learn about drops, looking off coverage, and reading defenses when he's not in a spread formation. Ainge is a player whose ceiling to learn exceeds his current score.

Accuracy:

He threw a nice, accurate pass with zip on a flat route to the WR releasing from behind the offensive line on the first 3rd down play in the 3rd QTR. The ball was placed on the WR's back shoulder. On the next series, Ainge demonstrated nice accuracy rolling left and delivering the ball on the back shoulder of Lucas Taylor in the flat. Ainge showed nice accuracy on a seam route thrown over the LB and between the safety 20 yards downfield to his TE Chris Brown. Another well-timed, short drop and fire on a slant to his WR on the left side on 3rd and 4 inside the red area with 4:00 left in the opening QTR. The ball was placed on the back shoulder again. His first incomplection came on his 11th pass, a deep out to Taylor on 3rd and 3 with 11:35 in the half. He under threw the football with no pressure in the pocket. He hit Taylor on the back shoulder on a deep cross 20 yards downfield that resulted in 45 yard gain, very good placement to give the WR chance to gain extra yardage. This was an NFL throw. Nice accurate throw in the flat to his WR Briscoe on a roll right, but the ball was dropped. On 2nd and Goal with 10:04 in the 3rd QTR, Ainge rolled right from the 2 yard line and delivered a throw behind Taylor. The WR caught the ball, but had to juggle it and he was out of bounds when he made the reception. A more accurate pass makes this an easier score. He made another inaccurate throw to the RB on the next attempt, by placing it on the back shoulder with a DL trailing the RB. This forced the RB to turn back to the QB and allow the DL to clean up the play. Nice timing on a crossing route in the thick of zone coverage to his WR in stride for what turned out to be a 21-yard gain. He threw a very accurate sideline fade 25 yards downfield to Moore with :52 in the 3rd QTR, but the ball was dropped. He delivered another nice throw up the seam to Briscoe for 23 yards. He hit Briscoe on the back shoulder so he could gain yardage rather than run right into the defender in coverage. Nearly squeezed a seam route between two defenders for a score to open the 4th QTR, but needed a bit less loft on the ball to keep the safety from getting too close over top.

Arm Strength:

Good velocity on the 20-yard cross, but his short hitch on a safety blitz nearly got intercepted. There was just enough zip to get the ball into the receiver, but the safety did not react quickly enough on his break--he was just a tad slow.

Delivery:

Good job squaring his shoulders up field as he rolled left to deliver a pass to Taylor in the flat. His footwork has pretty good spacing on drops, but he doesn't appear to get as much depth on his drops as he's capable. Good overall ball positioning on his drops. His quick slant on 3rd and 4 with 4:00 in the opening QTR didn't have enough depth to the drop, which could make him prone to deflections despite his height. Ainge's foot position was a bit wide while trying to deliver the deep out with 11:35 in the first half. The ball was under thrown. Ainge did a good job throwing an accurate pass on his throw to the TE off play action with 3:59 in the 3rd QTR. He was moving backwards as he made the throw.

Decisions:

Ainge executed a no-huddle offense, which allowed him to face a defense that couldn't make a lot of substitutions as a result. He did a nice job checking into a play on 3rd and 4 versus a blitz on the opening drive where he had his WR motion towards the line and then set up like a TE behind the line before releasing open to the flat. The completion resulted in a first down. Nine of his first ten passes were passes to the flat not more than 5 yards past the line of scrimmage--very quick strikes. Ainge stared down the deep cross he completed with 7:55 the half from the moment he dropped until he released the football. With 1:25 in the half, Ainge made a very questionable decision to try to flip the ball to his RB, Creer, when the LB Williams correctly guessed the snap count and blitzed clean between the C and G to nab Ainge as he was about to hand off. He might have fumbled even if he kept the ball because the LB wrapped him up in a way that the ball was away from Ainge's body. But Ainge should have seen the blitz coming and altered his count. Ainge is generally a very decisive QB, sometimes acts too quickly in situations where he could buy more time with his legs. He has done a nice job checking into and out of plays at the line of scrimmage. Nice decision to throw the ball away after breaking the pocket, looking downfield, and not spotting anything as two defenders got close enough to hit him with 8:55 left in the game.

Ball Handling:

Ainge's first pass was a 1-yard hitch to the WR on the left side after executing a play fake to the RB towards the right side of the field. He did a good job turning to the right although he did not make any type of ball fake due to the nature of the quick pass. He mad ea nice play fake out of the I formation which resulted in a TD to his TE, Chris Brown. He did a better job selling the fake with his body by the way he turned away from the line and holding out the football to the back.

Pocket Presence:

Ainge was blindsided in the pocket on the first drive which resulted in a sack, a fumble and a return for a touchdown. Ainge did hesitate on the play when the TE was open. With the front side DE bearing down on Ainge, the hesitation was likely to cause a fumble from both the front or backside with just a split-second different either way. Ainge's first touchdown was a product of him executing in a short drop, quick strike offense either up the seam or in the flat. The design of the first two offensive series was to keep pressure off Ainge and allow the skill players to make plays with the ball in their hands. The no huddle allowed Ainge to keep the defense off balance, the tempo fast, and to check out of bad run plays when the defense was loading up the box. When in the pocket, he tends to bounce on the balls of his feet and did a good job of throwing the football away when he couldn't find a place to break the pocket on a 1st and 10 with 5:57 in the 3rd QTR. Great job avoiding the backside pressure by spinning away and breaking to the outside of the rusher to roll left with 8:55 in the game.

Scrambling Ability:

Ainge did a good job stepping up in the pocket on 3rd and 7 with 12:15 in the 3rd QTR to get 10 yards and a first down. He is a quick player and he did a good job of ducking under the collapsing pocket on either side to squeeze through the opening and dart downfield for 10 yards on the play. He only runs when there's an occasional play call for him to do so, or it is a clear necessity.

Durability:

Played with a broken pinky on his throwing hand in this game.

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1 pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1 pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

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

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1 pts]:

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

Durability Score:

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1 pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Joe Flacco

Date: 12/8/2007

Opponent: S. Illinois

Overall Strengths:

Flacco is a raw talent, but with a very high ceiling of potential. He shows flashes of potential excellence with his accuracy, arm strength, decision making, pocket presence, and poise. He does some things instinctively that with good coaching and a good work ethic can be developed into skills that will place him in the starting lineup with an NFL team for several years. When he has time, he has close to pinpoint accuracy in the pocket at every distance. He is a fluid athlete at the position and can move in the pocket. He can throw the football with reasonable accuracy while off balance. This is the type of guy I could see Bill Parcells hoping to acquire in the mid-rounds as a hedge bet on John Beck if he doesn't want to give the Dolphins QB chance to develop without competition--which could bring out the best in both QBs. If Flacco gets a year or two to sit on the bench and learn the art of the position, he has chance to develop into a good starting NFL QB because he has the raw skills and the intangibles. He needs to get more consistent with the fundamentals and learn the finer points. At worst, he should become a viable back up, but I expect much more.

Overall Weaknesses:

Flacco has moments of good field vision, pocket presence, and accuracy. When he settles into the game, he becomes more accurate downfield, but he tends to hold onto the ball too long under pressure and will try to force a throw either too late in the route or while a defender wraps him up. He needs to learn to throw the ball away. He needs to learn to protect himself as a runner when he breaks the pocket. He sometimes drops his eyes to the line of scrimmage under pressure rather than slide to the open area and keep his eyes downfield. His release point is a 3/4 delivery and if placed in the wrong hands, an NFL QB coach may try to "correct it" and set back Flacco's learning curve while he has to rework a mechanic point that isn't necessary.

Accuracy:

Flacco can squeeze the ball into tight spaces because of the velocity in which he throws the football, but he isn't pinpoint accurate. He got a ball to his WR but threw it to the inside shoulder next to the safety rather than lead his receiver. Falcco completed the pass to his WR on a deep cross in the middle of the field even though the ball was tipped downfield. An easily thrown, accurate toss to the TE with :14 in the 1st QTR while breaking the pocket to his right. The defensive coordinator told the commentators that Flacco is very accurate rolling to the right and the gamelan is to keep him from doing so as often as possible. On the first score, Flacco did a good job setting his feet after executing a half roll to the left off the play fake to deliver an easy pass to the TE in the flat. Flacco's 40-yard incompletion to Cuff was perfectly placed over the inside shoulder and in stride. More impressive was that Cuff was the secondary option on the play. Flacco completed a perfectly thrown pass to his TE on a deep seam route for 47 yards with 8:56 in the 3rd QTR. There were seven drops in this game, where five of them were clearly balls the receivers should have easily caught.

Arm Strength:

From the first throw you can tell he has a very strong arm. His first completion was a short pass to the outside that had a lot of heat on it. You could hear the receiver actually catch the football from the stands. The receiver caught the ball in fairly tight coverage. The ball naturally flies of his arm with a lot of velocity. It's extremely noticeable on passes to the flat. Even when he's throwing the ball on-time and without much effort, the ball zips off his hand with speed and a good spiral. It's a very catch able ball. Flacco threw a sideline streak 40 yards in the air on a rope (very little loft) to his RB Cuff who was split wide on the play. The ball went right through Cuff's hands. It was perfectly placed and the throw looked effortless despite its distance and velocity. This was thrown on a 3rd and 20 with 12:20 in the 3rd QTR and down by 3 points. Flacco's completion to Agnone traveled 40 yards in the air and landed chest level to the TE's inside shoulder in stride and away from the trailing LB. The play after getting sacked for a second time, Flacco delivered a perfect, skinny post 14 yards downfield, but the ball was dropped. Great anticipation and right in the receiver's hands. The missed bomb thrown from the opposite hash with 2:30 left in the game traveled 50 yards in the air.

Delivery:

Flacco holds the ball at a decent level when he drops back, but the spacing of his feet during his release is pretty wide. On 3rd and 7 during the first drive he threw an 11-yard pass on an in-route just behind his receiver. He threw the ball late and tried to muscle it at the last second which put the pass behind the WR. Not good anticipation of the route. His delivery seems a bit awkward. It's not quite an over the shoulder delivery and his motion seems a bit jerky--as if it's not all in sync. It looks more like the delivery seen from David Carr or Vince Young--a 3/4 motion, especially under pressure. He can throw with velocity without planting his feet. With 2:30 in the game, Flacco made a great pump fake to help his receiver get open on the hitch and go, but overthrew the receiver by about 5 yards.

Decisions:

Flacco's first attempt came against a corner blitz off the left side. He did not read the blitz until the CB was around the edge and he tried to throw the ball while getting hit by the DT, which was nearly intercepted. He didn't have time to try to throw it to the open area, so his best choice would have been to take the sack. It's clear he does not know exactly where he's going with the football, so when he plants at the end of his drop he's hesitant and often waits until the last second to throw the ball, which leads to poor anticipation of the routes, because he's not anticipating the breaks, he's just looking for the open man on relying on his huge arm to make the play. Good decision to go to his third option, the TE in the right flat after getting flushed from the pocket by backside pressure with :14 in the 1st QTR. Flacco's completion percentage was very low after his first 5 attempts where most of them were downfield throws. Once he starting throwing in the flat and completion shorter passes, his percentage climbed. He started 1-5 then by the top of the 3rd QTR was 9-10.

Ball Handling:

Very nice play fake and throw to the TE in the left flat for the touchdown with 12:15 in the half. Flacco extended the ball to Cuff and then turned his back to the line while hiding the ball close to his stomach. Flacco had at least 4 low snaps in the first 36 minutes of this ballgame and each time he handled them effortlessly. Good job protecting the football with his outside arm.

Pocket Presence:

Flacco did not read the corner blitz while in the shotgun formation. The LCB actually cheated to the line about a second prior to the snap. S. Illinois blitzed off the edge during both of his first two pass attempts. Nice job notching the backside pressure and sliding out of the pocket on 1st and 10 with :14 in the 1st QTR to hit his TE on the run at the right numbers. The TE was open and got the first down with no problem. Flacco sense pressure well, but does not always feel the location of the pressure as effectively. The difference is that he feels the pressure around him and reacts, but he doesn't always find the open space. He occasionally drops his gaze to the line and tries to run rather than slide away from the pressure while still looking downfield. He was sacked with 13:17 in the 3rd QTR for this reason. He also tried to get rid of the ball and was fortunate he couldn't throw it away because at the rate he was falling, he probably would have turned it over. The RB misjudged the OLB off the blindsides and Flacco did a great job sensing his arrival by stepping up just as the LB got his outside arm on his waist. Flacco spun away from his grasp, set his shoulders downfield and delivered an off balance throw 24 yards into the end zone to his TE that was tipped away at the last moment by the DB in coverage. Good job sensing the pressure and this time feeling the open area in the pocket to deliver an on target pass to his WR running from right to left as Flacco was running forward and to the right. He got sacked by the safety blitz off the backside. He was driving to the right as the safety was closing, but not fast enough. No one was open downfield and Flacco was slow to react. Two plays later, he eluded the pressure on the blindsides and directed traffic downfield to attempt a long sideline pass. Good job sensing pressure and reacting to it. I almost awarded Flacco points for moving effectively to buy time, because he did so very well a few times, but it just not enough to award it. He should continue to get a lot better at this skill.

Scrambling Ability:

Flacco took a low snap with 9:50 in the 3rd QTR from the shotgun formation, didn't see anyone open but spotted a huge lane on the left side, so he tucked the ball and ran 20 yards downfield, beating a few second level defenders to the corner and down the sideline before a DB stopped him with a hit to the side he was carrying the ball. Flacco needs to learn to get out of bounds or slide before he comes close to an encounter with a defender in a situation where the game isn't in the balance.

Durability:

Character:

Flacco actually runs a play where he is the lead blocker for his RB on a direct snap from the shotgun to the RB. He did manage to block a DB, although he didn't deliver a hard hit, with 4:45 in the 1st QTR. Flacco was recruited to play at Pittsburgh but sat behind Tyler Palko. Coach Dave Wannstedt told Falco he would not get a shot to start at Pitt, so he left although the coaching staff wouldn't release him from his scholarship so he had to sit out a year and pay his first year at Delaware. Coaches say he doesn't get flustered and on the field it shows. The way he handles low snaps or broken plays is very calm. He almost gives off the aura that he's doing everything in slow motion, but it appears at full speed. His poise to come back from a bad play and make a good one is a very good indicator of Flacco's ability. He seemed to do this repeatedly in the game. One such play was a perfect skinny post delivered on a 3rd and 19 after getting sacked on a blindsides rush. The WR dropped the pass, but it was an excellent play. Flacco has the makings of becoming a very good NFL signal caller based on his reaction to the game. After an incredible, 90-yard kick return for So. Ill to tie the game with 9:50 left, Flacco came right back and hit a receiver in tight coverage with pressure around him to start the drive to answer the score. He completed a 3rd & 4 skinny post 25 yards downfield in stride to the WR with backside pressure grabbing him with 8:58 in the game. Flacco's play led them down the field for the winning FG.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

82

Accuracy Score:

18

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

8

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

15

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

14

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

12

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

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

Pocket Presence Score:

12

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

0

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

3

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: John David Booty

Date: 1/1/2008

Opponent: Illinois

Overall Strengths:

Probably one of the best aspects of Booty's game is his accuracy in the short to intermediate range. He has very good ball placement so players either can catch the ball in stride, away from the coverage, or splitting coverage with touch. He has good timing and also delivers the ball on outside throws or the redzone where on the receiver has a chance to catch the football. He steps up effectively in the pocket and has good footwork with a quick release. He demonstrates good velocity and touch on his throws from 5-25 yards in distance. He can roll to the right and deliver accurate passes as well as throw the ball off balance with accuracy on short passes under 15 yards. He's capable of good play fakes and pump fakes, although sometimes inconsistent with the effort.

Overall Weaknesses:

Booty is not very mobile. He doesn't see the blitz very well and isn't extremely quick or mobile. On throws down the middle of the field he doesn't always place the ball where he can protect the receiver. Back surgery on a bulging disc despite not starting is not a great sign. Despite having time, they did not throw the football downfield, which indicates Booty is not a strong vertical passer in terms of arm strength or accuracy. I think he could be a decent backup in 3-5 years with a chance to surprise if he improves his deep ball, arm strength and ability to handle pressure. Since he didn't throw a deep pass, he didn't get penalized for lack of accuracy or arm strength, but if I'm right his score would be within the range of a player who could be a depth chart player, but not a likely starter without great improvement.

Accuracy:

His first pass was a flip to the WR in the flat as he was dropping back from center. He threw an accurate ball despite not setting his feet and still moving back from center. Booty's second completion was with 12:30 in the 1st QTR. He executed a play fake, rolled right and hit Davis on his inside hip on a drag route which the TE took for another 18 yards and the first down. Nice timing on a circle route out of the backfield with backside coverage a step away. He was very accurate on the throw, hitting the TE in the hands at chest level and in stride. The ball Booty overthrew on 1st and 10 with 11:28 in the 1st QTR was very close to hitting the TE in stride and the timing was very good. He just rushed his footwork a bit. Good timing on the next throw, a 14-yard in route to the WR. He dropped the ball over a LB and underneath the safety on the play. This is the type of pass he would have to make in the pros. The WR had the ball knocked out of his hands on the hit, but the ball flew into the hands of the RB--ala a tamer version of the immaculate reception--for the 1st down. I am very impressed with Booty's short to intermediate range accuracy on this first drive. He threw a pass to the RB in the flat with pinpoint accuracy, which made the RB's run to the end zone very easy. Nice pass to the left flat that bounced off his FB's hands. He rolled right on 3rd and 3 and delivered a 19-yard pass down the right sideline to the FB with excellent timing. Booty's interception was a pass up the middle and the receiver fell down as the safety jumped the route for an easy pick. There was a good chance if the receiver didn't slip that the safety would have picked it off or at least nailed the WR to break up the pass. He hit his TEs on an out and up from the slot, but the ball was jarred loose by the S. He overthrew the deep out with 14:18 in the 3rd QTR. An accurate circle route to his RB 10 yards downfield and gained another 10 after the catch with 11:15 in the 3rd QTR. Good timing on a slant to the FB in tight coverage with 9:27 in the 3rd QTR but the ball was dropped. It hit the WR in the hands.

Arm Strength:

Good zip on the circle route. He threw the ball with good velocity 25 yards downfield on a streak to the TE with 11:28 in the 1st QTR, but the ball was about a foot overthrown. Good arm strength on the deep out. Good arm strength on a corner route 30-yards downfield for a 20-yard TD with 14:20 in the game. He released the ball before the WR made it break...good anticipation.

Delivery:

He snapped the ball off with a nice release on his completion to Davis on the play fake roll to the right flat in the 1st QTR. Early on, Booty's release looks quick and with a snap. Booty's footwork was rushed a bit on his incompletion on a 25-yard pass down the sideline to the TE. The play called for two play fakes, one to the FB and a fake pitch before throwing the football. He did the two play fakes, but rushed to set his feet and threw as he was still planting them. The fact he got the ball as close as he did demonstrates good intermediate accuracy. It's actually a bit nitpicky to say he was inaccurate on the play, except he hesitated with a pump fake before throwing. If he didn't pump fake and set his feet, it might have made all the difference. Good, quick set and release on a swing to the slot receiver in the right flat with 11:15 in the 1st QTR. He stands in the pocket on his toes and has a good bounce with his footwork. I like that after stepping up in the pocket after feeling pressure from either side with 6:32 in the 3rd QTR, he set his feet before releasing an accurate deep out for the 1st down.

Decisions:

His decision making for the most part was smart, quick, and going to players in single coverage. When he did hesitate he did not throw the ball late, but waited for the receiver to come open or was checking down to another receiver.

Ball Handling:

Booty's play fake was not very thorough. He didn't sell the fake by extending the ball long enough for hunching his shoulders to act as if he were handing the ball off. He did a decent job with one of the two play fakes and the pump fake on a 25-yard pass he just overthrew by a hair on 1st and 10 with 11:28. His accuracy early on in this game is good. Much better play fake on the next play with 11:22 in the 1st QTR. He turned his back to the LOS and put the ball in the player's stomach before removing it. Booty will pump fake or bring the ball back down on routes.

Pocket Presence:

Quick thinking off the play fake to step up past the penetration into the backfield to his left and throw a short pass to his FB in the left flat for a 3-yard gain. Booty was sacked with 11:17 in the half on a play where the LB came free off the left side (unblocked and met Booty in the backfield on a designed roll in that direction. There was a clear mix up on the play with the offensive line or the play call. Booty was sacked from the blindside a second time with 7:36 in the half after the RB completed blew his assignment. Good job stepping up under pressure from both sides of the pocket on 3rd and 12 to deliver a deep out for 15-yards at the sideline for a 1st down.

Scrambling Ability:

Durability:

He was banged up most of his senior year, but healthy for the month of December. He had surgery on bulging disc in his back during the summer of 2006 and missed three games with a broken finger in 2007.

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: John David Booty

Date: 1/1/2007

Opponent: Michigan

Overall Strengths:

He's a very accurate passer on short range throws and can deliver the ball on the run to either side of the field in this range. He executes decent play fakes and has good timing on slants, hitches, and in routes from 15-25 yards away when throwing the ball down the middle of the field. He is willing to stand in the pocket and deliver the ball under pressure. He can step up in the pocket under pressure to buy time. I think he has a chance to develop into a solid back up in a few years.

Overall Weaknesses:

He is not accurate with intermediate range passes from the opposite hash. The ball either sails on him or hangs in the air. He lacked good anticipation on deep throws. Had a bulging disc in his back during his career. He lacks a good deep passing game--his timing is off or he overthrows the ball. He doesn't slide away from pressure up the middle effectively.

Accuracy:

Booty threw a tight, accurate pass with zip while rolling right that hit his WR at the sideline for a 10-yard gain on 3rd down with 10:57 in the 1st QTR. On the next play, he threw an out from the opposite hash to his WR at the sideline. The ball was a little high and the WR allowed it to bounce off his hands. Booty waited a split-second too late to release the 50-yard throw to his WR on a double move down the sideline. This late throw forced the WR to turn and wait for the ball. There really are few situations where a QB needs to throw a ball more than 45-50 yards in the air. Drew Brees has great anticipation and he hits deep balls because he throws the ball early enough for the WR to be at the most open part of their route as the ball arrives. If you wait for the WR to get open, the WR will often have to wait for the ball as a result. Booty threw a 25-yard streak down the opposite sideline that fell incomplete because the WR stumbled out of his break and was pressed immediately, which threw off the timing. He was a little high on a 3rd and 10 throw for 18 yards to his WR on an in route. The ball did hit the WR in stride, but in the pros the WR would have likely been hung out to dry with the on-coming safety. In this case, the safety didn't react quickly enough. A lower throw also gives the WR the chance to run with the ball. He hit his man in the flat with a pass into his chest as the FB was turning his upper body towards the QB while running downfield for a 1st down with 5:49 in the 1st QTR. Once again he was inaccurate from the opposite hash on a 10-yard slant that was thrown high and away from the WR with 10:11 in the half. On the next play, he hit his WR on a slant out of the slot with much better accuracy. Booty is struggling with the wide outside angles on intermediate throws where the ball actually travels another 10-15 yards. A good touch pass to his WR in the flat while rolling right to open the half for a 9-yard gain. Excellent anticipation on a 25-yard pass off play action to his WR running a skinny post down the right sideline. He hit the WR between the CB and the safety over top. Good throw on the stop fade to Jarrett down the sideline, but the WR could not keep control of the ball. The placement of the throw was behind the CB's back shoulder and Jarrett was able turn back and make the attempt to catch the ball. On the next play he rolled left and hit the TE in the flat for a short pass that had a net gain of 8 yards. He overthrew his WR on a 35-yard post pattern. Again, the ball was high on a deeper route. It's pretty clear that intermediate routes thrown across the field or routes deeper than 30 yards give him problems. A nice throw rolling right to Jarrett on a 9-yard hitch with 12:53 in the 4th QTR. He threw a ball up for grabs on a 29-yard pass but the WR came down with it. Excellent touch on a sideline route over the outside shoulder in tight coverage to his TE for 23 yards.

Arm Strength:

Booty's throw from across the hash to the WR at the sideline with 10:50 in the 1st QTR got to there with no problem but it didn't have the velocity you would see from a QB with an elite arm. A player with great arm strength would have had more velocity on the throw and more control with getting it lower--it wouldn't have sailed on him. On 3rd down with 10:02 in the same quarter, he threw another out from the opposite hash and the ball sailed over the head of his TE at the sideline. Booty's 50-yard pass was not long enough and lacked the necessary velocity to get to his WR. The pass was about 3-4 yards too short which forced the WR to slow down and allowed the safety into the play. The WR had his man beat by 2 yards, but had to turn back to the ball and slow down rather than make an over the shoulder catch and run through the ball as the play is designed to work. If the QB didn't have to loft the ball somewhat, the WR might have had time to catch the ball in stride with out the defense catching up to the throw. Decent velocity and timing on 7-yard out off a play fake where he turned away from the route with 10:13 in the 3rd QTR. He hit Jarrett on a 38-yard throw on a streak in stride for the score with 11:25 in the 4th QTR. This was his best deep throw all day.

Delivery:

Booty made an accurate delivery of a screen pass although moving backwards with both feet off the ground as he threw it with 10:46 in the 1st QTR. Good quick set up with his feet and firing to the WR at he sideline without dropping from center with 7:49 in the 1st QTR. The result was an accurate pass and his sharp footwork was a factor. Good delivery of a slant for 8 yards just after his back foot hit the ground on his 3-step drop with 12:21 in the half. He then followed up two plays later with a 23-yard strike down the seam after planting and throwing with great timing after making a play fake with 11:18 in the half. There are a number times he'll try to throw a ball over defenders and do so off his back foot or leaning backwards and the ball either sails on him or lands behind the receiver. He did this on a short slant to the end line for Jarrett with 3:02 in the 3rd--the ball was overthrown. He did get a ball over the top of an LB on a slant to Jarrett, but the ball was dropped after contact in the end zone.

Decisions:

Good job looking downfield before turning back and throwing the screen pass to his left. Booty can be hesitant with releasing the ball on certain plays and it tends to result in either balls thrown too high or too late. He was too high on a flat pass with 5:31 in the 1st QTR after a quick hesitation with his throwing motion before finally releasing the ball. Good job on 3rd and 9 delivering the ball quickly to his WR on a slant as the pressure came. Booty looked hesitant on a deep streak route with 5:54 in the 3rd QTR. He wound up getting hit as he threw the ball late and the pass fell well-short of the WR. His next two passes were a slant off a 3-step drop to Smith who gained 35 yards (most after the catch) and then a 22-yard score to Jarrett off a slant to the opposite side (Jarrett getting most of the yards after the catch).

Ball Handling:

Booty made a thorough play fake to his RB then rolled right to deliver a 50-yard pass to his WR down the right sideline with 7:20 in the 1st QTR. He put the ball in the RB's stomach and took it away. As he rolled, he also made a pump fake before unloading the pass. Good play fake and turn before hitting his man in the flat with a pass into his chest as the FB was turning his upper body towards the QB while running downfield. He had the ball knocked loose by the front side DE on a blitz that went unblocked with 9:38 in the half and the opponent recovered the ball. Another good play fake, this time a fake pitch to the left before rolling right and throwing to his wide open TE at the end line for his first touchdown pass. He used a pump fake on a deep streak attempt with 5:54 in the 3rd QTR, but looked hesitant with the timing of the throw. Nice pump fake while rolling right to freeze the pressure before delivering a ball at the sideline that was out of bounds. Nice pump and throw down the sideline to his WR on a sideline fade for over 20 yards with 7:37 in the game.

Pocket Presence:

He had good protection for most of the game. He did a nice job of getting rid of the ball as he encountered a man in his face on a naked boot to the left. On the next play there was pressure in his face and the pocket was collapsing as he tried to deliver a deep slant in tight bracketed coverage to his WR, but he threw the ball off his back foot and the ball was behind the receiver. He could have stepped up in the pocket and found another receiver or allow the route to play out differently on this throw. He did a better job stepping up on the next play, avoiding the edge rusher who got a hand on his throwing shoulder as he passed by, but the sliding maneuver bought him time to hit his WR on and 3rd and 10 play for a first down. He had more difficulty sliding from pressure in front of him rather than outside of him. Good job standing in the pocket and hitting his WR on a slant for a 7-yard score while getting sandwiched by 3 defensive linemen on the release.

Scrambling Ability:

Good job leaning forward after a hit to get 2 yards on a 3rd and 2 keeper with 2:08 in the 3rd QTR.

Durability:

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Kyle Wright

Date: 9/20/2007

Opponent: Texas A&M

Overall Strengths:

Kyle Wright has the physical skills as an athlete and passer to make a roster and at least develop into a decent role player. As personnel staff would say, he looks like a QB. This will likely give Wright good opportunities to make a roster and learn on the bench. Between the 20s he's patient in the pocket. He senses the pass rush and is effective sliding away from pressure. Wright has good arm strength and can make all the requisite NFL throws. He is an accurate intermediate range pass and displays accuracy rolling to the right. His play fakes are solid and he makes quick decisions. He made excellent decisions tonight on 3rd down and under pressure. If he can play with this level of savvy more consistently, he could develop into a better pro QB than he was as a collegian.

Overall Weaknesses:

His often tries to force throws into tight spaces or predetermined spots when he would benefit to follow his progressions. He's mobile, but not elusive or a threat on the ground. His arm strength is very good, but he won't bail out an offense with incredible off balance throws. He has a much worse record of productivity against competition considered on par. He needs to learn to develop better timing and anticipation in the deep passing game.

Accuracy:

Nice, accurate throw on the run while rolling right to his WR on a deep out for 14-yard gain on a ball thrown 25 yards downfield. With 7:51 in the 1st QTR on 2nd and 5, Wright delivered a very accurate in route to his WR in tight coverage breaking across the field on a 25-yard dig route. The WR was able to catch the ball on the run, but dropped it after taking a step. On the next play, he delivered an accurate slant to his WR for a first down. The ball had to be thrown high because the DB coming across the pattern was going low. He squeezed the ball between two defenders in a tight zone coverage over the middle to his WR on 3rd and 6 for an 8-yard gain. He consistently hit his receivers with good accuracy on first half rolls to the right. Wright has the arm strength, but he lacked the anticipation to hit his receiver in stride for a score on the first offensive play of the second half. The WR got behind the zone defense on a play fake, but Wright waited too long to release the ball, which forced the WR to stop running in order to catch the ball. If Wright showed better anticipation this play is a touchdown. He delivered a perfect slant on a 3-step drop on 3rd down with 13:11 in the 3rd QTR, but the ball bounced off his WR's chest while hitting the player in stride. He made a good, accurate throw to the flat off a roll to the left with 11:25 in the game.

Arm Strength:

Good velocity on the 3rd and 13 throw with 11:23 in the 1st QTR. Despite getting hit by the backside defender the ball had enough zip to split two defenders in zone coverage on the play. Excellent arm strength. On 1st and 10 with 11:09 in the 1st QTR, Wright rolled right and threw a deep out to his WR 25 yards away. The ball got there on time and accurately into the receiver's chest for a first down. He completed a 51-yard pass with 8:26 in the half on 2nd and 7 off a play fake. He threw the ball 50 yards in the air and the receiver only had a to slow down a bit to make the catch with two DBs trailing. He completed a 40-yard pass off play action to open the half. The ball traveled over 45 yards downfield. Both long throws were thrown with too much air underneath.

Delivery:

His feet were a bit wide on his delivery of the 13-yard pass up the middle to his WR with 11:23 in the 1st QTR. The ball was thrown low, but part of that had to do with getting hit as he delivered the ball. His feet were a bit wide again on a 3rd and 8 out to his WR. The ball seemed to hang in the air a bit, but he also had to throw the ball closer to the sideline due to the tight coverage.

Decisions:

Good, quick decisions early in this game. Especially on 3rd down. On 3rd and 8 with 12:45 in the half, he took a 3-step drop out of the shotgun and delivered a pass to the flat to his TE who gained a 1st down. The book on Wright is that for much of his college career he predetermined a lot of his reads in the red zone rather than making a read and taking what's given. On the first redzone throw he had on 2nd and 9 with 7:30 in the half, he threw a slant to his slot receiver in traffic. The WR made an excellent catch, but the ball was throw high and away which nearly allowed the safety to jump the route with an interception that could have gone the opposite way for a score very easily. This is an big example of his tendency to try to force plays. His first touchdown pass was a screen pass to the right flat where the RB made enough of the run to score. Good decision to throw the ball away against a heavy blitz with :04 in the half to save field position for a FG to end the 2nd QTR. On 3rd and 4 with 9:57 it appeared Wright stared down his RB and threw a pass to the back well behind the first down marker and between two LBs in zone when he still had time to find other WRs downfield. His second score was to the TE from 7 yards out with :45 in the 3rd QTR. Wright did well to survey the redzone and find the open man.

Ball Handling:

Wright is the kind of QB who shows the ball on his play fakes as his back faces the defense. He does a decent job of mimicking a handoff with his body language. Wright carries out his fakes after handing off the football on running plays. Wright got sacked trying to execute two play fakes on the same play: a run up the middle and an end around. He tricked most of the defense especially as he had his back to the defense and hid the ball, but the OLB saw the ball and got around the corner to sack Wright as he faced the LOS look for the open man. The play fakes were good, but the timing and blocking where not.

Pocket Presence:

Good patience to allow the NT to rush him up the middle so he could set up the screen pass on 2nd and 13 with 11:35 in the 1st QTR, but the RB dropped the well-thrown ball. He did a fine job of standing tall in a collapsing pocket and delivering a hard-thrown ball to his WR behind the LBs in zone coverage on 3rd and 13 for a 13-yard gain and a first down. He was hit by the backside DE as he threw. On 3rd and 8, Wright took a snap from the shotgun and made a 3-step drop. After a his back foot hit on the 3rd step, the A&M defensive front of the NT and both ends were within 1-2 yards of him. Wright did a good job to slide up field and to the right and throw a short dump off to his RB at the LOS and the RB got the first down. Excellent display of pocket presence. Excellent job stepping up in the pocket on 3rd and 9 to elude pressure off the corners. He didn't see anyone open, so he broke the pocket for a minimal gain.

Scrambling Ability:

Wright has enough speed to get some positive yardage on bootlegs and breaking the pocket. We're not talking about consistent, 8-10 yard gains or more, but 4-5 yards with a little blocking downfield is a good expectation. He is a fluid runner although not extremely fast. His sack was really a run where the WR should have blocked the defender in the flat, but made a mental error. Very good job stepping up in the pocket on the 3rd and 9 with 2:20 in the half, but he could only muster 2 yards before getting brought down from behind. He gained 4 yards on a run after breaking the pocket when he was greeted by 3 linemen coming free after completing his drop off play action. Very quick decision with good results. He put the team in a 3rd and 4 rather than a 3rd and 13. He had the ball knocked out from behind while trying to break the pocket to the left. The ball came out as he crossed the first down marker and was recovered by A&M on 3rd and 4 with 4:26 in the 3rd QTR. It was Wright's first bad play on 3rd down the entire game.

Durability:

He took a shot to the head on a helmet-to-helmet late hit after a screen pass with 1:15 in the 3rd QTR, but stayed in the game.

Character:

Wright has not been known as a big-game player. His winning percentage and td-int ratio is much better against unranked teams and he has not been able to keep the job despite arriving to campus as a highly-regarded QB prospect.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

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Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:

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

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Matt Flynn

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths:

Flynn is a very athletic, mobile quarterback with arm strength and speed. He is a tough football player who can throw on the run and demonstrates decent mechanics in the pocket. He is the type of quarterback who could develop into a decent pro passer with time and coaching because he has all the tools. He is a decisive runner when he breaks the pocket and is capable of making big plays. He often demonstrates good judgment to throw the football away when he doesn't see an open receiver. His stats in this game make him look more inaccurate than he really is. He had 7 drops in the first 4 QTRs of this game and at least 5 of them were extremely catch able, well-placed throws for big plays.

Overall Weaknesses:

Although very mobile, he doesn't slide in the pocket well enough to buy time under pressure. He lacks consistent accuracy in the intermediate passing game. His play fakes out of the spread formation are much better than his play fakes from under center. He loses his accuracy under heavy pressure. He lacks good anticipation as a passer and this makes his intermediate to long throws inaccurate from time to time. If he can develop more consistent intermediate accuracy and learn the nuances of reading defenses, Flynn could at least become a very good back up for a squad.

Accuracy:

Flynn demonstrated good accuracy and velocity on a short slant on 2nd and 6 with 12:22 in the 1st QTR, but the ball bounced out of the receiver's hands. His next pass was to the left flat, but he threw the ball behind the receiver and low. This forced the receiver to make a severe adjustment to catch the ball behind the 1st down marker. Good job hitting the WR in stride on 3rd and 7 out route for the first down. Very good accuracy on a 9-yard slant to LaFell on 2nd and 9 with 10:13 in the half. He threw the ball to the back shoulder of the receiver who had a CB over the top, matching the WR stride-for-stride. Flynn hit Tolliver on a play action streak in stride down the right side line with a throw that covered 45 yards in the air. It was called back due to offensive interference. His square-in with 6:37 in the half was a bit high and behind the WR. It was a very catch able ball, but not exhibiting pinpoint accuracy. Very accurate 43-yard pass with 5:21 in the half that was dropped. He threw a pass to the wrong shoulder of a receiver in the flat with 3:29 in the half while under heavy pressure. His accuracy seems to dip with linemen in is face. He was perfect on a 4th and 6 slant that hit his WR in the hands, but dropped. Even so, the KU defense was called for pass interference. It was a very poor call. Good touch in the face of the rush on 2nd and goal for a TD to the TE in the right corner. Flynn threw a very good pass with touch on a roll to the left on 3rd and 18 at the UK 13. His TE dragging across the end line allowed the ball to bounce off his hands. Accurate throw with 1:06 in the 3rd off a roll to the right hitting his TE on a drag route for 11 yards.

Arm Strength:

Flynn has decent zip on the ball when delivering short routes in the 10-15 yard range. Good velocity and trajectory on his 45-yard completion that was called back due to offensive interference by the WR. Flynn made a strong throw on a square-in on 1st and 10 with 6:37 in the half. He did have as much velocity on a 3rd and 5 through from the 13 with 5:48 in the half. He threw it from the right hash to the left sideline near the pylon. The ball hung a bit in the air and was broken up by the CB. A slightly harder throw would have gotten the ball past the DB. Flynn threw a 43-yard pass right on the money to Tolliver with 6:21 in the half, but the WR allowed the ball to bounce off his chest. He under threw a post pattern to his WR off play action with 7:08 in the game. The ball traveled 45 yards in the air, but needed to go about 50 to hit the WR in stride, or Flynn needed to release it earlier. He under threw a 25-yard sideline route to a wide open, LaFell. Although the WR should have caught the football, the accuracy on the intermediate route was not good. He under threw the ball.

Delivery:

Nice job staying on his toes in the pocket on 3rd and 7 with 1:08 in the 1st QTR and completing a pass to the WR on the left sideline. He purposely threw the ball high to help give his receiver a height advantage on the route. He has good mechanics with his release. His feet could be a bit closer together on his releases, but the spread is not too dramatic. Very good mechanics on his 45-yard bomb to Tolliver. His set up and delivery were solid and the result was a pass over the inside shoulder of the receiver in stride.

Decisions:

Good job looking downfield before turning to the right flat and delivering an accurate swing pass to the RB on a 1st and 25 play backed up deep in their own territory. Wise decision to throw the ball away on a 1st and 10 designed roll to the right when he couldn't find an open man. He threw the ball away on a 1st and 10 play with 2:00 in the 1st QTR when he scanned the field to at least two different routes and didn't see an open player on his side of the hash. Flynn made a very quick and smart decision on a 1st and 10 with 11:04 in the half to tuck the ball on a pass play and run up the middle for a 7-yard gain when it appeared his receivers were confused about the type of play they were running and were not running patterns but blocking in the secondary. Flynn did a decent job reading the field on a 3rd and 5 with 6:37 in the 3rd to hit his receiver for a first down on the left sideline. He was in a 4WR set to start the play. Good job scanning the field on 1st and 10 with 2:08 in the game to find his WR on a crossing route for a 9-yard gain.

Ball Handling:

Flynn didn't execute much of a fake on his 45-yard completion that was called back due to pass interference. He extended the ball, but did not turn his back or hold the extended motion for enough time to sell the fake. He did a slightly better job on a play fake to the RB on 1st and 10 at the 18 in the 1st half. Very good play fake out of the spread with 7:08 in the game.

Pocket Presence:

Hester took a very hard shot to the knees on a 3rd and 6 with 11:50 in the 1st QTR after delivering a pass. He was sacked with :40 in the 1st QTR, but the pocket collapsed from all sides and it was wise for him to take the sack in this instance. Flynn demonstrated a good internal clock on 3rd and 18 to break the pocket as the D-line was stunting and his receivers were covered downfield. He gained 22 yards on the run. He gets jittery in the pocket when he has to stand under pressure and deliver the football. He missed all on three passes in the first half where he had defensive linemen within a yard of him. He was nailed on a delayed blitz up the middle as he threw the ball to this TE with 11:54 in the 3rd QTR. He did not sense the pressure coming to his face on this play until the last moment and rushed a throw that the LB nearly picked off when the ball was behind the TE. He did a much better job in the face of the rush on a TD to the TE in the right corner with 9:12 in the 3rd QTR. He initially did a good job to elude the pressure as the pocket collapsed on the backside, but he could not find a running lane and was sacked. On the next play he broke the pocket to the left on 3rd and 10 with 2:41 in the game and got the first down. He is definitely willing to stay in the pocket and survey the field. He found his third option, LaFell on 1st and 10 with 2:09 in the game on a crossing route for a 9-yard gain.

Scrambling Ability:

Flynn is a very effective runner on designed plays. He nearly got the first down on a 3rd and 11 on a designed QB draw up the middle for 10 yards. He demonstrated good patience and burst through the hole on the play. Flynn's 22-yard gain on 3rd and 18 included beating the angle of a safety about 12-15 yards downfield. He has pretty good speed for a quarterback and combined with his good choices when to run make him a threat to a defense. He was timed as having 4.6 speed in the 40. Despite limping around for much of the 3rd QTR, he gained 15 yards up the middle on a designed QB keeper with 6:18 in the 3rd. Excellent effort on 3rd and 10 to get the first down. He broke the pocket, beat the DE to the edge and then ran through a hit by the DB a yard before the sticks to lean across and get the 1st down. Good running for a QB.

Durability:

Flynn sustained a high ankle sprain early in the season and was limited despite continuing to play through it. He hurt the ankle again in the game, but continued to play, having a better second half than first.

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

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High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
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Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

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Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Matt Ryan

Date: 10/25/2007

Opponent: Virginia Tech

Overall Strengths:

Ryan sees the field very well for a college quarterback. He consistently knows where his receivers are and will often go to this 3rd and 4th receiver in the progression if he has enough time. He senses the pass rush very well and also recognizes blitzes during pre-snap reads. When he has time, he's very accurate and will pick apart a defense. He can throw the ball in the short range from a variety of platforms. He knows how to step up in the pocket while under pressure and also demonstrates the ability to throw the football away. Something he did a very good job of on his last two scoring drives of the game. He has pinpoint accuracy in the short and intermediate range when he possesses the time to throw the ball. He has exhibited flashes of good timing in the pocket to know when to get rid of the football quickly. He also has good anticipation on corner routes and intermediate routes. He is a very tough player who played through a broken foot and sprained ankle on the same leg as a junior, only missing 1 game.

Overall Weaknesses:

Ryan is not very mobile. I'd say at best, he's a slower, less agile Carson Palmer in this respect. He also has an off balance delivery with his legs. He has to rare back and shift his balance back to his front foot as he releases to the ball. His velocity diminishes greatly on even 7-12 yard throws if he cannot step into the throw. As with most quarterbacks, he'll get flustered after he's hit numerous times and begin to make riskier decisions. His play fakes not very well developed. My biggest concern about Ryan is his relative lack of mobility in the pocket and the fact that his current mechanics require him to step into this throws. If he doesn't current his delivery, he will have a difficult time developing into a consistently good starter. Like a Byron Leftwich or a Dan Fouts, he needs time to deliver the ball. If he has it, he's very good. If he doesn't, he can really hurt a football team. He will force the ball occasionally into double coverage or trust his accuracy despite the coverage.

Accuracy:

Nice accuracy on a short throw to the flat to the RB on 3rd and 4 with 5:00 in the 1st QTR. Ryan tried to his RB on a delayed release to the left flat on 2nd and 10 with 3:01 in the 1st QTR, but the lineman fell down and the RB had to dive over his teammate to attempt to get the ball. Ryan overthrew his WR on a seam route by about 5 yards and nearly had the ball intercepted on a 3rd and 17 situation with pressure up the middle. He was accurate on this short throws when he had to be on the move either running forward, backward or to the right side. He threw a very accurate corner route to his WR in double coverage where the ball traveled 30 yards in the air and bounced off the WR's shoulder pad. It was a perfectly placed ball with great anticipation, but the WR couldn't hold on. The second interception was the result of the WR stumbling on an out route which allowed the CB come from the outside and make a diving catch. He hit his RB in stride on a pass to the right flat with 13:22 in the 3rd QTR. He overthrew his RB on a 15-yard wheel route by about 5 yards with 5:21 in the 3rd QTR. His WR dropped a crossing route on a throw from a rollout to the right. Great touch and velocity on a 23-yard reception with 3:45 in the game where he had to drop the ball over the LB but under the safety to his WR in stride on a deep in-route. Great touch on a corner route with excellent anticipation on a 16-yard score with 2:11 in the game. His last throw was a pass across his body to a wide open receiver in the end zone while he was rolling left, but the play was called back on a holding penalty. He made nearly the same play rolling left and throwing right to his RB in the back of the end zone, two players later for the win with only :11 on the clock.

Arm Strength:

Good arm strength to throw the ball from the left has to the right sideline with 5:47 in the 1st QTR under a CB blitz. When he can step into a throw he has a lot of velocity on his passes. He threw a laser shot to his WR on a 3rd down crossing route with 11:06 in the game, but overshot the WR. Good zip on a 25-yard in-route with 4:05 in the game.

Delivery:

His first completion was a quick decision to the TE under pressure and a throw made off his back foot. On every throw in the 1st QTR, Ryan was delivering the ball off his back foot, regardless of pressure or not. On a 14-yard completion in the middle of the field to his WR with 6:10 in the 1st QTR, he put most of his weight on his back foot then shifted forward as he threw the football. It's not a very efficient delivery motion. At the same time, his release in terms of his arm is efficient and he has a strong arm and can throw accurate passes from an unbalanced stance in short range, such as the 3rd and 4 pass to the RB in the flat that hit the RB's outside shoulder so he could turn it up field. But intermediate to long range or off balance with pressure in his face, he needs to be able to step into the throw to generate velocity. He nearly had his 2nd INT because he tried to throw a square-in to his outside receiver at the last second and could not generate the velocity from a flat-footed position with a DE in his face. This allowed the CB to jump the route. He stepped up and delivered an 18-yard completion to his WR while running forward with 13:19 with the game. Ryan's 2nd INT was a bad decision. He didn't see the DB in zone and the QB tried to throw a slant to the middle of the field.

Decisions:

Ryan tried to force the ball to the RB on a middle screen with 11:30 in the 1st QTR, but the LOS was too congested for him to get the ball over the defenders. The ball was deflected and nearly intercepted. Although he saw the clear space behind the line, there was really no passing lane to throw the football. He did realize he couldn't loft the ball without giving the secondary time to jump the route, but he tried to throw more of a line drive and it was tipped by the defensive line. Ryan threw a ball off his back foot to the TE at the right sideline who had an LB in front of him. The throw looked like a jump ball situation where he hoped the TE would leap over the defender to get the ball. It was nearly intercepted and a very risky decision. Good quick decision to throw a quick out from the left hash to the right sideline when he recognized the corner blitz coming off the blindside before the snap. One of the things that became more apparent as the game went on was his ability to survey the field. One could routinely see Ryan check 2-4 options before making a decision. Challenger's 12-yard reception with 4:13 in the half was Ryan's 4th option. He looked at the two WRs on the right side, the TE crossing the middle and then to Challenger, who he hit on target. Good decision to throw the ball to the feet of the RB on a screen where the defense anticipated the play. Ryan found Challenger as his 4th option on a 2nd and 10 deep slant to the left side behind the zone coverage with 14:53 in the 3rd QTR. He hit the WR over two defenders and in stride so the WR could gain another 20 yards after the catch. He nearly had a pass interception by the outside CB when he sensed the front side pressure at the last moment and tried to make a quick throw to the outside. The CB jumped the route and nearly took it to the house.

Ball Handling:

Ryan demonstrated a good pump fake on 2nd and 8 with 11:30 in the game. He was trying to set up a middle screen to the RB, but the ball was deflected. His play action fakes amount to little more than Ryan turning away from the LOS. He doesn't do much with the ball or selling the fake with his body. He needs to work on this aspect of his game. Ryan did not protect the football very well as a runner. He held it too far from his body and there was a lot of space for the backside pursuit to rip it out if they caught up to him.

Pocket Presence:

Ryan's first pass was deflected. He took a 5 step drop and the DE on is blindside came free, leaping over the RB and knocking the ball and Ryan to the ground as the QB tried to throw a 5-yard hitch to the left sideline. On 3rd and 5 he felt the backside pressure coming free and quickly tossed the ball to his TE on a circle route for a 6-yard gain and a first down. Ryan had a little over 3 seconds to throw the ball on 3rd and 5 with 11:23 in the 1st QTR and when he couldn't find anyone, he continued to stand tall in the pocket rather than try to throw the ball away or run. At this point he was hit by the LDE as he tried to throw the ball, causing the ball to only travel a couple of yards. He did show better mobility on the next series and rolled away from the backside pressure sooner so he had room to deliver a pass to his TE. Good job sliding forward in the pocket and delivering a pass to his TE on a drag route on 2nd and 9 after feeling the pressure get close to him on the front side. As the game progressed, his internal clock for the rush seemed to improve and he made a better effort to buy time earlier. Ryan tried to drift back, then slide forward under pressure with 3:37 in the half, but was eventually hit and the ball was knocked out and recovered by the TE. He did a good job throwing the ball away on 4th and 14 against quick pressure up the middle. He did a good job of stepping up in the pocket with 3:25 in the 3rd QTR to deliver a pass up the middle. Great job recognizing the safety blitz, standing calm, and delivering a 20-yard reception with 1:17 in the game.

Scrambling Ability:

Ryan is not very mobile. He saw the DE on the backside coming free, and tried to roll away from the pressure, but was brought down easily. He doesn't have much acceleration. Ryan gained 10 yards on a run after pump faking and breaking the pocket up the middle with 2:52 in the game. He looked pretty ungainly as a runner. Ryan made a great scramble with :50 in the game, running nearly 50 yards behind the LOS to find an open man. The VaTEch defense was completely worn out at this point. The linemen were jogging rather than sprinting at this point. Nonetheless, he did a pretty good job of buying time against a defense that was whipping BC o-line for much of the game, getting multiple linemen free on the same rush. Ryan did a very good job buying time despite the fact that he was sacked three times and not very fast.

Durability:

Sprained his ankle as a junior and the next game, he broke his foot. He only missed one game that year.

Character:

Ryan had a pretty poor night and the team was down 10-0 with 4:11 in the game, but the QB led BC on a 92-yard drive and then a 34-yard drive after an onside kick recovery to win the game. The fact he continued to play aggressively speaks a lot about his mindset.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Matt Ryan

Date: 12/28/2007

Opponent: Michigan State

Overall Strengths:

He has pinpoint accuracy from 1-45 yards away, a quick release, and he isn't afraid to squeeze the ball into tight spaces. He's an aggressive passer who likes to attack downfield, but he also recognizes defensive plays well and makes the adjustments to put his team in good position to make a successful play. He has excellent anticipation and a more than adequate arm for a vertical attack. He will spread the ball all over the field and has good pocket awareness. He will stand in the pocket and deliver the ball under pressure with good accuracy, especially down the middle of the field. Behind a decent NFL offensive line, Matt Ryan could become a pro bowl quarterback.

Overall Weaknesses:

He reminds me of a young Dan Fouts or Drew Bledsoe because of his positives, but also for the fact that he's not very mobile at all. Like Fouts and Bledsoe, it may not become as apparent until he's been in the league for a few years and he takes some shots. Bledsoe had mobility to throw on the run when he was a younger player. He's going to buy time in the pocket against fast defenses in the pros, but he won't be having regular gains of 10-12 yards at a clip when he breaks the pocket or it collapses on him. He will take some risks such as trying to squeeze the ball into double coverage or lead his receiver into spots where he will get creamed.

Accuracy:

Ryan through a perfect pass to his TE in the left flat after looking downfield on 2nd and 9 with 12:35 in the 1st QTR, but the TE allowed the ball to bounce off his hands. Ryan delivered a 15-yard comeback to his WR on 3rd and 9, but the WR dropped the ball. The throw was deliberately low to give the WR the only chance to catch the ball in double coverage. The pass was accurate enough that the WR should have caught it. He hit his RB on a short outlet pass over the middle while delivering the football off his back foot as pressure up the middle was getting close to him. He delivered another throw over the middle to his receiver between the zone as he was retreating from more pressure up the middle. They ran a play fake boot to the left and Ryan looked like an old Dan Fouts, Drew Bledsoe or Bernie Kosar trying to get outside. He almost slipped, but he also was able to turn his hips, set his feet and fire very quickly to his TE for the 1-yard score with :36 in the 1st QTR. He has pinpoint accuracy in the short to intermediate range when his feet are set. He made a great throw to his FB that was over the shoulder and in stride for a 1st down off a 3rd and 1 play fake with 12:10 in the half. The RB dropped a pass to the flat with 10:02 in the half. He hit his WR on a 3rd and 10 in route where he had to throw the ball over two LBs and under the safety in tight coverage. He hit the WR in stride on a pass that traveled 18 yards--good combination of touch and velocity. With 7:07 in the half, Ryan rolled left much better--still looked slow--but delivered a perfect throw on the run 45 yards in the air to his WR in tight coverage, but the WR dropped it. In fact he threw the ball across his body while on the run! An insanely good throw for a QB. A nice example of his pinpoint accuracy came on 3rd and 9 with 7:06 in the 3rd QTR. He threw a slant to this WR on the left side about 10 yards downfield. He put the ball on the WR's outside shoulder so the receiver had to turn away from the DB over top and shield the ball with his body. The placement was also good enough for the WR to catch the ball before taking the hit rather than being led into the contact. On the next play, he demonstrated excellent anticipation on a 17-yard out with pressure coming up the middle. He delivered the ball before the WR even came out of his break and it hit the WR in the numbers. Excellent deep out/money throw for the QB. On the play after he threw the ball nearly 50 yards downfield from the opposite hash to hit his WR in his outstretched hands while running in stride on a streak. The WR was interfered with on the play, but he should have caught it regardless--the throw was that good. His timing and accuracy out of the shotgun is excellent. He hit his WR on a 15-yard slant in stride with 6:34 in the 3rd QTR. As soon as his back foot hit the ground on the short drop from the shotgun, the ball came out. By 5:21 in the 3rd QTR, his receivers had allowed 8 balls to go through their hands. If they caught these balls, we're looking at a 66% completion rate if another ball wasn't caught in the next 19 minutes for the BC Eagles. There's no doubt Ryan is very accurate. He hit Purvis at the sideline while rolling right on a 4th and 8 pass with 4:26 in the 3rd QTR, but the ball went through his hands. A pro receiver of quality probably would have caught this ball, although it would have been considered an excellent catch. He rolled right with :01 in the 3rd QTR and delivered a pass to the same player who had to leap for the ball, but it hit him in the hands as the defender made contact and forced it out. He missed a short flat route on 3rd and 2 because he tried throwing the ball off his back foot and it was under thrown. He tends to be more inaccurate off his back foot when he has to deliver the ball an angle. He's better when the pass is a dump off in the middle of the field. His accuracy tends to slip when he has to throw a ball to the flat while under pressure. He was too far on a touch pass thrown from the opposite hash with 5:56 in the game. He had his feet set, but he sensed the pocket closing on him.

Arm Strength:

Ryan has a strong enough arm to get the ball to any point on the field expected from a pro QB if he sets his feet. He perfectly led his WR on a 24-yard scoring pass that traveled 40 yards in the air over the WR's inside shoulder with a CB in trail position. Excellent 45-yard pass while rolling left. The WR was in single coverage and this ball was unbelievably well thrown. The QB knew he could get away with this throw because only these two players were in the area. Ryan through a very good slant route from 18 yards away, but the WR dropped the ball after the hit. Ryan stepped up on 1st and 10 with 8:14 in the pocket and launched a pass that traveled 53 yards in the air to his receiver on a deep post. The ball was overthrown by 5 yards. Two plays later he overthrew his WR down the left sideline, the ball traveling nearly 60 yards in the air. Two plays after that, he threw a 50-yard pass to his WR in stride, but the defender interfered on the play. Still the throw was good enough to force the penalty. Another nice display of arm strength was a comeback thrown from the opposite hash that traveled 20 yards in the air with great anticipation and good velocity. He delivered a very accurate throw 45 yards downfield to hit the WR over his inside shoulder in the numbers for a 68-yard score with 9:25 in the game. The WR pushed off, but the pass was delivered accurately. Based on the fact the threw at least a half dozen deep routes of 45-60 yards in length with good velocity tells you he has the requisite NFL arm.

Delivery:

He threw his first pass--a perfect throw to the TE in the flat that was dropped--with a good snap of the wrist and overhead delivery. Ryan demonstrated excellent hip movement to turn from a roll left, plant and fire a short touchdown pass at the end of the 1st QTR. I'm not sure I'd say he delivers the ball well from different platforms just based on this throw, but he has good feet and an understanding of how to quickly set them just enough to throw accurate short passes. His 45-yard strike while on the run after rolling to his left qualifies as a good throw without his feet set. Very good mechanics when he sets and throws.

Decisions:

Good adjustment on the blitz up the middle, which he spotted pre-snap, to deliver the ball to his WR across the middle to the 1-yard line with the 1s QTR. Ryan frequently talks about the fact that the BC system encourages him to have an aggressive mindset and his interception stats as well as his tendency to throw the ball in double coverage reflects it. Although he squeezed the ball between two defenders consistently, his receivers couldn't always hang onto the ball. His receiver Megwa dropped a certain 1st down pass to the outside after taking a hit. He recognized the blitz with 6:58 in the half and made quick throw to the WR in the flat for a 1st down. Ryan's interception happened because he did not see the backside LB drifting back into zone coverage. Ryan was looking downfield to the left side of the field and when he threw the ball over the middle, did not take the LB into account. The LB jumped the route for the interception with 1:24 in the half. He tried to squeeze a throw into the slanting WR with 4:40 in the 3rd QTR, but there was a DB over top as well as CB in trail position. It was a risky throw.

Ball Handling:

He made a solid play fake to his back before dumping the ball to the FB in the flat for a the first down on a 3rd and 1 play with 12:10 in the half. His style of play action is to hold the ball out to the RB with one hand and then take it away. Good job pump faking to the right side and then delivering a screen to the left on a 1st and 10 pass play with 1:17 in the half. He will also do pump fakes with the non-ball hand. It's not very convincing but it's another variety of ball handling that he uses in the play action game. He also demonstrated the fake with the non-ball hand and turn of his back in the opposite direction on the drop so it could enhance the fake before setting and throwing a short dump off to his back with 6:05 in the 3rd QTR. Nice job pump faking with 4:44 in the 3rd QTR to freeze the pursuit while rolling right before throwing the ball away. He fumbled a snap with 2:45 in the game. This one was definitely more in his control than the blindside hit.

Pocket Presence:

Ryan made an accurate through across the middle to his TE between two defenders while getting hit by pressure up the middle with 8:53 in the 1st QTR. On the next play, he took too much time and then moved towards the pressure rather than away from it. Despite quickly adjusting back to the outside, he was too slow to get away from the pursuit and was sacked. He had an open player in the flat before he tried to move in the pocket to buy time, but he kept looking for a bigger play without the time available to do so. Ryan did a good job backing up to buy time on a 24-yard scoring pass that he threw 40 yards in the air from the middle of the field that traveled down the right side, hitting his WR in stride. Ryan was sacked while trying to roll right although the pressure was coming from the right edge. He didn't do a very good job buying time on this play. He was pressured during the next series, rolled right and when he couldn't spot anyone, threw the ball away with 1:37 in the half on 2nd and 2. He demonstrated the ability to slide forward in the pocket with 8:14 in the 3rd QTR when he stepped forward to get more room in the pocket to deliver a 53-yard pass that fell incomplete. Good job making a half roll to the right to buy time on 3rd and 10 with 5:18 in the 3rd QTR. Good job delivering an accurate 45-yard pass in the face of the blitz for a 68-yard score. He made a good pump fake with his shoulder, but then backed up to buy more time, but took too long and the backside rush hit him and forced the fumble.

Scrambling Ability:

He did gain a first down on a roll to the right for 12 yards but there was nobody near him until he got the first down. This is one of those plays that won't happen very often for Ryan. The defense was really fooled on this play. Ryan did a nice job of sliding at the end of the run. He made a good move to stop-start in front of the DL getting blocked to his right while rolling in that direction on 3rd and 10 before gaining two yards past the LOS with 4:33 in the 3rd QTR. Good job opening the QTR with an 8-yard gain where he pump faked, slid away from the backside pressure that nearly got a hand on him and then ran down the left flat until he was tackled head-on with 14:45. He tried to break the pocket towards the right side when he didn't see anyone open and spotted open field, but was caught from behind for only a gain of a yard.

Durability:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Paul Smith **Date:** 12/1/2007 **Opponent:** Central Florida

Overall Strengths:

Smith is a quick, coordinated athlete at the QB position. He is mobile and good at exploiting passing lanes. He can deliver the ball on the run and exhibits good mechanics on the run. He is willing to take a hit and keep his eyes downfield while under pressure and moving in the pocket. He's not afraid to make a throw into tight coverage and when his feet are set he has the accuracy to make the throws in the 5-20 yard range. He is at his best on timing pass plays. Give him options on a 3-5 step drop and he does well to get rid of the ball accurately. Smith has the smarts, skills, and athleticism to be an effective backup in the NFL but he's also the type of player who could go undrafted and have to bounce around before he earns that opportunity. In a west coast offense, he could possibly develop into more than a backup, but it's not likely to happen in a less than 4-5 seasons. He also punts sometimes. He has 13 punts this year and 9 have gone inside the 20 and averages 40 yards a punt.

Overall Weaknesses:

Smith seems kind of streaky with his accuracy. When he's on, he's really good. When he's off, he can be way off. He reminds me of former Seahawk and Chief, Dave Krieg: mobile, smart, but streaky with his play. This has to do with setting his feet a bit too wide on throws and this hurts him in the intermediate to deep passing game. He needs to do a better job of throwing the football away when under pressure. He has the mindset that if he keeps the play alive he can find an open man, but there's a point he needs to recognize when to throw the ball away rather than continue scrambling or throw into double coverage. He doesn't handle pressure in the pocket very well. It has impacted him negatively more than top prospects handle it--he's throwing far more off his back foot, losing his accuracy, and forcing opportunities.

Accuracy:

One of the first things you notice about Smith is his accuracy while on the move. His first completion was off a play fake and he threw on the run while moving to his right and hit his WR in the flat for 9 yards. His next pass was off a play fake and short roll to the right. He threw a short pass to the RB in the flat who was able to get a 1st down. He rolled left on the next play with 9:57 in the 1st QTR, set, and threw it across the field. The ball traveled with very good velocity 35 yards in the air, but was a bit high and behind the WR. The WR was wide open and should have caught the ball that went through his hands, but the accuracy was not something that would have made the cut in tight coverage on the NFL level. He executed a half roll to the left on the next play and hit his man in the left flat with good zip on the ball. It was a little high, but on target. His next pass was over the head of his WR on a throwback, but the official stopped the play. Much of the Tulsa offense is predicated on rollouts. Smith hit his WR in the right flat while rolling right. His throws were high much of the 1st QTR. On 3rd and 10 with 2:11 he tried to hit his WR down the seam in tight coverage, but the ball was high and outside. The receiver could only manage to tip the ball. This was a difficult throw because the safety was coming to the inside. Smith needed to throw the ball lower and inside, so the WR could catch the ball and avoid the DB's hit. The ball should have been intercepted. Excellent accuracy moving to his left out of the pocket to throw a sideline streak between over/under coverage and to the inside shoulder of the WR. The ball was thrown 35 yards in the air. Nice touch across the middle on a RB release up the middle--he actually threw the ball across his body a bit. Very good skinny post on 4th and long to hit his receiver in stride for a 38-yard gain. Good anticipation and timing off a three-step drop.

Arm Strength:

His arm strength is one of the areas that will drop his draft stock. Smith can loft a ball downfield, but he doesn't have that special velocity on throws to the outside or deep. On a fake punt, Smith rolled to the right hash and delivered a ball to the left sideline nearly 40 yards in the air, but the throw hung in the air. If this weren't a fake punt, this is the type of throw that would have had a chance to be picked off. He did hit the receiver in stride, a LB on punt coverage. He can make all the throw, but he needs to have good anticipation to make the money throws--deep outs, throws across one has to the other, etc. The passes under pressure and off balance that the best of the best NFL QBs can make, aren't throws Smith will have the arm strength to complete. He threw a ball 45 yards in the air on a deep post to his WR in tight coverage with 12:10 in the half, but the ball was late because it hung in the air. He has good zip on balls thrown under 40 yards that don't have to be delivered across the field. He demonstrated this with his throw on the run down the left sideline with 12:01 in the half. He is overconfident with his arm strength. On 1st and 10 with 9:05 in the 3rd QTR, he attempted a deep pass to the opposite hash, under throwing the ball by about 5 yards and hanging it up there for a DB to nearly intercept. Two plays later he threw a pass 25 yards in the air on a line, but not fast enough to lead the receiver. It was behind the deep cross and the LB tipped the ball. The deflection actually caused the ball to jump ahead of the WR and allow him to catch it. Lucky play on a questionable decision. He had at least 5 routes jumped in this game.

Delivery:

Smith has good mechanics both setting his feet and throwing and on the run. He has an over the shoulder delivery, although he can also sling it 3/4 delivery and off balance with decent accuracy. His certain TD that he overthrew, his feet were a bit far apart as he released the ball. He had few problems rolling right and hitting receivers in the flat. His footwork on deep throws is very wide and the ball tends to hang in the air. He threw a ball 45 yards in the air on a deep post to his WR in tight coverage, but the ball was late because it hung in the air--12:10 in the half. He had a few balls come out poorly in this game--non-spiral, wobbly throws.

Decisions:

On this first touchdown pass, Smith waited for his receiver to clear double coverage before throwing the ball to the back of the end zone. Although he can often make the accurate throw in bracketed coverage he made some bad decisions. With 10:41 in the half on 3rd and goal, he threw a ball into the thick of zone coverage 20 yards downfield and the DB intercepted it easily. He overthrew the WR in bracketed coverage by 5 yards. With time, Smith will easily pick a team apart in zone coverage. He showed patience waiting in the pocket to find his wide open receiver for a 32-yard score with 7:38 in the half. He had to learn a new offense this year and continued to show his ability to pick apart a defense. He completed a pass to 8 different receivers in the offense. Although he made some bad decisions, it should be taken into account that he's in a new offense, too. Smith rolled right to avoid backside pressure on 1st and 10 with :33 left in the half. Instead of throwing the ball away he tried to hit a receiver on a comeback route, but the ball didn't have enough velocity to be thrown that late without the CB nearly jumping the route for an INT. His third interception was a 4th and 17 pass to his WR on streak that he overthrew by 10 yards and the DB got it--about as good as punt.

Ball Handling:

Smith is very good with play action. He also carries out run fakes after he's handed off the ball. He's more thorough with some fakes over others. On quick-hitting pass plays thrown short and outside, his fakes are cursory. Very good ball fake and roll right with 2:19 in the 1st QTR. Smith had to throw the ball away as the pressure nearly got to him. Good play action fake up the middle and 8-yard touchdown. The pass was thrown high once again, but the receiver was wide open off the play fake and came down with it. He did well to bend his shoulders to sell the run.

Pocket Presence:

Smith was blindsided by a stunting defender off the left side who was unblocked. He was in the process of throwing the ball when he was hit, but it was clear he did not sense the pressure because the rest of the pocket was well-contained and gave him a wide berth. Smith was sacked on 3rd down with 8:20 in the 1st QTR. He tried to set up a screen pass on the right side but the defender came clear off the left edge and didn't give him time. Smith tried to pump fake and then roll away to the left of the edge rusher, but was leg tackled. Smith does a good job of finding passing lanes in the pocket. On a 3rd and 12 with 5:29 in the 1st QTR he felt pressure off the left side and at the end of his drop, slid two steps to his right, getting space from two DTs coming free, and fired a pass 14 yards down the middle of the field to his receiver on an in-route for a 28-yard gain. On the next play he threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to his FB in the back of the end zone by taking a half roll to the left out of the spread formation, following his LG who pulled to the left to simulated run and firing the pass through the open lane. Smith has had to hurry some throws under pressure. Excellent keeping his eyes downfield while breaking the pocket from the backside pressure to complete an accurate sideline streak with over/under coverage with 12:06 in the half. He does try too hard to make a play rather than throw the ball away or check down. He took a sack on 2nd and goal with 10:45 in the half when he bought enough time to get rid of the ball on two different occasions during this play. He stood in the pocket against a heavy blitz and threw an accurate slant to his WR on 2nd and 10 with 8:30 in the half. He waited until 7:46 in the 3rd QTR to finally throw a ball out of bounds rather than force one or dance in the pocket. The next play? He rolls right and tosses up a ball on the run into the end zone for a DB to catch easily. Again, I think he believes he has the arm strength, but this ball was lofted and very short of the WR in the back of the end zone. He probably didn't see the DB downfield.

Scrambling Ability:

Easy touchdown on a designed draw from 8 yards out. The toughest part of the run was a high snap that he handled fluidly. The play was overturned because there were 12 men on the field. Although he can run the football adequately, he looks to throw while breaking the pocket as he did with 12:30 in the 3rd QTR. He preferred to try to hit his FB crossing to the sideline 5-yards ahead in coverage rather than run it.

Durability:

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Sam Keller

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths:

Sam Keller is quarterback who likes to go downfield, but is playing in a dink and dunk, west coast system in Nebraska. He has a strong arm and aggressive style. He is willing to stand in the pocket and find the open receiver while taking a hit at the last moment. He knows how to slide away from pressure and keep his eyes downfield. He has also begin to develop the good judgment of throwing the ball away when no one is open rather than force it into double coverage. Keller is capable of delivering the ball accurately on the move and off balance. He puts good velocity on the football. Keller's former QB coach, who coached Tony Romo in Dallas says that Keller has better physical attributes than Romo and is as tough a player he has ever coached.

Overall Weaknesses:

Keller will sometimes stand in the pocket too long trying to make a play when his team is behind. He takes a lot of hits and isn't very mobile. Although he can throw on the run his mobility is not his strong suit and prefers to operate in the pocket. There will be questions about his social life due to the lack of leadership among the ASU coaching staff that resulted in them treating him poorly. That's my opinion about the matter. It is not against the law for Keller to go out, have a pretty girlfriend, and be gregarious. Until he gets in trouble, he's behaving like many college football stars who are seen as having a good time but are considered to have no character issues. The same coach who tutored Romo and Keller said that Keller is the kind of QB that wants to be pointed in a direction and more black and white in his thinking about decision making. Does this make him more of a gunslinger than eventually a student of the game? Time will tell.

Accuracy:

Keller has consistent short range accuracy. He completed passes to his TE and WR in stride or positioned to their bodies where it should arrive on flat routes and throwbacks. Keller under threw a fade to Purify in the end zone with 2:00 in the half. He under threw it to the outside and high and the receiver was in bracketed coverage. He delivered a good throw rolling left with 11:52 in the game on 3rd and 5. He hit his receiver at the sideline for a first down. He didn't square his shoulders up field but it was an accurate, off balance throw about 15 yards downfield with good arm strength

Arm Strength:

This is a short passing attack, but Keller easily hit players on sideline routes and threw the ball with good velocity. He actually completed a comeback on the far side of the field despite getting hit as he threw the ball. Good arm strength.

Delivery:

Keller demonstrates good accuracy while throwing the ball off balance an on the run in short distance situations. He rolled right out of a heavy blitz up the middle and delivered a very accurate pass off his back foot to the RB in the flat for 15-yard gain and a 1st down on a 3rd and 6 with 3:19 in the half. Sometimes it appears he's delivering off his back foot and anticipating he's going to take a hit. The ball is very accurate, but the delivery has some flaws. He was hit a fair amount in this game.

Decisions:

Keller showed good decision making in the pocket on a 2nd and 12 play with 3:09 in the 1st QTR. He took the shotgun snap and looked to downfield then to his right. His WR was making a break on a deep out on the opposite hash, but this throw would have been dangerously prone to the CB jumping the route and running it back for a touchdown. He stepped up in the pocket and threw the ball complete to his receiver at the sideline on the near hash for a first down. He checked at least two options before throwing the ball form the pocket. He executed a 3rd down roll, but Missouri had great coverage so he threw the ball away. Wise decision. When he has time, he will pick apart basic zone coverage. He rolled right, stopped, set up and threw an in route for a first down with 11:46 in the game.

Ball Handling:

Keller did a nice job keeping the ball extended throughout the play fake and roll right on a completed pass to the right flat with 4:43 in the 1st QTR. Nice job completing a pass fake after pitching the ball. He rolled right and acted out the fake as if he were surveying the field to throw. Good pump fake on a half roll to the right to his receiver 5 yards down the seam before turning back to look for a third option in the flat.

Pocket Presence:

He demonstrated good pocket awareness and step up when he sensed backside pressure. He looked calm and in control despite the pocket beginning to collapse. He his very poised in the pocket. He had a front side DE reaching for the ball as Keller was pulling it back to deliver the ball and did not seem at all phased as he attempted to his receiver in the corner. This actually might be a problem, because on 3rd and goal from the 22 with 1:56 in the half Keller had a lot of time in the pocket but he lacked an awareness of the backside pressure, despite the fact the LT was nearly on his hip. At this point, he continue to look downfield and as he tried to deliver the ball, the DE hit him and disrupted the pass during his release. He is very tough in the pocket, but he still has moments where he tries to take the game on his shoulders and press by refusing to throw the ball away when his team is down. He was hit with 12:42 as he threw the ball on 1st and 10 and down by 35 points. Keller got knocked down while in the act of delivering a pass 5 times on one drive alone in the 4th QTR. He was not waiting too long either.

Scrambling Ability:

When he executed a roll at :55 of the 1st QTR, the edge rusher got good pressure on the QB, but Keller increased the depth of his roll while looking downfield before making a good decision to throw the ball away.

Durability:

Keller has had two, season-ending injuries as a collegian. In 2005 he broke his hand and missed the second half of the year. In 2007, he broke his collarbone.

Character:

Keller showed frustration after getting sacked with 1:55 in the half. He went to the sideline and then threw his helmet in disgust. Keller had a rough start to his career, because he got hurt while starting for ASU and Rudy Carpenter had a great run. At the start of the season, ASU coach--and now Jacksonville OC--Dirk Koetter, flip-flopped on his decision when he originally named Keller his starter. Rumor has it that the players were split about which QB to go with after Koetter called the meeting after naming Keller the starter because Carpenter's dad threatened to have his son transfer. Honestly, the coach should have stuck with his original decision rather than put it in the hands of his players. It was rumored that players argued heatedly over this decision because the only sticking point was that Keller partied a bit and Carpenter was a more retiring guy. Keller was then told he wasn't starting and the QB was given the option to transfer, so he went to Nebraska where coach Bill Callahan had seen Keller play in high school against his son while Callahn was coaching the Raiders. Keller has been through some adversity. You have to wonder whether this has shaken his confidence at all. According to Sports Illustrated writer Cory McCartney, "Keller arrived in Nebraska with publicity and a stigma as hired gun, but he was quick to show his teammates he was just another player. Instead of sitting out and simply learning the offense during his NCAA-mandated year off, he put his ego on the backburner and quarterbacked the scout team." He also was known for being good at answering difficult questions in the media a the unofficial team representative. He has shown a strong desire to be as good of a football player and leader he can be in tough situations.

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:
Deep accuracy [2pts]:
Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:
Short accuracy [5pts]:
Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:
Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:
Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:
Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:
Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:
Quick Release [4pts]:
Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:
Looks off defenders [3pts]:
Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:
Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:
Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:
Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:
Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:
Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:
Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:
Senses pass rush [3pts]:
Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

Scrambling Ability Score:

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:
Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:
Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:
Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:
No chronic injuries [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:
Comp:
Pyds:
PTds:
Ints:
Dropped:
Sacked:
Deflections:
Fumbles:
RAtt:
RYds:
RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Sam Keller

Date: 9/24/2005

Opponent: Oregon State

Overall Strengths:

Keller is an aggressive quarterback who has good downfield accuracy when he has the time to make a 5 or 7 step drop and throw the ball. He is very willing to take a hit and most of his incompletions in the first half were throws where he was a bit early on his release on deep passes or waited until the last second to hit a WR on an intermediate route and got hit while in the act of his release. He has pretty good play fakes and pump fakes. His mechanics are good for a player of his age--foot width on releases, depth on drops, and release of the football. In fact his release is very quick. He is a tough guy who took hits to the ankle and knee and still found a way to slide in the pocket and deliver passes. He also follows his progressions downfield. Keller has the skills as a passer to at least become a good backup.

Overall Weaknesses:

He is not mobile and will sometimes wait too long to deliver the football. In fact he can be a bit of a statue in the pocket and doesn't choose to slide in the pocket rather than stand there and not only take the hit, but also lose the passing lane. He is a bit of risk taker despite showing good decision making on plays under pressure where he threw the ball away. He needs to develop better pocket awareness with the amount of time he should expect to have there and develop a sense of the pass rush, although I believe a fair amount of this isn't so much a lack of pocket presence as it is taking risks to wait as long as possible to find an open receiver.

Accuracy:

Keller's first pass was thrown in double coverage and on a good line to Hagan. It could have been a bit more to the WR's sideline shoulder, but a split second difference would have put it to the WR in stride. On 3rd and 9, Keller lofted a perfect pass 20 yards down the middle of the field to his RB who had no one within 15 yards around him. He caught the ball over his shoulder in stride for a 49-yard score. Excellent touch. The formation set up this busted coverage. The ASU offense was in a 4 WR set and the two slot receivers drew both safeties towards their respective sidelines, so when the RB got past the MLB, the MLB thought he had help behind him when he didn't. Good accuracy to hit Hagan on a 12-yard out in double coverage on 3rd and 17. He got the ball inside the underneath defender. Another fine example of good anticipation and decent velocity. The good thing about his less accurate passes is that he gets rid of the ball quickly on passes over the WRs head, which require anticipation of the route. When these balls were inaccurate, only the WR had a chance to catch the ball because they were overthrown without a DB over the top. He nearly hit his TE on a sideline pattern on the right for a score, but it was a bit over shot with 9:46 in the half. On his pump fake and throw down the seam with 4:10 in the half, Keller hit Hagan in stride with the CB's hugging the WR from behind before the ball even arrive. He hit the WR to the inside on the stutter and go. The ball was thrown to the inside shoulder 40-yards downfield and to the 1-yard line. Nicely placed pass to his WR on the end line in stride.

Arm Strength:

His first pass was a deep throw off a five-step drop that traveled 45 yards in the air and was about 3 yards ahead of WR Derek Hagan on the play. Good velocity and distance, not too much loft. The next attempt was a ball thrown the exact same distance, but the timing was perfect and hit Hagan in stride and he gained another 12 yards for a 57-yard reception. Keller has good arm strength. The ball doesn't fly off his arm, but he can make the deep and intermediate throws with enough velocity to beat underneath coverage and enough timing to be pinpoint in its accuracy. He threw a ball across to the opposite hash from his one 1-yard line (after a great OSU punt) and completed the comeback route at the sideline under pressure for 6 yards. The ball hung in the air a bit, but the velocity overall was decent and only the WR had a shot at the ball. He placed too much loft under the ball on a 1st down play action pass 40 yards and the WR had to slow down and this also allowed the CB to make a great leaping tip on the pass. If it were thrown a bit earlier with less loft and more to the inside, the result could have been a 72-yard touchdown. His arm just doesn't seem strong enough to throw really high-velocity throws from this distance. Everything has a bit of a loft and this makes timing highly important. At the same time, his deep out on the next play had very good velocity and timing. Good timing to the opposite side of the field for a 12-yard catch right in stride with coverage trailing.

Delivery:

Excellent timing on his deep throw of 45 yards in the air. He threw it a bit early, but good anticipation to let it go right as his back foot hit on the end of the drop. He sets up quickly out of his drop without a lot of wasted motion. His footwork looks very good. His feet were well-spaced on the throw. His release is very fast. The arm strength is pretty good, but not elite. The speed of release may be elite in quality. Perfect play fake and drop with great touch on a corner route in the end zone that was dropped. His delivery is 3/4 in motion, which will draw some criticism.

Decisions:

Had 56 straight passes without an interception against LSU (a record) where he threw for 461 yards and 4 scores. He was very aggressive in this game because ASU was a vertical passing attack the OSU defense lost three players who graduated and all three were in NFL camps. On 2nd and 8 with 4:33 in the 1st QTR, he threw a ball deep to Hagan for a completion of 57 yards down the left sideline. This was the second pass that he threw downfield to this sideline in the quarter. He wisely threw the ball away on the next play when he saw his secondary target double covered after the first one was not open. Dirk Koetter told the commentators prior to this game that he never had a QB pick up his system as fast as Sam Keller. At this time Koetter was considered one of the brightest minds in college football. There was a lot of verbiage in the play calls, so Keller did a fine job of running over to the sideline to get the call in situations where a time was at a premium. He changed a pass play with 9:41 in the half to a run play, but the runner was spilled to the outside. On 3rd and 26, Keller did a good job throwing the ball towards the RB on the screen, but out of bounds when he saw the play was covered and Keller was under heavy pressure. Although he will throw against double coverage, it's not an attempt to squeeze the ball. It's at a good angle so only the receiver has a shot. He also goes through his progressions. On his pass to the TE down the seam for 39-yards he looked outside before going inside.

Ball Handling:

He likes to show the ball the entire time on his play fakes. He could do a bit more to sell the first one with 9:40 in the 1st QTR. His pass to the WR on a 5-yard hook was deflected at the line. He made a better play fake with 5:41 in the half from the ASU 33 yard line. He turned away from the defense and extended the ball. Good pump fake and throw to Hagan down the seam for a completion in very tight coverage.

Pocket Presence:

Keller stands strong in the pocket and has no problem taking a hit to complete a pass. On 2nd and 10 with 8:55 in the 1st QTR, he stood in the pocket and waited until the last second to deliver a hook pattern to his WR on the left side as he took a hit to the chest. The ball was thrown low due to the hit and the WR could not make the reception. Good job eluding the backside defender's attempt to drag him down with one arm. On the play after getting sacked, he was hit as he was throwing on another play action pass. He waits too long in the pocket and does not seem to sense pressure. I've never seen a QB get hit while he's throwing so often in a game where it wasn't necessary. Good job stepping up in the pocket against backside pressure with 11:22 in the 3rd QTR to hit his TE wide open on a seam pattern for a 39-yard gain. Excellent job stepping up in the pocket on 3rd and 10 and finding his WR on the left sideline for a 12 -yard gain with 10:48 in the 3rd QTR.

Scrambling Ability:

Keller is a pocket passer with limited mobility. He had a huge opening downfield when he broke the pocket due to backside pressure and he showed no burst of speed at all. A decent runner would have gotten at least to first down marker. Keller was about 1-2 yards short.

Durability:

He twisted his left ankle on the play fake where the DE got up the middle on a stunt. The sacker landed on the QB's ankle as he was bent backwards. He limped to the sideline, but did not miss a play. He a tough player, but takes punishment that isn't necessary. He limped at times throughout the 3rd QTR from various hits at the knees or below while throwing.

Character:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Accuracy Score:

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

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Arm Strength Score:

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

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

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Delivery Score:

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

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

Quick Release [4pts]:

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Decisions Score:

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

BHandling Score:

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]:

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

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

Pocket Presence Score:

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

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

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

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

Scrambling Ability Score:

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

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

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

Durability Score:

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

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Game Stats

PAtt:

Comp:

Pyds:

PTds:

Ints:

Dropped:

Sacked:

Deflections:

Fumbles:

RAtt:

RYds:

RTds:

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Xavier Lee

Date: 9/29/2007

Opponent: Alabama

Overall Strengths:

Lee is a terrific athlete with a strong arm. He demonstrates inherently good pocket presence when it comes to sensing the pass rush and finding an open lane to throw the football. He is a great threat to gain yardage outside the pocket with speed and some power. He executes ball fakes very well from the spread formation. He also demonstrated the ability to get to his 2nd and 3rd progression consistently in this game. If he dedicates himself to learning the mechanics of this position and gets the necessary game experience he lacked at FSU, he could be a much better pro than collegiate football player. Most likely he'll be asked to move to another position and if he can catch the football, he has the athleticism to become a threat at WR or TE.

Overall Weaknesses:

Lee's footwork on drops is very inconsistent. He needs to work on foot spacing, drops, and planting and throwing. This is why his accuracy is erratic. He'll make one throw on the money and later make the same type of throw with no accuracy at all. He sometimes tries to rely on his athleticism too much when plays break down. This is common for athletically gifted QBs. He skipped class a lot which, if one buys into this as a negative, means he could not be the kind of player who dedicates himself to the mental aspects of the game. The question is whether Lee had the quality of coaching at FSU to develop into a great QB or he did, but just wasted the opportunity. This is a football player with a ton of talent, but so much to prove that he'll need to demonstrate a lot of toughness and patience to maximize his great potential. This may mean playing in pro football leagues other than the NFL in order to develop as a QB, if that's the position he pursues.

Accuracy:

His first throw was a swing pass to the slot receiver behind the line of scrimmage from a flat-footed stance. His second completion was a 3rd down crossing route to his WR which hit the WR in stride and helped him get past the trailing coverage for a first down. Lee made an excellent play to elude two linemen with 8:14 in the half, but threw the ball to the wrong shoulder of the receiver down the right sideline. He hit his receiver on a sideline hitch for 8 yards with 3:17 in the half with good timing. The ball was thrown a bit low and lacked velocity. Well-timed, accurate deep out with 14:22, which resulted in a 28-yard gain by the WR. Good zip and accuracy on an 8-yard in on the following play. On a 3rd and 2, he lead the RB too far on a swing pass as he was drifting backwards. The RB had to dive for the ball to prevent the INT and get the reception a yard behind the LOS. Good accuracy to throw the first touchdown pass low and a away from the DB on the play. Although the delivery looked horrible, he hit his WR right in stride, 40 yards down field on a streak route for 58 yards. He reached the correct shoulder and timed the pass perfectly. Lee opened the 4th QTR with a throw to the wrong shoulder of a wide open receiver running a square-in. He hit the back shoulder rather than the front shoulder. Based on the conversation in the huddle afterwards, it appeared the QB and WR were confused on the type route they were supposed to execute--a square-in or curl. The receiver still had a chance to catch the ball.

Arm Strength:

Lee tried to throw a touch pass to his WR on a 3rd and 9 with 8:14 in the half after ducking away from the blitz and rolling right. The pass landed short an to the wrong shoulder. He needed to put more zip on the ball. If he does, it's a first down. Good zip on the ball that he completed to Fagg on a 7-yard hitch with 14:40 in the 3rd QTR. Lee threw a 12-yard out from the opposite hash on a 5-yard drop with 14:22 in the 3rd QTR. The ball had decent velocity, but wasn't elite level. Good, line drive pass 40 yards downfield to his WR for a 58-yard gain. When Lee drops and throws on quick passing plays, he's very accurate and displays good timing with the receivers. Good timing on the stop-fade that Fagg dropped with 13:00 in the 4th QTR. Good zip and accuracy on a 12-yard hitch that turned into a 70-yard score in the 4th QTR.

Delivery:

Lee demonstrated the ability to hit a WR on a short crossing route with accuracy while drifting backwards. His delivery was a quick flick of the wrist. His footwork needs a lot of refinement. His feet were way too far apart on his first throw from the shotgun and a short drop with 14:49 in the 3rd QTR. Although he made a perfect 58-yard pass, his delivery looked very rough. He actually leapt a bit as he made the throw. Very good timing and delivery on a 3rd down overload blitz to the WR side of the formation. He hit the slot receiver in stride for a 12-yard gain in the face of the blitz. Because of his footwork, his accuracy is erratic. He threw a very high hitch to the outside on a 1st and 10 with 13:32 left that the WR caught, but he had to go high for the ball. Despite not having good footwork in his set up and delivery, he displays some potential to be an accurate quarterback on intermediate routes. He's probably not going to score very highly on this evaluation, but he's the type of talent who can develop into a highly-regarded player if he can become a student of the game. It's iffy, but possible.

Decisions:

Lee threw a jump pass on 3rd down with 3:13 in the half when his RB cut off his lane on a roll to the left. Lee did not display enough patience to keep the ball and find another open man or attempt to run with it. The jump pass was short, low, and incomplete. Lee's first score came from a 4-WR set and he did a nice job scanning the field before setting on Fagg, his third option for the score. The interception was a result of a late throw down the seam to his TE off play action in the 3rd QTR. He also didn't sell the play action well enough for the middle of the defense to bite. His decision making on what kind of pass to throw in the intermediate range is disconcerting. There were at least three passes in this game where he tried a touch pass in a situation that clearly called for him to throw a pass with velocity. Very good decision to run the football on a screen that was well covered. He gained a first down on the play.

Ball Handling:

On his designed run with :40 in the half, he did not effectively protect the football. He tucked the ball under the correct sideline arm, but he failed to keep his elbow against his body and he presented a good target for a defender to knock the ball out from the backside. Although better than some, his play fake wasn't sold well enough with head, shoulder, and back movement and the MLB did not bite on the play action, which allowed the defender to play deep rather than the run. He was able to intercept the football on the play. Lee made a very strong ball fake out of the spread formation with 1:50 in the 3rd QTR. The Alabama LBs bought the fake as Lee tucked the ball under his right arm and ran around the right corner untouched for 7-yards. If he had not tripped, he might have gained 2-3 times that amount of yardage. Lee executed a slight pump/ball fake on a screen that was well-covered to get the edge rusher into the air before pulling the ball down to run for a 1st down with 12:30 in the game.

Pocket Presence:

Excellent job on 3rd and 9 with 8:14 in the half to duck under the front side pressure, making two linemen miss, and rolling to the right while keeping his head downfield to find a receiver along the right sideline. He took a hit as he was throwing a pass 40-yards downfield for a 58-yard gain. Although he only completed a 2-yard pass, he demonstrated good pocket awareness to slide while keeping his eyes downfield.

Scrambling Ability:

His first run was a designed keeper up the middle for 7 yards. He just slid through the opening and picked his way through the hole. His next run was a 9-yard gain with :40 in the half. He read the blocks well around the left end and demonstrated good patience and a decent burst and pad level. Lee demonstrated good body lean on a 1st down run for 8 yards off the right edge. Good job gaining yardage on a screen that was well-covered and exposing the soft middle of the defense for 10 yards and sliding to end the play.

Durability:

Character:

Lee did not start this game. He came into the game with 10:00 in the half. It was his first time playing all year. He was suspended two games for not attending class. He also declared for the draft upon learning the coaching staff wanted to move him to TE. F

Running backs

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the Position

Overrated and Underrated

Projects

Best by Category

Fantasy Top 15

Combine/Pro Day-Adjusted Rankings

Scouting Checklists and Profiles

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the RB Position

The 2008 class has a wealth of runners who should have productive careers in the NFL as feature backs, committee contributors, and valued depth. At the same time, this may have been the most difficult class I have had the chance to evaluate. Several of these players possess pro level athleticism, but the spread system that has become the rage for college offenses can often exaggerate the positives of a player while hiding their deficiencies. It just so happens the consensus top three backs play in some form of a spread attack: Darren McFadden, Rashard Mendenhall, and Jonathan Stewart. It's also a difficult crop because there are several smaller school backs that could develop into long- term starters for an NFL squad, but need a year or two of seasoning. At the same time many of the players I see as over valued have the skills to develop into contributors within a 3-4 year period. Unlike the consensus, I believe McFadden is an unbelievable physical talent, but a significantly overrated prospect, which I'll explain soon enough.

Running back is the premium fantasy position in most leagues. This is the one type of rookie both re-draft and dynasty leaguers should consider with confidence. In eight of the past twelve seasons, a rookie runner ended the season no lower than 8th overall for fantasy RBs. Since rookie RBs are rarely taken in the first two rounds of re-draft leagues, that's a bargain for the discerning owner. Even in dynasty leagues there are bargains available. I was able to draft Brandon Jacobs in round 4 a few years ago, and both Ahmad Bradshaw and Selvin Young in the last round of dynasty leagues. All three have provided good spot production for my team with little risk.

Another factor that determines a player's draft value is the number of carries he is expected to see. Will the rookie be the feature back from day one, or will he at least be the sure-fire backup to the starter? Historical statistics for the last 54 years are remarkably consistent when one profiles rookie production by an average range of rushing attempts. From 1950-2004 there were 1,545 rookie running backs in the NFL. As one would expect, the overall average performance for the these rookies is pretty under whelming due to the fact a lot of rookie running backs are drafted as backups, special teams contributors, and developmental projects. On the other hand, the data is worth examining when broken down by total carries in a season:

Rookie RBs - By Attempts: 300+ Range									
Atts	Range	RBs	Rush Atts	Rush Yds	Rush TDs	Rec	Rec Yds	Rec TDs	FF Pts
300+	1950-2004	14	335.43	1420.0	11.57	38.64	328.57	1.07	250.71
300+	1970-1979	2	316.5	1527.5	10.50	26.50	178.00	1.00	239.55
300+	1980-1989	5	344.4	1483.8	13.60	42.40	378.2	1.40	276.2
300+	1990-1999	5	338.6	1361.2	11.40	38.0	338.00	1.20	245.52
300+	2000-2004	2	324.0	1300.0	8.00	43.00	331.50	0.00	211.15

As with any NFL RB, a rookie that earns 300 or more carries in a season will earn fantasy points equivalent to a #1 RB in an owner's starting lineup. Most of the rookies accomplishing this feat were highly touted starters from opening day.

Overrated RB Prospects

Darren McFadden, Arkansas: McFadden might be the most difficult player I have evaluated for the RSP. His speed and acceleration are better than all but one back in this class. He also played productively during his career while coming off toe surgery and dealing with bruised ribs. When McFadden can run a play as designed, he can break it open for huge gains because of his elite speed. Although he doesn't make strong lateral moves, he has the ability to bend a run in a direction while running at a high speed. This is a rare ability, but it is still not as effective against a defense as a runner with sharp changes of direction.

The problem is this former QB repeatedly demonstrated noticeable deficiencies that I believe will prevent him from making a consistent impact as an NFL runner: falling backward when making direct contact against first and second level defenders because he runs with poor leverage; the tendency for his legs to go dead upon the initial wrap-up; lacking the ability to change direction with a hard plant and cut; impatience with his blockers; and poor ball protection techniques. Many people have compared McFadden to Eric Dickerson or Adrian Peterson, but the only thing McFadden currently shares with these two backs is his speed.

McFadden's power is actually something worth calling into question. I am not skeptical of his strength and athleticism. He has plenty of both to be an elite NFL running back. The problem is his knowledge of how to use it. Any type of power you generate when it comes to delivering or deflecting a blow comes from the legs and hips. Not only do these body parts have to be strong, but they also need to be positioned well to transfer energy from your body to your target. They explain this in more detail on shows that study the physics of martial arts—for example, National Geographic did a special where they hooked up UFC fighters like Randy Couture to sensors that measure force and flow of energy throughout the body.

I know it seems a bit like a jump to apply this to a running back, but it's not. Think about a runner heading through the line of scrimmage and they come face to face with a DT, LB, or DB greeting them head-on. If the runner's hips and knees are bent then his shoulders will have to be leaning forward so he can explode into the contact. When he makes contact, the energy transfers from his legs in the ground, up his hips, and to the point of contact with the defender. A great runner has learned through a combination of repetition and intuitive assimilation of practice and game situations (natural talent) how to subtly change the angle of contact in close quarters and deliver enough of a blow to at least "shed" the tackle, if not just knock guy on his butt. This is why a back such as Eddie George who "ran too high" coming out of college actually was a good NFL player. He was taller than the average back, but he knew how to lower his shoulders and bend his knees and hips so more times than not he exploded into contact.

The same can be said with Eric Dickerson. Most people remember his "upright" running style, but if you watch highlights that don't involve him running through creases untouched for 40-60 yards and looking like Carl Lewis in pads, you'll see a guy who could get low very quick and deliver a blow with his shoulders into contact. Adrian Peterson is capable of the same thing. I never once worried about his upright running style. The guy has monstrously great balance. When I first thought about comparisons to Peterson vs. McFadden I would watch how McFadden would get yanked out of bounds by the arm a hit to the hips, or a horse collar and see right away from the standpoint of balance Peterson is uniquely different--he stayed in bounds on plays like this all the time (which is what is one of quite a few things special about his skills). But this also has to do with hip and leg alignment and good use of his strength.

When I see McFadden in the hole he gets yanked backwards more than many backs (even compared to 6-0, 200-lb Felix Smith) in the hole or knocked down on his butt from head-on hits because his knee bend and hip bend is just not there. How can you tell? Look at his shoulders. A back like George or Dickerson often ran as if their shoulders were a big hand on a clock pointed to the number 2 or at worst between the number 1 and number 2. A back like McFadden is somewhere between the 12 and 1 and never quite at 1. It's why when he gets hit in the hole he'll fall backwards more than the average NFL-quality prospect. A back like Edgerrin James, who is unbelievably good at getting low, often gets closer to the number 3 position with his shoulder lean as he is still running forward. You can't do this unless your hips and knees are bent.

It is not to say that McFadden never lowered his shoulders, but it was generally done in the open field with a significant running start against a defensive back. To his credit, he will break some long runs as a situational back because he showed the ability to run the designed offensive plays at Arkansas to perfection. Arkansas did a terrific job tailoring an offense around McFadden and Felix Jones by forcing defenses to overplay one and get burned by the other. SEC defenses have some of the best athletes in the country, especially on defense. But these fast athletes are used in highly aggressive defenses and they are susceptible to a glorified counter play with play action that will force them out of position when that play fake goes to an elite athlete in Jones.

The problems with McFadden show up when he had a reasonably normal freelance opportunity and he didn't possess the vision or patience to allow these normal alternatives to develop. I've heard McFadden can catch, but after watching six games over a two-year period, I saw a runner who dropped easy passes on a consistent basis. Robert Meachem caught a lot of passes in workouts last year with his hands, but struggled as a rookie in game situations. Once again, this is why game film is invaluable in telling how a player does when the pads come on, the fans are screaming, and the veterans are playing with a speed and intensity they've never seen before.

Like Reggie Bush, McFadden will learn that his speed isn't as much of an advantage in the NFL as it is in college football. Speaking of Bush, I was very high on the USC back and still believe he has the skills to live up to the hype if he can stay healthy and stop pressing so hard to make the big play. In contrast, I think McFadden is more of a project that can develop into a franchise back if he corrects some serious deficiencies and works his butt off to do so. Unfortunately, he hasn't shown the maturity off the field and football has come rather easy to him. Having kids out of wedlock or some college bar fights doesn't make him a hardened criminal, but I believe the odds are against him to take his work ethic to the level of a Ladaian Tomlinson or Peyton Manning. And McFadden needs to work this hard to make the jump or he will most likely disappoint. The one way I could see how his evaluation is off base is if McFadden's injuries severely altered his running style and he was generally cruising off his incredible speed, but I'm skeptical this is the case. My best overall grade of McFadden indicates he clearly has the talent to contribute in the NFL, but needs a lot of work to be the primary offensive weapon.

Felix Jones, Arkansas: I believe Jones will become a viable situational back in the NFL, but to rate him a top five back in this draft is a big leap of faith in a player who only carried the football 20 times once in his college career. Nearly two-thirds of Jones' carries were as a receiver on end-arounds with McFadden as the quarterback. Linebackers and defensive ends won't be as concerned about most NFL quarterbacks as college defenders were with McFadden's blazing speed. The Wild Hog formation at Arkansas was mutually beneficial to both players.

I think Jones has the skills to develop into a productive contributor based on a game where he ran primarily out of the I-formation as the RB, but there are several other backs that proved they could produce without a decoy that runs a 4.33 40-yard dash. Jones will contribute in the

NFL as a kick return specialist and change of pace runner, but I'm not as convinced he'll be the lock as a future starter as others. I have no qualms about drafting him because he has some Clinton Portis potential, but even Portis splitting time with Edgerrin James and Najeh Davenport showed much more on film than Jones.

Mike Hart, Michigan: The former Wolverine is a tough runner with good balance and movement, but he lacks the speed and acceleration to develop along the lines of a back of similar dimensions in this draft that I rated much higher—Ray Rice. Hart is also a fairly significant liability as a pass protector. He ran behind a very large offensive line that seemed to be outclassed versus top competition. Michigan has a recent history of turning out disappointing skill position players. Although I believe Hart could develop into a solid depth chart player, but he's too small to be this slow. I project Hart as a change of pace back who is capable of a contributing in relief of an injured starter, but he'll be exposed for his deficiencies if considered for a starting role.

Underrated RB Prospects

Kevin Smith, University of Central Florida: How does a 2000-yard rusher qualify as underrated? When analysts and draftniks dismiss him as a baby-faced junior who is too thin, too easy to bring down, and indecisive at the point of attack. The only thing that they have right is the remark about his face—and that doesn't win or lose football games. Smith is bigger than Darren McFadden and will likely add another 10 pounds of muscle as he matures because it's his upper body that is on the thinner side. He already has a very muscular trunk and runs with good balance. The skills that make Smith special are his vision, hard-cutting style, and hip flexibility, which are reminiscent of no back since Marcus Allen.

Smith faced 9- and 10-men fronts and demonstrated a decisive style. I watched him have a very productive day against a stout Mississippi State defense that loaded up the box to stop him. Although he needs to do a better job of moving his legs when wrapped up, he has deceptive power and runs out of more hits and ankle tackles than advertised. The fact that he's one of the best pure runners in this draft and he is still raw as a player makes Smith an underrated commodity. In a few years Smith has a strong chance to be known as the best back in this class if he can capitalize on his vast talent. What will hold him back early is his need to improve his skills as a receiver. Nevertheless, Smith will excite teammates, fans, and fantasy owners with his running style. My only concern with Smith is his hard-cutting style. Some of the backs that share this aspect of his style suffered knee injuries that robbed them of their skill.

Matt Forte, Tulane: Forte is described as a big back (which is ironic when you consider some of the same people who say this about Forte describe Kevin Smith—a back with the same dimensions—as too thin), but what surprised observers at the combine was his speed and agility. What impressed me was his ability to combine excellent vision with change of direction skills ranging from the subtle to the dramatic. Forte played behind an offensive line routinely overmatched by its opposition and he demonstrated the ability to pick and slide away from penetrating defenders into the backfield. I saw a number of runs from Forte where many backs would have lost 5-7 yards when Forte had gains of 5-7 yards. This is due to his quick first step, vision, and change of direction. It won't take more than a year or two for Forte to get a shot as a starter. His greatest deficiency is his inconsistent approach to pass blocking. Even without refined pass protection skills, Forte should compete for time on the field as a rookie.

Xavier Omon, Northwest Missouri State: Some players just stand out on film. Every year I see a few players who temporarily make me forget that I'm watching to evaluate their skills and I revert back to being a fan. I call it the 'wow factor.' The player does something that you find yourself rewinding the play over and over to appreciate it. It is the kind of play that gives you chills. Adrian Peterson, Dwayne Bowe, Santonio Holmes, and Ahmad Bradshaw are some

of the players who had that ‘wow’ factor for me in 2007. Omon jumped out in this fashion in 2008. I know it is not a technical reason for my score, but that’s what the evaluation is for.

Omon is the only back in NCAA history to have four seasons with at least 1500 yards. He came from a smaller division school, but has the size, balance, elusiveness, and vision to play in the NFL. In fact, I believe he has the skills to thrive as a starter despite lacking great speed. His best trait might be his balance. I watched him have a huge game on a frozen field and make plays that you only see from strong NFL backs. He’s a big player with light feet that will make you miss or gain yardage after contact. Omon’s also a strong receiver. The key for Omon to become a starter will be the situation he enters as a pro. He’ll likely have to play his way up the depth chart compared to other prospects with his talent who will have easier opportunities. If he’s drafted commensurate to my rating, Omon will be a player worth watching closely as soon as 2008. Most likely he’ll be a late round pick who will impress in camp and only get his chance if a player ahead of him gets hurt. As all fantasy owners understand, that’s not such a remote possibility.

RB Projects

Kregg Lumpkin, University of Georgia: Lumpkin has excellent vision and runs with good technique and power. He’s a decisive, one-cut runner who has good third down skills as a blocker and receiver. He was a top-flight prospect prior to tearing his ACL, but he lost a step and split time with a crowded backfield. Yet even after his ACL tear, Lumpkin has performed well versus strong competition. If Lumpkin can regain a step and remain healthy, he has all the tools to be a starter in the NFL. The question is whether teams will be scared away from his injury history.

Thomas Brown, University of Georgia: Lumpkin’s teammate runs with great balance and quickness. He’s coming off an ACL tear (in record time) and is beginning to regain his speed. Brown isn’t as savvy between the tackles as Lumpkin, but he has more athleticism. Georgia backs have a strong track record in the NFL and Brown’s versatile skills will make him a coveted, second-day back with a chance to develop as a productive situational back.

Jehuu Caulcrick, Michigan State: Every time I saw Caulcrick I was impressed with his footwork. He reminded me of Jerome Bettis due to this combo of his size, power, and feet. His 40-time was very slow, but I saw him get to the corner on designed running plays and display a burst. I believe he’s simply a raw prospect who is still learning his position and a team will recognize his talent is worth developing. I think he can at least become a short yardage back, but if he can accelerate his development he can be a productive runner in a committee system like Brandon Jacobs.

Best and Worst By Checklist Category

Category	-	Comments
The Best RBs By Category	Power	Jehuu Caulcrick
		Xavier Omon
		Rashard Mendenhall
Balance	Jonathan Stewart	There are several backs with good balance in this draft: Smith, Caulcrick, Rice, Brown, and Savage deserve mentioning. Still, Stewart and Boyd were able to maintain balance with against a variety of hits that separated them from the pack
	Cory Boyd	
Ball Handling	Xavier Omon	Omon’s technique is very strong and he faced defenses designed to stop him. Choice and Hester demonstrate strong technique and both had a fantastic record of carries without putting the ball on the ground.
	Tashard Choice	
	Jacob Hester	
Speed	Darren McFadden	All three runners possess that “sudden” speed that can turn a routine

		Chris Johnson Jamaal Charles	play into a big gain.
Vision		Kevin Smith Matt Forte Ray Rice	These three players make good reads at the LOS, cut well in the hole, and run decisively between the tackles. They also performed well against good defenses that lined 9 to 10 men in the box. Choice and Omon deserve a mention here also.
	Elusiveness	Kevin Smith	All three have a great variety of moves, but are disciplined with the intent to run downhill. Matt Forte, Steve Slaton, and Rafael Little have excellent moves as well.
		Jamaal Charles	
Xavier Omon			
Blocking		Kregg Lumpkin	Although Stewarts deserve some credit, Lumpkin is in a class by himself compared to the other prospects.
Receiving		Yvenson Bernard Cory Boyd	Rafael Little and Steve Slaton are also good receivers, but Boyd and Bernard were relied upon regularly and demonstrated the ability to make difficult grabs.

	Category		Comments
The Worst RBs By Category	Power	Steve Slaton	These two players lack the power and technique to be effective runners between the tackles.
		Rodney Kinlaw	
	Balance	Darren McFadden	McFadden and Slaton get knocked backwards or pulled down more than the average back and much more than runners who lack their acclaim.
		Steve Slaton	
	Ball Handling	Steve Slaton	Neither player demonstrates good ball carrying technique and has had multiple fumble games.
		Darren McFadden	
	Speed	Yvenson Bernard	Mike Hart gets mentioned here too, but Bernard and Caulcrick are a step slow compared to their peers.
		Jehuu Caulcrick	
	Vision	Darren McFadden	Cuff runs with his head down and misses opportunities too frequently to be a quality NFL runner. McFadden follows the play design well, but he doesn't adjust when the blocking does go as designed and often shows a troubling lack of patience.
		Omar Cuff	
	Elusiveness	George Stripling	These two backs are straight-line runners and lack the ability to make a player miss in the open field.
		Andre Callender	
	Blocking	Mike Hart	Mendenhall misdiagnoses blocks and has technique issues, but he's not nearly the liability that Hart and Johnson are because he has the size not to be over matched (Hart) and makes the effort (Johnson).
		Chris Johnson	
		Rashard Mendenhall	
Receiving		Darren McFadden Kevin Smith	There are several players who don't even get a chance to catch passes, but these two backs drop too many easy targets.

The Top 15 Running back Prospects for Dynasty Leagues

These are my top-15 backs based on film study. I am leaving out players I did not study. My rankings are based a combination of collected data in this portfolio, my view of their potential fit with any offensive system, and their potential for growth based on the film study. The Score on these rankings is the highest raw checklist score performed on this player.

Since this publication was written prior to the NFL draft, the rankings are a reflection of players with the greatest chance to make a positive impact with their overall skill sets, and how flexible their skill sets are to the widest varieties of offensive systems. In any dynasty league setting, I would be comfortable drafting the first five quarterbacks on this list. After

that, it depends on the size of the league but I think the top 10 prospects all have potential to be worthwhile fantasy players within a three-year period.

Rank	Name	Score	Height	Weight	Comment
1	Jonathan Stewart	99	5-10	235	Although Stewart will require 4-6 months of rehab from toe surgery, he's still the most physically talented back in this draft. He can do it all at the RB position and delivered big despite playing with nagging injuries.
2	Ray Rice	95	5-8	199	Ray Rice reminds me more of Emmitt Smith than any back I have seen in recent years. He's undersized, but is a tough runner with vision who gets stronger as the game progresses.
3	Rashard Mendenhall	93	5-10	225	Mendenhall is a powerful back with the speed and hands to be a 1st and 2nd down contributor. His blocking really needs work for him to be the sole featured back.
4	Kevin Smith	96	6-1	217	Some analysts disparage his body type, his 'dead legs' when wrapped up, and wasted movement. I see a dynamic player with great hip flexibility, excellent moves, and more power than given credit. He could have the most upside of any back in this draft.
5	Matt Forte	88	6-1	217	Forte has excellent quickness, vision, and anticipation in traffic and graded well against defenses that overmatched his teammates in the trenches. Coach Bob Toledo had some good prospects at RB while at UCLA and believes Forte is NFL material. He'll surprise many with how good he really is.
6	Xavier Omon	92	5-10	228	He lacks great timed speed, but his balance, vision, and yards after contact skills are top-shelf. My hunch is Omon will get faster as he gets better coaching. Even as a 4.6-40 back, this runner has the tools to be a starter in the NFL. Every year I see a few players who give me that wow factor and Omon was one of them.
7	Felix Jones	89	5-10	207	Jones is a relatively unproven commodity as a between the tackles runner. He has only seen 20 carries in a game once as a collegian. At the same time his speed and versatility make him viable 3rd down back and return specialist immediately.
8	Jamaal Charles	85	5-11	200	If Charles could hold onto the football consistently, he would be much higher on this list. His elusiveness is Marshall Faulk-like in its rareness, but he sometimes he ignores the path of least resistance. If he matures, he'll be a tough all-around playmaker in the NFL.
9	Tashard Choice	88	5-10	215	Choice is a tough chain-mover whose skills are likely "maxed out" as a borderline starter capable of carrying a team for a year or two until they look for someone more dynamic. Think Chester Taylor.
10	Cory Boyd	88	6-1	217	It's interesting to me that there is a lot more hype for Matt Forte who is the same in dimensions and quickness to Boyd, only slightly faster in the 40. Boyd on the other hand, has faced SEC defenses week in and week out and is a proven receiver.
11	Darren McFadden	79	6-1	211	McFadden has great speed and he follows the designed blocking schemes well. But his lack of fundamentals between the tackles, lack of balance, and lack of dynamic lateral movement is troubling. Has his surgically repaired toe or ribs still been an issue? This might explain this troubling evaluation, but I'm more inclined to believe he's a boom-bust player closer to Reggie Bush at his worst than Adrian Peterson at his best.
12	Chris Johnson	82	5-11	197	Think McFadden is fast? Johnson has blazing speed. He has enough upside to develop into an effective inside runner, but the former receiver is still very raw as feature back material.
13	Jalen Parmele	86	6-0	221	Parmeale is an effective downhill runner with good burst and size. He could split time in a backfield right away, but he'll need to become a better receiver to develop into a viable candidate as a long-term starter.

14	Dontrell Savage	89	5-8	187	Savage's timed speed was disappointing, but he was the OSU offense. He's a smart, versatile back who has the skills to be a situational playmaker.
15	Kregg Lumpkin	87	5-11	226	He and Reggie Bush were the two highest regarded prospects from their prep class, but multiple injuries have cost Lumpkin a step. He's a powerful runner with very good vision. If he regains that step and stays healthy he could develop into a surprise starter.
16	Thomas Brown	80	5-8	204	Lumpkin's backfield mate at UGA had quickness, balance, and good strength for his size. Like Lumpkin, he's coming off injury and has upside if he can stick and stay healthy.
17	Jehuu Caulcrick	87	6-0	254	Lacks great timed speed, but can get outside on designed runs and has very good feet. A powerful runner who is still raw. A lot of upside.
18	Ryan Torain	86	6-0	222	Torain runs very well after contact. Think Corey Dillon at the end of his career. Enough power and speed to move the chains, but too slow to break the long run.
19	Rafael Little	86	5-8	195	Dynamic 3rd down player who will remind many of a Kevin Faulk-like performer when healthy.
20	Steve Slaton	84	5-9	197	Good speed, quickness, and lateral movement. Poor ball protection skills and lacks the power to be more than a 3rd down back.

RB Comparisons

One way to sum up a prospect is to compare him to other pros that played his position. It's also difficult to be accurate with just one player as a comparison because football players—as with anyone in their careers—have an amalgam of influences. Each prospect has skills reminiscent of multiple players so in this chart I list the players I believe are the best match for each. The order in which I list them is how I rank them (best to worst) on a spectrum of stylistic similarities. The “x” is where I believe the prospect will eventually fall along this spectrum if he fulfills his potential as a pro. The dashes indicate an approximate skill gap between the players in terms of where they fall and a slash indicates these players will likely be the same in skill set.

Rank	Name	Score	Height	Weight	Best Skills	Player Comparisons
1	Jonathan Stewart	99	5-10	235	Balance; Vision; Elusiveness; Plays Hurt	L. Tomlinson-- X /Ricky Williams--Dorsey Levens--LaMont Jordan
2	Ray Rice	95	5-8	199	Vision; Stamina; Burst; Leverage	Emmitt Smith--Tony Dorsett-- X -----Karim Abdul Jabar
3	Rashard Mendenhall	93	5-10	225	Balance; Power; Burst	Terrell Davis---Ottis Anderson-- X ---Mike Anderson
4	Kevin Smith	96	6-1	217	Change of direction; Vision; Speed	Marcus Allen-- X ---Curt Warner---Cadillac Williams
5	Matt Forte	88	6-1	217	Vision; Change Direction; Acceleration	Ricky Watters-- X -Chris Warren---DeShaun Foster
6	Xavier Omon	92	5-10	228	Vision; Balance; Elusiveness	William Andrews-Jamal Anderson--- X /Earnest Byner---Lamar Smith/Gary Brown-Leroy Hoard
7	Felix Jones	89	5-10	207	Speed; Cuts; Receiving	Clinton Portis-Tiki Barber---Thomas Jones- X ---Michael Bennett

8	Jamaal Charles	85	5-11	200	Speed; Elusiveness	Marshall Faulk-- X -Domanick Davis--Byron Hanspard
9	Tashard Choice	88	5-10	215	Vision; Balance	Curtis Martin--Garrison Hearst--Terry Allen- X - Chester Taylor
10	Cory Boyd	88	6-1	217	Power; Balance	Corey Dillon-Robert Edwards--- X /James Stewart--Raymont Harris
11	Darren McFadden	79	6-1	211	Speed; Acceleration	Ahman Green--Robert Smith-- X /Tatum Bell-
12	Chris Johnson	82	5-11	197	Speed; Acceleration	Charlie Garner--Reggie Bush--- X ---Leeland McElroy
13	Jalen Parmele	86	6-0	221	Power; Vision;	Stephen Davis--Rudi Johnson--- X -Antowain Smith—Correll Buckhalter
14	Dontrell Savage	89	5-8	187	Vision; Receiving; Balance	Thurman Thomas--Warrick Dunn-- X --Napoleon Kaufman
15	Kregg Lumpkin	87	5-11	226	Power; Vision; Balance	Jamal Lewis--Deuce McAllister--- X ---Marcel Shipp
16	Thomas Brown	80	5-8	204	Burst; Balance; Elusiveness	Priest Holmes-Brian Westbrook-- X -Dominic Rhodes
17	Jehuu Caulcrick	87	6-0	254	Power; Balance; Footwork	Jerome Bettis---Brandon Jacobs--Najeh Davenport- X -T.J. Duckett
18	Ryan Torain	86	6-0	222	Power; Balance; Lateral Cuts	Corey Dillon-Robert Edwards---Cory Boyd/James Stewart-- X /Raymont Harris
19	Rafael Little	86	5-8	195	Receiving; Elusiveness; Balance	Kevin Faulk-- X -Amp Lee---Terrell Fletcher
20	Steve Slaton	84	5-9	197	Speed; Elusiveness	Charlie Garner--Reggie Bush---Chris Johnson- X - Leeland McElroy

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Albert Young

Date: 9/16/2006

Opponent: Iowa State

Overall Strengths:

Young should contribute at the NFL level, but how much is dependent on his ability to break tackles as a pro. He is undersized, but has enough body weight and leverage to be effective between the tackles in offenses that emphasize the short passing game. He catches the ball well and has very quick moves in the open field. His balance and short-area quickness are the strengths of his running style. He can make players miss and is able to avoid receiving the full impact of hits and maintain balance for extra yardage. This is a tough, high-effort player that can make a difference for an NFL team at least as third down back.

Overall Weaknesses:

The average-sized college linebacker can bring Young down rather easily. He doesn't generate a lot of power behind his pads. There may be a significant disparity between his listed size and actual size. If so, teams may downplay his potential as an inside runner on the pro level. They will also question his pass blocking skills because he's used more often as a receiver at Iowa and pro evaluators will wonder if Young can handle the larger pass rushers in the NFL. He lies along the spectrum of Kevin Faulk and Brian Westbrook in terms of his skill sets, but I believe if his career comes anywhere near that of Kevin Faulk's, it will be an achievement.

Power:

Young ran well behind his pads on his first attempt of the game--a run up the middle where he kept his body lean forward and head low. He drove his legs and got three extra yards and the first down after the initial hit. He's listed as 5-10, but more likely 5-7 or 5-8. He does have powerful legs and runs with good balance. Good second effort on the 2nd and 1 from inside the five to get low and keep his legs moving for the first down to open the 4th QTR. His power is best used when behind blockers and pushing a pile. If he's grabbed by the waist or upper body, he can be thrown down by a linebacker on a consistent basis.

Ball Handling:

Young carried the ball under a different arm on consecutive attempts during the first drive. Despite this fact, he carried the ball with his right arm on both receptions although he was running along the left sideline.

Etusiveness:

Young made a very nice, subtle cutback at full speed on a run up the middle that helped him gain 7 yards on a first down run. He has good stutter step moves and runs with both a good upper and lower body wiggle. Although the play was called back on a penalty, Young took a broken play for score because of his short area quickness. The center snapped the ball away from the QB and it fell to the ground. Young picked it up, made a jump cut right, then left, then back to the right, and outran the defense for a 20-yard score.

Balance:

Young fell twice on runs during the first drive after he attempted to plant and cut near the line of scrimmage. He showed excellent balance on his first pass reception--a screen pass on 2nd and 4 with 4:53 left in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball, turned upfield to see an LB charging him, and ducked under the LB's tackle to the extent that the LB got his shoulder pads and spun Young towards the sideline. But Young bent his knees, and slipped the attempt before turning upfield and gaining another 10 yards after the hit. The LB that missed him led the nation in tackles per game at that time. He's very good at spinning away from the full impact of a hit.

Speed:

Young has the burst, speed, and short area quickness to gain yardage. His short area quickness might be his best trait as a runner, but his long speed (20-40 yard range) is not considered great by NFL standards.

Blocking:

Young is used as a receiver out of the backfield on nearly every passing attempt when on the field so I did not see him block in pass protection.

Vision:

Young did a great job exploiting an opening midway through the hole on a 1st and 10 run with 5:30 left in the 1st QTR. This opening helped him gain another 4 yards on what might have ended up a 3-yard run without spotting it.

Receiving:

Young got a first down on a screen pass with 4:54 left in the 1st QTR after catching the ball with his hands--facing the QB--then turning upfield for the first down. Young caught a flat route in the slot and turned the corner for a first down. His third reception was a screen that was blown up in the backfield. He went in motion and caught a route in the flat, but didn't run the route deep enough to get the first down. When he caught the pass, the defender immediately brought Young down shy of the first down marker. Young was targeted on a 3rd and 2 route, but he broke the wrong way on the route with 10:30 left in the game.

Durability:

Young is a tough runner who plays hard and shows he can take punishment. Whether NFL teams believe he'll be able to do the same as a pro, especially if he doesn't live up to his listed size, is a key question.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Albert Young

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: Illinois

Overall Strengths:

Young runs with good leverage, body lean, and finishes his runs aggressively. He demonstrated the ability to press the hole and find the cutback lanes. He has quick stop-start moves to change direction and a decent burst through the hole. He runs with good balance. Young is an underrated runner in this draft with the ability to be a solid contributor and sometime starter for an NFL squad. He should be capable of being a productive RB at the next level even if he never develops into a prized starter over the long term. He's a smart, high-effort player who I could see developing into a Kevin Faulk or Maurice Morris-like contributor if he can get a real chance to make a team in training camp.

Overall Weaknesses:

I'd be surprised if Young's height is more than 5-8. While I don't see this as a weakness, it will likely impact his draft status in a class filled with promising runners. He does not hit the hole with as much conviction when the lanes close quickly after spotting the cutback (unless it is a situational short yardage run). He needs to learn to commit to his decisions at the LOS and hit the lane hard. If he can make it a practice to gain what the defense gives him in normal down and distance situations, he has the other skills to be a talented option at least as a situational back. He needs to refine his pass blocking. He had an injury-plagued career and will not be as highly rated as lesser skilled backs so it might be an uphill battle for him to get a chance with a squad early in his career.

Power:

On 2nd and 8 with 14:21 in the 1st QTR, Young took the ball out of the I-formation and decisively hit a hole off LG, running through the LB's ankle tackle in the hole and then plowing into the safety 5-yards downfield before leaning forward for a 7-yard gain. Good job getting very low by bending at his torso against the safety who hit him as he cleared the 1st down marker on 3rd and 2 with 13:41 in the 1st QTR. He was able to force the safety to hit him in the back and this allowed Young to carry the DB for another 3 yards by continuing to drive his legs and extend his upper body forward for a gain of 5 yards. He did a good job getting low in the hole for a 1st down on a 2nd and 3 run for 5 yards with 3:40 in the 1st QTR. He ran through a safety's hit to his right side on a 1st and 10 run with 3:22 in the 1st QTR by using a good stiff arm. On his 13-yard gain on the next play he got through the hole and lowered his head to meet both safeties head on as he finished running through the OLB's ankle tackle. He knocked down both safeties upon the collision--one with his helmet and the other with his knee and fell forward another 4 yards on the play. He broke a tackle by spinning off a hit behind the LOS with 11:55 in the half, but was brought down for a 1-yard loss. He runs with good leverage and his burst helps him carry tacklers for extra yards when he combines his body lean with his speed. He showed good leg drive on his 1st two runs with less than 5:00 in the game for positive gains against 8-men in the box. This is a back who understands how to use leverage and angles to maximize the power in his frame. He's not a big runner, but he can be effective versus contact.

Ball Handling:

He did a nice job with each of his runs during the opening drive to keep the ball in his left arm, which was the sideline arm in this series. On his 3rd reception of the same series, he caught the ball in the right flat and had the ball in his right arm, closest to the sideline. Good job covering up the ball with both hands in the hole.

Evasiveness:

Young tried to make the safety miss with a stutter move in the left flat on his second reception, but he was brought down by the ankle before he could reach the 1st down marker--a 9-yard gain with 13:13 in the 1st QTR. On his next reception with 12:00 in the 1st QTR, he made a good stop-start move to freeze the DB then angled his body to throw aside the DB before running another 6 yards downfield for a gain of 5. Very quick spin move after he cut off the FB into the hole--he spun towards the inside and away from the OLB to gain an extra two yards. Good stop-start move on a sweep to the right end with 8:47 in the 3rd QTR. He made the DB miss and gained 2 yards off the missed tackle for a total of a 4-yard gain. He made a good stop-start change of direction at the LOS on a 2nd and 2 for a 4-yard gain and a 1st down. This may be Young's strength as a runner because of the versatility of his movement.

Balance:

Young has solid balance and a powerful frame for a shorter back. He threw a safety aside on a one on one opportunity in the flat with 12:00 in the 1st QTR. His ability to plant his feet, turn his shoulders and shove the DB aside was a good example of power and balance. Good job falling forward for another 4 yards after colliding head-on with two safeties with 3:14 in the 1st QTR. When running north-south, Young could gain yardage after contact and shed hits. He didn't appear to possess that special ability to maintain his balance when hit from an indirect angle.

Speed:

Young displayed a decent burst on his first run of the game with 14:21 in the 1st QTR. When he went off LG, the MLB had a clean shot at Young in the hole, but misjudged Young's burst and could only latch onto the RB's ankle momentarily. Young displayed an adequate burst once again in the 1st QTR with 3:25 left against 9 men in the box on a 1st down run to the left corner. The blocking on the left side of the line was good enough to drive the Illini defense 2-4 yards off the LOS by the time Young was 1 yard behind the line with the ball in his hands. He outran the backside pursuit and gained 6 yards on the play. At the same time, the Illini defense looked a bit slow. He made a strong cut to the backside of blocking and burst through the hole, carrying a tackler on his back for 4 yards after gaining 3 untouched on a 1st and 10 with 1:48 in the 3rd QTR. His speed is adequate, but it's not special for an NFL prospect. Because he is decisive and compact with his style, he appears to have a good burst.

Blocking:

He commits a bit too early when blocking off the edge. He'll hop to his spot and plant his feet to take on a player with his same speed/quickness or better. He nearly lost the safety coming off the edge on a 3rd down pass play at the end of the 1st QTR. He did get to push the safety into the line, but not too effectively. He cheated up on a chop to the edge rusher, but the OLB used his hand to knock Young onto his butt--again, he planted his feet and committed too early with his stance. He did an adequate job picking up the CB blitz on 2nd and 6 with 8:19 in the 3rd QTR. At the same time, the DB nearly pushed Young back into the QB. The combination of his size and difficulty timing his attack makes him a minor liability as a blocker. He could improve his timing to become an adequate pass protector in the pros, but his size and hands make him a more appealing option in the flat or over the middle.

Vision:

Young did well to press the hole on a 3rd and 2 against 9-men in the box to stop the run with 13:41 in the 1st QTR. He saw the hole opening up near the LG, but ran a few steps toward the center before planting and cutting through the hole. Excellent job pressing the hole on a FB-led, run off guard on 2nd and 6 with 11:24 in the 1st QTR. He stayed on the FB's outside hip as the FB engaged with the MLB, then cut to his outside hip a yard behind the LOS for a gain of 4 yards. He pressed the hole very well on 3rd and 2 against a 5-man DL by veering towards the right corner before cutting back to the inside where the linemen were getting a push. He gained nearly 5 yards on the play. Another good job of pressing the hole with 3:21 in the 1st QTR on a 2nd and 3 situation against 8-men in the box. He followed the line slanting right then cut off the RG through a nice-sized hole for a 13-yard gain--4 of which he made after contact. He had 50 yards on 8 first QTR carries. Young danced at the LOS with hesitancy when he couldn't find a cutback lane with 11:55 in the half and lost a yard. It wouldn't have been likely he could have gained more than a yard if he just plowed into the line, but it was still the decision he needed to make that he did not. He made the same error on a 1st and 10 with 10:04 in the half when the line slanted right and he cut back to the middle, but when he didn't see a big hole he hesitated rather than hit the hole hard. He failed to press the hole on a 1st and 10 with 8:18 in the half. The line was slanting to the left and he immediately sought the cutback upon receiving the ball rather than pressing the hole to the left and cutting back. He only gained 2 yards. Good stutter move to set up a block by his RT on the 2nd level defender so he could get up the middle for an 8-yard gain. There's a lot I like about his vision, because he consistently presses the hole, but he struggles when the cutback isn't there. If he can be more decisive with plan B when plan A is defended, then he has a chance to become a very effective runner in the pros because he won't hurt his offense on plays that don't run as designed.

Receiving:

On Iowa's first offensive play of the game, Young lined up in the slot and ran a short slant across the middle of the field. The ball was delivered on target and Young caught the ball as the LB in coverage hit him in the back. Young held onto the football for a 7-yard gain. Young runs sharp routes for a receiver. He took a fake up the middle and sold to the LB's the idea he was going to help block, before making a strong break to the outside at the LOS on 1st and 10 with 13:17 in the 1st QTR. He allows the ball to get to his body despite demonstrating good hand placement to make chest high catches. He gained 9 yards on this reception. Young caught his third pass of the series with his hands on a swing pass to the right flat on 1st and 10 with 12:05 left. He did a good job gaining 5-yards on the play. Excellent job catching a swing pass to the right side with his hands and running upfield for a 6-yard gain. He has all the tools to be a very good receiver--he just needs to refine the practice of using his hands more consistently.

Durability:

Broke his leg his first season and redshirted. He tore his ACL in 2004 after two games. Yet despite being banged up for much of 2005, he led the Big Ten in rushing. His durability will be a major issue for teams, especially the ACL tear. Since he's not a big-time prospect the ACL tear will likely make him a player who may not even be drafted at all.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Allen Patrick

Date: 12/1/2007

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths:

Patrick has enough size, strength, and vision to carry the load behind a good offensive line. He will read the play correctly and hit the hole hard for significant gains past the line of scrimmage. He has some change of direction skills that will get him past the first and second level of the defense on a well-blocked play. He has enough balance to bounce off the traffic in a hole or one on one against an LB or DB's clanging blows.

Overall Weaknesses:

His score is higher than my overall impression of him because there were some skillsets I did not see in this game to evaluate. The things that concern me include his lack of strong lateral movement, top-end speed, and general pad level when he encounters contact. Patrick is a good athlete and capable college runner, but if Tashard Choice could have guessed that Adrian Peterson was going to leave a year early and decided to hang around OU, we wouldn't see much of Patrick as a runner because he lacks the top end ability any every skill set to be considered a future NFL starter. He is good enough to play special teams and see some spot time in a backfield if he makes a roster.

Power:

When he headed downfield off LG with 9:40 in the half, he broke two tackles and moved the pile for an 8-yard gain. He was hit by an LB and dragged the defender a half yard before running out of the tackle. Good job staying low to squeeze ahead for 6 yards with 4:27 in the half. Patrick used a stiff arm at the 20-yard mark of his 40-yard run to knock the CB off balance to get the right sideline.

Ball Handling:

He tends to carry the ball under his right arm even if running towards the left side of the formation. Patrick nearly lost the ball on a toss play with 5:30 in the half, but he was able to put it up to his arms as he entered the hole. He covered the ball with both arms on a 5-yard gain with 13:45 in the 3rd QTR. He did a good job carrying the ball with his left arm on the 4-yard score off the left corner, so he demonstrated the ability to use either arm but didn't always do it.

Eisiveness:

The only way Patrick could have gained yardage on his first run designed to go off guard would have been to make a jump cut to the right end and bounce it outside. The RB lacks this kind of lateral movement to do it. His balance becomes a liability when he has to change direction. Patrick made a very small cut to take a handoff through LG for a 5-yard gain with 13:44 in the 3rd QTR. Patrick made a very subtle cut at top speed to dip away from the OLB coming from the right at the 11-yard mark of his 40-yard run. This allowed him to get to the right sideline and gain another 29 yards on the play.

Balance:

He tends to lose balance when he has to make a full speed change of direction. He was greeted with a hit square to the chest on a 1st and 10 with 5:07 in the half that knocked him backwards on the play. On the next play ran a toss to the right and was hit from the side and at the left thigh in the hole and bounced off both hits to get another 4 yards on the play with 4:27 in the half. He's a strong enough runner that he can bounce off some hits, but he's not going to consistently win a clash with an LB or good run-supporting safety when he lowers his shoulder against a square hit.

Speed:

Good acceleration through the gap off RG on a toss play. He got 10 yards untouched for a total of 11. He had pretty good acceleration on a 40-yard run where he hit the huge gap off LG and C and outran the angle of the LB coming from the left side as he veered toward the right. Patrick's 40-yard run was a very good indication of what he can and can't do in comparison to other backs in this class. He after he made the small lateral move to the right that faked out the safety coming over the top from the left, Patrick did not have the second gear to take the run to the endzone after stiff arming the DB to get to the sideline. In fact, the safety who Patrick faked out on the cut was able to run across the field and bring down Patrick at the 5-yard line. There are probably 6-8 backs in this class who are fast enough to prevent the safety from generating such a good angle to them on this type of run because of their top-end speed. Patrick scored on a run around left corner with 4:05 in the 3rd QTR. It was an extremely well-blocked play and the TE eliminated the LB with the best angle to the RB well-before Patrick had to demonstrate any serious burst to take the corner. His speed is good enough to be a depth chart player, but he doesn't have what one wants from a desired starter.

Blocking:

I did not see him block in this game.

Vision:

Patrick had no chance on his second run to the left corner with 8:20 in the 1st QTR. Three defenders (2 DL's) had penetration 3 yards into the backfield on the play. Patrick got an easy 10 yards off a huge hole generated between LG and C with 5:52 in the 3rd QTR that he turned into a 40-yard gain. He's the type of back whose performance is a little more dependent on the performance of his line than players with top-notch vision.

Receiving:

Patrick's only reception came with 13:14 in the 1st QTR. He caught the swing pass to the left side with his hands, but the DB's got free of their blocks and tackled him in the backfield just as he turned upfield. The next target (on the next play) was thrown behind him on an in-route.

Durability:

He missed two games due to an ankle injury.

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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

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Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
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Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
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Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
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Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
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Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
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Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

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Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
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Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

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Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Allen Patrick

Date: 1/2/2008

Opponent: West Virginia

Overall Strengths:

Patrick has good patience with his blocks and will exploit small creases for decent gains. This is a promising aspect of his game as an inside runner. He also has a good burst and the ability to time it in the hole to get past the first and second level of a defense. He runs hard and isn't afraid of contact. He will lower his head into a defender or ride the backs of his linemen to maximize the yardage available to him. He can also catch the football with his hands and demonstrates very good downhill instincts as a kick return specialist. If has a chance to make an NFL roster because of his special teams skills and adequate talents as a depth chart runner.

Overall Weaknesses:

Patrick needs a lot of work as a blocker. Although his patience with blocks is good and his vision to see the holes across the formation is noticeably good, he lacks the great lateral movement to cut across the formation to exploit the hole. Patrick lacks elite speed and his power and balance are average. He doesn't run out of many arm tackles or hits. He consistently doesn't switch the football to the sideline arm.

Power:

Patrick got stopped on a 3rd and 1 while following a pulling guard. He tried to leap over the pile, but he timed his leap a bit late and the MLB grabbed Patrick's legs as he was lifting off and stopped him a hard short of the first down, but the referees gave him a favorable spot for the first down. He does not generate a good pad level when taking on contact.

Ball Handling:

Patrick had a chance to switch the ball into his sideline arm on the 73-yard kick return but did not do so. Good job switching the ball to his sideline arm on a 1st and 10 run for 11 yards as he got into the alley headed to the left flat. He is inconsistent with his ball protection techniques in terms of using the correct arm. His overall technique is adequate, although it could be improved with the elbow closer to the body.

Elasticity:

His first run was designed to slant to the right side, but the RDT got good penetration into the backfield. Patrick made a very quick stop-start cut to the inside of the RDT who was already 3 yards into the backfield. This allowed Patrick to gain 5 yards on the play. He's more of a one-cut, downhill runner. On the second run he followed his pulling linemen to the right side and as he got on the pulling guard's hip there was a bigger cutback lane to the left. He could have had a shot to cut the run back to the middle for a bigger gain, instead he plowed into the linemen for a respectable 4-yard gain. Patrick makes pretty quick cuts in the hole.

Balance:

He'll bounced off glancing blows has someone is running towards him, but doesn't fare well against a solid, square hit.

Speed:

Patrick demonstrated good speed and a burst out of a cut in the backfield to go off guard for a 5-yard gain. He couldn't outrun the final man on his 73-yard kick return, but much of this had to do with the location of this defender, the defender's great speed (John Holmes), and the fact Patrick had to stop early in the return and then bounce the run outside. Patrick got to the sideline on his 38-yard gain with 12:23 in the 3rd QTR about 10-yards past the LOS. The DB had an angle on Patrick at this point--running alongside the RB, but a yard of horizontal distance separating them. Patrick could not outrun the angle and had to try to cut back unsuccessfully to avoid the tackle.

Blocking:

Patrick was also on the kick return team. On the opening kick, he was the lead blocker for the returner and made a strong hit on one of the first defenders coming downfield. Patrick barely got a shoulder on the blitzing LB on 2nd and 4 with 12:11 in the 1st QTR and though he was able to alter the direction of the LB, the defender still got a hand on the QB's passing arm and caused a fumble. Patrick was late on this block and missed the angle and that's why the forced fumble occurred. Patrick tried to cutblock the LB coming off the right edge on a blitz with 8:14 in the 1st QTR, but he went too low from an indirect angle and the LB recovered quickly and got into the QB's face to block the pass. He lowered his shoulder into the LB's knee rather than his upper thigh/high region. Patrick got a block on an LB off the left edge on 3rd and 6 with 7:50 in the half, but the LB ran over Patrick after the RB sustained it for a little more than a 1 count. He needs to work on his footwork, anticipation, and leverage. He barely gave his QB enough time with 7:55 in the 3rd QTR. The LB came off the front side and nearly went around Patrick in time to hit the QB as he was throwing.

Vision:

His first run was designed to slant to the right side, but the RDT got good penetration into the backfield and Patrick made a very quick cut to the inside of the RDT who was already 3 yards into the backfield. This allowed Patrick to gain 5 yards on the play. Excellent job reading the line as he was receiving the ball. Patrick might have noticed the DT plying squeeze technique on the outside shoulder of the G on his second run, but did not choose to cut off the G's left hip where there was a bigger alley. Patrick returned a kickoff 73 yards with 5:30 in the 1st QTR. He took the shallow kick that bounced a few times to him and split the first two defenders and found himself bumping this blocker ahead of him. He quickly saw the left sideline open and burst to the outside and down the sideline for most of the yardage. Good patience at the opening of the 2nd QTR to wait of a hole to open on a slant block scheme to the right and then burst between the crease for a gain of 4 yards prior to the holding call. He only gained two yards on the next play, but did a good job finding the hole off the right side then properly reading the LB shooting the gap and attempt a cut to the inside of the defender, but he could not completely avoid him and was brought down after those 2 yards. Patrick split a very small crease on an inside handoff out of the spread on 1st and 10 with 9:51 in the half. He gained 11 yards on the play. This was a very good example of patience to vary his step size in a small space, but at a good speed and timing his burst as he made it into the hole. Although he is patient with blocks and small openings, he doesn't always see the openings on the periphery. He took a 1st and 10 handoff with 9:23 in the half and the WVU line got penetration 3 yards into the backfield on the RT and the LG. Patrick could have bounced the run off the RT and had a chance to break a long run with the WR about to block down on the DB at the sideline. Patrick would have at least gotten 3-4 yards. Instead, Patrick went up the middle for a yard, at most. He made another questionable choice where had a chance to bounce it to the left edge, but only gained 3 yards up the middle. On 1st and 15 with 12:26 in the 3rd QTR, Patrick took the ball with the o-line slanting to the left. He took a step towards the backside, but saw the LB free on the corner so he bounced it to the left side off LT and hit the sideline about 10 yards downfield for a 38-yard gain.

Receiving:

Patrick's first target was a screen to the right flat, but the ball was overthrown. He made a very good catch on a pass to the right flat on an inside release. He turned his upper body to face the QB and caught the ball with his hands extended from his body at helmet level. As he turned around, he could only try to make a jump cut to avoid the WVU defender in his face and was planted for a 3-yard loss.

Durability:

He missed two games with an ankle sprain.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: Alley Broussard **School:** LSU **Opponent:** Arkansas **Surface:** Grass
Height: 6-0 **Year:** Junior **Score:** 31-26 **Climate:** Sunshine
Weight: 250 **Date:** 11/24/2006 **Location:** Arkansas **Temperature:** Temperate

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

12

73

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

9

N/A

Yes

Yes

15

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

8

Yes

Yes

No

11

Yes

Yes

N/A

5

Yes

No

No

Yes

No

5

N/A

N/A

N/A

7

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

No

N/A

1

No

No

N/A

No

Game Stats

Attempts:

8

Rush Yds:

37

1st Downs:

2

Rush Tds:

0

Target:

0

Rec:

0

Rec Yds:

0

Rec Tds:

0

Fumbles:

1

Broken Tackles:

1

BLKs Assigned:

0

BLKs Made:

0

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Alley Broussard

Date: 11/24/2006

Opponent: Arkansas

Overall Strengths:

At one time, Broussard was ahead of Joseph Addai on the LSU depth chart. He was a considered a power runner with good speed and hands, but tore his ACL in 2005 and battled weight problems. His 2006 comeback from injury was a difficult one and he transferred to Missouri Southwest State after quitting the LSU team in the summer of 2007. He did demonstrate some of that prior excellence as a senior. If he can return to his sophomore form, he has a chance to develop into a much better producer as a pro. He fights hard for yardage and his balance and yards after contact skills are strong.

Overall Weaknesses:

Can he regain enough speed after his ACL tear? He was never a very elusive back. Although reputed to have good hands, he wasn't used in the passing game. This evaluation only encompassed a small number of carries so the jury is out on him. If he can stay healthy, focused, and make a team's depth chart, it's quite possible Broussard could be a late round or un-drafted surprise in the pros.

Power:

Broussard has the kind of power and burst that makes him difficult to bring down when his shoulders are square--especially whend he has a few steps into the hole. He will bounce and spin off tacklers when finishing a run. He will aggressively initiate contact with the defense. He puts his head down and drives into the defense. On 3rd and 1 with 2:57 left in the 3rd QTR, Broussard pushed the pile about 5 yards past the first down marker, but he fumbled the ball away. He does a fine job keeping his legs moving when wrapped up.

Ball Handling:

He carries the ball with either hand. On consecutive runs, he had the ball under a different arm depending on the direction of the run. He fumbled away the 3rd and 1 conversion with 2:57 left in the 3rd QTR, despite having both hands around the ball. Three Arkansas defensive players worked together to rip the ball out his hands as the RB fought for extra yards.

Eisiveness:

Broussard will try to run over you rather than around you.

Balance:

Good balance when running straight ahead. He can bounce off glancing blows and win in collisions with LBs and DBs more times than many of his peers.

Speed:

Broussard has a nice burst when he's running downhill. He hits the hold very hard and is not worried about initiating contact but he does not have the the kind of speed to get to the outside on a consistent basis or break away from the second and third level of a defense.

Blocking:

Vision:

He does have the patience to pick through traffic.

Receiving:

Durability:

Missed 2005 with an ACL tear. He also had weight issues to start the year. He is often listed at 235 pounds, but has gone as high as 250 pounds.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: Amir Pinnix **School:** Minnesota **Opponent:** Wisconsin **Surface:** Astro Turf
Height: 6-0 **Year:** Junior **Score:** 12-48 **Climate:** Suhshine
Weight: 205 **Date:** 10/14/2006 **Location:** Wisconsin **Temperature:** Temperate

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

70

4

Yes

No

No

Yes

No

8

N/A

No

Yes

8

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

N/A

7

Yes

No

No

10

Yes

Yes

No

12

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

No

4

Yes

Yes

No

7

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

No

N/A

10

Yes

N/A

N/A

N/A

Game Stats

Attempts:

19

Rush Yds:

97

1st Downs:

3

Rush Tds:

1

Target:

0

Rec:

0

Rec Yds:

0

Rec Tds:

0

Fumbles:

0

Broken Tackles:

2

BLKs Assigned:

5

BLKs Made:

4

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Amir Pinnix

Date: 10/14/2006

Opponent: Wisconsin

Overall Strengths:

Pinnix shows a good burst and knows how to follow his blocks. He has good body lean and carries the ball in the correct arm depending on the direction of the run. He can make the first man miss when greeted behind the line of scrimmage. He is at his best as a downhill runner.

Overall Weaknesses:

Pinnix had 77 yards rushing in the first quarter of this game on 8 carries. The rest of the game? 11 carries for 20 yards. The defense figured out by the 2nd QTR that he is ineffective when forced to go east west and they did a very good job spilling his runs outside. Pinnix was 3rd on the depth chart to start the season. One of the runners was a former defensive player. He got his chance when the first two ahead of him got hurt. He has a good burst, but isn't confident in his long speed. He lacks great change of direction when running at full speed. His pass blocking needs a lot of improvement because he is not consistently aggressive at the point of attack. He did show he can be effective when he's concentrating, but he had two lapses. He was a non-factor in the passing game as a receiver. He has too many deficiencies to realistically expect him to develop into an NFL contributor at the RB position.

Power:

Pinnix got the first down on his second run. It was the same play call as the first run--off guard with a pulling guard leading the way--but this time to the right side. Wisconsin anticipated run and stacked the line, but Pinnix demonstrated good leg drive and determination to get the first down. Pinnix chose lower his shoulders and take on the safety at the end of a 15-yard run with 13:00.

Ball Handling:

Pinnix fumbled the ball on his 3rd run of the game. He cut back to the left and was struggling to free his leg from the grasp of a defender when a DT in pursuit punched the ball out. Pinnix had the ball in the outside arm, but the force of the blow from the inside and the DT's outside arm hitting the ball as he wrapped up Pinnix jarred the ball loose and the CB picked the ball off the ground on the run for the score. He does a good job of keeping the ball in his outside arm.

Elusiveness:

Pinnix demonstrated the ability to make a sudden, sharp cut and come out of it with a burst on his 4th run of the game with 13:00 in the 1st QTR. He outran 4 Wisconsin defenders through the hole and was brought down after 15 yards. It was a good idea to cut across field, although I think he would have split the safeties if he were confident in his speed. But he couldn't execute the cutback because he outran his lead block and then got caught in his legs when trying to cutback. He did show he could make the first man miss in the backfield. He made a good stop and start move on the penetrating DT on a run off guard to the right with end around play action. He lost yardage, but he did keep the play from getting completely blown up.

Balance:

He showed good balance on two long runs on the same drive. The first coming out of the hole on a toss sweep with 5:00 in the 1st QTR when he ran through an ankle tackle to gain another 15 yards. The second run was a burst through the line with 4:33 in the 1st QTR and staying upright when the LB hit his leg from the right side. Pinnix got another 10 yards before trying to cut behind his downfield block, but tripped over the blocker's leg.

Speed:

Pinnix illustrated a good burst out of his cut with 13:00 in the first quarter. He was brought down by the safety waiting over top. He was caught from behind on a 1st and 10 run with 11:43 in the opening quarter when trying to bounce the run to the left corner--the OLB came through unblocked in the hole the run was supposed to go so Pinnix had to improvise and lost yardage.

Blocking:

Pinnix was assigned to block the right side of the pocket and he set up to take on the edge rusher, but the Wisconsin defense planned a blitz overload with the ILB coming on a delayed blitz on the same side--a well-designed play. Pinnix picked up the first defender, which was the only real choice, but he let the man come to him and did not aggressively try to deliver a blow. The defender was able to knock Pinnix off his feet with ease because it was a passive block. Pinnix completely missed his assignment on a 2nd down pass play in the 1st QTR. There were two men coming free and he dove between both of them. He made a better effort on the next play with 3:19 in the 1st. He put a decent hit on the edge rusher coming off the blindside. Not a huge pop, but better than his first effort early in the quarter. A much better job with a cut block on the blitzing LB on 3rd and 8 with 8:54 in the 3rd QTR. He's capable, but inconsistent.

Vision:

His first run was a simple play following the pulling G off the gap between LG and C. He gained 7 yards on the play and was brought down with a tackle to the legs, leaning forward to maximize yardage as he was brought down. Pinnix's 3rd straight run on the first drive had the line slant to the right so he could press the hole and cut back to the left. He made his cut a bit early, but got four yards before fumbling the football. On the play after the fumble, Pinnix took a handoff in a 3-WR set and pressed the hole to the left side as the RG and C pulled. When they got a hat on someone Pinnix made a strong cutback upfield for a gain of 15. Pinnix worked well with his blockers on a toss sweep to the right side for a 27-yard gain. He timed his burst so he could turn on the speed at the corner and burst upfield. Pinnix didn't show patience in the open field on his 22-yard run when he got into the secondary. He probably could have split the safeties, but he tried to cut the play back and tripped over his teammate. By the 2nd QTR, the Gophers were down by 18 and the defense figured out that if they spilled Pinnix to the outside, he was easier to tackle going east-west.

Receiving:

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Andre Callender

Date: 10/25/2007

Opponent: Virginia Tech

Overall Strengths:

Callender has good vision and decent power. He's a savvy all-around player as a receiver, inside runner, and pass protector. He catches the ball very well and knows how to work with a quarterback to get open. He is a tough runner between the tackles and will aggressively hit a defender before the defender hits him. He presses the hole effectively to exploit holes as well as make the most of small creases when a hole isn't there.

Overall Weaknesses:

He has a burst, but he's not a gamebreaker. He lacks elite lateral movement or elusiveness. He's a straight ahead runner without a lot of potential to grow into a starter at the next level. He could become a handy situational player in an offensive system, but this means 5-6 attempts in a game on a regular basis if he grows into this role. Overall, he's maxed out his skills and doesn't have as much growth potential as several other backs in this draft class.

Power:

Callender was very aggressive on his first run of the game. He got the ball out of the spread formation with 13:19 in the 1st QTR and followed the TE who was in motion before the snap into the line. He did not see a big hole so he attacked a small crease, lowering his shoulder into the DE and pushing the defender backwards for 4 yards. Good leverage and aggressive running. There wasn't much of a hole on his second carry from the I-formation. The offensive line was running a slant to the left and he drifted off his FB to the right end when he saw a crease. He continued to drive his legs when was hit 2 yards past the LOS, but was dropped for nothing more. He had a defender grab both of his legs on a run off LG in the 1st QTR and the RB dragged the defender two yards.

Ball Handling:

He did not switch the football to the sideline arm after catching the football in the flat with 13:00 in the 3rd QTR.

Elusiveness:

Callender is a one-cut runner. On 5:46 in the 1st QTR on a 2nd and 5 he pressed the hole to the right and saw the best opportunity was either to cut to the left of the C or make two cutbacks and try to get around the backside corner. A back with elite lateral movement could have bounced this play to the outside for a big gain. Callender was able to gain a yard by cutting the the left of the C and bulling forward. Callender was 1-on-1 with a DB in the flat and tried to make a stop-start move, but was brought down easily.

Balance:

He's a shifty runner who can bounce off glancing blows that he can see coming, but isn't effective against hard hits or blows from an indirect angle.

Speed:

He really didn't appear to have much of a burst. On 2-3 of his runs he was hit at the LOS despite a hole big enough for him to burst through. His longest run was a 12-yard scamper up the middle off a draw play that surprised the defense. He did not look very quick on this play, either.

Blocking:

Callender tried to cutblock the DE that he lowered his shoulder into on the play before on the opening drive of the 1st QTR, but the DE leaped over the RB, deflected the QB's pass, and knocked the QB to the ground. He did a better job chipping players in the 4th QTR when he was called upon to be more of a pass protector.

Vision:

Callender was very aggressive on his first run of the game. He got the ball out of the spread formation with 13:19 in the 1st QTR and followed the TE, who was in motion before the snap, into the line. He did not see a big hole so he attacked a small crease, lowering his shoulder into the DE and pushing the defender backwards for 4 yards. Good leverage and aggressive running. There wasn't much of a hole on his second carry from the I-formation. The offensive line was running a slant to the left and he drifted off his FB to the right end when he saw a crease. He continued to drive his legs when was hit 2 yards past the LOS, but was dropped for nothing more. Good vision on a 2nd and 10 run for 8 yards. He took the handoff out of the I-formation as the line was slanting to the right. He pressed the hole opening to the left and cut back to the the hole, bending through a second crease in the hole to get 6 yards before he dragged the tackler for another two.

Receiving:

Callender's frist catch was a for 3 yards, a throw to the right flat on 3rd and 4. He caught the ball close to his body rather than with his hands. The QB tried to hit the RB on a delayed release to the left flat on 2nd and 10 with 3:01 in the 1st QTR, but the lineman fell down and the RB had to dive over his teammate to attempt to get the ball. They tried to run a screen to the Callender with 2:23 in the half, but the Va. Tech defense anticipated the play and Ryan was forced to throw the ball at the feet of the RB to end the play. Callender caught a swing pass in the flat with his back to the LOS and using his hands first. He only gained a few yards on the play. The RB caught a pass with his hands extended back towards the QB while running towards the sideline after releasing to the flat. Good catch for 4 yards. On the next play, he caught a screen pass to the left flat for 2 yards. Callender slipped out of the backfield and caught the winning score with :11 in the game in the back of the endzone, cradling the ball to his chest while facing the LOS.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: BenJarvus Green-Ellis

Date: 9/30/2007

Opponent: Georgia

Overall Strengths:

Runners were only averaging 2.4 yards per carry against this defense at the time Green-Ellis faced them. The RB does a good job gaining positive yardage. He follows blocks well and has an adequate burst in space. He keeps his legs driving in the pile and runs with a good body lean. He makes the effort as a blocker, but if he's executing a block on his feet, he's more of a shielding blocker rather than a hitter. Green has the measurements to attract NFL personnel people, but his style of play won't allow him to advance up a depth chart for any length of time unless he plays with more aggression and develops his blocking and receiving skills.

Overall Weaknesses:

His speed and explosiveness are not special. He did not play in a run scheme where cutbacks were the strategy so his vision for the cutback is a questionmark. He missed a few opportunities to cutback for bigger gains in this contest. He is not punishing when he makes contact with a defender. He has good lean, but doesn't aggressively make contact to run over defenders. He doesn't appear particularly elusive and he is unproven as a receiver. He needs to work on his blocking and not rely solely on the cutblock. He doesn't shy away from contact, but he doesn't initiate it when he has the opportunity. There are players who attack the defense and he isn't one of them. He's a player that will likely look like a promising late-round prospect in the second half of preseason games.

Power:

He makes good decisions in the hole. He doesn't try to bounce the play outside when at the line of scrimmage if he doesn't see anything available. He will push behind linemen and get extra yardage in traffic. Good body lean on a carry with 7:51 after he went between the RG and C and was hit in the leg. He kept moving forward for another 3 yards. Good body lean to push the CB 3 yards at the end of his 1st and 10 run from the 5 for a 12-yard gain. He doesn't punish players upon impact, but his pad level and leg drive are decent.

Ball Handling:

Good job carrying the ball under his outside arm on his second carry. On his 21-yard run in the 1st QTR, he did a good job putting his free hand over the ball as he tried to split defenders at the 40-yard line. He continued to demonstrate the consistent tendency to keep the ball under his sideline arm.

Elusiveness:

Green-Ellis dips or uses small steps to set up a change of direction, but he didn't use any plant and cut lateral moves. His most elusive moves were small lower body jukes and hesitations.

Balance:

Good balance in the hole. He keeps his legs driving and has no problem keeping his head down and running up the back of his linemen. He doesn't shed many tackles when hit one on one.

Speed:

On his second run with 14:05 in the 1st QTR, Green-Ellis faced a 5-man front out of the I-formation. He took a delay and spotted an opening to the right flat--excellent blocking at the line of scrimmage--and he had the burst to get outside and around the LB who had the best shot on him. Good speed as he changed direction from his position behind the center to around the corner for a 15-yard gain until he ran out of bounds. He once again showed decent acceleration around the corner on a 2nd and 12 for a 7-yard gain with 5:20 in the half.

Blocking:

Green made an aggressive attempt at a cut block with 7:30 in the opening QTR on a short pass to the left. He hit the edge rusher in the thigh with his shoulder and stopped the rusher's progress but could not knock him down. He made a nice chip block on the DT on a 3rd and goal QB keeper and got to the second level of the defense, but the QB was caught in the backfield by the edge rusher. He made a nice cut block to knock down the edge rusher on a 4th down passing play that feel incomplete with 5:49 in the 3rd QTR. The problem with Green's blocking is that he only attempts cut blocks. He showed poor timing on a cutblock on 3rd and 9 with :57 in the 3rd QTR by diving short of the edge rusher's feet on a quick pass. On a pass play out of the shotgun with 12:20 in the game, the RB just stood in front of the DE on the edge and did not make contact until the DE initiated it with him. The RB missed his cutblock on a blitz off the edge with 3:00 in the game.

Vision:

Green-Ellis' first run was off tackle. He decided to bounce it a bit more outside than where the pulling guard was heading and he got the first down with a 5-yard gain. The RB got great blocking on the first drive. On a 1st down at the 43, the RB took the ball from the I-formation and followed his pulling guard to the left and both the tackle and WR had blocks in the second and third level of the defense as he passed the line of scrimmage. The RB simply followed those blocks, staying a course to the outside of each block and then cut inside a 3rd block 10 yards downfield where he was brought down at the 36 for 21-yard gain. He could have gained another 10-20 yards if he remained outside the 3rd block and hit the sideline. A nice demonstration of patience with 9:01 in the 1st by following his pulling G to the right side and staying near the o-linemen's hip before spotting the opening and making a quick dip inside and bursting forward for a 7-yard gain. With 14:37 in the 2nd QTR, he took an I-formation handoff at his 5-yard line and followed the blocks off tackle to the right corner with good patience. He did not spot a big cutback opportunity on the right side of the formation with 1:44 in the 3rd QTR. This was one of those plays a runner with excellent vision often feels the soft spot and exploits it.

Receiving:

After having 14 receptions as a freshman, Green-Ellis had a total of 10 receptions as a junior and senior combined. He only had 2 catches as a senior. He is fairly unproven in the passing game.

Durability:

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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
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Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Brandon McAnderson

Date: 10/27/2007

Opponent: Texas A&M

Overall Strengths:

This was the best game of McAnderson's college career, but this is also a new offense for the runner who finally got a chance to be a runner in college. Against 6-man fronts he looked like Jerome Bettis: quick footwork with jump cuts and lateral moves of a 6-0 210-lb back rather than a guy at least 20 additional pounds. He demonstrates strong patience as a runner and presses the holes effectively with cutback skills. He also takes what the defense gives him and doesn't dance through the hole. He is a one-cut runner with good ball protection and excellent pad level. He also can make the first man miss in the backfield. As a blocker and receiver, he makes the effort and demonstrates enough skills with routes and receiving--he actually did well to adjust to his QB on a play--that he could easily become an asset to an NFL organization as a complete player, be it a role player or more. I won't be surprised if he gets an opportunity in the NFL as at least a short yardage back or FB within two seasons.

Overall Weaknesses:

He needs to improve his footwork and diagnosis in pass protection. He is not much of a factor in the passing game and body catches the football. He looked quick enough to play the position in the NFL, but he was also facing 6-man fronts on his big gains and on his first touchdown from the red zone. He has been used primarily as a blocking FB until this season. Can he be a factor with the ball in his hands against 7-man and 8-man fronts?

Power:

McAnderson has a low center of gravity paired with above average size for his height. He runs with very good body lean and on his second carry with 8:14 in the 1st QTR, he took a spread formation handoff on 2nd and 7 and hit the left corner as the blitzing DB overran the angle because he expected a pass. McAnderson was too quick for the CB to make up ground and ran out of an ankle tackle by the OLB 5 yards downfield for the first down. He gained 22 yards on the play, dragging two defenders on his back for 4 yards. Excellent pad level. He almost always falls forward. He gained 6 yards after breaking an ankle tackle and falling forward on another run up the middle. Good second effort run after the catch in the 3rd QTR. He ran past the LB and bounced off both the DB over top and LB he beat to get the first down. Another nice finish by lowering his shoulders and spinning off the hit. He ran through the LB at the goaline for his first score from 6 yards out. Excellent pad level. Great job getting low on an isolation blocking play to the left from the 3 yard line for his second score.

Ball Handling:

Very good job carrying the ball with both hands when encountering traffic to finish a run. He would switch the ball to his sideline arm when necessary. He did this on a swing pass in the 3rd QTR and then covered it with both arms as he cut it back inside to traffic.

Elusiveness:

He made a nice little change of direction to bend his run to the right out of the spread formation after he gained two yards in the hole and saw open space. It was good footwork more than a lateral cut. Good footwork to lose the LB at the sideline at the 46 yard line on his 3rd QTR pass reception. He cut it back inside. McAnderson has some good footwork for his size. He looks more like what Jorvorskie Lane is supposed to be than Lane: A young Jerome Bettis in terms of burst, size, and footwork. He made a strong plant cut on that run. He made the first man miss behind the line of scrimmage several times tonight.

Balance:

This is not a player who goes down easily when hit from the thighs to shoulders either directly or indirectly. He will bounce off tacklers, run over them, or spin off them. He knocked over a safety head-on and kept running on a 1st QTR run.

Speed:

McAnderson showed enough burst to get 22 yards on a 1st QTR draw play. Good burst on 3rd and 2 up the middle of a small crease for a 5-yard gain. Out of the singleback 2-TE set with :52 in the half McAnderson showed enough short area quickness to beat two RBs meeting him 3 yards behind the LOS to cut upfield and gain 3 yards. He had enough of a burst to have rushes of 22, 20, and 33 yards in the 1st QTR. He had 100 yards on 9 carries by halftime. McAnderson has an impressive burst and quickness about him in the hole and through the first and second tier. He did get run down on a 40-yard run with 12:43 left by the safety with the angle, but that was to be expected. He showed the speed to get around the corner on a pitch to the right and score from 35-yards out with 1:52 left, but the play was called back for a hold on the TE.

Blocking:

McAnderson got his QB sacked on 1st and 10 with 13:48 in the 3rd QTR. He was assigned to the LB off the left end, but he bit on the LB's hesitation move and dove too early. The LB came around the edge clean and got the sack. Goodcut block on the LB up the middle on a 2nd and 7 pass with 11:35 in the 3rd QTR.

Vision:

Good job feeling out the open area of the line while in the hole. He does not dance in the hole. He's a one-cut, downhill runner with pretty good footwork for a big man. If the hole isn't there and there is no cutback, he will plow ahead and get as low as possible to maximize the gain. Excellent patience on a 3rd and 4 from the 6 with a run up the middle his footwork to press the hole towards the right then cut back off tackle through a small lane he opened wide as he ran through was impressive. He looked like Jerome Bettis on this one play. In fact he looked like him most of the night with great runs up the middle of the defense to the second and third level. But the holes generated by the line against 6-man fronts expecting pass or underestimating McAnderson were a huge factor. McAnderson did show he could press a hole and burst through the opening. With 12:51 in the 4th QTR, he took a handoff from the spread heading towards the RG, but the C took his DT towards that area. McAnderson ran past the right hip of the C where the MLB was watching over both holes up the middle from 5 yards away from the RB. The RB made a great jump cut back to the LG who engaged on the MLB, getting sucked into the hole by the move. The RB burst through the hole, outrunning the DT who got free, and bending the run to the left sideline as he beat the safety who was headed downhill before the RB made his change of direction. Great upfield cut at the 10 yardline behind the S on his 35-yard TD run that was called back with 1:52 in the game. The cut took the safety off balance and the trailing WR knocked the S to the ground.

Receiving:

On 3rd and goal with 5:50 in the 1st QTR, McAnderson circled out of the backfield but was well-covered. When he saw the QB roll right, McAnderson adjusted to the scramble and got open in the endzone. The ball was thrown high and hard to tell whether it was intended for the the RB or the TE on the endline. The RB leaped over his head with arms extended and tipped the ball just before he got hit by the DB. Good route adjustment regardless of the pass being intended for him. On 3rd and 7 with 8:42 in the half, the RB was open on a flare to the left flat, but the QB hesitated and got sacked. The RB continued to run a good route and adjust to the QB's movement until the QB went down. Great catch and run for a first down on 3rd and 4 with 12:37 in the 3rd QTR. McAnderson lined up to the right of the QB in the spread and ran a swing pass, getting good depth to the sideline. He adjusted to the pass to allow the ball to get to his inside shoulder and turned upfield at the 50, make a man miss, and bull over two more for a first down.

Durability:

No major injuries.

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Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Brandon McAnderson

Date: 1/3/2008

Opponent: Virginia Tech

Overall Strengths:

McAnderson is a nifty runner with decent power in the sense that he'll drag tacklers for extra yardage. He has good feet and cutting skills for a man of his stature. He demonstrates good vision and patience. He doesn't waste a lot of time getting north and south and makes excellent decisions with the ball in his hands. He also has a good initial burst for his size. He is a reliable receiver with good hands and shows good effort as a blocker. I wouldn't be surprised if Anderson develops into a solid depth chart player for an organization if he can manage to stick with a roster. He looks like he could add more weight and be an effective NFL fullback.

Overall Weaknesses:

He lacks breakaway speed and a second gear. He runs out of a spread formation and in this game, the VA.Tech defense was spread wide and only had 6 defenders in the box on each of McAnderson's attempts. His cut blocking needs work and he also needs to be more aggressive delivering a blow when blocking from a standup position. He has good feet and movement, but he lacks elite lateral skills. While powerful in the sense that he's a bigger back, he is not much of a tackle breaker. He'll get extra yardage when wrapped up, but he doesn't run with a style that has runners sliding off him after they hit him.

Power:

Although McAnderson only gained 2 yards on the play, he demonstrated good balance and power to drag the DT who caught him a yard behind the LOS and then twisted and turned for an extra yard after a head-on collision with an LB in the hole. He dragged a DT for 3 yards on the next play off a direct snap. The DT actually shed his blocker after getting nearly 2 yards behind the LOS, but McAnderson's size and leg drive helped him get positive yardage on a play that in many instances would have gone for a loss. He dragged a defender on a 2nd and 2 for 3 yards in the 2nd QTR where the LB hit him at the LOS. This is not a runner you can arm tackle. He broke two arm tackles on his 28-yard run with 9:00 in the 4th QTR and carried the CB from the Kansas 47-yard line to the Va.Tech 44-yard line. Good pad level on inside runs on the last drive of the game. He was able to get extra yardage after the initial hit--even if the same player who hit him made the tackle.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball under his outside arm along the sideline on his reception in the 1st QTR. He demonstrated the same awareness on a toss sweep going to the left with 7:09 in the half for a 5-yard gain. He lost the football on a 1st and goal from the 1 while trying to fight for extra yardage on the play. He tried to stretch the ball over the goal line while nearly on his back and the defender stripped the ball away from his grasp. The official ruling was a fumble, but the RB was clearly on his back when he tried to make this play and the officials should have called the play dead at the 1-yard line.

Elasticities:

I'm very impressed with his footwork in small spaces. On 1st and 10 with 2:15 in the opening QTR, he took a handoff from the shotgun formation towards the left side. He pressed the hole to the corner of the formation and cut back to the inside and then made a sharp bend further inside before driving forward another 2-3 yards for a 5-yard gain on the play. Good job seeing the penetrating DT on 2nd and 2 and veering away to the right for 3-yard gain and a 1st down. He made a very quick cutback off a pitch to the right on a 1st and goal run from the 1-yard line with 1:37 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance:

Good job recovering his balance to dip back towards the inside on a pitch to the right on a 1st and 1 with 1:41 in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

Good burst of speed up the sideline on his 18-yard reception. He gained 15 yards after the catch due to his speed. He doesn't have great speed, but he has enough of a burst to beat two LBs around the corner of the backside of a formation and split the LB and safety 10-yards downfield.

Blocking:

Nice job cut-blocking from the backside on a designed QB roll to the right. He shot low, but completely took the legs out from under the defender at the LOS on 2nd and 4 with 11:41 in the 1st QTR. Good lead block on an 8-yard run by the RB Sharp on 1st and 10 with 10:00 in the half. He stood up the All-American LB Adibi to clear the way at the LOS for the RB to hit the hole and get into the 2nd level of the defense. He could not sustain a pass block on the left corner against Adibi with 7:35 in the half. The LB slipped the block to the inside, but the QB scrambled away to find a passing lane on the play. He delivered a solid, stand up hit on a blitzing LB on 4th and 1 with 5:51 in the game.

Vision:

Good job pressing the hole to the left corner before cutting back to the inside and making a second bend to the middle for a 5-yard gain. He was very decisive with his running in the first half. He did not try to dance around when there wasn't an opening or the defense got good penetration into the backfield. He simply got north-south and maximized his gains. On plays where he could press a hole and exploit an opening he did so. Very good choices up to this point. Excellent job pressing the hold on a slant block to the right and cutting to the backside for a 28-yard gain with 9:00 in the 4th QTR. It is worth noting that the play call was excellent versus this 6-men in the box defense due to the spread formation of the Kansas offense.

Receiving:

McAnderson looked very smooth catching the football with his hands while running a swing to the right flat on a 1st and 10 with 11:19 in the opening QTR. He had his hips facing upfield while turning his torso back to the QB to catch the football with his hands. He also made a nice release from the left side of the QB from the shotgun to move across the formation and into the right flat. He caught the ball at the 33 yard line and demonstrated a nice burst up the sideline for an 18-yard gain. He was held up a bit on a circle route with 8:00 in the 1st QTR and this caused the QB to hesitate and gave the VaTech defense the opportunity to sack the passer. McAnderson didn't expect to be held up at the LOS and didn't do as good of job releasing as he could have.

Durability:

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Power Score :

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Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

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Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

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Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: **Chauncey Washington**

Date: **9/30/2006**

Opponent: **Washington State**

Overall Strengths:

Washington is a powerful runner who keeps his legs moving and finishes his attempts for extra yards. He is capable of being a punshing runner. He can drag players for extra yardage and knows how to lower his shoulder or twist and turn for gains. When his shoulders are square he has terrific balance and power. He is a good, north-south one-cut runner that could be serviceable in a zone blocking scheme.

Overall Weaknesses:

If he is prevented from going north-south, he's not effective. Not used at all in the passing game and seems one-dimensional in terms of his running style. Not used as a blocker in pass protection. If he can improve his pass protection and receiving skills, he has a chance to be an effective depth chart runner in the NFL, but I believe he has maxed out his skills as a runner.

Power:

Washington's first run was a good example of his strengths: He's a bruiser that puts his head down, lowers his shoulder, and bursts through the line with the intention of finishing his runs with a physical flourish. His first attempt of the game resulted in a first down. Washington's next gain ended with him lowering the shoulder and delivering a bit of a forearm shiver to the LB. Washington followed a pulling trap block and made a second effort run off the left side after getting initially stood up by the defense. He bounced off a tackle for the score on an inside running play. Washington initiated contact at the end of the 9-yard run up the middle with 6:07 left in the half. Good Job lowering his shoulder into the defensive player. Washington keeps his legs moving in the pile.

Ball Handling:

Washington's first run came from the FB position and he carried the ball up the middle of the defense with both arms around the ball. Washington carried the ball under his left arm for the 9-yard gain with 6:07 left in the half. He also demonstrated the ability to carry it in his right arm on a few runs prior.

Eloiveness:

Washington is mainly a downhill runner and his moves are pretty limited. On 3rd and long with 6:35 left in the 3rd QTR, Washington took an inside hand off up the middle, but the area was contained. The RB didn't have the quickness or cutting ability to bounce the play outside.

Balance:

Washington took an off tackle run for a first down where he was stopped 3 yards shy of the marker, but he twisted his way out of tackle attempt near his shoulders and bulled over two WSU defenders to get past past the marker. Considering the first tackle attempt nearly pulled him backwards, Washington demostntrated excellent balance to re-square his shoulders and gain the extra yardage.

Speed:

Washington has a pretty good burst. He's a one-cut player that demonstrates decent acceleration out of his cuts. At the same time, he doesn't have the speed to get the corner on a fast defense.

Blocking:

He was used a situational back on running plays and I did not see him have to block in the passing game.

Vision:

There's not much imagination to his running--he runs north-south and gets the most he can from the basic direction of the blocking scheme. Washington would have easily gained 4 yards on a 9-yard play if he didn't see the hold opening up, but he did spot it and make quick move for an additional five yards.

Receiving:

He was not in the game in passing situations.

Durability:

Dealing with a nagging hip injury and missed time early in the year with a grade III separation of the AC joint.

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Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: **Chauncey Washington**

Date: **1/1/2008**

Opponent: **Illinois**

Overall Strengths:

Good short area quickness and lateral movement for a back with his size. He can reverse field and change direction fairly well. He runs with good patience and decent body lean. He will break arm tackles when moving downhill. I like his chances to stick as a practice squad player if he can remain healthy. If he can improve his skills on passing downs he could effectively spell a featured back in the future.

Overall Weaknesses:

Good, but not great speed. His pass blocking needs work. His nagging injuries are a concern.

Power:

Washington ran out of an arm tackle in the hole and then kept moving his legs after the initial wrap up for a 4-yard gain on his first run with 12:29 in the 1st QTR. He ran through two hits to his outside leg on a 1st and goal 5-yard run with 3:05 in the half and continued to drive his legs when he hit a pile. Very good body lean as he followed the FB through the hole off the C and driving through the wrap up for a 3-yard score with 2:30 in the half.

Ball Handling:

The RB carried the ball with both hands on his run off LG with 12:29 in the 1st QTR. Good job carrying the football in his left arm on a run he bounced outside to the left end with 11:45 in the half. He switched the ball from his left arm to his right on the play he bounced a play from up the middle to the outside with 3:15 in the half.

Etusiveness:

He made a nice lateral cut to the left side as he burst through a hole off RG for a 7-yard gain with 6:06 in the 1st QTR. Great plant and cut behind the LOS on 1st and 10 with 11:55 in the half. It was a classic give a leg-take it away, move on the penetrating LB and bounced to left end for a gain of 5 yards. Good change of direction when jammed in the middle on a 2nd and 8 run with 3:15 in the half. He changed direction to the right side and got the corner for a 16-yard run and a 1st down.

Balance:

Good balance to keep moving forward after taking two shots to the outside leg after cutting upfield on an off guard play with 3:05 in the half.

Speed:

Good speed to outrun two LBs for a 16-yard gain to the right corner with 3:15 in the half. He had a nice burst to the outside and outran the angle of two LBs for an 18-yard gain and a 1st down.

Blocking:

He completely blew his assignment to block the blitzing OLB off the backside. He was running toward the OLB then tried to cut block from a really poor angle rather than flush to the thighs. He missed the LB completely which led to an easy sack off the blindside.

Vision:

Nice job spotting the cut back in the hole on a run off RG for a 7-yard gain with 6:06 in the 1st QTR. He consistently saw good opportunities to bounce runs outside when there was penetration in the backfield in the first half. He's a decisive runner. On 2nd and 10 with 14:13 in the 3rd QTR, he took a run off LG and tried to pound it in the gap although it was a tight crease. Only when he met resistance did he try to bounce it back outside as he was coming free. If he tried to bounce it outside first, the outside defender was unblocked and had the advantage on the play. Good patience following his FB off the right side for a 9-yard gain with 12:21 in the 3rd QTR. Good job setting up the blocks up the middle on a 4-yard run with 6:00 in the 3rd QTR. Again, good patience up the middle on a 2nd and 10 run for 6 yards after the initial hole wasn't there. He slowed down and then burst through a crease that opened as he got behind the lineman's butt.

Receiving:

Nice release from the I formation to the left flat and turning of his upper body to catch the perfectly placed ball with his hands for an 8-yard TD reception. Washington caught a well-thrown pass to the left flat on 2nd and 10 with 10:08 in the 3rd QTR, but tripped not even a yard after the catch. He did catch the ball with his hands while angling back to the QB while moving upfield. His third catch was a crossing route with proper hand placement and shielding the ball with his back to the defender.

Durability:

Dealt with fractured ankle, knee, shoulder, and hamstring injuries throughout his career.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

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BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Chris Johnson

Date: 12/23/2007

Opponent: Boise State

Overall Strengths:

He is the top all-purpose yardage player in the nation in 2007 and one of the fastest players in college football. He is very light on his feet and makes moves with ease. He also has great quickness in tight spaces and can regularly make the first man miss in the backfield or the hole. In the right offensive system, he can be a very productive pro player, used to run delays, draws, sweeps, and catch the ball as a player split in the slot or wide. If he can add more weight and retain his short area quickness (even if he losses a bit of speed, he's so fast it would have to be a substantial loss to make a difference) he could develop into an every down starter, but that won't happen right away.

Overall Weaknesses:

Is he a wide receiver, a kick return specialist, or a back? He has played all three positions and it begs the question whether RB is his best opportunity in the NFL. The offensive line opened huge holes for Johnson to be a terror in the open field against Boise State. He is not an after contact runner. He had 181 yards and a score on 18 carries in the 1st half. This means Boise State limited him to 42 yards on 10 carries in the second half and overtime. He is a very good kick return specialist and will see time first as a PR and KR. He should get drafted fairly high because of his versatility, but he need a lot of work on pass blocking and become more decisive on runs without a big hole open in front of him before he will become a consistent factor at the RB position. He also gator-armed a pass and allowed a defender to get the QB on a play where he didn't show great effort. I can see why the ECU staff made him an RB, but whether he can be an featured guy is a questionmark.

Power:

He won't run over anyone on the first or second level of the defense and goes down easily with a flush hit. He made a cut off his FB on the third run of the game and landed in the grasp of a DT for an easy tackle. He did show good body lean on a 4-yard run with 10:15 in the 1st QTR. He cut off tackle and was hit by the CB on the right side, the safety over top, and the LB from behind and was able to lean forward and get an additional two yards on second effort. Johnson can shed a 3rd level defender's hit as he did with the CB on his 68-yard run in the 1st QTR, but it's still about getting a good angle and outrunning the defenders to generate this power. He lost a battle with a safety when he attempted to run through him on a 2nd and 6 with :52 from the Boise St. 9 yard line. He tried to lower his shoulder into the safety at the 4 and only gained a yard, coming up short of the first down.

Ball Handling:

He makes a good effort to carry the ball in the sideline arm depending on the direction of the run. Johnson fumbled the ball in the 4th QTR with 1:25 left and the Boise St. safety picked it up for the score. The defender put his helmet right on the ball. It as a perfect hit on the football. He only had one fumble this season prior to the game.

Elasticity:

Johnson is very light on his feet. His second run of the game was for a 1st down on a 2nd and 5. He made two full speed dips and then a spin move off contact for 8 yards and a first down. All of this was done very fluidly. It looked effortless. Good cut in the hole off right guard to get a 5-yard gain and a 1st down off a 3rd and 10 fom the Boise St. 7 yard line. He did well to get low and make himself small in the hole and then spin off a hit at the first down marker to gain 3 more yards. Johnson's 48-yard run began with him making a playes miss at the edge of the defense. The LOS was at the 26 and Johnson sidestepped the DB coming from the outside at the 28.

Balance:

Johnson has good balance as an open field runner. He made a good jump cut to elude much of the hit of the safety shooting for is legs. Although the safety got one leg, Johnson was able to land on his other foot and maintain his balance for 2 extra yards and the first down with 2:15 in the half.

Speed:

Johnson's greatest weapon is his speed. He broke a 68-yard run with 4:36 in the 1st QTR out of the spread formation. He was at the right of the QB and took the ball heading off the left guard behind his TE as the lead blocker. He did a great job pressing the hole by getting on his TE's hip as the LB collided with the TE and then cut to the left and into the hole. The CB arrive about 2 yards over the top of the hole and Johnson used his burst to veer to the inside and slide off the CB's hit five yards past the LOS. He switched the ball to his sideline arm at the first down marker and at this point it was a footrace between him, the safety about 10 yards to his right and a foot in front of him, and the DB 5 yards ahead with an angle just two yards to Johnson's right. Twenty yards later, the RB made up 4 of those 5 yards and eliminated the CB's angle. By the time he was at the 32, he was ahead of the safety and had 4 yards on him for the last 15 yards of the run. Chris outran the angle on a 46-yard rush with 10:08 in the 2nd QTR on a sweep to the right side. The CB coming across the formation was only a yard away from the RB at the 40, but had lost the two steps of distance by the time Johnson took 5 steps. By mid-field he had to make a diving attempt and missed.

Blocking:

Johnson took a fake and had an opportunity to either hit or chip a rusher off the backside, but chose to allow the player to run by him--actually angling out of the way--with 13:45 in the half.

Vision:

Good patience to cut off his FB's lead block on this first gain of four yards between the RG and RT with 12:42 in the 1st QTR. He has a lot of speed, but he didn't slam into the hole. On the next play he once again made a nice cut off the FB on a run up the middle for 8 yards and a first down. He did well to press the hole and cut back off the RT on a 1st and 10 run with 10:18 in the opening QTR. He can be hesitant in the hole when there isn't a clear opening. He danced a bit on 2nd and 5 because he kept thinking he'd find something better as het tried to bounced the play outside to the outside until he ran out of room. Sometimes he needs to pick a hole and commit to it. He had a big hole to run through on a 1st and 10 with 2:16 in the half. He was in the weak-I and got about 7 yards running through a big gap off right guard and did an excellent job anticipating the safety from about 7 yards away. He made a great jump cut to elude the shooting DB and get the first down.

Receiving:

In 4WR sets, they frequently lined up Johnson in the slot. Johnson's second score was a screen pass to the right side for an 18-yard score. He was lined up in the spread formation to the left of the QB and set up behind the G and T at the 20. He didn't fully extend his arms to catch the ball at chest level, but did bring the ball in cleanly. He turned up field with three blockers at the sideline, two of them linemen, and outran the secondary for the score. With 7:22 ni the half on a 3rd and 5, he ran a short hitch at the sideline while split wide in the formation. He caught the ball facing the QB and with his hands first, arms extended from this body. He tried to spin out of the DBs grasp but was brought down for a gain of 3.

Durability:

He had a neck injury as a junior during spring practice but still played the entire season that fall.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

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Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Chris Markey

Date: 9/23/2006

Opponent: Washington

Overall Strengths:

When you see Markey play, it's understandable why he was able to share time with Maurice Jones-Drew--he has excellent skills as a runner. He's patient in the hole, runs with good pad level, and finishes runs with determination. His vision is outstanding and he couples it with cutting ability to take advantage of what he sees. He can catch the football.

Overall Weaknesses:

He reminds me of Curtis Martin in terms of being a back with excellent vision and determination, but lacks the high end speed. He'll break plenty of intermediate-to-long runs, but won't score from anywhere on the field. He can't outrun great angles. This was a very good performance for Markey

Power:

Markey knows how to lower his shoulder and finish a run as demonstrated by his 13-yard cutback run with 12:37 in the 1st QTR. He didn't try to get fancy after the cutback. He just built up speed and plowed into the secondary to ensure he'd at least get the first down. Markey is a determined, inside runner. On the second possession that began inside the Huskies' 10-yard line, Markey took a dive play between the center and right guard and twisted away from a hit and wrap 1 yard into the hole and gained another five yards to the 1-yard line. He scored on the next play easily. He just drove himself into the pile with a short leap. A defensive back will often have trouble bringing Markey down on his own when facing him head-on. Markey can push a pile when wrapped up--he did so for a few extra yards on a 9-yard run on 1st and 10 with :35 left in the half.

Ball Handling:

He carried the ball tightly against his right side on his first few runs. Good job protecting the ball with both arms when diving into the pile across the goal line. Good job carrying the ball with either hand. He keeps the ball cinched to his side, but he did have a fumble when he was double-teamed with one player prying his arm away and the other jarring it loose with his helmet. The Bruins did recover.

Eloquence:

Markey's 13-yard gain with 12:37 in the opening quarter was a run designed to slant towards the right side of the formation, but he spotted a large lane between the center and LG. He cut back to the hole and burst through it untouched for 9-yards before gaining the remaining 4 yards after contact. He explodes out of his cuts. He did this on the pitch he cut back to the inside when the LB got penetration into the backfield. He turned a 5-yard loss into a 5-yard gain. Markey has really good hips. While running to the outside on a 1st and 10 run to the right, he swiveled his hips to the outside without changing direction to avoid an arm tackle from a defender engaged with a blocker and then cut back inside to miss most of the hit from the CB that had the chance to square his feet and shoot for him. This helped him gain another 5 yards. He will often vary his step size on inside runs to gain maximum yardage.

Balance:

His redzone run on the second possession was a good example of maintaining balance after a head-on collision. When he spun away from the tackler, he nearly scored when he stretched the ball on his way to the ground. Markey showed good balance when he burst through a hole with 6:15 left in the 1st QTR and the safety came up and grabbed his thigh. The RB shook off the attempt 6 yards past the LOS and then gained 56 yards afterwards for a 62-yard run. Markey does a good job keeping his pad level low, which helps him maintain balance when getting hit.

Speed:

Markey showed a nice burst on a cutback he made while in the hole for a 13-yard run. His burst carried him through a tackle for an addition 3 yards. Markey had enough speed to break a 62-yard run, but did get caught from behind by the other safety that had the angle. He did outrun the cornerback so he has enough speed to go the distance in situations with 9 or 10 men in the box. Markey showed the speed to get to the corner on an outside run for 9 yards with 8:45 left in the half.

Blocking:

Markey's first block was a good effort to the waist of the DT on a play action pass.

Vision:

Markey showed nice patience picking a hole out of a strong side formation run between the tackles for six yards. He demonstrated that he had little problem running behind his blockers and even over his blockers in tight spaces to get extra yardage. Markey's 62-yard run was through a fairly small hole in the zone blocking scheme. He's a disciplined runner in terms of taking what the defense gives him. Markey makes excellent adjustments in traffic. He took a pitch designed to go to the right side, but the LB shot the gap and got penetration deep into the backfield. Markey did a great job ucting it back to the inside for a five-yard gain.

Receiving:

Markey's first catch was a screen play for a minimal gain. He did a nice job catching the ball with his hands. His second was a well-anticipated flare to the left side in the redzone. He caught the ball, but it was for negative yardage because he was surrounded by the defense. The same thing happened on a screen pass in the 4th QTR.

Durability:

Dealt with turf toe and a nagging ankle sprain in 2007

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

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The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Chris Markey

Date: 9/22/2007

Opponent: Washington

Overall Strengths:

Markey is a solid runner who has adequate burst, body lean, and vision. In build and style, he's much like Georgia Tech's Tashard Choice. He's a smart football player with good effort. He'll have a shot at making a roster, but his chances of developing into an every down back isn't very high.

Overall Weaknesses:

Markey lacks top-end speed to outrun most NFL players at the CB or safety position. He lacks noticeable power and his blocking needs work. Although stylistically similar to Choice, he lacks the suddenness of lateral movement and power of the Georgia Tech senior. He had a better grade as a junior and it is possible his foot injury hampered his ability to make cuts and moves and sustain blocks or any other activity where it's necessary to drive off that foot.

Power:

He ran through an arm tackle to his waist on the 66-yard run with 7:20 in the 1st QTR. He runs with a good body lean between the tackles and gained an extra 2 yards on a 4-yard run with 13:23 in the 3rd QTR. He will lower his shoulder into a player and get an extra yard or two. He did this turning the corner on a run to the left side for no gain that could have been a loss.

Ball Handling:

Good job holding onto the football on his first attempt for 4 yards that ended with the LB hitting his ball carrying arm first. He runs with the football under the appropriate sideline arm depending on the direction of the play. His 66-yard run veered to the right so he had the ball under his right arm. His 10-yard run with 2:01 in the 1st QTR was towards the left sideline and he had the ball under his left arm.

Eisiveness:

He didn't appear very sudden with his moves in this game. In fact his cuts and stutter moves seemed to be in slow motion. Nice stutter step just before entering the hole on a 6-yard run with 7:45 in the game. Decent spin move towards the inside as he got to the right sideline for a 6-yard gain.

Balance:

He does a good job of twisting and turning for extra yardage after the initial hit or wrap by a defender.

Speed:

Markey has good acceleration. On his 66-yard run he split the LB at the 16 yard line, outran another linebacker coming off coverage at the 20, and then split the corner and safety at the 32 yardline. The CB he ran past at the 32 finally caught up with Markey at the Washington 25 and brought him down at the 20. This demonstrates good acceleration, but not great top-end speed. It was very noticeable that he slowed down after hitting the 40-yard mark of this 66-yard run. His touchdown run was a 72-yarder in the 4th QTR. The speed didn't look much better, but the fact there were 10 men in the box allowed him to take advantage of the hole up the middle and hit it hard enough to have a significant head-start on the rest of the field. He did not have the sudden speed to get to the corner on well-defended runs to the outside.

Blocking:

Although he temporarily got in the way of the edge rusher off the right side on a 3rd and 6 with 3:02 in the 3rd QTR, he did not get a good hit on the defender and couldn't not sustain the block. If the QB wasn't throwing a quick pass, he would have been endangered of getting sacked.

Vision:

Markey's second run was a 66-yard gain off a delayed handoff from the shotgun with 7:29 in the 1st QTR. The hole off LG was massive and he went untouched for over 60 of those yards. His 10-yard run was through another big opening on the left side. He went untouched for 9 of his 10 yards. Markey had nearly 8 yards on a 2nd QTR run that was called back due to a holding penalty. He did a good job of patiently following the blocks on the right side during the run. Markey's 72-yard run was off a big hole between the RG and C and he only had to veer a bit to the right to outrun the safety for the score.

Receiving:

Markey routinely ran routes out of the backfield in passing situations.

Durability:

He had a foot injury this year that forced him to miss summer practices.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Power Score :

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Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

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Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

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Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

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Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

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Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

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Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Cory Boyd

Date: 10/27/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths:

Boyd runs with excellent power and balance. He is difficult to knock off his feet and runs with his pads low. He breaks a lot of tackles and it's not common for just one defender to bring Boyd to the ground. He broke more tackles than just about any player I've seen on film in one game. He is a very good receiver and regular target in the passing game. He also blocks well in pass protection. He's a strong downhill runner who can make an impact at the next level on a team with a good offensive line and passing game to stretch the field. He has power like Mike Anderson or Rueben Droughns and has just enough speed and quickness to start for an NFL squad. He's an underrated back.

Overall Weaknesses:

Boyd needs to become a better blocker in the open field. His vision is adequate, but not special. He lacks top end breakaway speed. If you get him heading east-west, his effectiveness is diminished because he can't make the first man miss behind the line of scrimmage with consistency.

Power:

Boyd has good body lean and runs out of leg tackles and arm tackles fairly easily. He broke two arm tackles on a play off guard with 5:18 in the 1st QTR. He runs behind his pads and keeps his legs moving. On 3rd and 4 from the 10 yard line, Boyd gained 25 yards after contact from a DT at the LOS, a leg tackle 10 yards downfield that he spun away from, and then ran over a player as UT gang-tackled him at the 35. Two of these tackles were broken because of great pad level and the third attempt he broke came from good balance. On a draw play with 12:09 in the 3rd QTR, he lowered his shoulder at the 9-yard line into the safety while a DB was hitting him in the left hip. He collided violently with the safety, knocking the DB back and running over him as he fell forward for another 4 yards. Boyd broke two arm tackles and stiff armed a DB at the sideline for his TD run around the right side for 29 yards with 2:21 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

Boyd took some hard shots to his ball carrying arm on a few plays early in the game and had no problem maintaining possession of the ball. Good job carrying the ball in his outside arm on the 25-yard run in the 1st QTR. He did not switch the ball to the opposite arm if it wasn't there in the first place. He ran to the left side with a middle screen and did not switch the ball to the outside arm.

Elusiveness:

Boyd demonstrated he could bend the direction of a run to close to a 90 degree angle with out losing a lot of speed. He outran a tackle attempt by a trailing LB as he got through the first level of the defense on a 3rd and 10 draw for 12 yards in the 1st QTR. Body doesn't lose a lot of speed from his cuts because he doesn't have a lot of speed in the first place. There really is no noticeable acceleration in and out of his cuts. He makes effective hop steps and small lateral cuts to avoid direct hits, but he's often hit in the act of making the cut due to his relative lack of quickness. Boyd made a nifty little lateral cut and hop past the RG on a run off guard on a draw that got him into the second level of the defense. A surprisingly good cut up the hash on his 29-yard run. He made a great lateral cut, planting with his right foot and driving upfield past the DB who was over top and waiting to hit the RB.

Balance:

Good balance running out of two ankle tackle attempts on his 12-yard gain on a draw play for a first down. He took some hard hits and still kept moving forward for an extra 3 yards. UT's defenders were sliding off Boyd whether they hit him head on or at an angle and the RB still maintained his balance. He got cut at the legs on his run after the catch on a screen with 12:33 in the 3rd QTR but showed enough balanced to get one foot on the ground while the other was high in the air from the hit and hopped forward for another 4 yards on the play.

Speed:

Boyd is a bigger back with some burst. He showed an adequate burst through a huge hole on 3rd and 10 for with 12:07 in the 1st QTR. He did gain 12 and a first down, but the blocking was excellent. South Carolina is opening good holes for Boyd at the line of scrimmage and the RB does have enough speed to run past DTs and some LBs--especially moving downhill. He's getting a lot of yards after contact. While Boyd outran the trailing DT on his 29-yard run, it was his upfield cut and stiff arm of the DB with a good angle at the 10 yard line that got him the score. He has enough speed to be an effective runner at the NFL level, but he'll need a well-blocked play to bounce him loose for more than 10-15 yards.

Blocking:

Boyd was a lead blocker for Smelley on the second offensive play of the game and he went around the corner looking more like he was trying to avoid defenders rather than hit one. An LB came from the inside at an angle Boyd could have attacked, but he let the man go through. Boyd did a much better job as a lead blocker on 1st down with 11:40 in the 1st QTR when he cut-blocked a safety to the ground so the runner could get to the edge. He did the same on an end around with 5:40 in the 1st QTR. Boyd made the correct diagnosis out of the spread formation in a passing situation to get to the right edge of the formation and block the blitzing DB. But as he left the middle area, a DT beat his assignment and hit the QB as he was throwing across the middle and the result was an interception. Good block on an LB coming on a delayed blitz up the middle to allow his QB time to complete a deep out with 3:50 in the 3rd QTR. Boyd went too low on a 2nd down pass when trying to cut a blitzing LB who leaped over him. He's a much better effort blocker in pass coverage than in the open field. He really doesn't diagnose or make the same effort downfield.

Vision:

Boyd plowed right into the NT and DT on his first run of the game--a fake toss sweep and hand off. There was a pretty nice soft spot in the line on the right side, but he just lowered his head and plowed up the middle for a loss. Boyd will often take what the play design gives him by following his blockers to the letter. Boyd makes a lot of yards after contact, but his big runs are coming because he's following the design of the play and the South Carolina offensive line is getting blocks on the DTs and LBs with consistent success. He had 101 yards on 11 carries in a little over a half of play. On Boyd's touchdown, he did not hesitate to bounce the play to the right end although the blocking was slanted to the left. He turned upfield of this TE and ran through 3 tackles for the score.

Receiving:

Boyd was sometimes split wide in passing situations. Boyd is the Gamecocks 2nd leading receiver in 2007. Boyd caught a short screen in the left flat on 3rd down with 12:27 in the 3rd QTR. He had good technique to extend his arms but with proper hand positioning for a stomach high throw. He gained 15 yards by following his blocks to the outside. He had another 15-yard gain on a middle screen taken around the left side.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Darren McFadden

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: Auburn

Overall Strengths:

Speed and power. McFadden has both in loads. He can outrun the angles of DBs but run through linebackers. Because he has such good straightline speed. He runs upright, but does a great job of getting lower than defenders when finishing runs in the openfield. He has a very quick first move. McFadden makes good change of directions with his hips after pressing the hole and is generally a decisive runner who will most of the time take what the defense gives him. He accelerates up to full speed in a short distance. This runner also shows the ability to catch the football with his hand although he needs to be much more consistent. He's a willing blocker and showed a tendency to lay some nasty punishment on defenders. He displays good tendencies to protect the ball. He also performs at a high level with injury. He played most of last season with a broken toe and a few games this year with bruised ribs.

Overall Weaknesses:

McFadden has been compared to Eric Dickerson, but he is nowhere near as elusive or punishing. Some compare him with Adrian Peterson as well. Like Peterson, McFadden has good speed and direct balance, but lacks a variety of elusive moves that Peterson has and gets knocked down at the LOS much easier than these two runners. In fact, far too easy for a back considered a punishing runner. Peterson has better feet and an array of jukes and spin moves that McFadden lacks. He needs to develop more consistency catching the football. But what needs the most work is developing the patience to exploit smaller holes that will lead to bigger gains. I think if an NFL team expects McFadden to be like Adrian Peterson or Eric Dickerson they will be sorely disappointed.

Power:

He returned a kickoff for 29 yards up the left sideline and ran through an arm tackle for 15 more yards. On 3rd and 7 McFadden took a toss sweep to the left with 7:25 in the 1st QTR against a normal, 7-man front. He accelerated as he reached the corner and lowered his shoulder pads as he reached the hip of his FB and the pursuing LB at the corner. He split them at the line of scrimmage, ducking under the LB's attempt and maintaining his balance while running through the crease gaining 9 yards before he was brought down by a third defender from behind who grabbed his legs. Who runs a toss sweep on 3rd and 7? The combination of his speed and size makes the notion of arm tackling him a very remote possibility unless the angle is perfect. He doesn't get much yardage after contact in the hole and often gets driven backwards at the point of attack such as a run off RG with 2:06 in the 1st QTR. He used the stiff arm to ensure the OLB getting 4 yards penetration into the backfield on a run to the left end with 13:14 in the 1st QTR didn't get a hand on him. But it was the speed that got him around the corner before lowering his shoulder into a DB for a 5-yard gain. Good body lean at the end of run with 8:44 in the half. He stretch forward for another 3 yards after the hit around right end.

Ball Handling:

Good job carrying the football in his outside arm on his first run. Good fake end around to Jones and then fake up the middle before dropping back to throw a ball over 40 yards downfield in to double coverage. The ball was nearly caught and then intercepted. It shouldn't have been thrown. Auburn was called for interference.

Elusiveness:

McFadden ran an end around with Felix Jones as the I-back on 1st and 10 with 7:00 in the opening quarter. The LB on the backside was facing him in open space 3 yards behind the LOS. McFadden tried to plant and cut to the outside of the LB, but the LB hit him in the waist and held on for a 6-yard loss. The LB had the angle, but McFadden's move wasn't extremely quick and he lost his leverage trying to bounce it to the outside. McFadden took a handoff headed to the left end, but cut the play back behind his pulling G and lead FB. He made a hop step then a jump over the fallen player in the hole with a short leap over a defender's legs before falling forward for 4 yards. Very strong cutback on a block slanting to the right. He pressed the hole an cut back off tackle for a 5-yard gain. He has very good hips and can turn them to make sharp changes of direction, which is what he does much more often rather than make lateral plant and cuts. McFadden took a stretch play to the right and gained 4 yards after stopping well behind the LOS scrambling to cutback, but saw nothing was there so he started back to the right. This is the kind of run that is doubtful he'll make at the NFL level on a consistent basis, but it was a quick stop-start move. He tried to make a jump cut that would get him away from the DT in pursuit on a designed sweep around left end, but as he executed the move the DT got his foot and brought him down for no gain.

Balance:

He does not go backwards when he hits a player head-on if it's a third-level defender or a second level defender with a very strong running start. He will generally fall forward for extra yards and even if hit from an angle in the backfield as he was in the 1st QTR, he still has the power to turn away from the defender's momentum and fall forward. At the same time, when he's hit by an LB or DL in the hole he doesn't have the leg strength to keep grinding forward. It's combination of his pad level, hip bend, and knee end which effects his leg strength. He's not very big in the thighs and trunk and he gets pushed back like he did on a run for 2 yards up the middle to start the 3rd QTR and his progress was stopped. A number of decent power backs can continue to generate a push, but he doesn't run with a good crouch. He showed good footwork to shorten his stride and maintain his balance to avoid backfield penetration for a 1-yard gain with 13:28 in the 3rd QTR, but he also leaped over the defender's arm and going airborne like this prevents him from getting extra yards when he could just run through the arm tackle or step over it. He was hit low in one leg from an indirect angle by the DB on a misdirection run around left end and it stopped him in his tracks. He fell forward for a yard after the safety hit him in the right hip as he was approaching the LOS. Good balance on 1st and goal from the 3 to still keep his balance and move forward after the penetrating lineman shot low off the RG and hit McFadden's left leg 4 yards behind the LOS. He leaped over the DT, but still got low enough as he was landing to get lower than the LB gunning for him 2 yards behind the line. McFadden only lost a yard on this play (but the line was called for holding). A very impressive display of athleticism on this play.

Speed:

McFadden and Jones were returning kicks in this game. He gained 22 yards down the sideline on his first return--running straight up a seam to the left sideline. He broke an arm tackle through the hole. He beat a CB around the left end out of the Wild Hog formation (he plays the QB) after he faked the end around to Jones with 4:59 in the 3rd QTR. He gained 12 yards before the CB had to horse collar him from behind to bring him down. If he didn't get this tackle, McFadden had at least a 40-yard gain down the sideline.

Blocking:

McFadden had two very minor blocks in the first half--both were small chips as the ball was already being thrown. In the 3rd QTR backed up in their own red area with 7:17, McFadden peeled off a double-team to make a perfect cut block on a charging LB on a delayed blitz. The block knocked down the LB which allowed the QB to at least get rid of the ball. He went too low on an LB off the left side when trying to cut block for the QB throwing to the left with 9:29 in the game. The LB just pushed McFadden further into the ground and then tried to leap into the air to deflect the pass, which he nearly did and his effort hurried the throw. McFadden put a chip on the DT with :12 in the game that was way more than a chip. Two OL's were on the DE, but McFadden snuck between them and planted the 300+ pounder with a shot to the chest that de-cleated the big man. Probably the nastiest hit I saw all night and he didn't need to do it although very legal. Impressive hit. If he ran with the body lean the way he hit, his inside power game would be scary.

Vision:

McFadden did a good job pressing the hole on 1st and 10 with 2:40 in the 1st QTR and cutting back off tackle. Nice attempt to try to cut the play upfield on a 3rd and 10 play headed to the right. Both gaps were filled but instead of getting spilled to the sideline, he tried to plow through for extra yards. He was brought down for a loss of one. He really had no choice--good play by Auburn with an 8-man front. He probably would have had better luck trying to outrun the DE on sweep to left end with 7:45 in the 3rd QTR, but tried to cut the play back for no gain. McFadden did not have the patience to exploit the hole developing on the left side of the line on a handoff out of a 3WR set moving to the weak side. The RG pulled to left end and did a good job blocking down. Instead of following his FB into the hole made by the pulling guard, he went straight upfield for a gain of one. This is the same play I saw Clinton Portis run in week 17 versus Dallas during the 2007 season where he split the small gap and scored from over 30 yards out. He had the patience to trust the play design and his teammates. Kevin Smith, the junior from UCF performed this play to perfection. McFadden did not exhibit the patience on this type of run. He did show the patience to vary his speed and run behind his pulling linemen to the right on a 1st and 10 to start the second half although it was only for a yard. Auburn did a very good job filling the gaps on Arkansas' signature running play. He made the right choice on the run outside to try to press the hole and cut back inside, but the G fell down. So he tried to go around the end, but the LB played squeeze technique to perfection and forced him back inside to go one on one with a DT, which he sidestepped to avoid the direct hit but only got back to the LOS. The offensive line is getting beat all game.

Receiving:

McFadden slipped out of the backfield on 3rd and 5 with 7:31 in the half, but the LB jumped the route and defended the pass before it could get to McFadden. The RB could have positioned his body to shield the ball from the LB, but did not recognize the clear opportunity to do so. McFadden was lined up as the split end on 3rd and 6 with 1:47 in the half with Jones in the backfield. The play was a smash screen to McFadden. He ran the route correctly, but the ball bounced off his hands. He had great blocking set up. He did catch a flanker screen with 3:44 left in the game for a gain of five yards.

Durability:

Injured his ribs two weeks ago and he is wearing a flack jacket. He also broke his toe last year. He continued to play.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

McFadden's game is predicated on great speed and acceleration. As a straight-line runner, he is the most dangerous back in college football because he repeatedly demonstrates the ability to outrun angles that many backs could not do and the formations Arkansas uses with Felix Jones present huge mismatches. He follows his blocks well and will do enough to set them up on designed runs. He uses the stiff arm effectively and he has good balance with head on collisions. He's not afraid of contact and is a beast to tackle head-on when he's generated some momentum downfield. While I don't see him as Adrian Peterson-Eric Dickerson special as a runner and feel his skills as a pro are being overrated, he's still a special athlete with game breaking ability.

It's worth noting this game was played minus LSU's top two defensive tackles. While he will carry the ball under either arm, he doesn't switch the ball to the sideline arm when it's a good idea to do so. His ball protection was really shoddy in this game--fumbling 4 times in the first half. On plays where McFadden has to improvise, go east west, or a defender gets penetration into the backfield he becomes ineffective. He's tackled easily when hit while moving laterally. He gets knocked backwards or pulled backwards more than any high profile back I've seen in years. He did not demonstrate the ability to plant and cut other than a jump cut behind the LOS in the 2nd half. He does not see the field very well so when he has more than one choice or there is a backside gap, he does not exploit these choices very well. He gets low but not low enough when making contact in the hole and this often gets him stood up in the hole. He also doesn't drop his hips, so the first and second level of the defense was able to throw him backwards on runs where most backs are able to fall forward. He's not a consistent factor in the passing game. McFadden appears to be a very fast and talented athlete who is very much a product of the Arkansas system. I believe he will disappoint those with high expectations for him.

He leaned forward for an extra 2 yards on a 5-yard run after contacting his lineman in the hole. He doesn't drive his legs but he does lean forward when there is no opposition. He can keep his legs churning when he is against the backs of his linemen, but not when wrapped up. What concerns me a bit about McFadden in the hole is that he doesn't consistently have good leverage in tight spaces. He was ahead of the DT when he got 4 yards on a run off LG with 10:23 in the half, but when the DT grabbed him, the defender was able to stand him up and pulling him backwards. His power appears to come from the momentum of his speed. When he's not running at full speed he does not appear as troublesome to bring down. On a 2nd and 14 out of the Wild Hog, he got a good block at the corner by his RB Jones and then took on the safety Steltz with a stiff arm, but the safety dragged him out of bounds by his upper body for a 5-yard gain. He doesn't have that low center of gravity and power in his trunk to defeat these tackle attempts high unless he's going very hard. He rushed for 5 yards out of the Wild Hog formation running misdirection to the left side as he went off RG. Once again, he was pulled down and thrown on his butt from behind by LB grabbing McFadden as the RB came through the hole. You just don't see many RB's fall backwards when a player grabs them this way. McFadden gained 7 yards on a run to the right corner because he was able to slap away the hands of the all-American LB Highsmith who had an angle a yard past the LOS. This gained McFadden the corner before he was dragged down from behind at the sideline by the safety. Good body lean to get across the first down marker on a 10-yard run on 3rd down that was called back on a clear holding call by the FB. He had a decent stiff arm around the corner with 7:22 in the 4th QTR that earned him another few yards on and 7-yard gain. McFadden gained 6 of LG with 6:09 in the 4th, running into the LB Highsmith and getting stood up during the collision. Even on good runs where he gained yardage after contact he was dropped on his back.

McFadden's first touch resulted in a fumble and the way he carried the ball into the wedge was a huge reason. As he leaned forward, he allowed his left elbow to come away from his side and the ball was punched out as McFadden ran into the backside of his blocker at the 25-yard line. McFadden did not correct the problem with his ball protection on the next opportunity and this time he was hit in the chest by the LSU defender at the 30-yard line. The defender's elbow hit the ball and it squirted through the gap between McFadden's elbow and side. This time McFadden recovered the ball. It was actually an incidental bump where Jacob Hester was trying to come off a block and didn't see McFadden curling around the wedge. They ran into each other and it wasn't even a hard hit. McFadden got 12 yards on a toss sweep with 10:52 in the 2nd QTR, but fumbled the ball when the safety hit him at the end of the play. He had the ball under his left arm rather than the sideline arm when he was hit from the left side, knocking the ball loose when hit on the elbow. McFadden recovered his own fumble as it bounced back to him. He carried the ball under his right arm on a run of LG near the left hash with 8:59 in the half. Good job carrying the ball under his right arm towards the right sideline on a sweep for 7 yards. The team pulled McFadden from kick return duty in the 3rd QTR.

Good job spinning away from the CB's hit at the edge to dive forward for a 4-yard gain with 7:05 in the 1st QTR. They ran the exact same play with 13:11 in the 4th QTR where McFadden scored from 73 yards in the 3rd QTR, but this time the LB who got blocked and just missed McFadden on the first run, blew up the play in the backfield by hitting McFadden. The RB was going east west and dragged the runner down for a 3-yard loss.

The best quality about McFadden is his speed. He took a toss sweep from Arkansas' own 3 yard line and gained 12 yards with a terrific burst around right end through a very well-blocked play, sealing off the corner and holding the backside pursuit at the LOS to the OLB from the other side of the field trailing McFadden. He got to the 9-yard line before the DB at the numbers came off the WR's block to wrap McFadden at the chest, but bounced off his shoulder. McFadden scored untouched from 16 yards out as the QB in the spread formation on a misdirection fake. He followed the lead blockers moving to the left edge as he went right and followed the pulling LG to the right side to seal the edge as he burst through a very well blocked lane for the first down. He blew by the OLB at the marker for the remaining 12 yards for the score.

McFadden began the game with a kick return. He followed the wedge heading towards the right hash and as he got to the 20 yard line there was a lane two yards wide with blockers engaged with defenders from the 22 to the 28 yard line with a free LSU defender coming from McFadden's left at the 23. A player with good lateral movement and vision would have more times than not planted and cut towards the left hash where there was nothing but green. McFadden chose to run straight into the back of his teammate at the 25 and fumbled the ball away. This wasn't a bad choice of a place to run for McFadden, but even dynamic return men who minimize their cuts, would have tried a stop-start move or change of direction to the left and tried to hit the sideline. I just haven't seen McFadden make a strong plant and lateral cut like this yet. Maybe today will be the day though. On the next kick return, McFadden fielded the kick at the 15-yard line after running 13 yards downfield to follow the wedge he accurately spotted the cutback lane to the left that was 3 yards wide. He did not plant and cut, but tried to bend the run at full speed to the lane but this put him too close to the traffic at the wide when he had much more space towards the side Felix Jones as dominating his man. As he tried to work past that crowd to exploit the hole, he was hit and fumbled the ball again. McFadden correctly ran the play off right tackle with a pulling guard and a FB sealing the edge. McFadden correctly followed his blocks on this play, but the pulling guard who was going to take out the LB tripped in the hole. McFadden could have maybe exploited the crease to the right of the blocker, which would have put him in a foot race with the safety, but if the guard had not tripped he probably wouldn't have been able to burst through the crease. He was tackled by the DT and the LB for 2 yards. McFadden got 5 yards out of a single back set by following his pulling guard into the a line that got a nice 3-yard push on the DT's at the LOS. He hit the hole decisively gaining three yards before running into his man and lean forward for another two as he was getting wrapped up. McFadden exploited the hole off RG where the RG got into the second level against the LB 4 yards downfield. He powered forward with good body lean while running up the backs of his defenders for another 3 yards, but there was a very nice gap to the left of the RB that was about 4 yards wide if he could have cut back in the hole. Better patience on a play to the right side following his pulling G and lead FB. He put his hand on the back of the FB and allowed him to veer right and seal off the edge as McFadden ran through the gap for 4 yard before getting wrapped up by the DT and cleaned up the safety for 6 yards. McFadden went through a well-blocked hole of LG and there was second level blocking where he could have dipped to the left of the LG and had a race with the secondary down the left hash, but tripped midway through the hole, gaining 4 yards. The offense tried a run around right end with 10:35 in the 3rd QTR off a play action fake reverse to Jones. McFadden made a very good jump cut to avoid the DT Nevis penetrating 4 yards into the backfield. As a result McFadden over reacted to the play and abandoned the blocks ahead of him, which were downfield to the right side. He tried to reverse his field and was brought down for a 3-yard loss by Nevis on the play. He was trapped in the backfield if he did avoid Nevis. On the next play, he scored on a 71-yard run as the QB off a play fake misdirection to Jones on the end around. McFadden followed his lead FB opening a crease off left end then outran the LB at the LOS, beating the DB to the sideline at the 35

yard line. At this point, no one caught him. The FS almost caught him from behind, but the QB who was lined up as a WR blocked the FS at the 22-yard line.

As mentioned above, McFadden had two good opportunities to make a plant and cut lateral move to an outside lane, but did not do so on the kickoff. The second kickoff he actually tried to exploit the huge lane to his left, but tried to angle or "bend" the run through the hole. He could not make a dramatic enough turn. A player who can cut off his plant foot would have easily exploited this hole and would have been in a one-on-one foot race with the free defender #25 who was still 7 yards away from McFadden at this point. He demonstrated very good hip flexibility with a change of direction into the hole on his first handoff of the game for a 2-yard gain. He got 4 yards on a QB keeper to left end and three of them came when he cut back to the inside of the FS in open space. He has to slow down to make a lateral move and he has to make a few short set up steps to plant and turn. As he did so, he was hit by the FS but spun to the inside of the hit, leaning forward for the gain. Once again, I like his hip turn. He can change direction in small space with good hip turn such as a dip to the outside on 2nd and 14 play around left corner for 5 yards. I still haven't seen a plant and cut move from McFadden. He chops his steps a bit like Herschel Walker when taking angles; it's a tiptoeing type of stride until he gets in the open field. He looked awkward shifting his weight to make a cut back to the inside on a 1-yard loss on a QB keeper from the Wild Hog formation. He got 10-yards around the left corner from the spread formation with 12:30 in the 4th QTR, but the FB held the DE who was still able to get a hand on the RB and the play was called back--but the best part of that run was McFadden turning his hips quickly to get up field.

He made a good lead block for Felix Jones on the 3rd kick return of the game, turning away from the wedge as he led Jones, squaring up, and delivering a hard hit to #56 that put the player at a standstill. He made a small chip on the DE on a pass play with 10:30 in the half. He got low on a cut block attempt on the DE, but telegraphed the block without driving hard for the legs. This allowed the DE to stop and attempt to block the throw with 10:56 in the 3rd QTR. Good effort and block on a DT with: 47 in the game. He sustained the effort as the QB rolled right. The DT wasn't trying very hard to get past him, but the effort was still worthwhile. At the same time, he might have been better trying to make himself a target as a receiver, considering how far down field he and the DT were compared to the QB. He did a great job chipping the DE and knocking him to the ground on a roll left with :09 in the 4th QTR.

He was not used as a receiver at all in the game.

He's got a nice throwing arm. He overthrew his TE on a corner route from the opposite hash by about 5 yards. The ball traveled 45 yards in the air with 9:45 in the half. He completed a short throw out to Jones behind the LOS from the shotgun formation, which the RB split wide took for a 5-yard gain with 7:40 in the half. He overthrew a deep corner route by the TE. The ball traveled 40 yards and was overthrown by 2-3 yards. He hit Hillis on a 24-yard score up the middle with 5:06 in the 4th QTR.

McFadden has two paternity suits filed against him and has been involved in a fight at a bar and some controversy over a vehicle allegedly purchased for him.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

Great speed and acceleration. He will bully 3rd level defenders at the end of runs. When he makes blocks from a stand up position, he will aggressively go after a player. He's difficult to bring down with a running start and going north-south. He can beat angles with his acceleration. Honestly, I'm still stunned that I did not see enough to comment more about his play in a positive light.

McFadden lacks patience and good peripheral vision to spot alternate holes. He runs too far up his linemen too early on run plays, which inhibits his teammates from making the blocks that will open holes for him. He also doesn't see holes very well or anticipate the creases that will come if he relied more on his blockers. He just doesn't make good adjustments at the line of scrimmage if the primary hole isn't there. He doesn't drive his legs after the hit on a lot of runs and this prevents him from gaining extra yardage. He looks a bit stiff as a runner, there's not a lot of wiggle. He didn't show the type of balance to spin away from hits or run over people that one would expect from a quality runner in the situations he faced. His blocking and receiving need work. He doesn't block very well. His best efforts are downfield and far from the action on a pass play. His worst efforts are often cut blocks that are too low and result in his QB receiving pressure. I can't believe I'm giving McFadden this low of a grade, but he did very little to impress me in this game.

Nice aggressive finish at the end of his 7-yard run with a forearm shiver to the LB. His pad level wasn't very low on his 7-yard run with 13:32 in the 1st QTR and he fell sideways after first contact on this run. He gets low when he makes contact on a consistent basis, but too low and he folds rather easily on runs up the middle. He was hit by the LB at the right edge on a play where probably 2/3 of the backs in this situation would have been able to use a stiff arm to defend the hit, but he allowed the defender into his body and went down easily. What makes McFadden dangerous in tight spaces is when he is successful running up the backs of his blockers and maintains his balance such as a 33-yard kick return up the wedge with 4:29 in the half. He also gained 10 extra yards because he could use his stiff arm against a defender in front of him and drove the player backwards, warding him away from his legs. When he leans forward and hits the crease hard, he will get an extra yard or two. He broke his first tackle with 6:43 on an 18-yard run up the middle out of the Wild Hog formation. The LB tried to dive for his legs from the backside, but the RB was too quick through the hole for him to get a good shot. This is the key with McFadden: if you get a solid hit he goes down without a lot of trouble. If you don't have a good angle, his speed will make it difficult to get that shot. On this play the DB actually brought down McFadden with a glancing waist tackle. He did a very nice job of getting low enough to bounce through a leg tackle on a 4th down pitch to the left that he cut back to the inside for a 3-yard score with 3:09 in the 3rd QTR. Very good body lean on this play.

He carried the ball in his sideline arm on his run to the left side of the field for 7 yards in the opening QTR. He carried the ball in his right arm on subsequent runs during the opening drive. On a 1st down with 6:30 in the 1st QTR, McFadden followed his lead blockers up the middle for a gain of five yards, but was hit in the chest and the ball popped loose from his elbow, because the RB did not have his elbow cinched against his ribcage.

McFadden was hit by the LB at the inside shoulder on a 7-yard run with 13:32 in the 1st QTR and the RB fell sideways, despite having a lot of momentum. He was running at a good speed on a 9-yard gain on an option keeper when he was hit head-on and nearly fell backwards. He doesn't have the best balance for a runner of his reputation. This was the 2nd time he was knocked down with a hit that other runners usually spin away from or get low enough to shake off the hit and keep moving. His balance is good when he is hit low, such as a 9-yard gain he made where he gained 2-3 extra yards leaping as defender shot for his ankles and partially hit them. But when he's hit in the upper body, he falls over. His build is more like a big WR with long and lean legs. He's wiry--even more so than a player like Kevin Smith who has a more muscular core and trunk.

McFadden has excellent speed. He gets up to top speed in a hurry as demonstrated by a 1-yard gain around the left corner where made an extremely quick turn up field despite the minimal yardage. McFadden's burst through a large hole up the middle on a QB sneak after faking the handoff to Jones from the "Wild Hog formation" resulted in a 19-yard gain. Excellent speed to the outside on a 7-yard run (his longest run of the day at 9:03 in the 3rd QTR) to the left side. Once again he demonstrated good speed to the left side on a form of a bootleg out of the Wild Hog with 5:30 for a 9-yard gain.

His 7-yard run off LG was the result of a huge hole--a lane that was nearly a yard wide on either side of him to run through without contact until he was 7-yards downfield. His next 7-yard run with 10:45 in the 1st QTR was through a large hole off RG. One of the things that McFadden lacks is patience as a runner between the tackles. He's a physical runner with speed and sometimes takes the attitude that he can run by or run over anyone. On 3rd and 2 on the first drive in Missouri territory, McFadden took the handoff up the middle from the I-formation. The FB made a good block on the MLB. The LT, LG, and C cleared out an alley to the left of the FB about a yard wide. The OLB filled the hole to the right of the FB, but the RG and RT had good blocks set up. The MLB against the FB had his outside shoulder free and a good chance to hit the RB if he tried to go through the alley between the FB and linemen and the OLB was shaded toward the FB. McFadden chose to run into the back of his FB rather than slow his stride and either made a move on the OLB in the hole or right, tight against the alley made by the linemen. Even if he lowered his shoulder and took on the OLB, he would have gained positive yardage rather than lost the two yards he did on the play. He just didn't show one of these types of adjustments that an RB with good vision makes. McFadden didn't demonstrate the patience to allow his FB get the block on a defender before he ran to the area. He needs to learn to press the hole or shorten his stride so he's not up at the LOS too early. His 19-yard gain came through a huge hole that was aided by a fake to the RB Jones out of the spread formation with McFadden at QB. The puzzling thing is that McFadden did not cut the run to the left sideline and away from the two defenders who were over top that brought him down. Out of the Wild Hog formation McFadden had decent blocking but did not see the LB had inside advantage on the linemen at the right edge. If McFadden cut to the outside of the blocker, he has a shot at a 4-5 yard gain, but cut to the inside and ran right into the LB for a loss. From the Wild hog formation on an option keeper to the right side of the defense, McFadden finally demonstrated some patience, making a stutter step towards the right and cutting the play another step towards the inside and away from the defender, which actually set up a block by his RB.

Good agility out of the I-formation to hurdle the penetrating DE who got 5 yards into the backfield and not lose his stride on a 7-yard gain around the left corner. He just doesn't look very nifty as a runner when it comes to lateral movement. He ran into his FB on a 1st QTR run where he had a chance to make a lateral move to either side. He ran up the back of his G on a play that he could have bounced outside and he bounced off his blocker with 1:21 in the half as he was cutting off the lineman to the inside.

McFadden had a chance to block for his QB on a 3rd and 7 with 7:00 in the 1st QTR, but dropped way too low on the cut block attempt, which allowed the defender to easily hurdle the RB and get pressure on the QB to force an incomplete pass. After a reception by the receiver within a 5-yard radius of McFadden, the RB stopped running and just watched the play. On 3rd down with 7:21 in the half, he saw a defender coming free about 5 yards downfield as the rest of the pocket on the other side of the field was collapsing on the QB. McFadden didn't look to that side and instead charged downfield to hit the defender and knock down a player who had no immediate chance to be in on the play. On a pass with 4:15 in the half McFadden ran a pass pattern downfield, but 5 yards past the LOS delivered a block to the man in coverage although the pass wasn't to his side. Good effort. ON the next play, he cut block the edge rusher on the backside of the rollout. He was still going too low, but he was successful in knocking the player off his feet.

On 1st and 10 with 7:23 in the 1st QTR, McFadden ran a delayed release to the flat, but turned the wrong way. The throw went to his outside shoulder and the coverage dictated that the RB turn to the outside. This poorly run route nearly allowed the defender to jump the route and make the interception. McFadden dropped the easy catch on 3rd down. He was facing the QB and he allowed the ball to hit him in the chest. There was no defender close enough to hit McFadden, but he allowed the ball to pop loose as he was falling to the ground.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Darren McFadden **Date:** 9/16/2006 **Opponent:** Vanderbilt

Overall Strengths:

Very fast and agile. He can bend a run or turn it up field very quickly by turning his hips and getting his shoulders square. He does some unusual things effortlessly, such as leap over a fallen player and knock back another while still in mid-air. He has a good stiff arm and when up to full-speed is difficult to grab with an arm. He runs the designed plays very well, but doesn't demonstrate the ability to find a second option quickly. He doesn't shy away from contact. He's a high effort player who will deliver a blow and follow up with hits as a blocker and play with injury.

Overall Weaknesses:

He needs to improve his pass catching. He drops balls that are easy to catch with his hands. He makes some incorrect reads at the line of scrimmage that costs him big gains. He doesn't shed tackles effectively unless he's in the 3rd level of the defense or on the edge where he's using his speed. His ball protection needs to improve. His lateral movement is suspect and he needs to shorten his steps behind the LOS so he can maneuver away from penetration when it occurs. Although he doesn't use a lot of lateral movement, I think that could change if he shortened his stride after the QB exchange. If he can do this, it might aid his vision and lateral movement. And if that happens, he could be the dynamic back in the pros that he is in college.

Power:

McFadden took the first run to the left side in a 2-TE set as the single back. As he was getting to the corner, the LT had knocked down the defender in the path ahead of the RB. The RB jumped over the two players who were on the ground and as he landed, collided with the LB in the chest. McFadden used his free elbow to knock the LB aside while still in the air. McFadden was tripped up with an arm tackle to his foot at the LOS on an inside handoff from the spread formation. McFadden was trying to turn the corner when he was knocked down at the edge. McFadden had a huge hole off RG that he blew through with :25 in the 1st QTR, but he was hit in the ankle going through the lane with someone's hand and he lost his balance. He fell four yards later for a 9-yard gain. If he breaks this ankle tackle he probably scores from nearly 50 yards. On his 21-yard run to end the half his momentum basically tore the arm off the LB trying to get a hand on him and ran through the safety's arm tackle about 17 yards downfield. He barreling into the other safety to finish this run and end the half. Good job running through an arm tackle to his thigh and then a stiffarm to the DB as he angled toward the left sideline to finish the 17-yard gain with 8:20 in the half. He's able to fall forward against the 3rd level of the defense like the end of a 10-yard run with 7:40 in the 3rd QTR. He could not run through the arm tackle around his waist by the DT with a 6-yard running start on the next play. He was not able to get the first down on consecutive short-yardage runs where he lowered his shoulder into the defense. On the second run, he had little chance because multiple defenders penetrated into the backfield and forced him to try to bounce it outside.

Ball Handling:

After McFadden took the first run to the left side, jumping over the two players who were on the ground then colliding with the LB and elbowed him to knock him aside while still in the air, the CB came behind him and puched the ball loose from the gap between McFadden's elbow and his side. The ball was recovered by the Arkansas WR.

Elasticity:

McFadden took the first run to the left side in a 2-TE set as the single back. As he was getting to the corner, the LT had knocked down the defender in the path ahead of the RB. The RB jumped over the two players who were on the ground and as he landed collided with the LB in the chest. He used his free elbow to knock him aside while still in the air. While an athletic move, this is the type of move an instinctive runner makes in the openfield for short yardage, not traveling east west around a corner in heavy traffic. On another run, McFadden saw the penetration off the left edge and bent the run back to the center but had to spin off the linemen ahead of him to reach the hole he intended to cut back to. He was knocked down with a hit to his side for a 1-yard gain on 2nd and 9 in the 1st QTR. As a junior he demonstrated the same tenedency to be a long-strider out of his hand off's behind the LOS. This limited his options to make moves. Very nice agility to step over the penetrating safety through the gap left by the LG. He lifted his back leg just high enough to elude the hit and get to the outside. He turned a 3-yard loss to a no-gain situation. He made a sharp turn off his pulling G's block to seal the lane off RG and nearly fell as he burst through the hole for a 10-yard gain with 7:46 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance:

McFadden took the first run to the left side in a 2-TE set as the single back. As he was getting to the corner, the LT had knocked down the defender in the path ahead of the RB. The RB jumped over the two players who were on the ground and as he landed collided wht the LB in the chest and used his free elbow to knock him aside while still in the air. Good balance to take a hit to the side in the air and knock the player down as he landed.

Speed:

Very quick burst. He can get caught from behind with good penetration in the backfield as he's accelerating, which is why it's important for teams to get good penetration into the backfield against him. He lost three yards on a counter play from a shotgun handoff when the backside pursuit caught him from behind and the penetrating DE cleaned it up. He was tackled for no gain as the LB came free at the LOS on a run to the outside. He showed off his speed around the left side for a 10-yard gain with 5:30 in the half.

Blocking:

Excellent cut block on the DE to open their first offensive series of the game. He hit the DE in the waist and crumpled him where they made contact, which allowed the QB an easy pass to his WR on a 7-yard hitch. He made another decent cut block on the OLB off the left side on a pass to the FB during the second offensive series of the 1st QTR. He went low for a cut block on the second play of the 2nd QTR but shot for the defender engaged with the lineman and not the LB blitzing in front of him. He succeeded with the cut block, but to the wrong guy. He cut blocked the OLB on 4th down. His cut blocks seem to be getting lower as the game continues. This one was at the ankles and the OLB was able to fly forward which could have forced a sack on the QB if the passer already hadn't started rolling right on the play. Excellent effort on 3rd down with 2:17 in the 3rd QTR to cut block his LB but then realize as he did it too low and the LB got back up as the QB was rolling to their side. McFadden got off the turf and cut the LB down again.

Vision:

He took very long strides coming out of his handoffs on some runs and when there is penetration into the backfield, as there was with his second carry, he doesn't give himself much room to operate. He saw the penetration off the left edge and bent the run back to the center but had to spin off the linemen ahead of him to reach the hole he intended to cut back to. He was knocked down with a hit to his side for a 1-yard gain on 2nd and 9 in the 1st QTR. He got swallowed up for a 3-yard loss with 14:09 in the half. The CB blitzed off the left side and the DT got penetration 4 yards into the backfield. McFadden had two steps to make an elusive move away from the DT who was clearly coming free as he took the ball, but he veered towards the contact rather than to the right. If he made a jump cut to the right or side-stepped, he had a lane about 5-yards long which he could have exploited for positive yardage. His longest run of the day came with :05 in the half with the defense playing against the deep pass. The line opened a hole nearly 5 yards wide and 5 yards deep for McFadden to burst through easily. McFadden took a hand off to begin the 2nd half out of the single back set with the TE in motion to the left side. At the snap, the TE peeled back to the right to block down on the backside and the LG got a free release to pursue a second-level block. There were two gaps to choose from: off LG where he could follow the LG into the second level who would take out the MLB or to the gap off RG where the MLB had a clear angle to McFadden. The RB too the RG option and tried to run over the LB, gaining only 2 yards when he was wrapped up by that MLB. With the amount of depth he had in the backfield he had plenty of opportunity to make the better choice. Excellent job seeing the cutback lane on a run where he took the inside hand off towards RG, following his TE, then cutting off that lead blocker's hip back across the field through the lane and breaking free from the LB grabbing his thigh to another 13 yards as he head toward the left sideline.

Receiving:

McFadden dropped a screen pass that he initially snatched, but fought into this body as he was bringing it under control and dropped it. Interestingly enough he was behind the LOS and the officials should have ruled it a fumbled lateral.

Durability:

Had surgery on a broken toe before the season and was not expected to play at the beginning of the year, but was available to start the opener.

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Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Darren McFadden

Date: 11/11/2006

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths:

McFadden and Kevin Smith have the best hip turn of runners in this class. They are both quick and fast (McFadden is faster) and can change direction on the run better than many (Smith is better at this). His speed is so good that he will exploit a bad angle better than most backs. He can turn at full speed impressively well and he will lower his shoulder into a defender to fall forward. He doesn't shy away from contact and has an effective stiff arm around the corner.

Overall Weaknesses:

I couldn't put it any better than the announcers during this game. When he takes the handoff from the quarterback, he's not as effective but when he's the quarterback he's been dangerous. McFadden is a former QB and one of the reasons I think I've been all over the place with my evaluation with McFadden is that he shines in open space which is created best when he's the QB and uses misdirection plays. He has an unusual type of agility for a runner--its more like a wide receiver running through traffic. It's like he's Terrell Owens with worse hands, but better speed running behind the line of scrimmage. He's a big-play threat, but he also has a high number of runs every game for a loss. It's not because he dances around, but more because the openings aren't there or the outside plays are squeezed back to the inside. If he can protect the ball better and become more consistent as a receiver, he'll be effective in packages designed for him. If he improves his patience with slower developing plays as a runner, he could be special.

Power:

He has demonstrated twice on the second drive of the game the ability to lower his shoulder with a defensive back and either break the tackle or gain extra yards with his body lean. He did a good job with a stiff arm to the safety at the corner after exploding through a hole of LG on a counter play with 4:12 in the half. He didn't knock him to the ground, but he slowed the tackler's progress to beat him around the edge.

Ball Handling:

Very good job switching the ball to his outside arm before he made contact with the CB in the flat on a sweep to the right side with 9:57 in the 1st QTR. He does not carry the ball very tight against his body in traffic and this is a concern. There was a 2-yard gain in the 2nd QTR where the ball actually was halfway out of his grasp as he hit the ground and he didn't have his hands on the ball, he was just squeezing it with his forearm against his body. There is a fair amount of space between his elbow and his side, which makes the ball visible to backside defenders to punch it out. McFadden lost the ball at the 2-yard line as the LB knocked the ball loose with a hit.

Eisiveness:

He made a nice spin move off his pulling LG to the inside of the line when he ran into the guard and the defender that guard was blocking. He only gained a yard on the play, but prevented a loss on his first run of the game with 13:26 in the 1st QTR. Very good stop-start reaction about 3 yards behind the LOS to avoid the penetrating DT and gain 2 yards where he should have lost 3. One of the reasons he may not be able to make good jump cuts is that he was playing on a surgically repaired toe and was not expected to play at the beginning of the year, but he willed himself to do so. A very good stutter move to sidestep traffic in the hole for a 10-yard gain off the staple Wild Hog play with the end around fake. He has very good hips that allow him to change direction and bounce plays outside such as a 7-yard run where he took it off LT after pressing the hole to the right. He gained this out of the single back set. A nice plant and spin move away from the edge rusher on their staple Wild Hog misdirection play, but he spun into two defenders and lost yardage. He's such a fast runner with an upright style that when he gets into the second level at full speed, he doesn't drop his hips well enough to make a lateral plant and cut. I saw him try for the first time in about 130 carries and he slipped, backwards. He's not a hard-cutting runner. He lacks that kind of balance. Another glaring example is a 3rd and 2 misdirection pitch. McFadden has to beat the edge defender, but despite having the angle and only two other players to beat around the corner with a head-start, he reverses his field. It's impressive he can make a tight running turn in small space to avoid to more players, but a player with good lateral cuts can do this more efficiently. He slips at the other side of the field trying to turn the play upfield.

Balance:

On a 1-yard loss overturned by an offside penalty, McFadden demonstrated the ability to lower his shoulder against a direct collision with the CB in the flat on a sweep, knocking the CB down and continuing to run. McFadden nearly threw aside the OLB shooting the gap on a rush to left end with 8:30 in the 1st QTR, but the OLB's hit from this angle knocked him off balance. As with most backs, the best way to stop McFadden is to get penetration into the backfield while he's running east-west. He was dropped for a 2-yard loss on a run around left end with 2:16 in the 1st QTR.

Speed:

McFadden showed off his great speed around left corner for an 18-yard gain before he was finally dragged to the ground by his shirt tail by the safety. All he needs is the 1st and 2nd level defenders to take a step in the wrong direction and he'll get positive yardage on a play with his speed. Great speed through the hole on a counter to the LG. After he followed his pulling teammates to the gap, he exploded through it for 37 yards. Once again, great speed around the corner out of a single back set to gain 9 yards on the opening run of the 3rd QTR. He's so fast that the LB shooting the gap couldn't get his ankles in the backfield after a terrific read of the run to RG with 11:18 in the 3rd QTR. McFadden gained 8 on the play.

Blocking:

Nice cut block on a DT getting close to his QB as the passer was releasing the ball. Good read and reaction by McFadden to cut the player down--even if the block was a little low.

Vision:

McFadden ran for 8 yards on a toss sweep to the right that was a product of a great downfield blocking. The entire Arkansas line got a push in to the second level--4-5 yards off the LOS for the RT, RG, and LG and the TE was sealing off the edge. McFadden had a 6-yard running start with no UT defenders within 6 yards of him before he encountered a safety who hit him low and fell forward for another 4 yards, gaining 8 on the play. He gained 7 with 13:33 in the half after faking to Jones on the end around and going up the middle. The play fake forced two LBs in the middle of the field to take a step to their left which opened the lane for McFadden to gain the yardage with his quickness. McFadden scored on their staple, misdirection play with him as the QB faking the end around and going the opposite way as he follows a pulling lineman with 12:42 in the half. The fake opened a crease off LG that was fairly small, but McFadden did a fine job of spotting it and blowing through it untouched for 17 yards and the score. He gained 9 yards off the same play I just mentioned with 7:32 in the half. I'm hesitant to say he makes good choices when I see a run like the 3rd and 2 reversal of field for a 3-yard loss where he has the speed to beat the DE around the corner on the pitch. I'm not sure what he was thinking.

Receiving:

McFadden caught a smash screen with his hands extended from his chest at the left sideline and burst upfield for 6 yards on the play with 7:58 in the 1st QTR. He was actually hit in the foot after he took a couple of steps and fell forward for most of the gain.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Darren McFadden **Date:** 11/24/2006 **Opponent:** LSU

Overall Strengths:

He can outrun just about anyone on a football field in terms of his speed. He has excellent acceleration and a good stiff arm. He is decisive with running the play as designed and will hit the hole hard. He has good open field vision when in the 3rd level of the defense. He can throw the football and shows promise as a receiver. He can make lateral cuts in some situations and had very good hips that allow him to change direction quickly to get north-south. In the right offense he could develop into the 1st round pick he is likely to be, but he needs more coaching and development.

Overall Weaknesses:

Gary Danielson compares him to Eric Dickerson in this game, but I think that's too generous of a compliment. McFadden may be as fast, but he's not as powerful or resourceful a runner in terms of vision behind the LOS. Although his speed is great, his power is a bit overrated. He gets knocked backwards more than many backs and does not have the leg strength to drive forward against 1st and 2nd level defenders on a regular basis due to his poor knee and hip bend. He is pretty easy to take down when moving east-west. His ball protection techniques need more refinement and consistency of execution. He is not used a lot as a receiver. Just as his presence cause force defenses to account for him when Felix Jones gets the ball, Jones does the same for him. His open field vision is much better than his ability to spot gaps behind the LOS and pick holes where the play isn't primarily designed to go.

Power:

McFadden gained 4 yards on a keeper with a fake to the end around before running right. He saw a huge opening off LG that was 3 yards wide. He turned into this gap and lowered his shoulder into the LB waiting at the 1 yardline. The LB just stood there waiting for McFadden to run into him from two yards away. When McFadden lowered his shoulder into the LB the LB backed up half a yard and then with the help of the safety, pushed him backwards by a yard. McFadden's leg drive is not very strong. He was trying to move his legs, but could not get any further. He did run low with a good lean to score on the next play from a half a yard away with 12:30 in the 1st QTR. This was shocking that the LB could just stand there and take a hit from McFadden with a running start and then dump him backwards. He used a stiff arm on his 29-yard run around left end on the mis-direction with 10:20 in the half. He got the arm into the DB and it helped him gain another 12 yards from the initial contact. If he could have waited a step longer to make the contact, he could have punched it to the DB and dropped him to the ground, which might have mean a score for the RB on a long run. McFadden took a keeper from the Wild Hog formation and ran off RG. He lowered his shoulder and accelerated into the DT, but could not break through the defender for the 1st down with a running start of 3 yards as the second DT wrapped him up and threw him backwards. He stiff armed the LB in the face, knocking him down before going out of bounds for a gain of 6 yards and again for a first down off the Wild Hog formation misdirection play with the end around action with 8:06 in the half. From the Wild Hog formation where he fakes to Jones, he went around the corner when he sucked in the backside pursuit and gained 30 on the play with his speed and a stiff arm to the chest of the safety to gain an extra 5 yards. He knocked down an LSU LB on a 2nd QTR stiff arm with 8:30 left as he got the corner off a spread formation keeper as the QB. He knocked down more than one LB in this game with a stiff arm as he was outrunning their angle. On a keeper with :30 seconds left in the 3rd QTR he pounded it up the middle and didn't stop for 5 yards, but the gain was very deceiving because unlike the 1-on-1 collisions he couldn't gain extra yards, on this one he had two linemen pushing the pile from behind and two teammates in front of McFadden pulling him forward against four smaller LSU players. Then the guard came in to push forward. He lowered his shoulder to collide with Landry with 9:42 in the game and was brought down. A back like Peterson or Bo Jackson might have knocked the safety down and kept running. It was a good way to finish the run, but this guy despite his nearly inhuman speed, is very mortal in the power department.

Ball Handling:

He carried the ball in his left hand on most of the runs. He keeps it pretty close to his body but his elbow is away from his side and "if" anyone can catch him, he could put the ball on the ground.

Elusiveness:

From a single back set with 9:33 in the 1st QTR McFadden followed the pulling G and TE through a gap off LG. As he got behind the DT at the LOS, he made a plant and cut from the outside hip of the TE to the inside hip to avoid the defender taking outside position on the TE's block to squeeze the play inside. McFadden's cut wasn't strong enough to get past the TE without running into the backs of his legs. McFadden tripped and he fell forward for a gain of 4 yards. On the next play, he slipped as he tried to bend the run around RT with 4:29 in the 1st QTR. He demonstrated nice footwork to give and take away a leg at the LOS as he was turning his hips to the left on a run with good penetration at the LOS and bounced it outside for a gain of 1 yard with 13:53. He's best at changing direction when he can turn his hips. He did this to bounce outside as the QB taking the edge on the mis-direction run with the fake of the end around with 8:09 in the half. With 4:00 in the half, he made a very strong lateral cut while facing the left sideline downfield past the DL into the crease for a 4-yard gain. This was the best lateral cut I've seen him make in nearly 120 carries of film. He rarely uses plant and cut moves, but for the 3rd time in this game he made a very nice plant and cut at the edge of the defense to completely knife past the LB with a good angle and get another 4-5 yards on the play with 1:44 in the 3rd QTR. He is a fluid runner that can dip in and out of traffic easily. He took an end around in the 4th QTR--after his 80-yard run--and the DE and CB had the angle on him, but he dip away just a bit to eliminate the angle and outrun them both. Sounds simple, but 98 out of 100 backs could not have done what he did on this play.

Balance:

When going east-west or if hit from an indirect angle to the leg or hip, he lacks the low center of gravity to stay upright. He was brought down for a 1-yard gain by the DB at the numbers on the left side of the field after bouncing a run outside with 13:53 in the half. A lot of people compare McFadden to Peterson, but upon closer look it's not even close. Peterson has much better balance than McFadden. On runs to the outside, Peterson would routinely keep his balance along the sideline after someone tried to horsecollar him, but slide off him. McFadden has been dragged down from behind repeatedly in this game in similar situations. He's fast, but he lacks that special balance to remain upright from hits and tackle attempts from indirect angles. On a 3rd QTR run to the outside out of the "Wild Hog" formation, McFadden was able to spin counter clockwise away from a defender for a couple of extra yards after he stiffarmed two players prior to the move. The balance it takes to do this full speed is pretty impressive.

Speed:

McFadden's acceleration is special. It takes only a few steps for him to reach full speed. He hits the hole hard and did a nice job on his 1-yard run for a score. He displayed that quick first step again when he bounced a 2nd QTR run outside on a designed mis-direction with the line blocking to the right as he faked a handoff then went left. He got to full speed in the opposite direction very quickly, easily taking the corner on his 30-yard run. There was a great deal of space for him to exploit and there was only one block made on the backside pursuit in the 2nd level, McFadden outran the rest of the 2nd and 3rd level to the outside with 10:20 in the half. Talk about speed: McFadden ran past 4 defenders after breaking through the defensive line. Two of them were 5 yards in front of him with an angle when he turned on the jets and blew by them all. With 9:45 in the game, the CB thought he had the backside angle on McFadden about 4 yards behind the LOS as the RB took the end around, but McFadden completely blew up his angle with his speed and within 5 yards the CB was chasing the RB with no shot to tackle him.

Blocking:

He made a light chip on a DE with the RT on 1st and 10 with 10:26 in the half.

Vision:

McFadden's 1st run on the Razorback's second possession demonstrates that he could stand to use a bit more patience in the hole. He hits the opening fast and can overrun his blocking to the point that he will bounce off the back of his lineman. He did this with 2:19 in the half on a keeper from the Wild Hog formation. He could have show more patience, but he lowered his head and just rammed himself into the side of his lineman. McFadden's 80-yard TD run in the 4th QTR was a product of big holes up the middle, but the RB did not hesitate as he hit the hole and had confidence in his speed to beat 4 LSU defenders that were in front of him trying to close that hole!

Receiving:

McFadden's only reception of the game came on the second play. He was split wide to the left and ran a smash screen--a short WR screen designed to cut back to the middle of the field. McFadden caught the ball with his hands and accelerated for 7 yards, but was caught from behind by the DE Alexander. McFadden ran a stutter against a CB after motioning out of the backfield and though the CB was playing 8 yards off McFadden, the RB ate the cushion in no time. He had two steps on the defender with the ball in the air. McFadden nearly made an over the shoulder catch 40 yards down the field, but the CB tackled the RB before the ball arrived, drawing the interference call because he pulled McFadden's inside arm down as the ball was arriving. McFadden was split wide with 1:52 left but the ball was underthrown on a streak route.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: **Dontrell Savage**

Date: **12/28/2006**

Opponent: **Alabama**

Overall Strengths:

Savage has skills that could make him a dynamic player in the NFL. His quickness is very apparent on film. He has a very noticeable burst and suddenness with his moves. He can avoid players in the backfield and make good cuts in the open field at full speed. He also possesses very good balance for a man of his size. He can spin away from direct hits from much bigger players and keep his feet. He will lower his head and keep his legs driving in 1 on 1 situations against defenders. He catches the ball very well out of the backfield both in the flat and on screen passes. He demonstrated the ability to snatch the ball out of the air. At the very least, Savage should become a quality 3rd down back for an NFL offense. I believe in the right situation, he could be an every down player with skillsets reminiscent of Brian Westbrook because he runs with patience, a burst, and sets up blocks very well in the counter action run game and zone blocking scheme and protects the football very well as a runner and receiver.

Overall Weaknesses:

Savage is a hard-nosed runner for his size, but he won't break a lot of tackles. His blocking is fairly unproven based on this game.

Power:

Savage went down easily when tackled at the legs during the first half. The problem for the defense was getting close enough to him or an angle where they had a shot to hit him there. On the other hand, he demonstrated great technique, leverage, and toughness on a 3rd and 1 run with 8:12 in the half. He took the I-formation handoff towards right tackle where he had a FB and TE helping to clear a lane, but Alabama read the play all the way, getting into the backfield. Savage bounced the play outside, using a good stiff arm to drive safety away from him until he could turn upfield to shed the safety and then lowered his head into the LB and bulled through the defender for the extra 2 yards to get the first down. Still, he won't gain more than a yard or two taking on an LB at the LOS on a north-south run. He lacks that kind of power to move a pile with multiple big bodies on him. He could not run out of a wrap up to his ankle behind the LOS by the DE, but still leaned forward for 4 yards. He spun through traffic after getting wrapped up 3 yards in the hole and getting another two by keeping his legs driving. He was very good at keeping his legs driving on various plays throughout this game. His speed and momentum helped him drag a DB 7-yards on his 24-yard run. The DB was holding onto his shoulders from the back at the moment of contact.

Ball Handling:

Good job carrying the football in his outside arm on a 3rd and 13 handoff with 11:15 in the 1st QTR. He carried the ball under his left arm on a play off LG with 1:55 in the 1st QTR-- clearly demonstrating he can carry the ball with either arm and knowing when to do so. He did a find job of switching the ball to his right arm as he cut up the middle of the field from the left side on the 26-yard screen pass. This protected the ball from the defender in pursuit.

Eelusiveness:

Savage runs with a very good wiggle. He's a fluid runner who looks like he could move in any direction with every step. Excellent quickness and agility to sidestep the DE coming free 3 yards behind the LOS and burst through the hole off the right edge past the backside DT and the safety for a 6-yard gain and a first down with 2:40 in the 1st QTR on a 2nd and 4 run. Although called back for a holding play that wouldn't have impacted the run, Savage demonstrated an excellent lateral cut of 90 degrees to avoid the LB shooting through the lane off LT and get downfield. As he burst through the alley he made a great stop-start move to change direction to the outside and eluding both a backside player and player over the top--both with excellent angles. Very quick and dramatic change of direction during the first 6-yards of the run for a gain of 19 yards that was called back. Nice awareness to spin to the inside just as he made a leaping catch in the right flat for his first reception with 14:15 remaining in the game.

Balance:

Savage ran through an arm tackle leveled at his shoulders from the backside pursuit on a 10-yard run with 2:24 in the 1st QTR. Savage was hit head-on at the end of a run through a big hold off LG and C for 8 yard yards. The hit was to his knees, but Savage was able to keep his balance and lean forward at the end of the run. When moving north-south he hit an LB at the end of a hole and was able to gain 2 yards after the hit to his legs. Excellent job bouncing off a head-on hit by the DE and spinning to the outside. He lost yardage on the play, but the balance and movement was very good against a much bigger man with a great angle in the backfield.

Speed:

The first thing you notice about Savage is his quickness. He was quick to the hole on a run for 3 yards that was well-defended by the Tide defense. He burst through holes repeatedly, getting 5-6 yards before even being touched. He had a 21-yard gain off LG with such a good burst that he split two LBs at the other side of the hole as if he were a car flying through a tunnel. Both LBs collided with each other as he went between them on his way out of that hole at the LOS. Good burst on the screen pass to outrun two defenders in pursuit down the sideline for a 9-yard gain.

Blocking:

I did not see him have any clear opportunities to block in this game. He either wasn't in the game in the passing situation or was breaking the pocket as a receiver.

Vision:

Very good counter action on a 3rd and 13 spread formation hand off. He took two steps towards the gap occupied by the LG, but then turned upfield off the hip of the LG who was pulling to the hole off RG. He worked off the LG's block to get another 5-6 yards and gained 11 on the play. Good patience and set up of his blocks. Very decisive job knifing off LG for a 1-yard score. The crease was very small, but he charged through and got the easy TD with 9:48 in the 1st QTR. He did this counter action again with 3:06 in the 1st QTR but to the other side of the formation with the RG pulling. This time he didn't do as much of a counter move as he did a stop-start to allow the block to develop then burst through the middle for a 6-yard gain. On the next run with 2:30 in the quarter, he did well to weave through traffic on a slanting block towards the left as he went right. He managed eight yards on the play through some nice-sized gaps between free defenders. Good open field running for 10 yards. Very decisive going through a moderately large alley for an 8-yard gain on 1st and 5 for a 1st down. Nice stutter step and burst off LG and C with 12:31 in the game on a 2nd and 10 for 7 yards. He did well to vary his step size behind the LOS and them dart through a hole opening off RG with 8:01 for a 6-yard gain and a 1st down. His 24-yard run with 3:07 in the game was the product of great blocking by the left side of the o-line which got into the second level of the defense and opened a 2-yard wide hole between G and T, which Savage burst through, then angled towards the right sideline. He gained 26 yards on a screen pass with :59 in the game, dipping back to the inside from the left flat and setting up space in the open field with his quick moves on the play.

Receiving:

His first catch was a 3rd and 4 pass to the flat that was thrown over his head and thrown hard. He caught the ball with his hands extended over his head and still held on as the DB went for the hit in the back. The RB spun away from the hit and got 3 more yards for the first down. Savage dropped a short out route that was thrown low, hard and away from his body. He nearly caught the ball with his hands, but there was not much touch on the pass. He still should have made the reception. Good job setting up behind his lineman and catching the screen pass with his hands on 1st and 10 with 8:04 in the game. Savage was a running a flat route, but the QB threw a wheel route on 2nd and 9 with 1:05 in the game. Excellent set up and over the head snatch of the ball on a screen pass to the left side on 3rd and 9 out of the spread formation with :58 in the game. Savage gained 26 yards on the play and it was the play that set up the game-winning field goal.

Durability:

He missed the first three games of 2007 with an abdominal and groin strain.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Dontrell Savage

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Texas A&M

Overall Strengths:

I'm impressed with Savage's effort as a blocker and second effort runner. He and Thomas Brown are of similar dimension and they are both complete football players with an aggressive style. He is a very hard-nosed runner for his size. He plays fast and does not go down very often after the first hit. He routinely takes the yardage the defense gives him and does not try to gamble on choices where he knows he can lower his shoulder, follow in blocks, and lean forward for positive yardage. He finishes strong and though he won't punish a defense in a traditional way, he is a workhorse who can wear out the opposing team with his hard running style behind a big line. In the pros I'm not sure he'll be able to do this, but he's a savvy player who should at least see some time as a change of pace back as an NFL back.

Overall Weaknesses:

Other than his size, I really don't see too many weaknesses with him as a runner. Whether he'll be able to break tackles and operate in space at the NFL level is the main question about his game translating to the NFL. It will be the difference between him being a depth chart player and starter. He needs to switch the ball to the sideline arm with greater consistency at the right time and develop more skills at catching the football with his hands first. There was a mental error on 3rd and inches from the goal line where Savage did not get the change in play call that resulted in a broken play rather than a potential score. The Cowboys got a field goal but this made a difference in the game's outcome. Still he almost led them back to the victory but his team had two key penalties that led to self-destruction.

Power:

Savage runs with a good lean and did a good job of fighting for extra yards in high traffic areas. Excellent finish on his run with 12:24 in the half. He spun off a CB, S, and DL towards the middle of the field and kept his legs moving to free himself from their grasp for two extra yards and a first down. It was impressive he could lean forward in the grasp of the DT to get the first down. Savage was knocked backward once today, but he was in a spot where the LB had both holes covered and he was mowed over trying to take the ball outside. The LB was charging through untouched and made a great hit. Savage had a huge lane with 2:43 in the half off the right side. There was a 5-yard gap created equi-distant from the RT, RG, and WR. He easily got 6 yards for the first down and then lowered his shoulder into the safety to finish with an 11-yard gain. Savage got a first down off a draw with 3:45 in the 3rd QTR on the same drive he got a 25-yard gain. This time he carried a DB 4 yards on his back after meeting him head on, lowering his shoulder and driving his legs.

Ball Handling:

Savage and his QB had a mishap on a 1st and 10 with 8:43 where the QB tried to pull the ball away on a spread stretch option, but Savage held onto the ball. Fortunately, the QB let go and the RB maintained possession after getting hit in the backfield by a DT. He did not switch the ball to his sideline arm on any of his carries for the first 20 minutes of the half. Savage threw a 30-yard touchdown to Bowman on a streak with almost pinpoint accuracy, splitting two DBs on an RB option out of the spread formation. Bowman had to adjust to the ball by turning back to the left, but the throw was placed away from the CB but just in time where the safety coming across wouldn't be able to intercept the pass. It was not a good decision, but the execution was perfect. There were a half dozen scouts at this game and Coach Gundy told Savage to hold onto the football. Since Savage has not fumbled the football in three years at OSU, it's a clear sign that Gundy felt the scouts would be paying attention to the runner and ball security is a big factor. He finally switched the ball to the sideline arm on a reception with 3:35 in the half. He was credited with a fumble in this game, but the replay showed his knees were down and forward progress stopped before the ball was knocked loose. The RB was getting his body bent backwards with his knees on the ground when it dropped out.

Elasticity:

Savage has good change of direction in small spaces. He got the first down on a 3rd and 1 play where he switched sides of the spread formation at the last second to take the handoff. He found a crease between the guard and tackle and then spun off his lineman's hip for an extra two yards in traffic for the first down. On a play called back by a holding penalty, Savage made an effective jump cut in a tight sapce to elude the DT shooting for his ankles. His ability to operate in tight spaces is a strength about his running style. His most common move in traffic is a tight spin out of players grabbing him with one arm. Excellent open field running on a 3rd and 6 where he pushed the hole towards the left and tried to cut back, but was greeted by two A&M defenders in the hole. He spun away to the right and then made a jump cut away from the DB with a clear shot at him to get to the sideline. He was just a few inches short of the first down. He made a good cutback to the inside of an LB running in front of him and squared up to tackle that got him another 5 yards and nearly a touchdown.

Balance:

Excellent balance on his 10-yard run with 12:20 in the half, he exploded out of a cut past his LT and tried to cut it back inside of a block 3 yards downfield, but ran into the blocker. He was hit by DL and two DBs at this point and spun out of the hit towards the middle of the field. He will twist and turn out of hits to gain extra yards. He fights for yardage to the end of the whistle. He actually had his helmet ripped off on a play in the 4th QTR while he was still trying to push for extra yardage with multiple defenders on him.

Speed:

Very good acceleration out of his cuts. He gained 3-4 yards off his cut past a blocker with 12:20 in the game with good explosiveness. Savage is extremely quick in the open field. Savage controls his bursts of speed very well. He understands how to set up blocks and exploit lanes with his burst. Nice try to dive over the pile from the 4-yard line. The replay appeared to show he got the nose of the ball across the goal line but the officials did not call a TD.

Blocking:

Excellent block on the LB blitzing off the edge on 2nd and 11 with 8:24 in the 1st QTR. Savage executed a perfect cut block to knock down the LB and then sustained the effort by hitting the LB once again when the defender jumped up to continue the backside pursuit. This helped the QB break the pocket and nearly gain a first down. He did just enough against a DE on 3rd and 4 with 3:02 in the 1st QTR to allow his QB to throw a slant off a 3-step drop, but he could have taken a more direct angle to actually stop the DE rather than just slow him down. Another good job picking up the backside rush on a roll to the left with 12:24 in the half. Savage delivered a blow that temporarily stood up the DT in pursuit of the QB. He made a strong block downfield on a QB keeper to the right sideline. He sealed the edge with a block that took the DB out of bounds.

Vision:

For a small back, he did a nice job not trying to bounce runs outside when the design of the play was to go up the middle. He followed his blockers effectively and tried to stay close before he tried to exploit any opening in the hole. There were not any big gaps for him to cutback either in the hole or to the outside before he entered the hole. Good discipline to get as many yards as possible. On 2nd and 10 with 12:23 in the half, Savage took a spread formation handoff between the LG and LT. He did a good job reading the LG getting to the 2nd tier to take on the OLB and he pressed the hole between the C and LT until he saw the LT pancake the defender. He ran off the LT's hip and dipped to the sideline instead. He had one run with 6:47 in the 3rd QTR where he did not press the hole long enough to get a cut back and was greeted for only a 1-yard gain. He made 4 excellent choices on a subsequent 3rd and 20 run off a draw for a 25-yard gain. He cut to the outside past the hole and then cut it back inside of a block at the sideline that helped him split the secondary with a good burst to get the first down.

Receiving:

Savage's first catch was a screen pass to the left side for a loss. The LB read the screen and split the LG and LT to get to the RB by the time he turned upfield with the ball. On the play after he was caught in the backfield for a 4-yard loss, Savage ran a very crisp route to circle out of the backfield and across the middle in front of the LB responsible for coverage. He caught the ball by turning his back shoulder to the QB while on the run. He did not catch the ball with his hands, but he caught the ball with no problem. His biggest play might had been the shovel pass he took on a 3rd and 2 with 5:22 in the game. He made quick cut to leave two defenders on the ground as he eluded them and the official to get outside for the first down. Then perfectly set up his WR's block downfield by getting behind his hip then cutting inside of him and the TE's block of another DB downfield on the same side for nearly 29 yards before he was taken out of bounds by the facemask. Very good wheel route out of the backfield and turned back of the QB in tight coverage to catch the QB's throw with 3:23 in the 4th QTR before getting knocked out at the 8 yard line.

Durability:

He missed the first three games of the year with an abdominal and groin strain.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

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High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
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Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

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Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Felix Jones

Date: 11/11/2006

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths:

Jones flashes the skills to be an every down, between the tackles runner. He has the quickness, acceleration, and vision to exploit openings at the line of scrimmage and follows his blocks with patience. He knows how to press the hole and cut back. He has excellent speed around the corner. He has balance after he's hit, although he didn't gain yardage after contact other than leaning forward after hits in this game. He could be a valuable committee back in an offense if nothing else.

Overall Weaknesses:

Most of his huge gains are out of the Wild Hog formation as a receiver running end arounds with the threat of McFadden as the QB. This creates that huge opportunities for him. In his defense he has shown he can do it without McFadden on the field and do it out of a conventional formation. Although he runs with good leverage, he's not powerful. Can he get stronger as the game goes on? He's only had a 20-attempt game once in college football. If he can prove he's up to the task, he could be a valuable starter in a west coast offense or in multiple receiver sets where he can take quick hitting plays for big yardage. I see him more as a perfect complementary back, but he runs smart enough to be the feature guy.

Power:

He kept his legs moving on the 3-yard gain with 8:38 in the half. Good body lean to continue charging forward after he was wrapped up. He ran through a very wide gap between RG and C for a 6-yard gain, but also turned away from an arm tackle that hit him in the shoulders to get half of those yards.

Ball Handling:

He employs sound techniques to protect the ball. He keeps is tight against his body and carries the ball under the appropriate arm. He did lose a ball in this game when the DT got penetration in the backfield and pulled his arm away from the ball, but the RB pounced on it.

Elasticities:

He nearly vaulted a DB after setting him up with a move to the inside and then tried jumping over him to the outside at the end of his 29-yard end around. On a 5-yard gain off an end around handed to him by McFadden, he cut the play inside and nearly leapfrogged the safety who filled the gap. He stop ion a dime and forced the DB to slide into him, and he nearly ran over top of him but fell as he began to do so.

Balance:

Jones demonstrated good balance downfield after turning the corner for a 20-yard gain. He gained another 5 yards after getting hit in the waist at the end of the run with 12:17 in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

Jones is a speedy back who gained 29 yards on an end around, following his blocks perfectly to the right sideline for a 1st down with 12 57 in the half.

Blocking:

Jones did something as a pass blocker I haven't seen many players do on a pass to the flat to his side. As the DE was leaping in the air to attempt to bat down the pass, Jones leaped with his hands in the air as well so he could have a chance to defend the potential interception. He didn't make contact with the defender but this was an interesting technique and smart play with 13:47 in the half. He went a little too low on the edge defender on a 2nd down pass with 8:41 in the half but the ball was already released by the time he executed the block.

Vision:

He followed his pulling guard through a yard-wide hold off RG and then dipped inside of him while in the hole for a 4-yard gain with 9:34 in the 1st QTR. Jones took the ball from a single back set with his G and FB lined up as a TE pulled to the left side. He followed the pulling action, but his TE decided to jump over the G and the player he pancaked and Jones was anticipating the FB to run around the player. Jones wound up facing two LBs directly in front of him with the FB already ahead of them and to the right. Jones and to change direction to get back to the LOS and this play was really the responsibility of the FB who didn't make the best decision as a lead blocker. Good decision at the line of scrimmage to find the softspot off RG as the play slowly developed and gain 3 yards with 8:38 in the half. Good job pressing the hole to the left and then making the small cutback off RG for a 6-yard gain and a 1st down with 3:08 in the half. His second score was the same play as his first score and UT had no answer for it.

Receiving:

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

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Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Felix Jones

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: Auburn

Overall Strengths:

Overall Weaknesses:

Power:

Nice attempt at a stiff arm against the MLB who he knocked down, but still got ankle tackled on his end around for 5 yards. Jones got five yards on a spread formation hand off from McFadden towards right tackle. He did a good job of keeping his legs moving after hit at the LOS to drive the pile forward for 5 yards. Jones has a very effective stiff arm that is a regular part of his arsenal when on the edge of defense or in the open field. He got 15 yards and inside the 5.

Ball Handling:

Good job switching the ball to his sideline arm after his second catch and trying to stiff arm the DB who wound up making the tackle.

Eisiveness:

His first run was an end around with McFadden as the I-back against an 8-man front. He got to the right flat three yards behind the LOS with the OLB in space. The OLB had already overrun the angle on Jones just a bit so when Jones made his plant and cut to the inside, the OLB only got a shot at Jones' inside leg as the RB was running by (he missed) for a 5-yard gain.

Balance:

Speed:

Jones and McFadden were returning kicks in this game. Jones has great speed and burst. His 10-yard run with 3:16 was through a tight hole and he got into the secondary with enough speed that it looked like the DB accidentally ran into the RB. Two plays later with 2:23 on the clock, he bounced the same play around the right end and made a great stiff arm on the safety shooting into the backfield as he burst around the edge.

Blocking:

Jones made a poor decision on a blitz off the edge on 3rd and 11 with 5:37 in the 1st QTR. He drifted outside to the CB blitzing off the left side. Jones lowered his shoulder as if he were trying to chip him rather than make a full block onto the CB. The CB basically pulled a little matador routine and threw Jones aside and easily sacked the QB.

Vision:

Jones faced an 8 man front stacked to the left side out of the I-formation on 1st and 10 with 12:13 in the half. He took the handoff and followed the FB into the hole between RG and RT. The FB tried to cut the LB's legs and Jones had 5 yards to see that the right sideline was wide open. He chose to try run off the FB rather than bounce it past the RT with his speed. He got blasted by the LB for a yard. He did a better job on 3rd and 11 off a delay. He showed patience behind the LOS to let his blocker set up and cut off the C's left side before trying to bend the run towards and alley on the left. He was tackled in the hole before he could do so. Against an 8-man front with 3:16 in the game, Jones took a hand off out of the I formation on their signature running play off tackle. He followed his FB and pulling G to the hole and got 10 yards on the run and first down.

Receiving:

On 2nd and 16 with 6:20 in the 1st QTR, Jones acted out a playfake at the LOS then hesitated to give the impressive of staying at the LOS to block before peeling off to the sideline to catch a ball in the flat at the 45. He caught the ball with his back to the LOS, head turned to the inside and arms extended from his body as the Auburn LB was charging towards him. He held onto the ball as he was tackled by the LB. He tried to cut the play inside after the catch, but the LB was too quick. He lined up as the flanker with 3:25 in the half and caught a screen with his hands and gained 4 yards before being knocked out of bounds. Jones tried to catch a low-thrown screen pass on what was really a busted play, because there were no blockers to set up the screen in Jones' area. He was unable to hold onto the football.

Durability:

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Overall Score:

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Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Felix Jones

Date: 11/23/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths:

Jones is very fast, has good elusiveness, and has a nice stiff arm. He runs with decent balance in the open field and has very strong open field vision. He's a quality blocker and decent receiver. I believe he has a chance to be a good 3rd down back and return specialist in the NFL. If he can demonstrate skills between the tackles in terms of breaking tackle and getting yards after contact, he could be a dynamic starter with his quickness and speed.

Overall Weaknesses:

It's worth noting this game was played minus LSU's top two defensive tackles and that 62 of Jones 85 yards were off two misdirection plays with him as a receiver. While this shows off his speed and open field running it doesn't give a great sampling of his inside skills where he netted about 23 yards 7 carries and did not demonstrate excellent power or after contact skills. He's only had more than 20 carries in a game once in his college career (21 against South Carolina for a 2.5 ypc average) and generally received 9-13 carries at most and generally half of them were as a receiver on end arounds or reverses. The lack of sample material available on him as a between the tackles runner leaves me to conclude that he's not a very powerful runner and doesn't get many yards after contact. His choices in the hole weren't as good as I've seen from him in other games. This also could be attributed to his lack of time in the backfield.

Power:

Jones drove his legs as he was hit head-on by the safety at the sideline with 7:39 in the half after a short catch from the WR spot. He gained two extra yards after contact, keeping his shoulders a bit lower than the hit. He tried to stiff arm two players during his kick return with 7:47 in the 3rd QTR. The first one was used to brush away a player as he passed him and he mistimed the second one because the defender charged too hard through the stiff arm and hit Jones in the chest and out of bounds. Decent body lean on a 3-yard run off RG.

Ball Handling:

Good job carrying the ball in his sideline arm after catching the WR flip out. He actually switched the ball to this arm as he was running towards the safety before they engaged in contact.

Elusiveness:

Jones runs with a very nice wiggle and short area quickness. He was able to change direction on the kick return with 7:47 in the 3rd QTR to avoid the first tackle on a 19-yard gain. He makes fluid cuts as a runner. He did this on an end around with 13:53 in the 4th QTR where he dipped the run back to the inside rather than all the way around the edge. Nice stutter move and dip inside of the sideline coverage about 25 yards downfield of his final kick return of the 4th QTR for a gain of 36 yards.

Balance:

Jones fell down on an end around to the left side as he was trying to turn the corner with 11:32 in the 3rd QTR. He lost 5 yards on the play.

Speed:

Very good speed to outrun the angle of the CB at the LOS and the LB with angle 2 yard past the LOS on an end around with 9:45 in the half. Jones' 31-yard run with 6:40 in the 4th QTR was the product of a reverse where he lined up as a receiver and after the snap took the reverse from McFadden running towards right end. Jones' speed allowed him to beat the OLB around the corner for the first down on 3rd and 3 and then follow a convoy of blockers 10 yards ahead of him when Jones as at the first down marker. He then dipped to the inside of the blocks enough to get most of those yards untouched with his speed. He was dropped after attempting a stiff arm 29-yards downfield.

Blocking:

Excellent block on the second kick return with 13:13 in the 1st QTR. He created a 3-yard lane for McFadden to exploit on the play by knocking down his man with a solid hit and sustained push. Jones made a good stand up block at the edge as the lead blocker for McFadden on a rush to the left edge from the Wildhog formation. He engaged the FS and sealed the backside with 2:28 in the half, but there was no one to account for the safety who tackled McFadden 5 yards downfield. He made an excellent lead block for McFadden to get around the corner on the QB run to left end with 7:27 in the game. He squared up, got his shoulders low and exploded into the DB, lifting the defender off the ground on the play.

Vision:

He picked through a lane with small steps for a 19-yards on a kick return as he entered the traffic set up by the wedge with 7:10 in the 1st QTR. Jones lost 1-yard on the Wild Hog formation as LSU easily read the ball was coming to him on an end around because it does 80% of the time when he goes in motion from the slot formation with McFadden under center. The CB stayed at home and forced Jones to the inside where he ran into the defender coming off the block by the FB in the slot. Jones through he had the right side available on a run to start the 2nd QTR, but as he bounced outside the LB was not blocked and the play was stretched out for no gain. There was a healthy-sized hole off LG with a 2-yard push past the LOS, but Jones ignored it for the bounce outside. If he took the hole, the LG was able to get the second level block and Jones would have been into the secondary. With 9:43 in the half, Jones took an end around up a gap off RT that pushed the entire defensive line to the left hash and Jones used his speed to get past the CB and the OLB near the LOS for a 31-yard gain. He did well to angle past the safety in pursuit about 20 yards downfield and then try to dip inside his WR's block to break it for the distance but he was brought down by the DB. He spotted a soft spot in the line on an end around with 13:53 in the 4th QTR and waited for traffic to pass very momentarily to make a second cut back into the line.

Receiving:

Jones was targeted on a 3rd and 9 pass, but it was little more than a short release off RG and the play was very well-covered. The QB simply threw a bullet at Jones' shins to end the play. Jones caught a throw out with his hands on a play where he was split wide and McFadden threw it to him from the shotgun. He turned upfield and gained 5 yards down the sideline, two of them after getting hit head-on by the safety.

Durability:

Played only one play the week before due to a deep quad bruise.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Felix Jones

Date: 1/1/2008

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths:

Jones is a dynamic football player because he has good speed, vision in the openfield, and enough power to break tackles in open space. He has good acceleration and better anticipation of holes and patience with blocks than his backfield mate, McFadden. He switches the ball more consistently to his sideline arm. I like that he keeps his legs moving when he's initially wrapped up. He is a proven receiver with good hands. I think Jones will at least be a quality 3rd down back who will see a lot of time in a backfield early in his career. He has a shot to become a starter if he can demonstrate the ability to run inside at the pro level.

Overall Weaknesses:

I didn't see him block, but once in this game. He had a limited amount of touches in this game as a runner. He's not a very powerful back. Jones also needs to practice better ball protection as a runner. Many of his holes were pretty big for inside runs.

Power:

Jones' 3-yard run with 7:19 in the 1st QTR was the result of getting excellent pad level and keeping his feet moving in the pile. Jones did a nice job of twisting away from the backside defender to get an extra two yards on a 4-yard run with 5:00 in the 1st QTR. On a 40-yard kick return Jones stiff armed two players during the run and knocked both the ground. In fact as he stiff armed the second defender down the sideline, he tried to cut the play back to the inside rather than go out of bounds. Jones ran through a leg tackle at the line of scrimmage with 4:19 in the half, but two more defenders up the middle stopped him for no gain. Jones gained 5-yards as the QB in the Wild Hog formation with 6:15 in the 3rd QTR. He gain 2 yards after a hit at the LOS by keeping his legs moving.

Ball Handling:

He carried the ball under his sideline arm on each run during the 1st QTR. The fumble was the result of the DB pursuing the reception from the inside ripping the ball away. Jones had two outside defenders in pursuit as well, so keeping the ball on his inside arm made sense. Still, he needed to do a much better job of protecting the football by covering it with both hands when in that much traffic. Excellent job switching the ball to his outside arm as he dipped to the outside on the screen pass with 12:33 left.

Evasiveness:

Excellent job dipping away from players during his 40-yard run after the screen pass. He stringed moves together that helped him get most of that run on his own.

Balance:

Good balance to run through a tackle attempt from the LB trying to wrap his legs from the backside of the hole on 3rd and 2 with 12:54 in the 1st QTR. He hit the LB head on during a 2nd and 2 run with 11:58 in the 1st QTR and spun off the hit to the inside for a 1st down.

Speed:

There's no argument that Jones has excellent speed and he runs with good control of his burst, timing it very well on his 40-yard kick return. He took a toss sweep to the right side for a 23-yard gain, outrunning two good angles by defenders. One was the LB at the LOS as he cut the run upfield and the second was by the OLB running across the field from the second level, who could only get his hands on the RB's shoulder pads from behind and could not keep up.

Blocking:

He stoned the blitzing LB with a block to the waist with 12:32 in the 1st QTR, stopping the LB in his tracks.

Vision:

Good cut in the hole off the lineman on 3rd and 2 for a 3-yard gain on the first series of the game. Jones only gained 3 yards on a 2nd and 10 run with 7:19 in the 1st QTR, but he properly read the LB splitting the crease on the right side that would have resulted in Jones losing 3 yards if he continued to follow his pulling guard. He cut the play inside and with a good second effort, gained three yards. Jones demonstrated good patience through the wedge on a 40-yard kick return with 2:21 in the 1st QTR. He recognized when the cut the play back to the inside to exploit the lane that broke the play open. Jones demonstrated very good open field running on the 3rd and 15 screen pass with 11:07 in the 3rd QTR. He took the pass up the middle for about 5 yards to set up his blocking to the left side of the field. Once he got close enough for the DB to turn his hips towards the RB, Jones cut the play to the left to get the first down. He had his WR blocking 12-15 yards past the first down marker and Jones made a nice dip to the outside then back up the middle to create a bit of a lane between the WR and the two DBs on his right with a good angle ahead of him. Jones literally beat the angle of these two DBs ahead of him by 3 yards, running through one of their attempts. He gained 40 yards but a DB from the inside was able to rip the ball away from his grasp.

Receiving:

Jones was split out to the left as a receiver in the I-formation on the first play of the game. He ran a swing pass from the slot formation, catching the ball with his hands and then squaring his shoulders to the LOS. The play was very well blocked and Jones got the edge from the blocks for a 12-yard gain. He was run out of bounds with a hit by the safety. On 3rd and 15, Jones release up the middle from the I-formation on a middle screen. He caught the ball with his hands while facing the QB before turning upfield with no one near him within a 7-yard radius and with blockers downfield. He gained 40 yards before fumbling the football. Jones caught a 4th QTR pass from the slot, a short swing pass, that he took 14-yards for the 1st down with 12:33 left. Good job weaving back to the inside for the extra yardage and the first down.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Felix Jones

Date: 9/16/2006

Opponent: Vanderbilt

Overall Strengths:

He's not starting, but he's the more consistently effective back. He doesn't have as many big plays as McFadden, but he doesn't lose yardage as much, either. Because this offense is predicated off big plays, the losses aren't as costly as they will be in the NFL. Jones consistently makes good choices at the line of scrimmage, shows patience, and has a strong burst and second gear. He can run out of arm tackles and gains more yardage after contact than McFadden. It was a good thing to see him running out of the single back set and demonstrated that he has the vision, balance, and running kills to be a between the tackles player. Depending on the system he will either wind up a committee back with solid production or the featured back. At the very least he can start his NFL career as a return specialist and potential 3rd down back.

Overall Weaknesses:

He won't run over many people and his blocking was not on display here, although I've seen him in future games block very well as a lead blocker for McFadden. He'll need to improve his skills as receiver with various routes. Still, Jones should be a valuable role player due to his versatility with potential upside as a feature back.

Power:

Good job to keep driving his legs forward in the pile to get an extra yard or two on his 5-yard gain to start the 2nd QTR. He ran out of a leg tackle at the LOS as he reached the left corner of the formation with 5:15 in the half. He demonstrated good body lean at the end of this 7-yard run. He ran out of a backside tackle to his legs in the hole during a draw play for 11-yards with :15 in the half. He fell forward while keeping his legs driving after a hit for another 2-yards at the end of his kick return to start the 3rd QTR. He squirted ahead for 2 more yards on a 4-yard run with 8:00 in the 3rd QTR after the defender grabbed his shoulder pads in the hole.

Ball Handling:

He carries the ball in either hand and demonstrates good protection with little to no gap between his arm and his side.

Eisiveness:

Nice quick cut to the inside of his pulling guard. It was more of a dip than a plant and cut, but a quick turn of the hips. Jones gave and took away an angle on the safety by stepping right then veering away to the left, beating the DB with his speed to that side

Balance:

Get him moving east west and he's not going to bounce off many tackles. He was knocked down in the backfield by the DT while trying to turn a run to the left end.

Speed:

Very quick acceleration to the right side from the single back formation for a 3-yard gain. He spotted the right hole, but saw he had to beat the MLB to the gap. He nearly did so, although the LB had the angle.

Blocking:

Jones was used as a situational player and this did not involve blocking in this game.

Vision:

Good job cutting to the inside of his pulling guard for a 5-yard gain to start the 2nd QTR. He picked the right lane on an 18-yard kick return from the goal line, but was tripped up from behind in the hole. Nice job seeing the backside LB with the angle in pursuit while behind the LOS and bouncing the run to the outside for a 7-yard gain with 5:14 in the half. Jones took an I-formation handoff through a 3-yard wide lane between C and RG for a 33-yard gain. He made a move on the safety from 10 yards away to make him miss and this was why he gained at least 20 of those yards. If he made the right choice with where to go on off the WR's block at the 32 he could have scored, but he chose the inside rather than bouncing it to the sideline and the other DB brought him down as a result. He got an easy 7-yards out of the I-formation through a large hole but he did a nice job of dipping to the inside to continue the lane for another 3 yards. Nice job dipping off the LG's block at the edge of the hole to get through the alley to the left of the lineman for a 5-yard gain with 8:37 in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving:

His touchdown came of his only reception of the game, a 3rd down screen pass on the same side as the blitz. He snuck out of the backfield well, caught the ball and turned up field, remaining inside of his blocker in the flat and sprinted 20 yards untouched for the score.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
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Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

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Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
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No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Felix Jones

Date: 11/24/2006

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths:

Auburn defensive coordinator Will Muschamp told CBS commentator Todd Blackledge that Felix Jones could start for probably 8 of the team in the SEC. Jones has excellent speed, second level and open field vision, and balance. He has a very good understanding of angles and has a knack for eliminating the defenses angles to him in the open field. He has a great burst and saw the holes well on the few inside runs he had today. He's very elusive in the open field. As a kick returner and runner, he's starting material. If he can do what he did today on consistent basis with 15-20 touches per game, he could become a quality starter. I think he's a better prospect than McFadden although not as physically talented.

Overall Weaknesses:

He really didn't have enough inside runs to get a fair evaluation of his skills between the tackles. He's not going to run over anyone inside other than at the 3rd level occasionally. He didn't get to display his receiving skills and his blocking is untested. He's only had a 20+ carry game once in his career at Arkansas and many of his runs came off the threat of McFadden.

Power:

Jones demonstrated a nice stiff arm on the end around for 40 yards. In fact, he was able to fend off this tackler and beat him down the sideline with the stiff arm. Jones didn't get another carry until the beginning of the 2nd QTR. He took a handoff from McFadden in the formation Arkansas calls the "Wild cat" formation (now the Wildhog) where McFadden is the QB. Jones got around the corner on an end around by stiff-arming a future All-American LB on the edge and then getting extra yards off the corner from a stiff arm he put on the future All-American safety. He's easier to bring down if the first wave can get their hands on him early. He ran through an ankle tackle in the open field at edge of the defense on an end around for 6 yards with 8:47 in the half. Jones plays with enough leverage and power to gain extra yards on tackles versus players at the 3rd level. He made a stiff arm on the CB at the edge of the defense at 3:06 in the half to get 8 yards and a first down on the play. Over 3/4 of his attempts were end arounds in this game. Not a good indication of his ability to run between the tackles. At the same time, he took a kick off 62 yards running over the kicker head on and a special teams defender after he ran 40 yards and stiff-armed a player before running these two over. Jones' TD came in the 4th QTR on an end around sweep. He was horsecollared, but managed to reach the ball over the line.

Ball Handling:

Jones did a good job shifting the ball to his left arm on the end around and keeping it cinched tightly to his body for the entire run on the opening offensive play of the game.

Elusiveness:

Jones made a nice head and shoulder dip to the inside before going outside on the safety and stiff arming him to the ground on an end around to start the 2nd QTR. He gained 11 yards on the play. Jones' 3rd carry was an inside handoff in the spread formation. He was met in the hole by a DT, but put a nice stop-start move to elude him despite getting tackled by the next DL in pursuit for a minimal gain. On an end around with 2:32 left in the 3rd QTR, Jones got around the corner and about 15 yards downfield, but a great start-stop move and jump cut to bring it back into the middle of the field. He did this move on the OLB. Jones can operate well in tight spaces as evidenced by a 4th QTR run with 9:10 remaining. He cut the run in side and was able to maneuver for extra yards in traffic with a jump cut to the outside, then back inside. He had good vision and good quick reactions to get to the hole.

Balance:

Jones has good enough balance to gain 5 additional yards after a safety attempted a horsecollar tackle, but was stiffarmed half way through the attempt. This threw Jones off, but didn't bring him down until he finally lost his balance 5 yards later. On the 3rd QTR end around with 2:34 remaining, Jones did a good job maintaining his balance when running through an ankle tackle. Jones' 62-yard return ended with him running over a man and still maintaining his balance down the sideline. Very good balance to take two players head on while running full speed and run over them and still gain extra yardage on the play during a 62-yard kick return with 10:01 in the game.

Speed:

Jones has a great burst. His first run was an end around from the 20 yard line on the first play of the game. He outran the first and second levels of the defense with ease. It took the safety to bring him down 40 yards later on the opening offensive play of the game. He took a hand off as the single back on 1st and 10 with 9:52 in the half and outran the LB's to the corner for a 7-yard gain. Jones had a touchdown called back on a spread formation run from nearly 40 yards away with 9:40 in the half. He ran past everyone and the penalty was a clip that really had no bearing on Jones' run. The coaching staff does a great job calling plays that take advantage of Jones' speed and vision in the open field.

Blocking:

Jones got a good angle on the DE off the right side to keep him off the QB on a fade route to Monk that was incomplete just two plays before they scored. On the touchdown pass to Monk in the 2nd QTR, Jones did a nice job coming around the formation to get in the way of the edge rusher. The blocking technique wasn't great, but it still helped the QB complete the scoring pass.

Vision:

Jones sees the open field very well and is dangerous there. On his opening end around he pressed the hole extremely well to set up the downfield blocks by his FB and WR by flattening out his run behind the LOS then as the FB engaged, he angled back to the outside and put on the jets. He did a great job with the stiff arm and his body positioning to take away the angle of Daniels and gain another 10 yards before Landry brought him down. His return skills on kickoffs are excellent. He sees time out of the I-formation so sporadically that I believe at best, he just is rusty at anticipating penetration at the LOS that he might handle if he were getting I-formation or single back carries more than 3-4 times a game. He was slow to recognize the DT coming free up the middle and didn't make his break to the outside with enough time to bounce it and was brought down for a 3-yard loss with 5:59 in the 3rd QTR. But later in the drive he demonstrated good patience around the corner, slowing down to get around his two linemen and then dipping upfield through a crease --all behind the LOS--for a gain of 4 yards. He could have easily lost 4 yards on this play if he weren't patient. He took a 4th QTR kickoff for 62 yards.

Receiving:

He demonstrated good hands to field the opening kickoff. The kick was a line drive that squibbed a bit in front of him, but he fielded the bounce cleanly in the endzone and brought it out for a 20-yard gain. He charged upfield to catch a squib kick with 10:47 in the half and was nailed by a defender with a 50-yard head start, but still managed to hold onto the ball. Good hands and toughness. This act was very much like making a catch over the middle and getting hammered, knowing it was going to come.

Durability:

After his 62-yard kick off return, Jones was right back on the field and continued to run the ball. Excellent stamina--especially for all the long runs he's had in this game. Although he only had 16 carries, half of them were for more than 10-yard gains.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
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Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: George Stripling

Date: 9/3/2006

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths:

Stripling has good speed and acceleration. He's at his best when he gets to the edge of the defense and into the open field where he can separate from the secondary. He will lean forward for extra yardage after contact and demonstrates signs of decent balance when players try to take his legs out from under him.

Overall Weaknesses:

He is unproven as a blocker. His ball protection skills need work. He wasn't involved in the passing game. He runs very upright and doesn't lower his shoulder to finish runs. He is brought down rather easily in the backfield if the play isn't well-blocked. He has a bit of elusiveness, but is mainly a straight line runner. I saw much more wiggle from the slower Kolby Smith, who also demonstrated much better vision than from what I saw from Stripling.

Power:

Stripling's first attempt was a 6-yard gain off a delay. He might have gained more if the DB from the left side didn't read the play early. He did exhibit decent body lean to gain an extra yard after contact. He had a 10-yard gain on his second run on the next play (a 2nd and 4 situation). The Louisville o-line did an excellent job firing off the line and getting to the second level of the defense 4-5 yards downfield. Stripling did not have a defender touch him until he gained 6 yards and had enough momentum to make it difficult for the blindside defender to execute the chop on the ball. He hit the hole too upright on his first and goal attempt from the 2 yard line with 6:45 left in the 3rd QTR. He was stood up despite having 4-5 yards of distance to hit to the hole. If he hit the hole with low pad level, he could have scored. He did keep his legs moving upon contact. He did a better job lowering his shoulder on a sweep from the 2 yard line for a score on the next play. On 1st and 10 with 12:30 left, Stripling took a hand off up the middle and dropped like a stone when greeted with a good hit from the MLB. This was the type of play that would be credited to the MLB, but a dynamic runner often sheds this hit by seeing the tackler and making a slight adjustment. Stripling did not do this.

Ball Handling:

Stripling held the ball a little loose from his body on the first attempt. He also runs a bit upright which could spell trouble for ball protection. He did a much better job on the second run where he broke a tackle attempt from a UK defender that noticed the loose ball carrying from the play before and tried to chop the ball out of Stripling's hands without success. Good job holding onto the football with his outside arm on the 19-yard run. He consistently uses the correct arm to protect the football and will use his free hand to place over the ball under his ball-carrying arm.

Elusiveness:

Stripling did make a nice hesitation step before hitting the hole on his 13-yard gain with 7:15 in the 3rd QTR. Many of his runs were in one direction and to the outside. He was not especially creative as a runner.

Balance:

The RB demonstrated good balance to stay upright and gain additional yardage after a DL tried to chop the ball loose. On his 19-yard run in the 3rd QTR down to the 2 yard line, the DB dove for the RB's legs to force him out of bounds. Stripling managed to stay upright after taking the hit.

Speed:

Stripling demonstrated a decent burst through the line of scrimmage on a 13-yard gain on a run up the middle. At the same time, no one touched him for 12 yards, nor were they even close to him. On the next run, Stripling got the corner on an off-tackle for a 19-yard run to the 2 yard line. He showed a good burst to accelerate around the corner and outran the MLB at the 11 yard line. His second TD with 3:38 in the 3rd QTR was a 38-yard touchdown run around the right corner for the defense--he was untouched the entire time. Good speed around the corner and outrunning potential angles.

Blocking:

Vision:

Stripling's 13-yard gain with 7:15 left in the 3rd QTR was through a gaping hole, but the rest of his runs were in a straight line.

Receiving:

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
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Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
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Game Stats

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The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jacob Hester

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths:

Hester is a tough, physical runner with good balance, body lean, and tackle-breaking skills. He can catch the football and he blocks very well in all phases of the game. He has enough of a burst to be an effective runner between the tackles. He also plays with injury and reliably protects the football. Hester should become a solid fullback in an NFL system or short-yardage situational back.

Overall Weaknesses:

Hester's vision is questionable, considering LSU runs a number of the plays off LG Herman Johnson--a 350 lb mauler--who clears the way for huge holes. Hester isn't very nifty as a runner. He lacks strong lateral movement or make-you-miss moves as a ball carrier. He also lacks homerun speed.

Power:

Hester does a good job of getting his shoulders low and square before making contact with the second level of a defense. He routinely bounces off tacklers. Even if he falls down, his often bounces off them before they can wrap him up after the hit. Good job running through an ankle tackle 2 yards behind the LOS to gain 3 yards on the play. On 3rd and 1 he gained 11 yards, not only running through a big hole off LG at the LOS but also bullying through 2 defenders at the second level while keeping his legs driving for another 6 yards on the play.

Ball Handling:

His last fumble was in his first college carry in 2004 against UGA.

Eisiveness:

He can bend runs at an angle, but he's not going to make too many players miss if caught in the backfield. He lacks the ability to make dynamic cuts or open field moves.

Balance:

One of his biggest strengths is getting very low pad level on runs up the middle. He ducked under a pile on a run off RG with 14:00 in the 3rd QTR and came out of the other side for a gain of 6 yards. He did have difficulty maintaining his balance after he bruised his thigh in the 1st QTR. He would often go down on the first hit or trip himself up.

Speed:

He's fast enough to carry the yard for short-yardage at the NFL level, but he's not the type to exploit on defender's mistake and take the play the distance like. He could make a good west coast offense fullback due to his versatile skills that include good, but not great, speed.

Blocking:

Hester delivered a good hit to the DE off the edge on a run for Holliday and followed up the initial hit with a second hit to sustain the block. Good lead block off right guard with 3:15 in the half for a 5-yard gain. Good chip block on the DE on 2nd and 15 before releasing on a route.

Vision:

Good job pressing the hole to the right before angling back to the LG to gain 4 yards on the opening play out of the I-formation with 13:00 in the 1st QTR. Hester's 5-yard gain with 8:06 in the half was inside the LG and back to the right along a huge alley that got him the yardage untouched.

Receiving:

Hester gained 4 yards on a 3rd and 15 swing route where he had a lot of open space, but tripped before he could exploit the opening. Good catch with his hands on the reception.

Durability:

He missed some time with a thigh bruise in the 1st QTR, but came back to finish the game.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
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Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

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BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: **Jacob Hester**

Date: **11/23/2007**

Opponent: **Arkansas**

Overall Strengths:

Hester is a grind it out, after contact runner who gets his shoulders square, protects the ball and keeps his legs moving in the pile. He has good speed in open space and can catch the football. He had more than double the receptions he had this year (35 last year), but he demonstrates strong receiving skills with routes and hands. He is a durable, reliable player who protects the ball. He has the skills to be a decent runner in a two-back system in the NFL. He will make a team because of his versatility as a FB, RB, and special teams player.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's not a gamebreaker. He lacks dynamic lateral movement and is strictly an inside runner. He'll make a more effective FB than a single back runner.

Power:

When he gets north-south, such as his 7-yard run with 11:42 in the 1st QTR, he runs with as low pad level as I have seen. He got the better of two defenders at the end of the lane as he continued driving forward for the last 4 yards on the play. The lined him up at FB with 9:51 in the 1st QTR and he ran the FB dive for 5 yards, breaking a flailing arm tackle by the DT at the LOS. As a FB, he understands the importance of keeping his legs moving in the pile, which he showed again with 5:10 in the 1st QTR for a gain of 2 after getting hit at the LOS. He ran through an arm tackle on a FB lead play off LT against 9-men in the box for a 4-yard gain off a fake reverse that gave him a cut back lane. He got extremely low on a 3rd an 1 for a gain of 5 yards. He had a nice hole to get the first down untouched with 13:33 in the 3rd, but he finished the run by plowing into the DB and driving forward another 3 yards after contact. He ran through two defenders at the end of his 12 yard score with 7:49 in the 3rd QTR to get to the endzone.

Ball Handling:

Very good ball protection. He carried the ball under his left arm running along the left hash with 11:44 in the 1st QTR. He put both arms around the ball as he lowered his head and ran through two arm tackles at the end of the hole as he was falling forward. He fumbled the ball after a 4-yard gain when the DB got his helmet directly on the ball and it popped loose. His elbow was too far from his body on the play. LSU recovered on the play. It was his first fumble in two years.

Elasticities:

In tight spaces he tends to tiptoe through the line. He is not a plant and cut type of player. If he had the lateral movement he had space to the left side to bounce a 3rd and short run when the defense got great penetration at the LOS with 12:28 in the 3rd QTR. But he tried to bounce the run to the inside and was taken out by the backside pursuit. He made a nifty sidestep behind the LOS to get to the softspot off RG for a 1-yard gain on 2nd and 2, nearly getting the first down. He doesn't make lateral cuts. He uses short steps and chops through creases.

Balance:

He ran through a head-on hit up the middle on an I-formation play as the TB and gained 3 yards after the collision. Good balance due to his pad level and leg drive. Hester gained 9 yards out of a spread set and following the RT pulling towards left G. He jumped over a player on the ground and landed in the arms of an LB 5 yards past the LOS, but spun away from his grasp for another 4 yards.

Speed:

Hester doesn't have a great burst, but it's good enough to exploit the openings in the defense at the line of scrimmage on a well-blocked play. He demonstrated this on three consecutive runs of 7, 7, and 4 yards off pulling blocks by his RT and RG in both the I formation and spread formation sets early in the 1st QTR. He has a better burst than it might appear. He went off RG on 2nd and 10 from the I-formation with 7:49 in the 3rd QTR and burst through the lane for 9 yards before running through the secondary for the score.

Blocking:

He made a block off RG on the LB to open the gap for his QB to gain 3 yards and a 1st down with 1:27 in the half. Good job picking up the delayed blitz off the right edge by the LB with 9:28 in the 3rd QTR. He blocked two edge players to spring his QB around the right corner for a 2-point conversion with 7:47 in the 3rd QTR. Nice job blocking the edge rusher and getting into his body to prevent the defender from getting too high on his leap. This allowed the QB to complete the pass. He was unable to sustain a block on the DE who got inside of Hester and forced the QB to throw the ball away with 4:53 in the 4th QTR. He got into the chest of the DE, but he was cast aside quickly.

Vision:

Hester got 1 yard on an option pitch to the right side with 14:45 in the 1st QTR. The Arkansas defense had three men unblocked at the right corner behind the LOS and a 4th man was getting blocked at the numbers by the WR. Hester took what was available behind the block. He picked the right hole off RG as he followed the FB and pulling LG, but Arkansas played the gaps well and stopped him for no gain. He decisively hit a gap about a yard wide off LG with 11:42 in the 1st QTR for 7 yards. He followed his massive pulling RT into the LOS on a spread formation handoff for 7 yards off LG on the following play. He gained 4 yards again on the same play call, but this time cutting to the inside of the tackle earlier. He does a good job of allowing the block to develop and bursting through the opening. He had a nice-sized hole for a gain of 7 to start the second half. He was untouched for 6 of those yards. His tendencies are based on playing to his strengths. On a 1st and 10 run up the middle he saw a lane open in the hold but knew he couldn't get the corner with his burst so he cut the play back inside the left hash and bulled forward for another 6 yards on the play. Hester got 8-yards out of the shotgun formation where the RT pulled ahead of him against a defense clearly playing zone against the pass. It was an easy run for Hester. They ran the same play on 3rd and 2 for a gain of 7 and a first down on the next play.

Receiving

Hester's only target was a wheel route that he caught over his outside shoulder with his head looking directly up for the football while running downfield. The ball traveled 25 yards downfield and he made a great cut to get inside the LB and then out to the numbers to make the catch with his hands. He then beat the LB down the sideline for the 55-yard score, but the play was called back for an ineligible man downfield penalty called on Early Doucet who lined up incorrectly at the LOS.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

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Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jalen Parmele

Date: 11/13/2007

Opponent: Ball State

Overall Strengths:

He's fast enough to break a longer run, but isn't the threat to score from anywhere on the field as some of these prospects are in this draft class. He does run hard and sports good vision as a player who sets up blocks, presses the hole, and even following the push/soft spot in the line and getting the most he can on the play. Parmele has enough burst coupled with his size to break tackles and he is not easy for one defensive player to bring him down. Parmele reminds me a lot of Mike Anderson--a tough inside runner understands how to make the most of a situation and the skills to be an effective starter when called upon. He's an unsung prospect in this draft and can be productive in the right situation.

Overall Weaknesses:

Parmele lacks great breakaway speed and he doesn't have the type of lateral movement where he can make dynamic cuts to bounce runs outside from a couple of lanes away. He is a better stand up blocker than a cut blocker and also needs avoid pulling punches on special teams when he is not returning the football.

Power:

Good job learning forward to get 2 yards after getting hit in the backfield on a 2nd and 4 in the 1st QTR. He also did well on the next run with 9:03 left in the quarter by twisting and turning through the hole, breaking an arm tackle and backing is way for a 3-yard gain against a 5-man line. Parmele gained 4 yards running out of the endzone on 2nd and 10 with 5:00 in the 1st QTR by stiff arming the LB at the right end while bouncing the run outside. On 1st and 10 with 4:00 in the quarter, Parmele followed the push of the left side of his offensive line and after going 4 yards untouched, he pulled his way forward with excellent leg drive and body lean for an additional 5 yards on the play. when Parmele gets into the hole, defenses generally have to gang tackle him. Parmele is a true after contact runner. Although he may get brought down by the same player who makes the first hit--as he did with 3:29 in the half--he consistently gains 2-3 yards after the hit and the defense needs help bringing him down. He broke an ankle tackle on a run off LG with 3:03 in the 3rd QTR for 10 yards. Parmele ran out of a LB's tackle attempt on a 7-yard run with 14:31 in the game. The LB tried to hit him high from behind, but slid off Parmele as the RB turned the corner.

Ball Handling:

On his first run of the game, Parmele did an excellent job of switching the ball from his left hand to his right as the CB on the left side of the defense caught up to him in pursuit. On his 9-yard gain with 4:00 in the 1st QTR, he covered the ball with both hands as he bulled through traffic on the last half of the run. He will consistently wrap the ball with both hands on runs between the tackles.

Eisiveness:

Parmele tried to cut to the backside of a run slanted left with an unbalanced line weighted in that direction. His cut to the right wasn't very sudden, and as he tried to run, a defender tripped him up with a hand to his ankle from an indirect angle. On this run and the one he bounced outside from his own endzone earlier in the drive, Parmele did not appear to have the skill to make lateral cuts at dramatic angles. He does make good cuts in the hole. They are not great changes of direction, but subtle moves.

Balance:

He is powerful and hard to knock off his feet in the hole.

Speed:

Parmele flashed good speed to beat an LB and a CB at the second level of the defense and angled toward the right sideline in a footrace with the other DB who eventually brought him down at the 7-yard line. The CB was actually even with the RB at the 25-yard line, so Parmele showed enough speed to get another 18 yards before he was finally brought down. Parmele demonstrated a good burst on a 28-yard kick return where he split the coverage and made 3 men miss with his burst up seam. Parmele didn't have sustained blocking on a sweep to the right side, but a back with good speed east-west would have gotten to the corner before him. He still managed a 3-yard gain with his second effort and power at the sideline despite the blockers coming free by the time he got to the corner. Great second effort spinning out of a tackle in the hole to gain 3 yards and the first down. Parmele was caught from behind by the LB after bursting through the line for a 9-yard gain. His speed is better than average for an NFL runner. He could be as fast as a Rudi Johnson or Stephen Davis.

Blocking:

Parmele put a hit on the stunting DE to protect his passer with 10:50 in the 1st QTR. Although the block was a bit low, he was effective in stopping the progress of a pass rushing LB so his QB could attempt a pass out of the end zone with 5:04 in the 1st QTR. Good job helping out on the LB coming off the LG in pass blocking on 1st and 10 with 11:09 in the half. He made a block downfield to help his WR gain 21 yards on a reception to the left flat with 9:56 in the half. He seemed to slack on two attempts to hit defenders on a kick return with 4:37 in the 3rd QTR. He pulled up just at the point of contact on both blocks on the same run. He needs improvement as a cut blocker. He goes way too low on his assignments and has twice hit the defender below the knee rather than in the thigh or hip. Neither block did much to slow down the oppoig defender and both got some pressure on the QB.

Vision:

Parmele's first run was a 40-yard gain on 1st and 10 with 14:35 in the opening QTR. The offense was in a 3-WR set with an I-formation backfield (no TE) against a nickel defense. The play was blocked extremely well and Parmele followed his pulling guard's block on the LB at the second level and ran to the inside of the guard's hip straight up the middle. His next run was a 7-yard td up the middle untouched. He tried to press the hole on a 2nd and 5 run with 12:47 in the 1st QTR, but the gaps were all filled and he had to cut behind a penetrating LB just to get back to the LOS, driving his legs on a collision with another LB for a 1-yard gain. Although his next run was only a yard, he did well to read the cutback lane that was occupied by a blitzing CB. At the same time the outside edge on his side was not free, so without hesitation he felt out the soft spot of the line. Good job seeing the opening on the right end of a run designed to go up the middle with 5:00 in the 1st QTR. He gained 4 yards on the play. Parmele also understands that going where the greatest push is with the offensive line is often as effective as finding a hole. He gained 9 yards on a 1st and 10 run with 4:00 in the 1st QTR by doing so. Excellent job pressing the hole off RG on a run with 3:55 in the half. The fact he pressed it by running towards the outside hip of the RT allowed the RG to clear a lane as the OLB reacted to Parmele's initial direction. Then the RB cut back to the middle and burst up the alley for an 11-yard gain. He also pressed the hole on a slant scheme to the left with the TE motioning to the backside. He pressed it to the left before cutting back behind the TE to gain 9-yards. Once again the RB found the push on the left side of the line with 14:31 in the game and followed it until he could get to the corner and gain 7-yards. Very good job patiently waiting for the block to make his initial cut at the line of scrimmage on runs between the tackles. He gained 4 yards with 13:53 doing this off RG.

Receiving:

His first pass was an 8-yard gain on 3rd and 21 with 13:20 in the half. Parmele was split to the right side and came back to the QB when the passer couldn't find an open man and had to roll to the right. Parmele body caught the pass and had to make a one-handed, re-catch of the ball after it bounced off his chest. He was hit as the ball reached him the first time around, so he demonstrated good concentration to bring the ball into his body although his initial technique was not very good except for the fact he shielded the DB from the ball and came back to the passer.

Durability:

Parmele took himself out of the game with 2:00 in the 3rd QTR, but was back in the beginning of the 4th QTR.

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Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jamaal Charles

Date: 9/3/2005

Opponent: Louisiana Lafayette

Overall Strengths:

Charles plays with a lot of poise for a freshman entering a big-time college program. Charles made a subtle, but important play on a reverse for a touchdown. Charles was the first back to receive the ball and as he was running towards the receiver, he realized the penetration into the back field might result in a disastrous result if he attempt to make the handoff to the receiver at practiced spot. Instead, Charles made the exchange a bit early so he did get cut off by the defensive end. I can see Charles getting more time as the season develops. He appears to have the talent to be a future starter for the Longhorns, and possibly a future NFL starter. A fast, tough runner with vision.

Overall Weaknesses:

Charles isn't relied upon to do much blocking in pass coverage. For one, Charles effort is much like an RB rarely asked to block--he dives for the legs rather than man up on the defender and deliver a blow. The RB appears to be a good receiver out of the backfield. Texas had Charles running routes several times. He was only targeted once, but this had to do with other players getting open further down field. I'd like to see Charles play against a more physical team and observe his performance after 20 touches. Charles looks like a physical back, but this wasn't the team to validate this observation.

Power:

Charles has a natural talent for finishing runs. He's deceptively hard to tackle because he is more powerful than he looks. His running style reminds me of Raiders-Chiefs great, Marcus Allen for this reason. Runs low to the ground and will consistently get lower than the defender upon contact in the hole. This helps him gain extra yardage that doesn't seem available to him. He also shows he can take a hit and keep moving forward for tough yards.

Ball Handling:

Charles tends to carry the ball in his right hand. I didn't see him switch the ball while running. He did cover up with two hands at appropriate times.

Eisiveness:

Shifty back that does not allow players to get a direct shot at his body. Runs like he's a one-cut runner but can set up some moves in the open field. He can make just about an move you will see from a runner.

Balance:

The freshman displays good balance and the ability to stay low to the ground. This helps him finish runs.

Speed:

Appears as if he's gliding past defenders. He has a subtle second gear. Charles' first run of the game was an option pitch to the right and he burst through the opening for nearly a 20-yard gain. He has the kind of speed where he can break more runs for long scores than the average college player and it projects well for the NFL

Blocking:

Mostly used as a decoy or receiver rather than a blocker, but made one assigned block by diving at the legs of a defender on a QB keeper where he first had to sell a play fake. His effort just kept the DE from making a play on Vince Young in the backfield.

Vision:

Charles' second run was a hand off that he took off tackle for a 15-yard touchdown. He had two hole options and he chose to bounce it outside. He was able to out run the angle the DB had on him in the redzone.

Receiving:

Charles' one chance to catch the ball in the first half was a designed screen play with him facing the QB once he ran the route. Charles caught the ball and gained 18 yards--his blockers executed the play very well and open huge lanes for Charles to run.

Durability:

Appears as if he can carry the load. Selvin Young kept hurting his ankle and Charles got more looks as a result. Charles looked fresh on every carry.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

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Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jamaal Charles

Date: 12/27/2007

Opponent: Arizona State

Overall Strengths:

His burst/acceleration and the understanding of how to time it makes him a gamebreaking runner. He has good hands as a receiver and his open field moves allow him to make the most of any opportunity with the ball in his hands. He can make all the cuts, spins, and hesitation moves imaginable. He knows how to defeat angles to create arm tackle opportunities out of what should have been a flush hit. He slides off arm tackles effectively. Charles is one of the more exciting runners in this draft. He's a slashing runner capable of breaking any attempt for a huge play.

Overall Weaknesses:

He needs to learn to make wiser choices as an inside runner. He either doesn't bounce plays outside when it's the best choice for the play or he will wait too long at the LOS before making a decision. Sometimes he'll just make a risky move to elude a player behind the LOS. He clearly sees the holes, but doesn't always show the patience to press the holes to cutback on inside runs. He has patience as a runner, but doesn't always make the best decision. If he can continue to improve reading of blocking schemes and get stronger, he'll be a dynamic NFL playmaker. His greatest weakness is his tendency to fumble the football. This is a dangerous prospect for a team to acquire in the sense of the word "dangerous" having multiple meanings. If he develops his vision, strength, and minimizes fumbles, he'll be a star. If he doesn't improve at least the vision and ball protection, he'll disappoint.

Power:

Charles ran through a defender's attempt to arm tackle him at the shoulder pads on his 9-yard reception/run down the right sideline. On his 3-yard loss with 4:44 in the 1st QTR, Charles tried to put a stiff arm on the DB in pursuit after he spun to the right, but he could not knock down or neutralize the DB with it and was run out of bounds. Charles continued to drive through an LB's wrap up around his waist in the hole and break the tackle for a 15-yard score with 1:30 in the 1st QTR. He has that slippery power that comes from understanding how to angle his body in such a way that defenders can't get a clean shot on him. This ability to defeat angles creates arm tackles for him to shed rather than full hits. Charles was knocked backwards on a run off LG with 9:14 in the 3rd QTR. Good job leaning forward for extra yards on a 5-yard run with 5:36 in the 3rd and a few plays before on a 6-yard run. With 1:31 in the 3rd QTR, Charles was wrapped up by the LB after gaining two yards, but leaned forward to drag the defender a couple more yards downfield with him. He does have a subtle stiff arm that works well in the openfield while moving north-south, but he doesn't really have the strength at this point of his development to use it while going more east-west.

Ball Handling:

Good job switching the ball to his sideline arm after making his first catch on the swing pass with 14:00 in the 1st QTR. He can carry the ball just as effectively with either arm. He carried the ball under both arms at different points during the first two drives fo the game. He had 4 fumbles in 4 games this year. Charles and the QB collided with each other and the ball bounced out of the QBs hands. Charles was execting a handoff and the QB was rolling of the left when they hit each other. He lost the ball with 8:35 in the 3rd QTR when a defender hit his ball carrying arm on the tail-end of the 2-yard gain off LG.

Eelusiveness:

Excellent stop-start movement. He can acclerate up to fullspeed very quickly. His stop-start with an LB within a yard of him behind the LOS was so quick, Charles might as well have been 3 yards away, because he turned the corner and beat the defender's angle easily. He made a stop-start move on his reception with 14:00 in the 1st QTR that froze the pursuit and allowed him to beat the angle of 4 defenders at the sideline for a 9-yard gain. Very light on his feet--he bounced a run to the opening on the left edge when he spotted the alley out of the I-formation with 9:23 in the 1st QTR. He has all the lateral moves, jump cuts, and spin moves in his repetoire one could ask from a back.

Balance:

On 2nd and 4, he bounced a run out of the I-formation to the left corner and was hit head-on twice and knocked backwards before he could get the 1st down. After the first it he was beginning to lean towards the marker, but the second hit was from an LB and the entire side of his body hit flush with Charles to move him backwards. He repeatedly spun away from direct hits at the LOS or spun out of a hit at an angle in pursuit. He didn't demonstrate the ability to make big plays off the spin, but he didn't go down on the first hit.

Speed:

Charles has an excellent burst. He took a 3rd and 3 handoff with 14:09 in the opening quarter and made two stop-start moves behind the LOS before bursting around the corner past four ASU defenders--all second and third level defenders before running about of bounds for a 16-yard gain. This was against 8 men in the box. His burst is very sudden, it's like a hair trigger that a defender senses could go off at the slightest indication of open space. With 7:21 in the 1st QTR, Charles went around left end from the spread formation and showed excellent patience following his blocks to the edge. When he got 2 yards past the LOS, he accelerated and ran past the angle of the OLB and the safety 4 yards ahead for a gain of 48 yards down the sideline. If DB #4 weren't 20 yards downfield waiting on Charles, the RB scores.

Blocking:

His first block was a passive chip as the penetration moved into him with 13:42 in the 1st QTR. Charles made an effective cut block on a DB downfield during a draw play with 9:53 in the 1st QTR. Charles knocked the legs from under the DB. Charles made a key block on the backside edge rusher with 1:55 in the 1st QTR to help the QB complete a 55-yard pass down the right sidline to his WR. Charles needs to be more aggressive initiating the contact rather than waiting for the defender to hit him and knock him back. Charles had a few opportunities to block downfield when his QB was scrambling, but chose to either run out of the path of the play or try to run off the defender near him.

Vision:

Good vision on a sideline packed with pursuing ASU defenders to press the alley made by his WR engaged in a block and then cutting off it to dip to the sideline for a 9-yard gain. There's no question that Charles has excellent vision, but there was a play that demonstrated the difference between making a good, safe choice and a risky, flashy one. On 1st and 10 with 10:30 in the 1st QTR, Charles took a draw out of the spread formation. As he was going up the middle the right and left edge rushers had gone too far upfield but the DT had penetration directly in front of Charles at the LOS. Charles had a smaller alley in front of the edge rusher being blocked off at the right but a wide open flat with downfield blocking 10 and 15 yards ahead. To the left side was a huge opening, but CB unblocked by the WR at the sideline and an LB coming free at the LOS at the left edge. Charles chose to attempt a spin move to the left side as a way to avoid the DT and get of the huge space. He only gained yard as he tripped over the diving DT. A lateral cut would have been much more effective regardless of the direction he chose. Great patience on the 48 yard run off left end. He knew exactly how to time his burst. His patience between the tackles is sometimes lacking. With 4:48 in the 1st QTR, he once again attempted a spin move, this time to the right side as he didn't find anything off the LG and lost three yards. It was a spectacular spin, but if he had stretched the play to left end, he might have gained 5-7 yards on the play. The only player in the NFL who routinely got away with spin moves behind the LOS was Barry Sanders. Marshall Faulk could do it in the open field. Charles has that suddenness, but takes unnecessary risks up the middle. Charles was very patient on his 15-yard score with 1:34 in the 1st QTR. He took the spread handoff from the right side and bounced to the left then cut back off LT, breaking an arm tackle around his waist that temporarily slowed him down before bursting untouched for the remaining 15 yards and the score. The question is whether Charles has enough quickness to dart east-west at the line of scrimmage before choosing a hole this patiently in the pros. I don't think he will and believe he'll need to become more decisive against faster defenses. Charles did not adequately press the hole on a 2nd and 6 with 8:18 in the half. He only gained a yard, because he didn't press the hole to the point of getting behind the RG and RT to get the LBs to over pursue to the right edge and then cut back off the RG and C. He lost a yard on a 1st and 10 with 6:16 on a run off RG where two LBs were shooting a huge gap from 2 yards behind the LOS. If Charles bounced it around the edge, he would have gained positive yardage but tried to jump cut through a very small crease. Charles' best run up the middle was 6-yard gain with :20 in the half, but the alley was so big he got all 6 yards before he was touched for the first time. He saw the huge opening to the left, but could not make a sharp enough lateral cut to avoid the oncoming DBs to reach it. Nice job slashing through an opening on the backside of a run initially to the left edge. He hit the hole hard for 6 yards on the play. He'll made a very good decision one play and an equally bad one the next. He ran straight into the line on a play he could have bounced to the left with 4:23 in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving:

His second touch of the game was a swing pass that he caught with his hands first and back to the LOS. He gained 9 yards on the play, picking through 4 ASU defenders on the right sideline. Charles caught a swing pass 4 yards behind the LOS on 2nd and 11 with 11:40 in the half and made two players miss, breaking an arm tackle of a 3rd to gain two yards on the play. Once again, good job catching the ball with his hands.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jehuu Caulcrick

Date: 9/23/2006

Opponent: Notre Dame

Overall Strengths:

Caulcrick is as powerful a runner as there is in college football. He runs with high knee action and uses his arms and legs very well to aggressively punish defenders attempting to tackle him by initiating contact. His vision is good enough to spot the cutback lanes and he has good enough feet to make the cutback at least from one guard to the other guard. He rarely gets tackled by one player and he has the acceleration to exploit a hole for gains into, and past, the last two levels of the defense. He also has the speed to turn the corner on sweeps and pitches if the blocking is adequate. Caulcrick is the type of back that should at the very least have a future as a goal line and short yardage option in the NFL. He might have enough athleticism and all-around talent to be an every down option if he continues to develop his skills.

Overall Weaknesses:

He still needs to place a bit more emphasis on ball control. He's generally very good at holding onto the ball, but he holds the ball loosely from his body at times. Right now he's getting away with it because he's much stronger than most of the players he's facing on the defensive side of the ball. He won't have that advantage against NFL linebackers. His mostly a straightline runner that needs a little more room to gain momentum. He's not a back that is most effective with draws, traps, and runs where he is positioned closer to the line of scrimmage prior to the snap. He currently shares time with another RB and it is difficult to determine his stamina and toughness as a runner after 15-17 carries. He does not get a lot of opportunities in the passing game and he did not have to make any blocks--it seems MSU limits his opportunities to be involved in these aspects of the game. His onfield speed appears better than his timed speed, so what I saw on film may not transfer as well to the NFL.

Power:

On Caulcrick's first run, he encountered the safety at the end of the hole about 6 yards down field and ran through a very well-attempted leg tackle. Caulcrick literally ran over the safety by using his free arm to brush off the defender on the ground. He gained another 21 yards on the play. This RB has a devastating stiff arm/forearm shiver. He took a 2nd and 1 handoff up the middle from the spread formation with 3:49 in the half and met the safety 1 yard past the first down marker with a forearm that knocked the defender flat on his back while maintaining his stride. He gained another 12 yards after the hit and dragged the DT who had him by the leg. He ran over the safety a second time on an inside handoff designed to go around the corner. He met the safety 9 yards downfield and used his inside arm and leg to meet the contact of the defender and drive the player to the ground. He also bounced off a DB's hit on the sideline while an LB was wrapped around his waist. This run was for an 18-yard gain. Nice stiff arm with his left arm to knock down the CB during his 30-yard run for a score with 6 minutes left in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

He carried the ball a bit loosely from his body. The ball was tight to his frame, but the elbow was too far out and susceptible to the strip. He does a good job keeping the ball in his outside arm. On his 30-yard run, the DB on the right tried to strip the ball. Despite the pouring rain and high winds, Caulcrick had an excellent grip on the ball. When running up the middle of the field in difficult weather conditions, Caulcrick made the effort to keep both arms wrapped around the ball.

Elasticity:

Caulcrick made an excellent cutback to the right on a stop-start move behind the line of scrimmage on his first run. This cut allowed him to get to the open lane and make the penetrating ND defender miss him and step out of the tackle with good footwork. The RB showed enough agility on his second carry--leading off the 2nd QTR--to leap over a fallen ND defender that was laid out by the pulling guard.

Balance:

Great balance to step out of a tackle behind the line of scrimmage and to brush off the safety waiting at the end of the hole. He demonstrated excellent balance on his third run because he was hit both from an indirect angle and a direct angle, and maintained his balance before he was gang-tackled.

Speed:

An impressive burst through the hole and after running over the safety. He split the secondary on this first run of the game after he ran over the safety. He has enough speed to get the corner on well-blocked run plays and his burst is good enough to gain yardage through an opening up the middle. Good enough speed to split the secondary on a run up the middle for 30 yards and the score.

Blocking:

Vision:

Great job spotting the cutback lane to the right side on his first run which he exploited for a 29-yard gain. He picked his way for a 30-yard score on a run up the middle. On MSU's first offensive series of the 4th QTR, Caulcrick took a handoff up the middle and took advantage of the cutback lane between the RT and RG. Considering the weather conditions and the field conditions, he did a good job maintaining his footing to take advantage of the lane and gain 3 yards on the play. He exploited the left side with a small cutback for an 8-yard gain and a first down.

Receiving:

His first catch was an outlet pass to the flat. He caught the ball with his hands first before one player brought him down after Caulcrick powered his way for a few more yards after getting wrapped around the waist.

Durability:

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Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Overall Score:

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Rec:
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Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jehuu Caulcrick

Date: 12/28/2007

Opponent: Boston College

Overall Strengths:

Caulcrick has good feet and can sidestep players in small spaces. He runs hard and with good power. This is a back who I believe could develop into a quality role player and short term starter in the NFL because he sees the field well enough to spot cut back lanes, is decisive as a runner, and has enough of a burst to make positive yardage. He shows potential as a receiver, but needs more consistency. He's not as fast as a Brandon Jacobs, but he fits in the mold of a player along the lines of a Jerome Bettis and Jacobs. Less speed than Jacobs, but footwork that is good enough for the next level.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's unproven as a blocker and not often used in this capacity. Caulcrick also sees few opportunities as receiver and needs to be more consistent catching the football. He didn't show much of a stiff arm in situations where he could have used one or when he tried to use it. He has a good burst, but lacks breakaway speed.

Power:

It took 3 players to bring Caulcrick down on the first run of the game. He dragged a DT 2-3 yards for a total of 5 with 12:09 in the 1st QTR. The DT got the RB by the waist and Caulcrick was strong enough to keep his legs moving and fall forward for the first down. Caulcrick finished off his 17-yard run with 6:45 in the 1st QTR by turning his body sideways to avoid a DB's direct hit 11 yards downfield and slide off the impact for another 6 yards. Very good second effort on a 3-yard gain where he was hit from behind at the LOS and then over top by the LB and he still turned his body and kept his legs moving to lean forward for another 3 yards after contact. What I like about Caulcrick is that he keeps his legs moving in a pile. He gained 3 yards with 4:54 in the 1st QTR because of his leg drive in a tight area. He broke a leg tackle in the hole on a 7-yard gain with 3:50 in the half. Good job getting low and finding the hole off LG for a 1-yard gain and a 1st down off 4th and 1. He broke a tackle 2 yards behind the LOS, meeting the hit to his chest and pushing the DT off before running through his grasp for two yards before getting gang-tackled for a 1-yard gain on a draw from the shotgun formation.

Ball Handling:

He routinely carried the ball under the correct sideline arm.

Evasiveness:

Nice footwork to dip to the left corner on the opening run for 4 yards. He was able to change direction and avoid the penetrating DT off RG to get to the gap outside LT. He demonstrated good change of direction twice on one drive. First with the plant and cut to the left side to take the left corner for 17 yards and then on a 2nd and 8 with 5:46 where he took the ball headed towards LG and made a very sharp lateral move away from the penetrating DT to RG. He turned a 3-yard loss into a 3-yard gain. Caulcrick made a head and shoulder fake to the inside on a pitch to the left side with 12:42 in the 3rd QTR. This froze the pursuit enough for him to exploit a crease for 5 yards. Good job sidestepping the safety in the flat on a 3rd and 4 flat route for a gain of 6 and a first down. If the safety hits him, he would have likely lost 3 yards on the play.

Balance:

Good balance to turn away from the brunt of a hit by the safety and then square his shoulders back downfield for another 6 yards. Caulcrick hit a DB head on and spun away from him for another yard for a 7-yard gain with 3:50 in the half.

Speed:

He has a good enough burst to get 2-3 yards into a small hole without anyone touching him. He did this on a 5-yard gain with 12:09 in the 1st QTR. His gain of 17 yards around the left corner was a very good example of his burst. The intended direction of the play was off RG, but the LB got penetration 3 yards into the backfield and Caulcrick had to plant and cut to the outside. There were two defenders with an angle at the edge but the RB beat both of them to the left hash as he turned it past them upfield. He also beat a CB who tried to reach for him 7 yards downfield and left the CB flailing to the ground. He took a toss sweep to the left corner for 4 yards, beating the LB to the edge and dragging the defender as he hung on to the RB after diving for his waist.

Blocking:

He made an effort to chip the outside rusher before dropping a 4th and 1 pass to the flat in the 4th QTR. The outside rusher actually came free after the RB chipped him and forced the rushed pass.

Vision:

Caulcrick gained 5 yards on a run off LG by following the pulling RG and cutting through the gap decisively. Although just a 3-yard run, he demonstrated patience by following his RG off LT and then bursting behind him. Caulcrick spotted the alley off RG and hit it decisively for a 7-yard gain. Caulcrick turned a toss sweep that looked like a certain loss for a 5-yard gain because he spotted a diagonal alley at the last moment to the inside of the left edge. Although he had no gain on a toss sweep to the left side with 13:22 in the game, he made a good decision to cut the play back upfield as he read the safety blitzing free to the left edge. He made a good second effort to keep the play from being a loss after cutting back to the inside. Nice job spotting the cut back and bouncing it to the backside for a 4-yard gain on 1st and 10 with 11:57 in the game.

Receiving:

His first target came with 12:41 in the game on 3rd and 4. He caught the ball 3 yards behind the LOS with his hands while facing downfield. The safety came rushing up to hit him, but he demonstrated good enough footwork to sidestep him to the right and get six yards, nearly running out of an LB's leg tackle. He did get an extra two yards after the wrap up but eventually fell forward. He dropped a 4th and 1 pass to the flat that bounced off his hands at helmet level as he faced the OB.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: John Randle

Date: 12/8/2007

Opponent: Delaware

Overall Strengths:

Randle is a one cut, downhill runner with a decent burst. He has some wiggle to his running style and can make an LB or DB miss in the open field. He runs hard and will deliver a blow to finish runs. He's also a reliable pass blocker and downfield run blocker without the football. He's a fundamentally sound running back.

Overall Weaknesses:

Randle does not have gamebreaking speed. He lacks dramatic, elusive moves in the open field. He also does not see the cutback opportunities as well as top-notch backs. His vision is average for a college football runner: he follows blockers and can cut to a small opening as it develops, but he does not see the gaping holes where a more dramatic cut to the outside or inside might net him a bigger gain. He was non-existent as a receiver in the passing game. His effort might earn him a practice squad opportunity for an NFL team, but he'll likely be a special teams player or #3 back at best.

Power:

Randle ended his first run by plowing into two Delaware defenders who met him head-on. He lowered his head and got another 4 yards before getting run out of bounds. He did not lower his shoulder or lean as much as he lowered his head. Against a bigger safety I'm not sure he wouldn't have been thrown backwards with a hit. Much better job getting low on 3rd and 1 to get the first down behind LG who pulled to create a gap between C and RG. Randle took a handoff out of the spread formation and followed the LT into the hole and burst into the LT's assignment, knocking the player back two yards and nearly getting a first down on a 2 and 7 with 10:10 in the 1st QTR. On 3rd and 2, he bulled through the line with good speed to create a hole and a first down. He repeatedly initiated contact in the 1st QTR. He lowered his shoulder 4 yards into the hole against the LB and drove him back two yards for a gain of 6 with 9:29 remaining. He did the same on the next play, spinning of the LB for nearly a first down after lowering his shoulder into the defender. The next play he was driven back by the same LB and lost the battle.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball under the outside (left) arm during his first run. He carried the ball with his right arm on the next 3rd down. Good job carrying the ball in his sideline arm on the run he took 40 yards downfield with 4:05 in the 1st QTR. Good ball protection on the short yardage run for a score from the 1 yard line--he covered up with both arms.

Elusiveness:

Very good shake and bake move with his shoulders and hips to fake the cut inside to run past the safety on the outside. The safety was in front of the Randle about 7 yards off the line of scrimmage and Randle forced him to break down. He ran past the safety at the first down marker and got the the sideline for another 30 yards. He tends to use the same shake and bake move when he has one man to beat as he's exiting the hole.

Balance:

Good balance to keep gaining yards when he lowers his shoulders for big collisions. He needs to learn to get lower with his pads. He still runs a bit upright when initiating contact.

Speed:

Good burst through the hole on 3rd and 1 at the 13:20 of the first quarter for a 3 yard gain. When he commits to where he's going, he runs with a good burst and explodes into whatever is in front of him, space or defenders. Randle has a good initial burst but his long speed is at best, average. He exploited a huge opening off a spread formation hand off to the right corder. He cut upfield at the numbers and then made a nice shake and bake move on the safety in front of him to get the angle and the sideline about 10 yards down the field. He was run out of bounds 30 yards later by the safety who caught up to Randle from across the field to push him out of bounds.

Blocking:

He read the safety blitz coming off the right side as he was lined up in the spread formation to the right of the QB. He charged to the line of scrimmage at the snap to hit the safety and did a fine job of turning the safety to the inside as the QB rolled to the right and away from the pressure. Randle did a nice job surveying the line and attempt to pick up defenders coming free on a touchdown pass that was called back. He could be seen starting outside and heading in, good technique. Good cut block on a 3rd and 4 throw to the FB in the flat. He took the blitz out on the block.

Vision:

Randle immediately took the first run off LT from the I-formation with 14:43 in the 1st QTR. There was a huge space to the left with 8 defenders at the line of scrimmage and he went untouched for the first five yards past the line when the RG pulled to the edge and got a great block to seal the corner. A very decisive run on 3rd and 1 through a good hole off the C and RG for the first down, but he completely missed the huge lane to the left about 5 yards wide. If he cut back in the hole--and he had plenty of room--the safety angled towards the hole Randle actually took would have not adjusted in time and he might have had a huge gain. With 12:24 left in the opening quarter he took a run between the C and RG, following the pulling LG to the hole and bouncing to the right. But the RT was further down field swallowing up a DB about half his size. If Randle got angle toward the sideline and tried to get behind the RT, he would have had a chance at another 5 yards if not a long run. He sets up blocks better in more open spaces than in the hole.

Receiving:

The Salukis split John Randle out wide on a 1st down, 3-WR set. Randle slipped out from the line on 3rd and 10 with 5:49 in the 1st QTR, but Randle allowed the ball to fly through his hands as he reached over his head to catch the football.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

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Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jonathan Stewart

Date: 12/31/2007

Opponent: South Florida

Overall Strengths:

Stewart is the most complete back in this draft. He has a good burst and enough speed to beat DBs down the sideline for long runs. Yet he also can run east-west, get hit in the backfield, and still shed tackles and hits with great balance. When he's moving downhill, he will carry defenders for extra yardage but also make a stutter move at full speed that can help him elude a defender with an angle. Stewart has the quickness to get to the corner of the defense and the patience to make cuts deep in the hole or cutbacks for extra yardage. He consistently carried the ball in the correct hand, caught the football with his hands as a receiver, and made the effort to block in the limited opportunities given to him in this game. Plus he had several gains over 10 yards, a 40-yard gain, and an 71-yard gain while playing with a turf toe injury that prevented him from practicing consistently. He did this against a defense that only allowed Ray Rice to rush for 100 yards against them in nearly two seasons. Stewart reminds me a lot of Ricky Williams at his best.

Overall Weaknesses:

I didn't see him make any upper body jukes. He had huge holes to run through on several carries in this game that might call into question his vision, but if you watched the game or read the details here, Stewart made sound choices in situations with smaller creases. He also demonstrated patience. I didn't have a chance to see him catch the ball with his back to the QB. He may need more work as a blocker and receiver with specific routes, but only because I haven't seen him have to do anything different than screen passes. In terms of his all-around game, Stewart is one of the best backs I've seen on film in three years. He may not be as dynamic as others in certain areas, but he's consistently good across the board.

Power:

Stewart demonstrated his power in an unlikely scenario of a 1st and 10 play with 11:47 in the 1st QTR. He ran a misdirection and as he got past the LOS and in a lane on the left side of the field, the DE grabbed the RB by the neck of the his jersey, jerking Stewart back. But the RB nearly pulled out of hit and did not go down despite three other defenders jumping on him. He broke an arm tackle with 9:22 in the 1st QTR as he was running out of a hole. Stewart ran east-west to the corner with 8:25 in the 1st QTR and was able to knock the MLB to the ground with a stiff arm and a 5-yard gain. He carried the LB 5 yards on his 1st and 10 run with 14:33 in the half. He's a load to bring down. On his 6-yard run with 13:41 in the half, it took 3 players to bring him down once they slowed him down. In fact, two plays later, he took a handoff to the left corner, but the LB got penetration 4 yards into the backfield and Stewart ran through the tackle. And he still didn't go down when the DT wrapped him up with the CB assisting. A DE and an LB could not not knock Stewart off is feet on a 2-yard run with 12:57 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

Stewart executed ball fakes on the first two plays of the game that drew the defense to him. Good job carrying the ball under the sideline arm in the first half. On his 71-yard run he did not switch the ball to his sideline arm on the score. The was the only play he carried with the wrong arm.

Elusiveness:

Nice quick, cut in the hole on a 5-yard gain with 9:22 in the 1st QTR. Stewart made a good stutter move 7-yards past the LOS on a charging DB and make the defender miss on his way to a 13-yard gain with 14:32 in the half. Very good cutback to the inside lane on a run through a lane off RG with 6:47 in the half for an 8-yard gain. He made a good jump cut in the hole with 13:02 in the 3rd QTR to get an extra yard on a 2-yard run. Very quick change of direction to dip back inside after getting into the 2nd level on a 17-yard run with 5:16 in the 3rd QTR. The dip made a defender miss.

Balance:

Stewart demonstrated very good balance at the right sideline to gain the last 4 yards on a 2nd and 15 for the first down with 12:30 in the game. He tightroped the sideline, but also carried a defender for 3 yards to get to the first down marker. Stewart nearly spun out of a leg tackle at the tail end of a 5-yard run with 9:22 in the 1st QTR. On the 5-yard gain with 8:25 in the 1st QTR where he stiff-armed the MLB, the defender still held onto Stewart and as the RB was pulling free, a DB hit the RB in the legs from an indirect angle and Stewart maintained his balance on the play. In fact the officials anticipated Stewart would fail and blew the whistle early.

Speed:

Good burst through the hole off LG at the LOS and into the second level for a 13-yard gain, running over the DB at the 1st down marker on a 1st and 10 with 14:40 in the half. He demonstrated the ability to vary his speed on a run around right end following his pulling linemen to the corner and then burst through the lane for a 5-yard gain with 6:52 in the half. Stewart gain 71 yards on a score through a big hole at the left hash with 3:19 in the half. He outran two CBs and a safety down the sideline for the score. Excellent burst up the middle for a 41-yard gain with 10:30 n the 3rd QTR. He repeatedly showed speed to get around the corner, which he did once again for a 13-yard gain with 13:40 in the 4th QTR.

Blocking:

Although the pass was being thrown from the opposite side of the field where Stewart was, the RB finished a fake to the left edge by belting a DB at the sideline. Good effort to chip the backside pass rush to eliminate the DE as a threat while the QB rushed upfield for the first down.

Vision:

Stewart gained 15 yards and a 1st down on his first carry on a 2nd and 15 play with 12:30 in the 1st QTR. The play was designed as a misdirection and it opened a huge lane at the right corner. The most impressive part of the play was Stewart's patience at the second level to work off his blocks at the sideline and vary his speed to get the help necessary to gain the 15 yards. Excellent job finding a cut back while in a small crease on a 5-yard gain with 9:22 in the 1st QTR. Although he only gained two yards, he made a nice choice to cut run off guard when the DE got penetration at the corner. Stewart ran through a hole about 4 yards wide on either side of him with 14:33 in the half, but he did demonstrate a nice move in the open field to make a DB miss. Stewart had another hole about 2-3 yards wide on each side of him. Stewart picked a small crease for a 2-yard gain where the defense at 3-4 yards penetrating into the backfield before Stewart cut cut upfield for the 2 -yard gain. The RB did well to bend his run to the sideline as the 3rd level was in pursuit, helping him gain another 10 yards on the play. The reason for the huge holes in this game was the abundance of misdirection plays Oregon runs and South Florida is a very athletic, aggressive defense that bought the play fakes and allowed the RB a lot of room to run.

Receiving:

Stewart was used as their slot receiver in 5 WR sets in this game. Stewart's first catch was a screen with 8:16 in the 3rd QTR. He blocked the edge rusher, slipped behind the rusher and then caught the ball with his hands. The throw was a little high, so he had to reach for it, but demonstrated a great burst after the catch to turn it up the right sideline and then lower his left shoulder into the CB after 21-yards to knock the DB down. He had open space the entire way. His second catch was a 7-yard screen fo r a score, catching the ball with his hands first .

Durability:

He is playing with turf toe in this game. His toe was very swollen and it has limited his practice prior to the game. The commentators asked him about his toe and asked the RB to give a percentage on his toe. Stewart said, "I don't talk percentages, I just play." He also had ankle problems in the past, but he has played through them as well.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jonathan Stewart

Date: 12/21/2006

Opponent: BYU

Overall Strengths:

There isn't enough to seriously rate this game on its own, but I have seen other efforts since this game that support what I'm going to say here. He's a powerful back with excellent balance and burst. He gives good effort as a blocker and receiver. In limited play I was impressed with his performance in this game and he did not disappoint as a junior. He's one of the better all-around backs I've seen in this draft class, if not the best.

Overall Weaknesses:

In this game he needed to do a better job as a pass blocker reading and reacting.

Power:

Stewart showed a good stiff arm on a DT in the 2nd QTR on a 2nd down run for a minimal game. It was a belly play where Stewart took the hand off, ran to his left and cut inside. Stewart is a runner that does well gaining yards after contact. Stewart then demonstrated a good stiff arm with his left hand on the kickoff return for 47 yards. Although he only gained 3 yards on a second down play with 7:04 in the 3rd QTR, Stewart stiff armed a DT in the backfield, met a safety shooting the gap with another forearm, and ended the run with a third forearm shot to a defender trying to wrap him up out of bounds.

Ball Handling:

Can carry the ball with either hand and maintains decent ball security.

Etusiveness:

Stewart has pretty quick feet for a big back. His first attempt was a loss, but he showed the ability to bounce away from the first man that greeted him in the backfield.

Balance:

On the kickoff where Stewart used his left arm to stiff arm a pursuing tackler, he did a great job maintaining his balance for another 10 yards downfield despite the defender getting his legs at the last moment. Stewart was running east west on a second down play with 7:04 in the 3rd QTR when the safety shot through and got into Stewart's thigh pads. But Stewart still met the safety with a forearm and maintained his balance well enough to force the safety to slide off him. A very impressive feat of balance.

Speed:

Stewart has good speed for a man his size. He can definitely beat the second level and possibly the third level of a defense when he gets to them untouched. He hits the hole hard and it's ashame Oregon doesn't use the I-formation more often. When they get him running north-south, he can gain 5-7 yards per carry on a consistent basis because of his burst, balance, and ability to make yardage after contact.

Blocking:

Stewart's first play was a flea flicker. He pitched the ball back to Leaf, but did not see a defender peeling off the guard. If Stewart looked outside-in as the technique dictates he might have spotted the player that actually sacked Leaf. If he made the block, Jordan Kent was wide open down the middle of the field for a score. Stewart made a nice block on the assigned LB after a playfake out of the spread formation. He got one hit on the LB and when the LB tried to slip to the right, Stewart did a good job moving laterally and greeted him again with a follow up block which drove the LB backwards and away from the pocket. Nice hustle and follow up. Stewart consistently showed effort and intensity as a blocker.

Vision:

Stewart demonstrated excellent patience and vision on a kickoff return with 6:55 left in the 2nd QTR. He burst upfield, but as he got to the second level of coverage, he read a block and hesitated just enough to squirt to the outside.

Receiving:

Stewart's first target was right in his hands, but he dropped the ball. He was facing the quarterback on a curl underneath the coverage in the middle of the field. The second target was more accurately Leaf throwing the ball away while under pressure.

Durability:

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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

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Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

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Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

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Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

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Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

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Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

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Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

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Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

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No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

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1st Downs:

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Target:

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Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Jonathan Stewart

Date: 11/4/2006

Opponent: Washington

Overall Strengths:

Stewart is a punishing runner who explodes out of his cuts and has terrific balance and speed. He also demonstrates good vision. He can make the first player miss in the backfield and gain positive yardage with cuts in the hole. He has very good vision. The commentators in this game compared Stewart's running style--and strengths--to Emmitt Smith. I agree that Stewart has all those skills in a body about 20 pounds heavier. He runs very low to the ground like Smith and another runner, Travis Henry. He will punish you or run past you. He is a solid receiver and excellent blocker. He may be one of the best all around skill prospects at his position if he decides to declare for the draft.

Overall Weaknesses:

He made one bad choice in terms of his decision in a hole in this game and that's about all I can say about his performance today.

Power:

He attacked the LB on his first 5-yard run off LG and got two extra yards by aggressively hitting the defender then leaning forward. Stewart runs low to the ground and looks like he's nothing but knees and elbows in the hole on a 2nd and 5 run for 6 yards off tackle. He ran over a safety to get across the first down marker. He plowed into a safety on a 1st QTR run with 9:39 and literally knocked the helmet off the defender due to the burst he had out of the cut. On the way through the hole he sitfirmed the DT to the ground before he hit the safety. He can actually create space with his size-speed combo. He got 5 yards on a play he took between the LG and C where there was really no space, but he ducked under the linemen's arms and burst through them. Nice job breaking an arm tackle 1 yard behind the LOS to get three yards and the first down on a 3rd and 1 with 8:19 in the half.

Ball Handling:

Stewart will carry the ball under either arm and has kept the ball against his body despite two noticeable attempts by defenders to strip it as the play was finishing. On the bounce outside, he did well to switch the ball to the outside arm. Stewart gained 9 yards off the edge on the play after his swing pass reception and did a nice job of switching the ball to the outside arm.

Eloiveness:

A very sharp plant and cut up the middle out of the spread formation on a 2nd and 10 with 9:39 in the 1st QTR. Stewart showed the ability to make a jumpcut in the hole with 1:34 in the 1st QTR and got good lateral movement on the cut, but he misjudged the hole and was stuffed at the LOS. His second score was on a 4-yard toss sweep to the right, where he made a very smooth lateral cut away from a penetrating defender to get the lane and a score.

Balance:

Stewart is very difficult to knock down when going north-south. Nice job carrying the pile three yards despite a DB hitting him in the gut. That DB was run over by Stewart and hurt on the play. On the next play, Stewart slipped through a crease between the C and RG and burst up field for 3 yards untouched before the DB on the right flat swiped at his leg. Stewart managed to keep his balance for another 10 yards before landing at the 49 yard line. With 5:38 in the 3rd QTR, Stewart ran off the RG and as he was about to dip to the right in the hole, a DB shot through and hit his thigh. Stewart was able to move laterally without losing balance to avoid most of the blow, earning another 3 yards past the first down marker.

Speed:

Stewart runs with a very strong burst out of his cuts. On 1st and 10 with 1:57 in the opening quarter, Stewart took a spread formation handoff that was a type of counter play up a crease between the RG and C and burst through the hole past two LBs just a yard off the LOS. He gained 13 yards before he was touched--outrunning the angle of two DBs before he plowed into the safety at the 50 yard line. He took that DB for a 3-yard ride. SPARQ is a rating that stands for Speed Power Agility Reaction and Quickness. NIKE has training camps for prep and college athletes to teach them how to train and he tested a 98 out of 100, which is insanely high. With 5:19 in the half he took a handoff out of the spread where he was set up to the right of Dixon and headed to a hold between the LG and LT. An LB came free in the hole and Stewart spotted it, dipped outside the LT and easily got the edge, going untouched for 10 yards, carrying the safety two yards out of bounds for a 12-yard gain. Stewart is so quick through the hole that on a 1st and 10 with 6:13 in the 3rd QTR, he took a play off the LG and an LB was penetrating upfield through that hole, but could not adjust in time to angle his path to the RB and could only get a hand on the RB that was knocked off easily.

Blocking:

Good job sealing the edge against an LB on a reverse on Oregon's first offensive play. Good, aggressive hit on the edge rusher on a 1st down pass play with 11:41 in the 1st QTR. He also chipped on a pass rusher on a 3rd down pass play. Excellent cutblock on a short WR screen with 5:09 in the half. He had to make the block quickly on a short drop and executed it perfectly. Another nice job on the WR throwout from the 2-TE set to hustle to the edge and hit the edge rusher so the QB wouldn't get hit after his throw.

Vision:

Stewart showed a good burst for a 5-yard gain on a handoff from the spread formation off LG. Excellent decision to cut the play up the middle--good vision and decisive. His first TD came from 6 yards out from the spread formation. He started from the left of the QB running towards the right side at a lane towards the right edge, but pushed the hole to find the cut back up the middle and burst through that untouched for the score. Again, his burst out of his first cut is terrific. He missed a hole between the LG and C and opted to run up the back of the RG on a 1st and 10 with 11:54 in the 3rd QTR for a gain of 1. Strange choice.

Receiving:

Stewart had to jump into the air and into his lineman on a screen pass with 8:25 in the half to try to retrieve a poorly thrown ball, but he couldn't get it. Excellent job extending his arms to catch a swing pass with 8:36 in the 3rd QTR. Stewart gained 3 yards before shortening his stride and side stepping the hit of a DB to gain an extra yard before he was knocked out of bounds. He gained 9 on a swing pass to th same side as his 1st catch. He let this ball come closer to his body but still caught it with his hand and got the first down.

Durability:

He had some issues with his ankle and his toe in '07, but it didn't limit his playing time.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Justin Forsett

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths:

Forsett's best quality as a runner is his balance and elusiveness. If the 10 pounds of muscle he added puts him in the +/- 5 lbs of 200 lbs. then he would have an outside chance to contribute like a Maurice Jones Drew, Brian Westbrook, or Priest Holmes at the next level. He is strong for his size, but he's best on the edge of a defense where he can get into the open field and beat players one on one. He is difficult to bring down if he gets the chance to accelerate through an open space. He has a variety of effective moves--jump cuts, plant cuts, spin moves and stutter moves-- in his repertoire as a runner. He is generally a decisive runner who won't dance in the backfield or try to reverse his field. Forsett reads his blocks well in the hole. He is definitely an effort player and a good teammate. I believe Forsett is more what the Packers hoped to get from Brandon Jackson the back they drafted out of Nebraska in 2007. He's probably more in the line of a Warrick Dunn type of player, at best, than the players I mentioned above--which is still a compliment to Forsett. The Cal runner will need to continue to get stronger to develop into a runner like one of three I mentioned at the top.

Overall Weaknesses:

Forsett is small in dimension. Height is not that big of a deal for an RB although I'm curious to see if he really measures at 5-8 and not smaller. But weight is a factor for an inside runner. He tends to go down easily when matched up head to head with a defender in the opening quarters, but late in the game he ran through some similar hits. He makes the occasional wrong decision to cut the play inside when he has the speed to bounce the play outside for a big gain. This is a rare complaint about a back, it's generally the opposite situation but Forsett just didn't look confident in his speed early in this game. His offensive line opened some huge holes for Forsett and most of his long gains came off runs with big gaps in the defense that either were easy to spot or easy to set up.

Power:

Forsett is a very compact runner. He demonstrates good body lean at the end of runs. This allows him to maximize his speed and momentum when finishing. He gained an extra 2 yards on his first run due to finishing low and strong. On Forsett's 6-yard run during the same drive, he had a no one around him for a 1-2 yard radius after cutting inside of the FB's lead block until he reached the secondary. He did a good job lowering his shoulder upon contact with the safety, but the blow put him at a standstill and he was wrapped up after the hit. On the next play he took a 2nd and 4 hand off between the guard and tackle for no gain. He could not generate the leg drive to gain extra yardage after the hit. He did run through a waist tackle and arm tackle on his 16-yard gain for a first down with 6:47 in the 1st QTR. He ran through a lot of arm tackles in the 4th QTR for extra yards and also carried a couple of safeties for an extra 2-3 yards on a run with 6:45 left in the game. He did break a DB's tackle in the 4th QTR with 5:25 left after hitting the defender head-on.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball on the outside arm with his first run. He also maintained possession despite the defender's attempt to rip the ball as the RB was falling forward on his first run. He demonstrated using either arm to protect the ball, depending on which was the outside arm on runs during the first quarter. He did a good job wrapping up the ball with both arms on his 20 yard run in the 4th QTR with 6:45 left.

Elusiveness:

Forsett has very quick feet and he dips in and out of holes with excellent speed. He demonstrated this on an 11-yard gain to open Cal's first series. Forsett's 4th attempt resulted in a 1st down on a 3rd and short with 6:47 in the 1st QTR, but the play was really made prior to him getting the ball. The call was a fake end around to DeSean Jackson heading to the left and pitchout to Forsett heading right. The defense bit on the QB's playfake. He did make a strong plant and cut to the inside to elite the CB's diving tackle three yards behind the 1st down marker and accelerate upfield past both the DT and an LB for 16 yards. With 9:07 in the 3rd QTR, Forsett went around the left edge and made a great stutter move on a DB to cut it up field untouched for another 3-4 yards before he took an LB for a 2-yard ride for a 9-yard gain. Forsett made two great moves on the edge of the UT defense during an off tackle to the left side with 8:02 in the 3rd QTR. He gave a leg and took it away to force the MLB to break down and miss badly on his tackle and then made a jump cut to the sideline much like DeSean Jackson did on his punt return score where he jumped a half step backwards and to the side. The DB wound up diving for air and Forsett gained 2 extra yards for a total of seven on the play.

Balance:

Forsett gets low enough to maintain his balance versus hard hits, but his lack of size limits his ability to run through these hits. He's low to the ground, but not big enough in the thighs, hips, and waist to run through these shots consistently. He can spin out of arm tackles and glancing blows while maintaining his balance as he did on a 3rd down pitch out to the right side with 6:47 left in the 1st QTR. He outran the DT and the LB made contact as he was diving at Forsett, but the RB spun out of the waist tackle to maintain his balance for an extra 10 yards and a 16-yard gain. Very good balance on the screen play. The LB hit him from behind as he was hurdling a player and still managed to keep his feet and not break stride.

Speed:

Forsett has good acceleration and he hit the hole hard on his first run where he went untouched for 8 yards on his 11-yard gain. His acceleration on the 1st and 10 screen pass with 1:00 left in the half made the difference in a 20-yard gain and a 49-yard gain. He got the edge for a 17-yard gain on 1st and 20 to open the 3rd QTR where he found the cutback to the right and ran through two tackle attempts. Excellent acceleration on a 13-yard TD run where he set up his block in the hole by slowing down a step and then bursting to the left to split the secondary for another 10 yards and the touchdown.

Blocking:

His first block came off a playfake to him up the middle. He took on the defender, but it was more to shield him off than deliver a blow. His next block was on an edge rusher one on one on a 1st and 10 with 13:55 in the 3rd QTR. Forsett squared up and delivered a perfect cut block into the thigh of the defender, who fell on top of the RB 3 yards away from the QB. On 2nd down with over 3:00 in the 3rd QTR, he did a good job blocking a DE who came off a hit from the T. On the next play he delivered an aggressive pop to a DT. Although Forsett went backwards after the hit, it stopped the DT.

Vision:

Forsett did a fine job of following his pulling guard up the middle and hitting the hole hard. On the next attempt, the UT defense was squeezing the play to the inside and there was a nice patch of green on the edge. Forsett's FB had sealed off the edge, but the RB tried to cut the run back to the inside and was greeted for a loss. The RB had the speed to get the corner and gain at least 7-8 yards on the play. On this 3rd attempt of the drive, he made a good cut to the left off the FB's lead block and hit the hole hard enough to gain 6 yards. One of the things he does very well is press the hole on inside plays and then find the cutback. He did this for a huge gain with 4:19 left in the game. He pressed to the left and the cutback through a huge alley on the right and outran the perimeter defense to the corner.

Receiving:

Forsett's lone reception came with 1:00 in the half off a screen to the right. He did a good job following his blockers and then hurdling over a blocker who knocked down his defender. He outran the first and second level of the defense at the 40 and streaked down the sideline until the safety knocked him out of bounds 49 yards later.

Durability:

Forsett has only received the lion's share of the carries in major college football as a senior. Teams will question his ability to be a durable back due to his size and lack of consistent carries. He runs with a compact style and hasn't had any major injuries so one should not penalize him for an issue based on groundless speculation.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

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Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
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Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Justin Forsett

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Arizona State

Overall Strengths:

Forsett is a quick runner with a low center of gravity which makes him tough to bring down because he will spin out of tackles or get lower than hits that will deflect off him as a result. He has a nice array of lateral moves, spin moves, jump cats, and stutter moves to make players miss in the hole and in the openfield. He can catch the football although he wasn't used much in this game and he makes an effort to block. Is he the next Maurice Jones Drew, Brian Westbrook, or Warrick Dunn? I don't think so, but I believe he will be a depth chart player who is capable of putting up good numbers for a short period of time as a substitute runner when a team is in need.

Overall Weaknesses:

Although he has good balance and can break the tackles of some corne backs and safeties, he does get pulled down rather easily by 1st and 2nd level defenders. Quickness is good, but he lacks real game-breaking speed. He misses some opportunities for cutback runs at the line of scrimmage.

Power:

Forsett gained 11-yards around right end with 12:10 in the half, finishing the run with a head-on collision with the OLB. He drove the LB backwards and gained 5 yards after the initial contact as two more DBs helped bring him down. Forsett is a tough runner who will lower his head and turn his body for extra leverage to fall forward for extra yardage.

Ball Handling:

He carried the ball under the appropriate arm on runs to each sideline in the 1st QTR. Very good job holding the ball tightly to his body as he anticipates contact. He had the ball-hand hit a few times in the 1st half and held onto it with no problem. He also took a hard shot to the ball when running through his pulling guard and still held onto it.

Elasticities:

Forsett made two nice stutter moves on a delay up the the middle through a large hole off RG. As he made it through the hole, he made another stutter move to bounce it to the flat for the first down with 4:15 in the 1st QTR. He has very quick feet in small space. Good lateral cut away from the DB and following it up with spin out of the waist tackle during his run after a swing pass reception with 2:46 in the 1st QTR.

Balance:

Forsett has good balance. On a 1-yard loss around left end with 8:03 in the 1st QTR he nearly spun away from a tackle even though the defender was grabbing his face mask. At the end of his 7-yard run with 4:15 in the 1st QTR, he was grabbed by the collar and slung out of bounds.

Speed:

Forsett has quick feet and change of direction, but he does not appear to have that great second gear. During is swing pass reception he had a lot of open field, but did not appear to get down the sideline as quickly as elite backs. He had good enough speed to get around the left end on a 1st and and 10 run out of a 2-TE set with 13:34 in the half. He gained 9 yards as he beat the pursuit to the edge and lowered his shoulder to finish the run with good forward lean. He consistently got around the corner on runs to the outside. He gained 5 yards with 6:13 in the 3rd QTR around the right corner going untouched until he reached the sideline.

Blocking:

Forsett helped chip on a DE on a pass with 7:53 in the 1st QTR. Nice job hitting the LB in pursuit on an end around and knocking the defender down before he could get to the WR. He's pretty small to be an effective pass blocker, but he does deliver a blow and aggressively meets the LB at the LOS to deliver the hit in order to establish some distance in the pocket between his defender and the QB. He will also help chip a defender as he did in the late 2nd QTR, pushing the DE in the side which helped move him past the QB in the pocket.

Vision:

Forsett lost a yard on his first run with 8:03 in the 1st QTR, but the defense absolutely whipped the offensive line on this run: 4 of the defenders got penetration to where the offensive line was pulling. Forsett had to bounce the play outside and nearly got positive yardage, but was brought down by the facemask. His next run was a counter gap play where he followed the pulling guard, but the guard missed his target and two defenders were able to reach the RB as he entered the hole. He got past the point of being able to bounce the run outside as one man came free of the T and the other shot past the pulling guard. The best he could do was lower his head and fall forward for 3 yards. Good patience to pick his way to the right of center on a run where he saw the defensive tackle falling into the backfield with the blocker as he entered the hole for a gain of 2 yards rather than a loss with 4:10 in the 1st QTR. He made a good stutter move to avoid penetration by the NT in the backfield to get into the gap off LG for a 1-yard gain with 2:03 in the 1st QTR. He could use a bit more patience on short yardage runs. As he was taking the ball, he had a huge cutback to his right with only the DB in the area and he was blocked by the WR. If he bounced it outside, on this 2nd and 1 run designed to go up the middle. He would have had at least a 4-5 yard gain rather than a 1-yard gain. He might have taken it 55 yards for a score. At the same time, he did get the frist down. Nice job finding the cut back in the middle of an alley off left end for a gain of 9 with 10:43 in the half. On a 4-yard gain on 2nd and 20 at the end of the half, Forsett was able to follow the back of his G and then cut to the inside for a couple more yards on the play. Because of his size, he can be difficult to spot behind his linemen. He had a 6-yard gain through a huge hole with the pulling guard to the left side. He was tripped in the hole or he might have had a bigger gain.

Receiving:

Forsett's first target was a swing pass with 2:51 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball over his inside shoulder with his hands and took off downfield. About 15 yards past the 1st down marker he made a nice lateral cut to the left of the DB who had his shoulders squared in front of him. As he cut, the DB put his arm around Forsett's waist but the RB spun out of the waist tackle to get another 5 yards on the play.

Durability:

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1st Downs:

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Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: **Calvin McRae**

Date: **11/4/2005**

Opponent: **Toledo**

Overall Strengths:

McRae runs with a very good wiggle and a strong burst. He finishes his runs with low pad level and good leg drive. He is effective both between the tackles as a power runner and on the edge as an RB with quickness to take the corner and burst upfield. He has good change of direction skills and sees the open field very well.

Overall Weaknesses:

He lacks patience at the line of scrimmage to set up blocks if the hole isn't already there. He was a non-factor in the passing game but has more than doubled his reception totals in 2006 and 2007. He runs with power for his size, but he's not a punishing runner that will break a lot of tackles. He lacks elite speed and lateral movement. He has likely maxed out his physical talent and his opportunities to develop into a better player as a pro will be limited.

Power:

His first run was out of 2-TE, single back set. He followed the pulling guard to the gap between LG and LT. He was hit head-on by the LB, but spun off him and gained an extra two yards. He knows how to lower his pads and lean for extra yardage to finish runs. McRae got a huge opening at the 5-yard line on a run off tackle from a 2-TE, I-back set. He ran 4 yards through the alley untouched and lowered his shoulders into the LB and S to drive himself into the endzone. He does a very good job of getting low. He showed off his power on a 1st and 10 running play with 12:57 in the half. He went off tackle and was grabbed by a DT at the LOS, but continued to drive his legs and got 5 yards on the play. He pushed the pile forward for 3 yards for a total of 6 on the first play of the 2nd half.

Ball Handling:

On a 2nd and 1 after his weaving 9-yard run, McRae took a toss sweep to the right at the Toledo 38 and faked the reverse, but what was great was his ball fake. He slowed down after the fake while hiding the football behind his thigh just long enough to sell the action. This helped him his blockers give him an opening. He bobbled a pitch on 3rd down with 13:25 in the 3rd QTR and this prevent him from pitching on the reverse, so he had to try to make something out of nothing against an 8-man front. He tends to keep the ball in his right arm but did use the left arm on some runs to the left.

Eloiveness:

A very nice stop-start move that made the LB mistime his dive on a run with 9:24 in the 1st QTR out of the 2 TE, I-set. He then turned back to the inside when he saw the safety in space with the angle on him, but weaved through the center of the defense with a nice lower juke to make a second player miss and get to the alley before diving through the DB for a gain of 9 yards. He definitely runs with a wiggle. He does a good job making himself small to squirt through small spaces at the end of runs. He makes good, tight spin moves to get out of difficult situations. With 14:11 in the 3rd QTR, he met penetration up the middle and his spin move got him closer to the LOS.

Balance:

McRae doesn't go down often on first contact, especially when hit directly. With 2:55 in the 1st QTR, he gained 5 yards and did not go down when he hit the LB head-on in the hole. It took a trailing defender grabbing his legs to make the difference. Good job maintaining his balance on an option toss where he ran down the sideline in traffic and ran through an arm tackle by a DB going out of bounds. He actually was able to cut back to the middle of the field before getting taken down.

Speed:

McRae displayed an excellent burst off the toss sweep with the reverse action. When he got to the 35 (the line of scrimmage was the 38) he burst through the open field and outran the angle of the CB, and the LB had to make a diving tackle that brought McRae down at the 22. McRae took a counter play out of the spread formation and found a huge hole for a gain of 27 with 9:27 in the 3rd QTR. He doesn't appear to have a great second gear.

Blocking:

He made an aggressive attempt at a cut block with 9:28 in the 1st QTR to the LB off the right edge, but shot a bit low and only got the LB to stop and move his leg out of the way of the diving RB. He was aggressive. He wasn't as aggressive on the left edge and nearly got pushed back into his QB. He made a great effort to recognize his QB was in trouble on a play with 3:30 in the 1st QTR and left the LOS scrimmage to serve as the lead blocker on an improvised roll. He missed hitting the closest player to the QB but got in his way enough to allow the QB to complete a pass. Good effort. But his recognition of a blocking opportunity is inconsistent. He could have helped block on a flea flicker, but he stood off to the side and watched.

Vision:

He has excellent vision in the open field. He follows his blockers and spots the open lanes between the tackles and makes decisions in the hole. He's a smart runner who quickly recognizes what is available for him to exploit when there is an opening, but still is learning what to do when there isn't. He saw 8-man fronts from the mid-1st QTR to the early 3rd QTR. He was out of the game for all but one carry in the 2nd QTR, because the coach wanted to rest him and use a game breaking option at the position for a quarter. He does tend to dance in at the LOS if he doesn't spot a hole right away. In these situations he needs to get as much as he can and move forward.

Receiving:

He was open on three routes in the 1st half--two in the middle of the field, but the QB hesitated and threw balls to players who were not as open. The one time the ball was thrown to him was an ill-advised pass under pressure that was intercepted by the CB and thrown without velocity and thrown behind McRae.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Keon Lattimore

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Georgia Tech

Overall Strengths:

Decent size and he can bounce off glancing blows with adequate elusiveness. He can make good stop-start moves, jump cuts, and spin moves.

Overall Weaknesses:

He had a series of injuries during his college career. He split time regularly with another back. Wasn't used as a receiver very often. We was indecisive between the tackles on plays that weren't perfectly blocked. Lattimore has the size and quickness to play at the NFL level if he can develop more consistency.

Power:

Lattimore lowered his shoulder into the safety on his second run for a gain of 11 yards, but he fell down after the hit. Very good lean and leg drive to gain 8 yards and a first down with 2:54 in the half. He got the remaining 3 yards on the play by turning his back to the LB after the hit and driving himself and the defender over the first down marker. He also ran through an arm tackle in the hole. Although losing 6-yards he did run through a tackle attempt to his arms and upper body with 12:40 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

He carried the ball on his first two runs around right corner with the ball under his inside arm rather than the sideline arm. He consistently held the ball under his left arm in the first half.

Elusiveness:

Lattimore had to take a number of short steps to bend the play back to the inside on his 6-yard run to start the game. On his attempted cutback on a 1st and 10 run with 12:45 in the 1st QTR, he could not make the sudden change of direction with a jump cut or lateral plant and cut. He had to take a few small steps and try to bend the play back up the middle, losing a yard on the play. Pretty good stop-start move to jump from RG to LG on a 1st and 10 play for 3 yards with 3:32 in the half. He did make two very good jump cuts on one play for a 6-yard gain with 2:24 in the half. The first was as he was heading to the right edge. He made a stutter step as if he were about to cut the play inside and then jump cut further outside, which completely faked out the LB in pursuit. He then made a cut to the inside of the second LB Wheeler at the sideline and changed the angle so he simply had to run through an arm tackle. He made another good jump cut on a run designed to go inside, but he had to avoid the penetrating defender in the backfield immediately after getting the ball with 1:43 in the half. Very good jump cut to the inside shoulder of the DT two yards into the backfield so he could get to the hole and gain two yards.

Balance:

Good agility and balance to leap over the penetrating DT on a 1st and 10 run with 8:39 in the half. If he didn't leap over the attempted tackle, he would have lost more yardage than what he did on the play. He was able to leap and get his shoulders square as he landed.

Speed:

He had adequate speed around the corner, but much of it was a product of good blocking on the edge. Lattimore had gains of 4, 11, 4, and 2 in the first two series on runs to the right and left corner. His 3rd score was a diving run from 1-yard out with an explosive leap over the LOS.

Blocking:

Lattimore bit on a safety blitz with some zone coverage from the DE on a pass play with 7:33 in the half. He was lined up on the left side of the QB in the shotgun formation. The OLB showed a pre-snap blitz off the left corner, but Lattimore stepped up to wait for penetration off LG rather than jump to the free LB coming round untouched off the tackle. Although it's the rule to work inside-out and he spotted the safety blitz, it was a delayed blitz and the outside man was a priority. It was a very well run blitz, because the DE faked rush then dropped back in coverage, insuring the LB would have a good shot of coming free, which happened and forced the sack. It's hard to fault the RB on this assignment because of the complexity of the blitz design and the LT biting on the play just as bad as the RB. His next opportunity to block was against the OLB with 8:36 in the 3rd QTR. This time he caused the sack. He delivered a hit, but did not have his hands up to get into the OLB's chest to steer him away. As a result, the OLB bounced away from the hit and got the QB easily. The RB also needs to step up and drive into the rusher.

Vision:

He gained 6 yards around the corner on the first play from scrimmage. The RG and RT drove their assignments 6 yards off the LOS and Lattimore was able to get the corner with ease before cutting back inside for 2 more yards on the play. His 11-yard gain on the next play came off another spectacularly blocked play where the linemen secured the right edge and the pulling guard got clean into the second level. He had a chance to have a solid gain around right corner on the 3rd run, but he didn't trust the cutblock on the the DT and tried to cut the play back inside, losing a yard with 12:45 in the 1st QTR. Nice choice to cut a run designed to go off LG and gain 3 yards off RG when the original destination's gaps were well-filled by the defense. He can occasionally be indecisive in the hole and dance a bit too much, which loses him yardage. He did this with 13:43 in the 3rd QTR on stretch play where he tried to make a second cut instead of plowing forward. Lattimore tried run behind the penetration into the backfield that the G had blocked on a handoff designed to go through the lane left free by the penetration and the LG, but with the RDE in pursuit, the RB didn't try to hit the crease hard. If he tried and succeeded, he potentially had a strong gain. Faster backs with good vision would have made this play. Lattimore's attempt to bounce outside resulted in a 6-yard loss because the RDE in pursuit was able to meet the RB running behind the penetration.

Receiving:

Lattimore was lined up in the slot on a 3rd down play during the first series of the game. He also ran a short route out of the backfield on the the play before. On the second series he also played in the slot in 5-WR sets. Lattimore ran a short swing route to the left side out of the shotgun formation with 7:55 in the half, but the pass was deflected at the LOS.

Durability:

He missed spring practice in 2007 with a back injury. Missed spring practice in 2006 with a right shoulder injury. He had a dislocated shoulder in 2004 and missed 4 games.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
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Overall Score:

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Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
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High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
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Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
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Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

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Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Kevin Smith

Date: 12/1/2007

Opponent: Tulsa

Overall Strengths:

Came into this game with nearly 2400 yards rushing for the season. Kevin Smith in body frame, toughness, and fluidity of his hips to change direction reminds me a lot of Marcus Allen. He has skills as a runner that match that comparison at least on the college level. He's a workhorse runner who broke Allen's season carries record this year. He had 32 carries for 183 yards entering the 4th QTR. He demonstrated excellent vision and patience as an inside runner. His balance and cutting ability appeared special in this game. I was highly impressed with his ability as a runner.

Overall Weaknesses:

He is a better blocker than many RBs, but he could do a better job with his hand placement. Sometimes he forgets to switch the ball into his sideline arm. He was not used in the air attack.

Power:

Good job using his free hand to ward off the CB to maintain distance on his 36-yard run. Good body lean when hit head-on in the hole. Smith illustrated the understanding of when to lower his shoulder to deliver punishment on the tail end of a 6-yard run with 1:48 in the 1st QTR. He drove his shoulder into a safety to get extra yardage on a 6-yard run off a toss sweep. He dragged the LB 4 extra yards on a play off tackle for a first down. He is stronger than he looks. Good job staying low on a run up the middle for his 3rd score on a 4-yard run. He ran through an arm tackle with good body lean and pad level. He ran low enough through the hole on a 1st and 10 with 11:23 for the S to hit him chest level and slide off him before he could wrap up. Decent stiff arm with his left arm to keep his distance after bouncing it to the outside. He broke a decent amount of tackles but what was more impressive is the way he gained significant yardage after contact.

Ball Handling:

Smith consistently made sure the ball was in his sideline arm on runs in the 1st QTR. He did not switch the ball to his sideline arm on his 46-yard run with 10:11 in the half. On his 4-yard score, he used his free arm to cover the ball while splitting the hole before reaching the goal line.

Elusiveness:

Smith has nifty hop steps and lateral cuts with quickness. His footwork and hips on the 9-man in the box run with 1:49 in the 1st QTR were excellent. Smith cut inside his FB's block on the safety and made a good turn inside of the block to bend around the left edge using his speed to beat the LB to the corner and lowered his shoulder into the other safety for a gain of 6 yards. That ability to cut and then bend the direction of the run at the angle he did took very good hip flexibility that you see in good cornerbacks to turn, run, and react to breaks as well as elite RBs. He also shows the footwork to make small moves in tight spaces to get the 2-3 yards where there isn't much of a hole. These are the types of holes he'll see more often against an NFL defense and have to learn to exploit to be a top-flight RB. A back like Clinton Portis exploited a similar small hole for a 30-yard TD against Dallas two nearly 4 weeks after this game. Smith has the footwork and vision to develop into this kind of runner. Very quick spin move to elude the LB penetrating two yards into the backfield and running out of a second attempt at his legs in the backfield to gain 2 yards rather than lose 3.

Balance:

Smith runs out of a lot of ankle tackles. He's a wiry-looking athlete and doesn't look 211 pounds, but he runs stronger than he looks. He looks more like a defensive back and when you see his hip flexibility and speed one can understand why schools wanted him as a DB rather than an RB. He rarely goes down on the first hit when running north-south. Great balance on his 74-yard run in the 4th QTR. He ran through a DT on the hole, ran out of an ankle tackle, and ran out of a face mask on the same play.

Speed:

Smith exploded out of his cut on 3rd and 2 with 12:23 in the opening quarter and outran 3 defenders for what appeared to be a 50-yard score, but he stepped out of bounds and it was only a gain of 36. Good speed on the second TD--a two yard run where he started off guard, but bounced it to the left edge--outrunning the safety in the flat for the score. He outran the angle on a safety down the left sideline for a 46-yard score with 10:03 in the half.

Blocking:

Smith attempted a cut block on the edge rusher off the left side with 14:40 in the 1st QTR. He did a good job knocking the man off his feet, but the rusher did a great job of popping back up to sack the QB. The QB inadvertently got closer to the rusher as he stepped up in the pocket. If he didn't let the LB get the outside edge, he might have prevented this sack. Smith also let the pass rushing LB off the right edge beat him to the outside with 10:59 in the 1st QTR. The QB already threw the ball, but Smith's technique needs work. Smith tried to motion across the the spread formation at the snap to pick up the rusher off the right edge, but the snap hit Smith in the helmet and the Tulsa defense recovered the ball. Smith set up for a swing pass out of the backfield on a 2nd and 9 with :10 in the 1st QTR, but the QB determined he wasn't open. With backside pressure getting close, the QB pointed to Smith to block for him. The RB made an excellent block downfield on the CB. He engaged the DB with a good hit, sustained his position in the CB's chest and drove him out of bounds so the QB could get nearly 15 yards on the scramble. Good block off the edge of the QB's blindsided with 6:56 in the half. He was able to direct the LB's momentum behind the QB. He missed a downfield block for the QB keeper. He had a choice of two players he and actually avoided the contact of both. He tends to block with his hands on the outside shoulders of the defenders, which doesn't give him as much control over the man as inside the player's chest pads.

Vision:

His first run of the game was out of the spread formation for 5 yards off the right corner. The RT dominated the DE and he went untouched and out of bounds for his gain. Smith's line is opening gargantuan holes. With 13:31 in the 1st QTR, Smith took the ball out of the I formation and the LG, C, RG, and RT had already pushed back their defenders to the right hash before Smith even got 3 yards BEHIND the line of scrimmage! He actually got brought down for a gain of 4. The quickest he looked was on a last-second move to try to elude the LB shooting for, and successfully grabbing his legs. Smith did a good job of getting low and diving for extra yards on a 2nd and 5 for a gain of 3 when nothing was there. He didn't dance, he took the most of what he could get--good decision. On the very next play out of the I-Smith pressed the hole by following his RG pulling to LG and then made a great cut through a gap off the left end between a wall of linemen on his right and the FB to his left. It was not a big hole, but Smith cut and hit it hard. After this run, Tulsa committed to 9 men in the box on the next series to stop him on a run designed to go to the right end. The next play, UCF was able to exploit single coverage on a corner route. With more than 7-men in the box, Smith was at first hesitant at the line of scrimmage and did not hit openings decisively. If he bounced the play outside on the 1st and 10 with 4:08, he had a one on one opportunity with a CB. If he beats that player, he scores a 43-yard touchdown. In contrast, Smith was far more decisive on the next play--a 3-WR, spread formation handoff against a front not designed to stop him. He gained 4 on the play up the middle. He did a better job against a 9-man front with 1:49 in the 1st QTR. He took a toss to the left end were both safeties were in the box, one off the left edge and the LCB cheating inside. Smith cut inside his FB's block on the safety and made a good turn inside of the block to bend around the left edge using his speed to beat the LB to the corner and lowered his shoulder into the other safety for a gain of 6 yards. Great blocking and good patience to wait for his G to get to the second level on a run up the middle against an 8-man front with 10:27 in the half. If he weren't facemasked at the 3rd level of the defense, he might have had more than a 9-yard gain. He made two excellent moves to set up blocks against a 9-man front on the next play. The RT was pushing his man across the formation (it was a clear holding call) and Smith cut off that "block" and made another choice in the hole to cut bend it up the middle of the TE's block off the LB. If he went right, there was a bigger hold, but a S waiting unblocked. If he went up the middle the hole was about half the size and the LB was also there. But Smith saw the RG double-teaming the DT and correctly anticipated the RG coming off the block to take out the LB. This resulted in a 46-yard score with 10:03 in the half. The line did a better job of blocking against the 9-man fronts, but Smith was also more decisive even if the opening seemed smaller and less obvious. His last run was a 74-yarder with 7:24 in the game for a score. He faced an 8-man front out of a 2-TE single back formation. The blocking call was a slant to right. Smith saw the LG move the penetrating DT across the right of the formation and made a strong lateral cut three yards in the backfield to get to the hole between the C and RT. In the hole he lowered his pads into the DT getting blocked by the the LT got got his arm around Smith's body. He maintained his balance and saw that he was behind the hip of the C who had driven his man from the 26 to the 29 yard line--about 2 yards further than the rest of the push from the o-linemen. Smith continued driving his legs after contact with the defender and cut to the left of the C, bursting out of the pile at the 31 as he ran through an ankle tackle. By the time he was at the 45 he was even with two DBs who originally had the angle on him. At the Tulsa 35, the DB closest to him grabbed him by the facemask and the back of his shirtcollar. Smith outran the facemask that turned his head 90 degrees to the left (the DB did let up, realizing what he was doing) by using a good stiff arm and outran the 2nd DB to the endzone.

Receiving:

He was the target of a short dump off in the middle of the field with 10:41 in the 3rd QTR, but the ball was tipped by the LB in front of him and out of his reach.

Durability:

He looks like a naturally durable athlete. This is somewhat rare to discuss, but he appears very flexible. There were a few occasions in this game where he took some really difficult hits or tackles that would have injured other players and he continued to be very productive. He has facemasked going full speed the act nearly turned his neck around. He was bent backwards onto his legs and blindsided with a broderline late hit. None of those plays even caused him to limp. The worse issue he had all game was a cramp or charliehorse in his calf that cost him a play.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

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Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

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Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

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Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

87

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Kevin Smith **Date:** 12/29/2007 **Opponent:** Mississippi State

Overall Strengths: Although Smith's numbers don't look impressive, his first half stats were 16 carries for 75 yards. He was only the third back this year to rush for 100 yards against this defense and neither McFadden nor Felix Jones were one of them. As much as has been made about his running, Smith might be one of the best blocking backs in this draft. He is a high-effort guy as a pass blocker and hustles to hit someone in the open field. He has not problem cut blocking DT's or even delivering a backside hit. He has some of the quickest cuts I have seen from a back in this class. Smith can make all the cuts: jump cuts, lateral moves, stop-starts, stutter moves, etc. He has good acceleration. His vision is what might be most impressive. He has great peripheral vision and anticipation of what is happening in front of him at the line of scrimmage. He made two bad decisions all night against 7-9 men in the box and run blitzes that got defenders into the backfield consistently. He finishes runs aggressively and has a good stiff arm. He was dinged up twice in this game and continued to play throughout.

Overall Weaknesses: He should become a good receiver, but he needs to develop more consistency. He fights the ball on occasion and doesn't always use his hands to catch the football. He has power, but he's not a bulldozing back. At the same time, he's thin for his size and appears to have the capability of adding another 10 lbs without losing speed. It's like he hasn't gained that "man weight" yet. He's more of a make-you-miss runner than a yards after contact guy because he doesn't drive his legs after he's wrapped. His top end speed is good enough, but not great. Years from now, he could very well become known as the best back to come out of this class, but he'll need to become a better pass blocker, thicker in his core area, vary his step size in traffic, and maximize his speed. I'm a bit concerned by the pounding his joints take with his running style because of the suddenness of cuts and stops.

Power: On Smith's 2-yard run from what originally appeared to be a 4-yard loss, the RB got to the right sideline and lowered his shoulder into the safety as they reached the boundary marker. On 2nd and 13 with :55 in the 3rd QTR, Smith ran towards LG, but was stopped by the penetration upfield. He reversed his field, got to the right corner, stiff armed the CB to the ground, ran through an arm tackle and gained 5 yards on the play. He also was hit out of bounds and the defense was penalized on the play. As he stopped behind the LOS to elude the DT in the backfield on a 2nd and 5 with 14:00 in the game, he used his left arm to shed the tackle attempt of the other DT 2 yards behind the LOS before gaining 2 yards on the play. When he's hit by multiple players, he still doesn't fall backwards, he's more powerful than he appears. His legs still tend to go dead when he's wrapped up and this inhibits his ability to gain yardage after contact in tight spaces and push the pile.

Ball Handling: Smith demonstrated the ability to carry the ball in both his right and left arms. On his 14-yard run with 13:30 in the 1st QTR, he carried the ball in his left arm and covered the top of it with his right while running through the LOS. He carries the ball with either hand, but in the first half, did not switch the ball to the sideline arm on runs where he's cutting back and the pursuit is facing his ball carrying arm. On his 12-yard run where he bounced it to the left end with 7:12 in the 3rd QTR, he actually switched the ball to his sideline arm. Smith never had control of the ball he fumbled. He didn't have good hand position underneath the ball during the exchange with 11:15 in the game. The ball flew upwards as he approached the LOS and the Miss St defender caught it in mid-air.

Eelusiveness: He makes very sharp cuts and often does this when he's well into the line of scrimmage. Smith saw the DT slip his block and run 4 yards into the backfield with 8:07 in the 1st QTR. Smith was headed off RG, but the penetration forced him to plant as he took the ball and cut to the right corner. The DT missed Smith and the RB was able to turn a 4-5 yard loss into a 2-yard gain. Excellent vision, lateral movement, and acceleration on the play. Smith got into the hole off RG and the LB met him there, but the RB made an extremely quick cut around the C to RG with a second move to that hole for a 2-yard gain with 2:36 in the 1st QTR. These were two very graceful cuts in a row that few backs could make this quickly. His 15-yard run with 2:00 in the 1st QTR featured two excellent cuts, both were made to get upfield and made key players miss for extra yards: the DT getting penetration 2-yards in the backfield and the DB coming over top after Smith already gained 10 yards. It was a quick sidestep at full speed that left the DB flying forward and grabbing air. Although he gained zero with less than a minute in the 1st QTR, he made a great move to avoid an LB 4 yards in the backfield and still get back to the LOS. If the LB didn't get his foot, the RB might have broken a big play. Although he didn't break a lot of tackles in the first half, he probably made 10 players miss in that span of time and with efficient cuts to get upfield rather than dancing east-west. Only once (5:50 in the half) did he dance east-west and it was due to an overload on the side of the line Smith was supposed to go.

Balance: Smith was undercut on a 5-yard run with 9:00 in the half, but still maintained his balance until two others gang-tackled him. The best way to bring Smith down is get him going east-west behind the line with multiple defenders penetrating behind the LOS, which is not easy to do. He has good balance going north-south, but also demonstrated the ability to keep his balance with 8:54 in the game when heading around the left corner. The OLB shot for his legs, hitting one, but Smith was able to plant his right hand and right foot into the ground while his left foot was nearly 110 degrees in the air, still maintaining his balance and not breaking stride. He gained 2 yards on a play where he should have lost two.

Speed: Smith's burst was evident from his first run, a 4-yard gain up the middle between a small crease between the C and LG. Smith beat a great angle of the LB who was 4 yards into the backfield after the RB got away from the DT with 8:05 in the 1st QTR. The LB chased the RB to the right corner and could not catch Smith until the RB turned the 4-yard loss into a 2-yard gain. He has the ability to explode out of his cuts. He can plant and go very quickly which is something I've seen from a back like Laurence Maroney. Smith showed the speed to press the hole to the right then cut back to the left corner, outrunning two LBs to the edge and cutting around his WRs block to gain 12 yards with 5:56 in the half. He gained 12 bouncing a play outside to the left after running up to the backs of his linemen up the middle with 7:12 in the 3rd QTR.

Blocking: On 2nd and 10 with 13:45 in the 1st QTR, Smith came out of the I-formation on a passing play to make a cutblock against the DT coming free. He hit the DT 1 yard from his QB who was planting and delivering the ball. The block was perfectly timed and placed into the defender's hips, knocking the defender to the ground. One of the better cutblocks I've seen a back make on a defensive lineman in a long time. On the next play, Smith ran a short outlet route and when he saw his QB break the pocket up the middle, the RB blocked down on his man and then moved to another. Good effort to block until the whistle blew. On 2nd and 7 with 7:58 in the 1st QTR, Smith cutblock the DT a second time in the quarter, which allowed the QB a bit more time, but the passer was sacked by the DT who came free from the other side. After just a quarter, Smith might be the best blocking back I've seen on film this year--at least with cut blocks. With 3:27 in the 1st QTR, Smith drifted to the right of the formation as his QB rolled right. Smith saw the LB cutting through the lane behind him and turned back to undercut the LB's legs which prevented the sack. This was very quick thinking and execution. Smith likes hitting people. On 3rd and 3 from the spread formation he stood up an LB temporarily and then snuck into a route. When the QB rolled right, Smith hustled upfield to block. He didn't find anyone until the QB was heading out of bounds. Although Smith could have pulled up, he earholed the DT in pursuit as the whistle was blowing. I don't know how he saw the DE coming free off the right edge with 1:35 in the 3rd QTR, because he was already past the line of sight of the RT, but he sprung behind the LT to hit the DE with enough time for the QB to step up in the pocket. Although the QB was sacked on the play, Smith saved the QB temporarily. On 3rd and 15 to start the 4th QTR, Smith took on the edge rusher from the right side 1-on-1. Although he slightly misjudged the angle and the LB got past Smith, the RB still hit the defender hard enough that the LB fell to the ground as he ran past Smith, giving the QB time to complete a pass for a first down. Like I said, Smith is aggressive and likes to hit. He made another sack-saving cut block on the LB blitzing up the middle with 8:35 in the game. He tried to assist the RT on the LB off the edge, but the LB delivered the first blow and pushed by the RB to hit the QB as he was throwing and cause an interception.

Vision: Smith's second run was an excellent example of his ability to see creases. On 2nd and 5 with 14:25 he took a handoff from the spread formation with his LG and C pulling to the right side. Smith followed the G into the hole and made a very good cut in the hole to accelerate off the left hip of the pulling G and the LT looping behind the defensive line to push the safety out of the play. It was a small crease and the LT had not even made his block as Smith made his cut, but the anticipation was terrific and he burst through the hole untouched for 8 yards untouched on his way to an 11-yard gain. Smith showed decisiveness on a 3-yard run up the middle on 1st and 10 with 10:40 in the 1st QTR. The backside hole was filled by an unblocked LB and there was no hole off the right corner. He had to chose the push up the middle. He did loose 3 yards on 3rd and 3 with 9:45 in the 1st QTR when he followed his pulling lineman to the left side and tried to cut the play inside rather than take the corner and the LB who fell down in that hole was able to bounce up and hit Smith with a perfect form tackle as the RB tried to bounce it back outside. Although Miss St began to get good penetration into the backfield, I have been very impressed with Smith's ability to quickly react to what happens at the line and make a cut in close quarters to either make a gain or minimize a loss. He only makes one cut, and doesn't try to dance around. Smith took a spread hand off to the left with 2:00 in the 1st QTR and gained 15 yards after cutting inside of a defender coming free from his block 2-yards behind the LOS and then bent the run to the left flat where there was a wide alley for the 1st down. Very patient job picking his way through traffic up the middle for a 5-yard gain with :20 in the 1st QTR. Excellent patience to cut inside of the C who came back from the second level of the defense to find the MLB in the hole between LG and LT and the cut got him through the hole for a gain of 14. His peripheral vision is outstanding. On 1st and 10 with 13:05 he took a spread formation handoff where he was on the right side of the QB and initially headed off RG. He saw the RDE coming off the LOS unblocked as he was taking the ball from the QB. Smith planted both feet and made a jump cut behind the DE and ran through the gap off the right edge of the line before dipping behind the RG at the last moment for another 2 yards--a total gain of 5 yards. Maybe 3-4 backs in this class could have avoided this certain 3-yard loss that he turned into a 5-yard gain, but I doubt it's that many. The Miss St defense adjusted in the 2nd half with more 6 and 7-man fronts to plug the gaps and Smith showed the patience to avoid the run blitzing LBs and squirt through holes for 1-3 yard gains in these situations.

Receiving: Smith dropped a swing pass to the left side that fell right through his hands with 14:00 in the 1st QTR. Smith allowed the second pass into his body on a swing route to the right side. He was only able to gain two yards on the play. The CB made a nice tackle while Smith struggled to get the ball switched from his left arm to his right (the first switch he attempted all half). Smith ran a very good wheel route down the right flat, but he allowed the ball to bounce off his hand. If he didn't try to leave his feet to catch the ball, he would have been able to run through the pattern and have an easy reception opportunity. His ability to get inside of the LB as he released downfield with a jab step outside and cut inside was impressive. Smith's last reception was an out to the right flat for 4 yards. He caught the ball against his body.

Durability: Smith pulled a muscle on his 10th carry (42 yards), but continued to play and did not look worse for the wear. He then hurt his lower left leg with 9:00 in the half, but left the field under his own power, coming back in the next series to gain 12 on the next run.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

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Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Kevin Smith

Date: 10/4/2006

Opponent: Marshall

Overall Strengths:

Smith has the physical skills to become a special running back in the NFL. His hip movement is rare for a runner. He can change directions at full speed because he can shift his hips with a very quick, snapping movement. He also can make sharp lateral cuts, jump cuts, and spin moves. He often strings together two moves to set up and kill the angle of a defender in the open field. His gliding, flexible, hard cutting style and ability to reverse field is reminiscent of Marcus Allen and O.J. Simpson. He looks skinny for 211 pounds and it looks clear that he could gain another 10 pounds and still retain his speed as he continues to develop as a man. He runs with good pad level, body lean after the hit, and has excellent vision in traffic, behind the line of scrimmage, and around the corner. I like how he protects the football. He has too many smaller deficiencies to be considered an elite prospect at this point, but it won't be long before he becomes a dynamic feature back for an NFL team if he keeps working and stays healthy.

Overall Weaknesses:

He needs to learn to vary his stride length in short-yardage situations so he can drive his legs and move the pile forward. He doesn't gain a lot of yardage after contact on runs after he's hit by a solid shot that another runner might gain in the same circumstance. He needs to continue to improve his skills as a receiver. He catches the ball too close to his body and allows some balls to bounce off his chest or go through his hands. He runs decent routes, but needs to learn to improvise more effectively when the play breaks down. One of the things that worries me about Smith is his very hard-cutting tendencies, which often makes more short careers for RBs (knee injuries). He runs very hard from the standpoint of lateral cuts and changes of direction.

Power:

His legs went dead on his first run, a counter play where he followed the pulling RG to the middle of the hole and got wrapped by the DT in the hole for a 1-yard gain. He did very well getting low pad level in the pile on his 6-yard run for a 1st down with 10:49 in the 1st QTR. Smith ran through an LB's arm tackle and a safety's ankle tackle during a 22-yard run up the middle with 9:00 in the 1st QTR. On a 4-yard run two plays later, he lowered his shoulder into a safety and LB who hit him head-on at the same time. The collision stood all three up, but Smith was nearly able to fall forward and get the ball over the goal line on the play. If he could have gotten his pad level a bit lower, he had a chance to score but there isn't too much to complain about in terms of his body lean. On a 4th and goal from the 1, Smith could not get across the goal line. He could have run a bit lower or tried to leap over the line as he did on the play before. Instead he tried to run through the LB and was stopped. He also got hit in a position that he could not drive his legs forward to get a second-effort push because the DT had submarined the line and was against both legs as the RB was hit high by the LB. On his reversal of field gain for 7-yards with 7:35 in the half, he stiffarmed the DB at the corner to get an extra two yards on the play. When he does get in tight against his linemen in short yardage, he doesn't do an effective job of shortening his strides so he can drive his legs and move the pile forward. Good pad level on an 11-yard run with 7:56 in the 3rd QTR as the LB came from the inside about 7 yards downfield and grabbed Smith's collar. His lean and pad level allowed him to keep moving forward for another 4 yards on the play.

Ball Handling:

He did well to cover up the football with both arms in the middle of the hole. I listened to Lou Holtz comment that Smith wasn't running with the same recklessness that he was the previous week because he was being cautious with his ball protection. In all honesty, Smith only covered the ball with both hands once the hole closed up and he was facing contact from defensive linemen and linebackers. Smith carried the football in the sideline arm during his 22-yard run down the right hash. On the next run, he carried the ball under his left arm. Excellent ball protection on a 4-yard run up the middle and he took a forearm to the chest and the ball while getting hit by another player at the same time and the ball remained well in place against his body. Very good job switching the football from his right arm to his left when he reversed his field to the left side. This allowed him to deliver a stiff arm at the defender on the edge and extend his run for another 2 yards.

Elusiveness:

He made a very sharp stop and cut at the edge of a hole to take the run back inside on a 2nd and 4 run for 6 yards and the first down with 10:49 in the 1st QTR. His cut was to the inside of two Marshall defenders who were coming off the left edge unblocked. Excellent spin move in the open field during his 8-yard reception with 9:01 in the 1st QTR. He set up the move beautifully with a move to the inside before spinning to the outside. What is quite noticeable about Smith is his hip flexibility and explosiveness in this part of his body. On a 1st and 10 run with 8:32, Smith planted his feet 1-yard behind the LOS as he was heading off LG and made a very quick pivot off his hips to turn and burst through a crease he saw off RG for 4 yards. Smith made an impressive cutback on 1st and 10 with 7:40 in the half. He was running towards a large hole off RG, but saw 2 LBs coming free with the angle from the inside. He quickly reversed his field off the left corner and gained 7-yards on the run. Smith made the kind of plant and cut in the hole that you don't see from many runners on a 1st and 10 run for 11 yards with 6:28 in the half. In fact, he made two nice moves on this run. The first came in the backfield just behind the pulling RG. He avoided the LB's penetration with a small lateral move that got him five yards through a tight lane. At the 5-yard mark he was at full speed and saw two defenders over top and only a yard away. Smith planted his right foot, coming to a complete stop and cutting sharply to the left to make the defender on his left side miss. This allowed Smith to gain another 5 yards for the 1st 10. This move was an incredible display of elusiveness that you don't often see. When he gets a running start to a crease, he does a nice job of compacting his body in the hole. He did this on a 1st and 10 with 5:43 in the half off LG for a 5-yard gain. He was able to get past the DE on the left side because of his low pad level and body lean. He made an excellent stutter step at the left edge of a run behind his pulling RG. He was already well-past the RG, but made a quick stutter and dip to the inside as he was around the corner and this made the pursuing LB with the backside angle miss and helped him gain another 25 yards on the play. Once again, he snapped his hips about 5 yards after this move past the LB and turned to the inside a bit more, forcing the DB from the outside to dive for air. This quick change of direction with his hips makes him extremely adept at changing direction. Smith made a cut about 4 yards in the hole that he had no business being able to make on 1st and 10 with 7:32 in the 3rd QTR. The backside LB was in pursuit and a yard away from Smith and the RB made a cut at full speed moving laterally to the inside that left the LB in a position where he had to try to adjust his angle a second time and wound up on his stomach with nothing to show for it.

Balance:

Nice balance to spin to the outside and away from a hit with 9:01 in the 1st QTR. He was able to gain another 6 yards on the reception after making the spin move on the defender. Good balance not to fall backward despite getting hit high and low on a 4th and 1 rush. Great balance after his cut in the hole during an 11-yard gain with 6:29 in the half. He was able to stay upright long enough to gain a couple of yards and then dive for another 4 yards and the 1st down. He did get tackled very well in the backfield on a run he bounced to the right side. It was a perfect form tackle to his leg as Smith was facing the sideline.

Speed:

Smith showed an noticeable burst on his 22-yard run up the middle on 3rd and 2 with 9:00 in the 1st QTR. When he got through the crease off LG, he outran the angle of the safety. He has an explosive burst through the hole when he sees a crease. Good acceleration to stop at edge of the hole at RG and reverse his field to the left corner with 7:40 in the half to gain 7 yards. Very good speed around the left corner with a cutback to the inside for 15 aydrds with 5:20 in the 3rd QTR.

Blocking:

He was used as a pass receiver on every passing down he was on the field during the 1st half. With 5:45 in the 3rd QTR he ran through the LOS and intended to block the LB. He got into the legs of the LB, but had lost his balance before he made the hit so the block was basically an improvised cutblock.

Vision:

Good job spotting the cutback up the middle on a 6-yard gain with 10:49 in the 1st QTR. It was a small crease, but he clearly recognized it was a better opening than trying to outrun two free defenders to the left side. With 9 men in the box on 3rd and 2 with 9:00 in the 1st QTR, Smith took a hand off up the middle and saw the penetrating DT within two steps of receipt of the ball. He made a slight adjustment to his left and burst through the crease off LG for 22 yards and a first down. Smith did a good job of diving over the goal line, but the official's missed the call as did the booth. It was a very close play, but because there was no clear evidence to the contrary of the onfield call so it couldn't be reversed. Good timing on diving to get the ball across the goal. Excellent vision to make two cuts in tight spaces on an 11-yard run in the 1st half. He nearly burst through a small crease on the next run, but was facemasked just as he was breaking free and stopped for a 2-yard gain before the penalty was levied.

Receiving:

Smith caught a swing pass on 2nd and 10 with 9:04 in the 1st QTR about 5 yards behind the LOS. When he got upfield another 5-yards he made an excellent move to the inside that set up the oncoming defender's angle before spinning away to the sideline and running through a second tackle for an 8-yard gain. Smith ran a nice out route from the backfield on 1st and 10 with 1:23 in the half, but allowed the ball to get into his body and it bounced off his chest. He caught the next pass, a swing pass to the left side with 1:17 in the half. He caughtit much like the first swing pass, with his hands, but very close to his body. The defense anticipated the pass and Smith was brought down for a loss by two players. The same thing happened on a 3rd down swing pass where he was brought down by 3 unblocked players.

Durability:

He left with bruised ribs in the 3rd QTR and did not return.

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Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

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Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

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Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

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Effective outside runner [3pts]:

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Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Kregg Lumpkin

Date: 9/30/2006

Opponent: Ole Miss

Overall Strengths:

Lumpkin is one of the more underrated runners in this draft due to an early career injury and splitting time with other highly recruited players. Once he began to establish himself he suffered injuries that kept him off the field, but did not harm his future athleticism. Of the backs on the UGA squad, he has been regarded as the one who has the best vision and hits the hole most decisively. He is a good cutback runner with enough burst to get into the second level of the defense and even break a long run for a score. He has a knack for making the first player miss, something most good starters can do. He's mainly a downhill power runner with strong vision. He's a solid, all-around football player and if he can stay healthy will be at least a productive backup on an NFL roster.

Overall Weaknesses:

He has been injury prone throughout his college career. He had major knee surgery in 2004. In this game he had only one pass directed his way. His knee will be a big issue. Although his 40-time appears slow, the fact he was still recuperating from a knee injury and ran a 4.64 is actually somewhat encouraging. If he can't regain the speed, he could become a decent FB or depth chart RB.

Power:

Lumpkin is a power runner with a burst. He knows how to finish strong. On his first run he met LB Patrick Willis in the hole at the 15 and ran through the LB's tackle attempt--the LB put his shoulder into Lumpkin's leg and tried to wrap, but the RB kept driving forward and with two other defenders piling on, he drove forward three more yards until his forward progress was stopped at the 18. Lumpkin ran a sweep to the right to open the second half and was patient following his blockers. He was brought down by the DE who almost horsecollar tackled him, but Lumpkin had enough strength to fall forward and gain 5 yards. He flashed a decent stiff arm to knock the penetrating LB off balance on a run to the left on 3rd and 5 with 13:49 in the 3rd QTR for a gain of 4. He knocked the OLB off balance around the corner with a stiff arm on the next run, a 4th and 1 where Willis got into the backfield off the edge. This allowed the RB to get the corner and gained 20 yards. He made the CB pay at the end of the run by lowering his shoulder and punishing the defender down the sideline.

Ball Handling:

Lumpkin routinely carries the ball in his outside arm, although on a 16-yard gain in the 3rd QTR he did not switch the ball to his outside arm after cutting back to the left side of the field.

Evasiveness:

Lumpkin makes very good lateral cuts and has a noticeable acceleration out of his cuts. His a very good cutback runner who makes sharp turns, lateral moves, and small dips in traffic. He's generally a one cut runner, but when he makes a move he does it well.

Balance:

Good balance to spin off the OLB who met him in the hold from an I-formation run against 8 in the box on a 1st and 10 from the Ole Miss 12. He kept his legs moving and turned a 1-yard loss into a 2-yard gain. Lumpkin took a handoff towards the left end with 11:15 in the game and ran out of an ankle tackle by Patrick Willis who was shooting past the tackle.

Speed:

Lumpkin had enough a burst to beat a safety around the edge in the first quarter for a 15-yard gain. He beat the OLB off the corner on 4th and 1 with 13:05 in the 3rd QTR. Lumpkin decisively hit the hole off RT on a 1st and 10 run with 12:42 in the 3rd QTR on a well-blocked play at the LOS against 8 men in the box. He got eight yards untouched before he was dragged down at the 12 by the OLB.

Blocking:

Lumpkin made a good cut block to knock the LB off his feet as he was penetrating from the right side on a 2nd and short pass play with 11:33 in the 3rd QTR. On the next play, he hustled to make an open field block to help his QB scramble for an 8-yard run to the 1-yard line. Good, aggressive hit on the edge rusher on a passing play with 3:45 in the game. He hit the LB squarely in the chest. On the next play, he stood up Patrick Willis on the rush, although the FB couldn't hold off the corner blitz and the QB was sacked with 3:29 in the game.

Vision:

One of the best qualities about Lumpkin is that he finds creases in heavy traffic and hits them hard. His first run on the opening drive was a play where Ole Miss got penetration into the backfield with the to DT's up the middle and the LOLB who almost beat the pulling guard to the backfield as Lumpkin took the handoff. The RB followed his FB towards the left, but did a great job cutting inside of the FB's block where the LB had outside advantage and went around the two DT's and eventually was brought down at the 18-yard line for a gain of five. He knows how to push the hole. On his second run he pushed the hole, moving to the right and then made a very strong cut back to the left, making the OLB miss with a good plant and cut and then went around the S at the 20, gaining 10 yards before he made contact with DB at the 33 and fell forward to the 35. On 1st and 10 with :22 in the 3rd QTR, Lumpkin effectively pushed the hole and found the cutback to the left for 16 yards. Excellent vision on a 3rd and 10 draw with 4:37 in the game to take the handoff out of the I and instead of following the FB who had to face two LBs, Lumpkin cut it to the left and in front of a penetrating defender at the 24 before making a hard turn upfield gaining 14 yards before he was touched.

Receiving:

Lumpkin got a good release on 3rd and 10 with 9:30 in the 1st QTR and was open, but the QB hesitated for another 1.5 seconds and then rushed a throw. The ball sailed over Lumpkin's head as he fully extended his arms overhead to attempt the catch, but the throw was too high and the CB made a great hit at the same time the ball was directly over head to make sure there would be no reception.

Durability:

He had a serious knee injury (ACL) in August of 2004. Broke his thumb and hurt his knee in 2007.

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Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

13

87

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

Yes

N/A

N/A

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

No

No

Game Stats

Attempts:

9

Rush Yds:

67

1st Downs:

4

Rush Tds:

1

Target:

3

Rec:

2

Rec Yds:

15

Rec Tds:

0

Fumbles:

0

Broken Tackles:

2

BLKs Assigned:

3

BLKs Made:

3

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Kregg Lumpkin

Date: 1/2/2006

Opponent: West Virginia

Overall Strengths:

Lumpkin is a hard-running, power back who is decisive through the hole and will gain yards after contact with a punshing running style. He is a decisive, short yardage back with power and excellent body lean. Lumpkin is a chain-moving runner with the ability to occasionally break a long run. He is also an excellent pass blocker who is aggressive to the defender and sustains his blocks. Could Lumpkin be Georgia's second-coming of Terrell Davis? Only Reggie Bush was a higher rated back coming out of high school in the same graduating class and Lumpkin has the power running skills NFL teams like. If he stays healthy, he could develop into a productive, NFL starter.

Overall Weaknesses:

He has some good feet, but he'll generally chose to run over a player than try to dance around him. He is quick, but lacks the sudden-elite quickness that makes him a consistent gamebreaker at the position. He has suffered multiple injuries throughout his career and split time with various backs in the Georgia offense. Only one of the injuries was a major concern--an ACL tear two years ago. As a result he has rarely had a high-carry game or been the starter all year.

Power:

Lumpkin utilized the stiff arm very well on his first run which he bounced to the left side of the defense and knocked the DT to the ground as he was gaining the corner. In fact, the DT had his hand on Lumpkin's facemask as the RB put the stiffarm on him. He ended the run by lowering his shoulder into a defender as a second one was hanging onto his back. Lumpkin is a punishing runner when he finishes. He was hit by the safety flush to his left side on his 11-yard run with 11:42 in the opening quarter, but Lumpkin lowered his shoulder and got an extra 3 yards after contact. On the next run he only got three yards, but ran over the LB who took him head on 1 yard behind the line of scrimmage. Excellent body lean to carry the LB across the first down marker on a 4th and 1 with 3:00 left in the half. He literally carried the player 4 yards.

Ball Handling:

Very good technique as a ball carrier to protect it. He keeps his elbow close to his body and the ball cinched to his chest.

Evasiveness:

Lumpkin is mainly a one-cut runner. He was dropped for a loss after he tried to cut away from backside pressure in the backfield and couldn't get away from the LB coming free of the FB's lead block in the hole. He had an opportunity to set up the DB with a fake on his 15-yard reception, but chose to run over him. Excellent 90 degree dip to the outside at the 24 while at full speed. Lumpkin made a nifty jump cut back to the left with 4:23 left to bounce a run headed up the middle to the outside for a gain of five yards.

Balance:

Lumpkin almost always falls forward and will carry a player when he is hit.

Speed:

Lumpkin showed good speed on a 34-yard touchdown run out of the spread formation. He took the ball and pressed the hole heading left then cut back with very good acceleration. He had a yard of cushion on the backside DE by the time he cleared the hole and cut 90 degrees 10 yards downfield to make the DB miss. It as a footrace from the 18 against a DB with an angle 3 yards head of him and closing. Lumpkin dove into the endzone from the 4-yard line. Decent speed to bounce a play to the left and gain 5 yards. If he had more sudden acceleration he could have gotten closer to the first down marker, but it just highlights the difference between good and great speed. He got the first down on a 4th and 1 with 3:01 left in the half against an 8-man front out of the I-formation. He bounced the play outside to do it.

Blocking:

Lumpkin set his feet and delivered a decent blow to the LB coming off the edge on a 3rd and 28 pass play with 9:53 in the 1st QTR. Although the LB did sack the QB, it was because the QB tried to break the pocket rather than throw the ball and took off running. Lumpkin made a hard block on a DT on a QB draw with 3:33 in the half. When he saw the QB reverse his field, Lumpkin tried to get off the ground to make another block before the QB passed him. Nice effort. Very aggressive and sustained block in pass protection against the edge rusher on a 1st and 10 play action throw downfield. Excellent sustained block on the side Shockley threw a long touchdown pass to his WR with 1:46 in the 3rd QTR. Lumpkin hit the LB and clamped down on him--holding his ground so the QB had time to throw.

Vision:

Lumpkin's second run was an 11-yard run between the RG and RT and there was a 3-4 yard gap for him to breeze through untouched until 7 yards downfield. He has a knack for finding the softspot in the line and gaining the maximum amount of yards in traffic when there is no real hole to be found. He did this with 2:47 in the 3rd QTR by following the movement of the line to the left of the formation.

Receiving:

Lumpkin's first catch came out of the spread formation where he released cleaning from the backfield about 5 yard downfield. He caught the ball thrown over his shoulder with his arms extended over his head to snag the ball on the run. He accelerated and barrelled into the DB 7 yards past the first down marker for a 14 yard gain. His second reception only gained a yard, but he was hit hard and managed to hold onto the football when he caught it in the flat. Lumpkin did a good job adjusting to the scrambling Shockley on a 1st and 10 throw with 8:20 in the game. He made a diving attempt to catch the ball with tight coverage, but the ball popped loose as he hit the ground.

Durability:

He had a serious knee injury (ACL) in August of 2004. Broke his thumb and hurt his knee in 2007.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: Lance Ball **School:** Maryland **Opponent:** Georgia Tech **Surface:** Grass
Height: 5-9 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 28-26 **Climate:** Overcast
Weight: 223 **Date:** 10/6/2007 **Location:** Maryland **Temperature:** Temperate

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

13

78

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

Yes

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

Yes

No

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

No

No

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

No

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

Game Stats

Attempts:

16

Rush Yds:

86

1st Downs:

2

Rush Tds:

3

Target:

0

Rec:

0

Rec Yds:

0

Rec Tds:

0

Fumbles:

0

Broken Tackles:

5

BLKs Assigned:

3

BLKs Made:

3

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Lance Ball

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Georgia Tech

Overall Strengths:

He's a durable player with good balance, vision, and cutting ability for is size. He's a decent blocker in the passing game. He has the skills to be converted into a FB at the next level. At worst, he could be a depth chart RB.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's not very fast and his lateral movement is good, but not great.

Power:

Good stiff arm to push away the pursuing LB Phillip Wheeler down the LOS on a 7-yard run off the left side for a score with :45 in the 1st QTR. He used a stiff arm at the end of a run as he was going out of bounds for a 4-yard gain with 12:59 in the half. Ball's second score was a dive from one yard away. He made it across the line after he hit the LB at the top of his leap. Good job running out of a DT's wrap up at the LOS and then gaining 30-yards after breaking the tackle. He ran through one tackle and bounced off another for an 8-yard gain with 5:38 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

Ball did not do a very good job protecting the ball on his 1-yard dive for a score in the 2nd QTR. He demonstrated enough strength to hold onto the ball despite the LB getting his hands on the ball as they met in a mid-air collision. He did not switch the ball to his right arm as he veered towards that sideline with 5:41 in the half on a 30-yard run. He consistently carried the ball under his left arm regardless of the play.

Eisiveness:

Ball is not a sudden runner. He lacks the explosiveness to execute jump cuts or dramatic lateral moves to bounce runs to holes on the outside when the play is designed to go up the middle. Nice job giving and taking away a leg on a run to the left corner that made the penetrating LB miss the tackle and afforded the LB a 2-yard gain.

Balance:

Thick, powerful thighs and on his 7-yard run he was tackled by 3 defenders, but it took all 3 to literally knock him off his feet. Good balance to shift his weight to the outside as LB Phillip Wheeler hit him on the inside leg and slid off the RB on his 7-yard scoring run. Ball got hit in the thighs on a run up the middle with :31 in the half and the defender could not knock the RB off balance or wrap up. Ball extended the run an extra yard by leaning forward and moving over the defender as he was getting gang tackled on the play. Good balance to lower his shoulder into a direct hit and skilful driver forward for two more yards on a 5-yard run with 6:32 in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

Ball did not look very fast around the corner, although he had decent gains on the edge for his first few runs. The Maryland o-line did a great job of pushing the defensive line off the football for 5-6 yards. He did not flash breakaway speed on his 30-yard run. He had a good angle as he veered across the field to the right sideline with LB's in pursuit

Blocking:

Ball made a nice block off the edge rusher coming off the right side on 1st and 10 with 2:22 in the game. The OLB blitzed free and Ball hit the defender on the outside shoulder, but got his hands in the LB's sternum to steer him behind the QB. The QB had enough time to deliver a 44-yard completion. Good pick up of the LB on the pass to the WR on the left sideline for a 1st down with 6:59 in the 3rd QTR. Good hit, leverage, and hand placement. Good chip on the OLB with 14:34 in the game.

Vision:

Very patient 7-yard run around the left corner with 2:00 in the 1st QTR. Ball looked liked he was going to get stacked up about 2 yards past the LOS, but he got close to this pulling G and allowed the blocks to develop for a gain of 7. Nice job following his pulling G to the open area on 7-yard scoring run with :45 in the 1st QTR. There was a very good opening on the left side of the formation on a 2nd and 6 run with 12:53 in the half, but Ball either didn't see the opening or didn't possess the cutting ability to bounce the play outside. Good job veering away from the pursuit on a 30-yard run with 5:41 in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving:

Ball ran routes in the 3rd QTR as the slot receiver in an empty backfield.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: Lance Ball **School:** Maryland **Opponent:** North Carolina State **Surface:** Grass
Height: 5-9 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 37-0 **Climate:** Sunshine
Weight: 223 **Date:** 11/24/2007 **Location:** North Carolina State **Temperature:** Temperate

Overall Score: 11 83

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]: Yes
Effective stiff arm [1pt]: No
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]: No
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]: Yes
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]: Yes

Balance Score :

9 N/A
High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]: N/A
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]: Yes
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]: Yes

BHandling Score :

14 No
Carries ball with either hand [1pt]: No
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]: Yes
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]: Yes
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]: Yes
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]: N/A

Speed Score :

7 Yes
Effective short area burst [7pts]: Yes
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]: No
Effective outside runner [3pts]: No

Vision Score:

11 Yes
Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]: Yes
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]: Yes
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]: Yes

Elusiveness Score :

10 Yes
Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]: Yes
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]: No
Avoids direct shots [7pts]: Yes
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]: No
Effective lateral movement [3pts]: No

Blocking Score :

5 N/A
Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]: N/A
Effort with assignments [3pts]: N/A
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]: N/A

Receiving and Routes Score :

6 N/A
Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]: N/A
Makes difficult catch [1pt]: N/A
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]: N/A
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]: No
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]: No
Runs precise routes [1pt]: N/A

Durability Score :

10 N/A
Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]: N/A
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]: N/A
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]: N/A
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]: N/A

Game Stats

Attempts: 18
Rush Yds: 78
1st Downs: 4
Rush Tds: 2
Target: 0
Rec: 2
Rec Yds: 0
Rec Tds: 0
Fumbles: 0
Broken Tackles: 2
BLKs Assigned: 0
BLKs Made: 0

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Lance Ball

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: North Carolina State

Overall Strengths:

Ball is a decisive power runner with enough burst to get to the outside on certain plays. He keeps his legs moving and best of all, he will spot and exploit small creases. He has a bit of a wiggle to his style to side step penetration in the backfield and dip away from pursuit in the open field.

Overall Weaknesses:

Ball lacks a second gear, does not have great lateral movement, and is not a big factor in the passing game. He needs a very well-blocked play to get the corner. He was not used as a pass blocker. I can see Ball as a 3rd string RB who will show toughness as a runner, but won't be a long-term solution for an NFL offense.

Power:

He has the leg strength to drive the pile forward as he did for a yard on a 5-yard gain off RG with 11:20 in the half. Excellent body lean and leg driver to run through the hit 9 yards downfield and carry the defender 2 yards for the 1st down with 5:45 in the half. He ran through a hit to his chest on a 5-yard run. He ran through an arm tackle on his 20-yard sweep with 2:35 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

On his 5-yard run towards the right end, he did not switch the ball to his sideline arm although he had a lot of time to make that change to protect the ball from the two defenders aiming for it on the run with 4:45 in the half. Even on the 20-yard sweep to the right side, Ball carried the ball in his left arm.

Eisiness:

He made a nice hop step on the first offensive play of the game to avoid the penetrating DT a yard behind the LOS, but the rest of the defense did a good job of filling the rest of the gaps and he was stopped for no gain. He lacks sharp lateral movement. On a 1st and 10 from the 22 yard line he took a hand off towards the right, saw the cutback and tried to make a plant to cut to the backside, but he couldn't make a sharp enough cut to avoid running directly into the angle of the LB who brought him down for no gain. He did make a nice lateral move, still not very sharp in degree, but enough to cut the run from RG to LG and exploit the backside hole for 9 yards. Nice job dipping away from the LB in the alley off RG to get to the edge for a 5-yard gain.

Balance:

He was able to run through a hit to his chest while running east-west to the right corner on a 5-yard gain with 4:45 in the half.

Speed:

Ball showed enough of a burst to exploit a big hole off RG to take an inside hand off from the spread for a 15-yard score. It was clearly a play the defense did not expect, but by the time they recovered he was in the endzone untouched. He demonstrated a well-timed burst on his next run, an 11-yard gain off LG where he ran towards the left end then cut inside of the LG, bursting through the hole for a 9-yard gain before carrying a defender another 2 yards for the 1st down with 5:45 in the half. He has enough of a burst to get yardage when heading north-south or diagonally. Although he had very good blocking on a sweep to the right for 20 yards with 2:34 in the half, Ball showed a good burst and outran the angle of an LB. He did get caught by a DT and CB on the play so his second gear isn't really there.

Blocking:

Vision:

His first positive gain came with 11:20 in the half through a normal, NFL-sized crease of RG for a 5-yard gain. He hit the crease with confidence and got most of the yardage before contact. He made another decisive run in a tight space off LG for a 3-yard and a 1st down, plowing through a small crease at the first down marker rather than trying to stop and make a cut where there was very little available. Nice job pressing the hole and cutting back off LG for an 11-yard gain with 5:45 in the half. Good job reading the cutback on a 9-yard gain off LG with 5:20 in the half. I'm impressed with his ability to spot a crease in tight spaces. On 2nd and 1 he took a handoff and followed his FB up the middle, but spotted a lane off RG and quickly turned his hips to run through a 1-yard wide crease for a 5-yard gain. His second run for a score was a well-blocked 2-yard run off RT where he went untouched.

Receiving:

He lined up split to the left of the QB in the spread formation on 3rd and 17 and ran across the formation after the snap, catching a shuttle pass with 7:10 in the 1st QTR. He fought the ball a bit as he tried to secure it on his hip. By the time he took three steps he fumbled the football and had to pounce on it for no gain. The second target to Ball was a swing pass with 10:48. The ball was thrown too far behind him to catch.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

- Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

- Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

- Effective short area burst [7pts]:
- Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
- Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

- Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
- Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

- Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
- Effort with assignments [3pts]:
- Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

- Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
- Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
- Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
- Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
- Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
- Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Matt Forte

Date: 9/29/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths:

Forte runs like a potential NFL starter in the sense that he knows when to make the most of what yardage is available to him despite the fact he has very good vision, quick reactions to penetration, and can make the first man miss. When it is time for him to lower his shoulder or bury himself against his linemen, he will do so. He is a quick runner with good size and isn't afraid to deliver a hit before he is hit. He has no problem following his blockers and doesn't lose yardage looking for the home run play. He has terrific instincts and moves between the tackles. His acceleration is deceiving. He might be one of the top three backs in this draft. As a runner, he might be the best. LSU gave up 26.8 rushing yards per game prior to this contest. Tulane actually led 9-7 with 1:40 in the half. In this game, he had at least 4 plays where he had to make a man miss in the backfield before getting to the hole. Each of those gains were for at least 4 yards and easily could have been losses of at least 3 yards.

Overall Weaknesses:

While showing he's quite capable of blocking, his effort was inconsistent. He had two fumbles in the past two games and in this game he just didn't show awareness of the LB in traffic. He needs to be more consistent as a blocker, route runner, and protector of the football. If he does these three things better, he has enough skill as a runner to start for an NFL team.

Power:

Forte ran through a tackle on the first running play of the game after avoiding the upfield penetration and carried two defenders with good body lean for 3 yards and a total gain of 6 yards. He is big enough to spin for extra yards after initially wrapped up at the line of scrimmage. He is not shy about making contact with the defense as a runner. On the 1st and 5 stretch play with 8:11 in the half, Forte spotted the safety coming free as the RB got the corner. He cut inside to square his shoulders and delivered the blow first by lowering his shoulder into the safety, who was charging fast. The two met two yards from the first down marker and Forte won the battle, running through the tackle. If Glenn Dorsey hadn't come to clean up the play by grabbing Forte's legs and pulling him out of bounds, the RB might have had a huge gain.

Ball Handling:

Forte's first chance at the ball as a returner on the first kickoff. He fielded the kick cleanly, ran 10 yards and then attempted a throwback that was off target and thrown forward. Good job holding onto the football as he was going through the hole on his first run and the defender tried to rip it while riding Forte's back. On the Green Wave's second possession Forte lined up in the back of a diamond formation--4 receivers split wide in diamond pattern--caught a lateral throw and then tried to hit a receiver on a streak, but over threw it by 7 yards. Good job keeping the ball on the outside arm on his run with 8:10 in the 2nd QTR. He had the ball stripped on a toss sweep to the left where he had gained 6 yards before the LB ripped the ball.

Evasiveness:

Forte picked up 6 yards on the first run with the FB split to the strong side. LSU's DT got penetration 3 yards into the backfield, but Forte made a quick cut to the right to find the hole in the defense. Very good lateral movement on this play. On 1st and 10 with 11:14 in the second, Forte took a hand off facing a corner blitz. The DT was two steps from him in the backfield when he received the handoff, but he got by the DT with a stutter move and excellent burst up the middle. On 2nd and 4 with 4:02 in the half, Forte made a great dip to the inside on a play originally designed to follow the FB, but the LSU defense blitzed the safety off the slot receiver to take out the FB's lead block and the ROLB had penetration untouched into the backfield. Forte made an unbelievable jump cut back to the inside to avoid the safety and flew right past the LOLB so fast the player fell down. He then split two linemen up the middle to avoid the two unblocked LBs and wasn't touched on the play until 10 yards down the field by the safety on the opposite side of the field.

Balance:

Forte has very good balance. He did not go down when Glenn Dorsey shot for his legs on his stretch play run for a 1st down with 8:10 in the half. It generally takes more than one player to bring down Forte. If one player does it, Forte generally gained 2-4 yards after the initial contact.

Speed:

Forte has pretty quick short area moves. He anticipates penetration very well. He outran the backside pressure from the DT shooting through the LG and C on a 1st and 5 stretch play with 8:12 in the half and got to the corner of the defense. He doesn't seem quick because he's a glider, but he's very quick in traffic. He made moves to avoid tacklers that you don't see from most backs and he only has two offensive linemen with the strength to bench 400 lbs, so he's playing against an LSU team where 75 players can bench that amount.

Blocking:

Forte did not seek out anyone to block after being the recipient of a playfake on an end around. He went through the line and then circled back towards the ball carrier and appeared more concerned with avoiding contact so he wouldn't get run over in the open field. He did chip the DE on the next play on a 3rd and 4 play where he circled out of the backfield. On a 3rd and 4 with 3:10 in the opening QTR. Forte was on the right side of the QB in the shotgun and set up to block a DE, but did not aggressively engage with the defender. He placed his hands on the DE and watched to see what the QB was doing rather than deliver a shot. He's a very tentative blocker at best. He did get a slightly better push on an outside man on the next series with :35 in the 1st QTR. He had the same "shield the man" effort on the OLB on 3rd and 6 with 14:53 in the 2nd QTR. He made a decent attempt to turn back on a roll out to put a body on Glenn Dorsey to slow the DT's pursuit. He chipped in against Dorsey on a 3rd and 11 with 7:07 left in the half. Nice job getting into the DT's body although he did not deliver an aggressive blow. Forte needed to chip the DE on passing play with 11:04 in the game, but he released too quickly and the DE came free from the LT to sack the QB.

Vision:

Good job finding the hole in the defense despite the quick penetration on the first run of the game. He picked his way for 6 yards on the play. He still picked this up despite LSU being offside on the play. He showed patience on his next run to follow his pulling guard and center to the right flat and gained four yards. Good job spotting the penetration on the run with 11:14 in the 2nd QTR and running behind the backs of the linemen getting a decent push on the LSU D-line. He gained six on a 1st and 10 with 4:24 in the half on a run around the left end following his FB. Beautiful read of his linemen peeling off in the hole to block down on the LBs after he made a great jump cut to avoid penetration in the backfield by two players. How he saw that opening to make a second cut inside to fly through it untouched after the first jump cut to barrel into the line a few yards earlier was incredible. He had to anticipate what happened, because there was no opening there. Great patience on an 11-yard run off a delay. He allowed his FB to engage and then exploded out of his cut to blow through the hole untouched. The safety saved the score by holding onto him until the RB dragged him down 4 yards later. He began the second half with another incredible cut in the hole out of the I-formation. Just as the safety came charging from the left side with the angle, Forte cut to the right through a bigger ally, making Stelz miss badly, and exploded through the line for a 20-yard gain. He showed good patience on a toss sweep to get 6 yards, but fumbled the football.

Receiving:

Forte was split next to the QB in the shotgun on 2nd and 5 with 14:20 in the opening quarter. He ran through the line and executed a 5-yard out. He did not get enough depth on the route to catch it as a first down and he did not extend his hands to catch the football. The ball passed right by him. Forte tried to catch the middle screen with his arms extended and the ball reached his hands, but the defender hit him in the back and jarred it loose and incomplete. Forte caught a pass in the flat on a play where the defense was caught offside. He continued his route and got into the secondary cleaning as the LB blitzed the QB. He caught the ball with his hands and accelerated upfield for 21 yards, breaking an arm tackle after dipping to the inside of the player with an angle. The other attempts were overthrown balls by the QB.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Mike Hart

Date: 11/18/2006

Opponent: Ohio State

Overall Strengths:

Hart is a compact runner with a low center of gravity and tries to finish strong. He is a patient runner that knows how to squeeze through a hole and still deliver a blow to the defense as he finishes the run. He makes good moves in tight spaces, but sometimes tries too hard to make a move rather than gain the maximum yardage when out-numbered in space. Plays on a team that uses zone blocking. Hart has good balance and his combination of skill sets and size seem to be along the spectrum of a Travis Henry or Emmitt Smith. He makes the effort as a pass blocker and he could see time on the field for an NFL team early in his career.

Overall Weaknesses:

Hart lacks breakaway speed and he is a runner who runs hard, but he seems to rebound from punishment more than be a punishing back. He did not demonstrate dynamic lateral movement in this game.

Power:

Hart gained 9 yards on his second run--a run designed to go between the center and left guard. The RB stepped out of one tackle about 3 yards past the line of scrimmage and when wrapped up six yards downfield, he still managed to lean forward for another 3.5 yards. Hart is a good after contact runner. On the Michigan drive to start the 2nd QTR, Hart was stacked up on a stretch play to the right, but before they brought him down he deflected one attempt with a spin move. He also does a nice job keeping his legs moving when wrapped up. He does need to recognize when there is no opening that he should just bull forward without dancing. He faced two OSU LBs on a 1st and 10 with 10:15 left in the 2nd QTR and would have been more successful if he attempt to run through them while they were on their heels rather than dance and put them back into the aggressive stance. He did the same thing on a screen pass when surrounded by defenders. On his first possession in the 3rd QTR, Hart broke a 9-yard gain by running through an arm tackle of LB James Laurinitas about 3 yards into the hole. He used his right arm to ward off the full effect of the tackle and run through the rest. He demonstrated a good lean when wrapped up five yards later. Hart's 3rd score came on a 1-yard run where he ran over both a safety and LB meeting him head-on in the hole.

Ball Handling:

He carried the ball with his left on on the first run--ball in the outside arm. Hart demonstrated the ability to carry the ball with either arm. He routinely puts the ball on his outside arm depending which sideline is closest. On his third score, he did well to cover the ball with both hands.

Eisiveness:

Hart's second run was a downhill style run with one nice cut through the hole to gain an additional 6 yards past the first wave of the defense. The Michigan starter runs with a wiggle. He knows how to squeeze through openings and make effective moves in small spaces be it a stutter, spin move, or cutback. He has a good enough array of moves to make the first person miss. On a 30-yard run, he made 3 players miss due to small changes in direction. His compact cuts remind me of what Emmitt Smith did so well as a runner in tight spaces. Hart will run with abandon in terms of throwing his body around when necessary. He doesn't make dramatic cuts, but varies his step size well enough to change direction and can stop-start cut extremely well. He leaped over an arm tackle then made a great start-stop cut with an upper body juke on a 8-yard run with 2:15 left in the 3rd QTR.

Balance:

Hart has decent balance, but on his 30-yard run he wasn't able to stay upright after stiff-arming a pursuing LB to the ground. Two runs later, he leaped over the pursuit and stepped out of an ankle tackle once he landed on his feet. He still managed another 3 yards despite losing his balance when stepping out of the attempt. Witth 10:20 left in the 3rd QTR. Hart took a 1st down handoff and he slipped when he tried to cut back to the inside, but had enough balance to righth his footing and still gain five yards on the play.

Speed:

Hart has decent quickness. He's not a burner, but he has the ability to get around the corner on well-blocked plays. Hart's first score was a 1-yard run out of the Power I formation and no one even came close to Hart because of the blocking. He can break a long run, but he's not a threat to take one the distance and outrun the second level with ease. On a 3rd and 1 with 12:43 left in the 3rd QTR, just after a tough 9-yard run, Hart broke a 33-yard run between the guard and tackle. When he got to the hole, he demonstrated good acceleration to get past the second wave of the defense (James Laurentis). He nearly outran the DB on the third level, but was pushed out of bounds. He showed the same acceleration on the next play that was the same play call. His burst helped him run through an arm tackle at the waist and gained 15 more yards.

Blocking:

Hart did an excellent job on his first assignment with 12:50 left in the 1st QTR. Henne took a seven step drop and Hart drifted to the center of the pocket, saw the DE beating the LT and slid over to deliver an aggressive pop to the DE's chest. Although Henne would have gotten the pass off, it did prevent his QB from taking a hit. The pass was complete for a 25-yard slant to Manningham down to the 1-yard line. Hart also blocked up the middle on the second possession on 3rd down. He was able to slow the rush of a man coming free up the middle. Hart then attempted to slide off to get one of two OSU defenders coming free on the backside. The effort is consistently there. On Henne's second sack, Hart still did a good job taking on a blitzing LB on the overloaded side of the Michigan line. Once engaged with the LB he did not give up. It was the DB coming off the slot WR that beat the TE and got to Henne. Hart did a great job delivering a perfectly executed cut block to the waist of the blitzing LB coming free off the edge with 6:41 in the 3rd QTR. It helped Henne complete a 15-yard pass to Adrian Arrington.

Vision:

Hart displayed nice patience on his first run--a slant to the left. He made a nice hesitation step to get behind his pulling linemen and wait for a huge lane to clear ahead of him for a gain of four yards. Hart's 9-yard run on his second attempt was a nice demonstration of pushing the hole and then cutting back for extra yardage. Hart has nice open field vision and makes subtle moves to find daylight. Hart does a good job of following his blocks. On his 4th consecutive run of the opening of the second half, he scored from 2 yards out without being touched.

Receiving:

Hart's first reception came off a screen pass. He did a nice job reaching over his head for the ball and catching with his hands. He brought the ball down quickly and got about a 6-yard gain on the play. His second was a delayed release to the flat with 4:30 left in the game. Hart body caught the ball but wasn't able to elude the DB in the open field to get out of bounds.

Durability:

Played sparingly as a sophomore with a hamstring injury. He missed two games with an ankle injury in '07.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Mike Hart

Date: 1/1/2007

Opponent: USC

Overall Strengths:

Hart has good north-south balance, runs with effort, and has enough of a burst to run most types of plays. He makes a quick initial cuts and can spot the cutback lane. He keeps his legs moving and will get second effort yards after contact on a consistent basis. He should eventually stick with a squad and contribute to a team as a reserve who can give good production when called upon.

Overall Weaknesses:

His pass blocking needs a ton of work because he cutblocks way too low and misdiagnoses assignments when he drifts to the LOS. Sometimes he'll drift too far. He lacks dynamic lateral movement and he's much quicker than he is fast. Although he welcomes contact and has good north-south balance, he can be rendered ineffective moving east west.

Power:

Good job gaining 2 yards after a hard hit to the legs to open the game. He kept his legs moving as he ran behind the LG on a 7-yard run with 3:23 in the 1st QTR. He was knocked backwards on a hit by the DB at the end of the 1st QTR. He got hit in the backfield on a run with 11:08 in the 3rd QTR, but leaned forward to get a gain of two despite getting hit in the backfield. Hart was hit head-on by the LB in the hole after a gain of 3 yards with 8:10 in the 3rd QTR. The hit stood up Hart and stopped him in his tracks. On the next run he tried to take the ball around the left corner and the LB got to him as he approached the edge and took down Hart despite an attempted stiff arm by the RB. He did keep his legs driving on a run off RT with 14:15 in the game and gained a few yards. Very good second effort to take a helmet to the shoulders as he appoached the line, bounced off the run and then drive forward against players wrapping him up on either side for the 2-point conversion to start the 4th QTR.

Ball Handling:

He demonstrated the ability to carry the ball in his right hand on a 10-yard run up the middle and in his left hand on a 7-yard run off LG to the left hash. He carried the ball after the screen pass with his sideline arm with 1:35 in the 1st QTR.

Elsiveness:

Hart made a shoulder fake on a screen pass with the left flat with 1:36 in the 1st QTR, but could not create enough space to dip past the CB on the play. On a 1st and 10 run with 9:21 in the half, Hart took the ball up a crease opening off LT, but as he got to the hole the LOLB who came across the field to hit this hole before the ball was snapped got into the lane. Hart didn't see the LOLB peel off the traffic and into the hole until he was already in front of the defender. He was quick enough to plant and cut further inside, but could not generate a wide enough angle on his cut to avoid the tackle because of the the traffic to the side he cut narrowed his space. He only gained a yard on the play. He gained 10 yards on a very well-blocked effort to the right side of the field and he tried to cut the run back to the inside after gaining 10 down the right sideline but slipped trying to make the sharper cut. So far, he doesn't appear to have the ability to make sharp, lateral moves. He made a very quick move with 4:40 in the 3rd QTR to cut inside of the defender off the edge for a 4-yard gain. It wasn't a sharp cut, but quick dip to the inside.

Balance:

After gaining 8 yards untouched through a hole off LG to open the game, he was hit by the safety in the shins about the same time the trailing LB got to Hart. The RB demonstrated enough balance to stay upright and make a controlled effort to lean forward for the first down marker. A hit this hard will often force a player down right on the spot, but Hart was able to remain upright to lean for he marker. Hart got knocked backwards trying to cut inside on a sweep with alltime over 2:00 in the half. He was still trying to get his shoulders square on the play, but was still blown up. Two plyas later with :41 in the half, they sent him east west to the left sideline on a sweep for a 3rd and 2 rush. The CB penetrated the line and put a hit on Hart, which forced his shoulders sideways and the play was cleaned up by the lineman for a loss of three. Once again, good balance when hit head-on in the hole by a helmet during the 2-point coversion. He bounced off the hit and got the yardage for the score.

Speed:

Hart's initial movement to get to the gap off LG was very quick on the 10-yard run on the first play of the game. He really didn't look very fast in this game. With a zone blocking scheme, and a lot of runs where he was looking for the cut back, the USC defensive front was coming free at the line of scrimmage and either forcing him east-west or squeezing the run back to the inside and hitting him at the LOS. He did manage 4 yards to open the 2nd half, but the DT was able to wrap him up as he hit the hole.

Blocking:

Hart shot way too low on a cut block on the DE with 13:25 in the 1st QTR on a 2nd down passing play. He did knock the defender off his feet, but because he shot for the ankles rather than the thighs, the DE was able to fall a few yards forward and get pressure in the act of his fall forward. On the next play, Hart spotted the LB on a delayed blitz coming to the right of the center and got into the hip of the LB, which diverted the defender's path and opened a passing lane for the QB. He shot a bit higher on the next cut block--a 3rd and 6 effort against the LB coming off the left side with 8:53 in the 1st QTR. The hit sent the LB falling head first with his feet higher than his head. Again, he could stand to shoot a bit higher so the LB doesn't have momentum to fall so far forward that he can disrupt the pocket in this manner. Once again, another low cut block on the edge rusher, which this time the rusher fell on his hands and was popping back up as the QB delivered the ball with 2:36 in the 1st QTR. These are bad blocks, but won't be as effective at the next level and there are LBs who will have the aglility to get the passer or have a deflection during their second effort. Hart was nearly knocked back into the QB on a stand up attempt to block the edge rusher with 13:40 in the half. What I was talking about with Hart's cut blocking technique came to fruition on a 2nd and 9 with 8:48 in the half. Hart went low on the OLB off the edge and clipped his ankles. The OLB used his hands to vault himself off Hart's shoulder pads as he was hit and roll into the QB upon hitting the ground, which caused the sack. Hart needs to hit the player in the thigh. Although he's been credited with making five of his six assigned blocks, the results could have been the same as this one he clearly missed. On the next play he got into the line and helped chip a defender with an aggressive hit, but the force of the impact nearly knocked Hart backwards. After 7 attempts, I think it's pretty clear that Hart is a liability as a blocker against linemen and linebackers. If he can learn to cut block a little higher with good technique, he'll be a much better pass protector. Hart misdiagnosed a block on 1st and 10 with 7:26. He went after the OLB, who the LT already picked up, but the LCB was blitzing and Hart did not watch for this and the defender came through untouched and sacked the QB. This was clearly Hart's assignment or at least to watch for this off the snap. In fact the CB gave a perfect read of blitz for Hart to see, because he took a hop step to the inside before the snap. Interestingly enough, he did a better job of hitting the OLB in the thigh on his cut block to the wrong player. He knocked that defender down where he stood. On the next play, Hart drifted towards the side that the defensive linemen ran a stunt, but he didn't see the DT coming free of the RG and stepped past them rather than chipped. The result was a sack by that player. Hart drifted up the line on a 2nd and 8 pass and spotted the OLB coming through the gap, but completely missed the block by taking a bad angle. The LB blindsided the QB and forced a fumble. This is the 2nd time Hart drifted too far into the line and missed an angle that resulted in a sack. A better stand up block on the outside rusher at the end of the 3rd QTR.

Vision:

Hart did a very good job of pressing the hole on a 1st and 10 run to open the game for a 10-yard gain. He pressed towards RG, then cut off LG through a large lane about 4 yards wide at the LOS with two linemen engaged in the second level as he was in the middle of the hole. He went untouched for 8 of the 10 yards. Hart lost a yard on a run designed to follow the pulling linemen to the right side, but the USC defensive front did a great job of beating the blocks and squeezing the play back to the inside. Hart tried to cut back but the backside defenders were ready to pounce on him behind the LOS. He got 7 yards on 1st and 10 with 3:23 in the 1st QTR by following the FB into the hole off LG and then running behind the LG who was into the second level. Although he ran into the back of the LG, he was already well downfield and still in tight traffic--there were 3 USC defenders within a foot of him to his left right and behind him. He was able to generate a push for another 4 yards by running up the back of the LG. Although he only gained two yards with 2:16 in the 1st QTR, he demonstrated the patience to follow his pulling G and alter his steps enough to wait for the hole to develop and maximize his opportunity for a gain on the play. Hart probably had a better shot of getting to the outside on a sweep with 2:08 in the half, but he turned his head to the inside to look for a hole, which triggered the pursuit LBs' who were both unblocked, to penetrate the inside lanes and nail him as he tried to cutback. No gain on the play. He had a 10-yard run off the right side due to a very well-blocked play with a little under 12:00 in the 3rd QTR. He went untouched through LOS on the play and it was a slow-developing play to the outside. Against a 5-man front with 8:10 in the 3rd QTR, he was much more decisive and quick on the cut back, hitting the hole hard for a gain of 3 yards.

Receiving:

Hart caught the screen pass with 1:35 in the 1st QTR while running downfield, but turning his inside shoulder back to the QB to catch the ball with his hands. He caught a screen pass with 9:27 in the 4th QTR, but the play was snuffed out so well that he had to make a stop-start move towards the inside just to get the DT out of his face after catching the ball. He was still brought down by that DT who held onto his legs.

Durability:

Missed two games as a senior with a bum ankle and played only a little as a sophomore with a hamstring injury. He only saw a bit of time in 8 games that year.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: Omar Cuff **School:** Delaware **Opponent:** S. Illinois **Surface:** Grass
Height: 5-10 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 20-17 **Climate:** Rain
Weight: 195 **Date:** 12/8/2007 **Location:** Illinois **Temperature:** Cold

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

13

79

Yes

N/A

Yes

Yes

Yes

9

N/A

Yes

Yes

15

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

11

Yes

Yes

Yes

0

No

No

No

12

Yes

No

Yes

Yes

No

5

Yes

Yes

Yes

5

No

Yes

No

No

Yes

Yes

9

No

N/A

Yes

Yes

Game Stats

Attempts:

21

Rush Yds:

102

1st Downs:

8

Rush Tds:

0

Target:

7

Rec:

4

Rec Yds:

67

Rec Tds:

0

Fumbles:

0

Broken Tackles:

3

BLKs Assigned:

8

BLKs Made:

7

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Omar Cuff

Date: 12/8/2007

Opponent: S. Illinois

Overall Strengths:

This is a Division I-A player so his stats are pretty gaudy: 38 touchdowns in 2007 with 34 of them on the ground. Cuff runs very low to the ground and with excellent ball protection and body lean. He hits the hole very hard and despite the fact he doesn't always see the opening, Cuff has good stop-start ability and some decent moves in his arsenal. He always keeps his legs driving and will spin and fight for extra yardage when initially wrapped up by a defender. He runs with a wiggle in the hole. If he ran with a bit more patience, he could be a much more promising NFL prospect, because he's a very good inside runner with excellent body lean and ball protection. In terms of his stance, he runs like a Csonka or Okoye but 40-50 lbs lighter.

Overall Weaknesses:

His choices aren't that instinctive as a runner. He doesn't always know how to utilize his burst to get the most yardage or exploit the holes. It might have to do with the fact he keeps both arms around the ball and it causes his head to be down a bit and prevents him from seeing the field as well. When his head is up, he makes some very good cuts off blocks. He's not a great cutback runner and won't make a lot of people miss in the open field. When it's down, he often runs right into linemen at full speed. I've never been more frustrated watching a runner miss opportunities to break long runs than viewing this game with Cuff because he's a hard-nosed football player with great effort and you want to see him do well. His lack of consistency in several areas may prevent him from developing into a starting quality back or even a #2 RB. He has improved as a receiver, but he needs to take it to the next level and catch the ball with his hands extended from his body more consistently.

Power:

Cuff keeps his legs driving after contact and he gained 3 yards on his second run because he continued to learn forward after contact and drive his legs. He runs low to the ground and with excellent body lean. Very much a downhill runner who will punish a player at the end of a run. He's the size of Marshall Faulk, but his ball carrying style up the middle looks exactly like Larry Csonka--great forward lean with both hands around the football.

Ball Handling:

Cuff often approaches the line of scrimmage with both hands on the football even if there isn't any traffic.

Eisiveness:

Cuff turned a 5-yard loss into a 3-yard gain on his second attempt, a carry designed to go to the left side out of the spread formation. The RDT got penetration about 5 yards into the backfield and Cuff had to make a very sudden cut of 90 degrees to prevent himself from running into the DT. He was able to turn upfield and pick his way through traffic for a 3 yard gain. This was off a direct snap from the shotgun. Nice job dipping outside and inside between the tackles on a 1st and 10 run with 9:58 left for a 13-yard gain. Nice job cutting back to the inside for extra yardage. His cuts are not very dramatic. Even his 90-degree cut took a few steps for him to change direction that much. He dips and uses little stutter moves better than anything. Cuff made an excellent spin move as he took the handoff from the spread formation to avoid the LB one step from him and the QB. Very quick reaction that helped him gain two yards instead of losing 4 yards.

Balance:

Very nice job planting his hand into the ground after cutting to the inside of a LB one on one in the hole. The LB managed a glancing blow as he passed through the hole and Cuff planted one arm on the ground and continued to drive his legs. He turned a 2-yard gain into a 5-yard gain with this display of balance.

Speed:

Cuff has a noticeable burst into the hole. When he sees a space he hits the hole extremely hard. He is very quick in and out of his cuts. He does not know how to time his speed and burst in the hole. On 4th and 1, Cuff found the right place to run--behind the pulling guard--but he waited too long to leap and was caught before he hit the apex of his leap and was stuffed a yard shy. If he started a bit slower, he also might have spotted the soft spot to the right corner and bounced it outside.

Blocking:

Cuff showed a pretty good stance as a blocker and did a decent job walling off the LB on a 3rd and 7 at the 11:00 mark of the 1st QTR. He was the lead blocker on an end around with 10:27 in the half. Although he didn't make a huge hit, he got his body into the DB. Cuff misjudged the safety blitz off the corner and didn't get enough depth to his set up, which allowed the DB to run by him and blindside the QB.

Vision:

Cuff took his first hand off and plowed into his RG for three yards on a very simply designed run play. Cuff has elusiveness, but it appears in this game that he prefers to make one cut and try to burst through the holes. There was a big hole on the right side that he ignored to plow into the smaller hole generated by three blockers with an LB waiting. He might have beaten the LB with his speed if he took the larger hole. On 3rd and 3, Cuff got the first down, but there was a 4-5-yard hole between the LT and WR and the only person in the way was the official. Cuff could have either run over the official or cut to the middle of the field where there was a chance he could have veered back to the outside and scored. Instead he cut it up the back of the receiver and got 7 yards. Supposedly Cuff is known for his vision, but on 2nd and 1 with 10:26 in the half he took a hand off from the single back, 2-TE formation and plowed into the C and G rather than take the large hole between the TE and T on the left side. He would have easily gotten the first down and possibly a lot more. Instead he bounced into his linemen, got grabbed by the ankle and could not spin out of it. He barely got the first down. When he keeps his head up in the hole, he can make some very nifty dips in traffic for big yardage between the tackles. He made a nice move outside off the blocks and then bounced it inside of the DB for extra yardage. Cuff has a very strong tendency to make a fake to the outside as he exits a hole and then try to split the defense up the middle at the 2nd and 3rd level. He did this for a 15-yard gain with 8:40 in the 3rd QTR. He had the DB's back to the sideline, so I don't understand why he didn't cut to the left where he might have gone untouched down the sideline.

Receiving:

Cuff's first reception came on a WR throwback pass across one hash to the other. The pass covered 18 yards and Cuff looked the ball into his body without anyone near him at the 50 and gained another 25 yards. Cuff did a great job acting as he if he were blocking the backside on the throwback to the WR, then slipped out for the route. Cuff dropped a certain touchdown pass on a 3rd and 20. He was split wide and had his man beat by a yard. The ball was placed over the inside shoulder but Cuff misjudged the speed of the ball and it flew through his outstretched hands. Cuff has a pass broken up by an LB about 40 yards downfield on a broken play. He actually played DB more than anything. Cuff caught a pass in the flat with 11:38 in the game. He juggled it a bit because he let it get into his chest, but held on before bouncing off a defender and gain another 8 yards for a 1st down. On the next play, Flacco attempt to hit Cuff on the screen pass, but he threw the ball into heavy traffic. Cuff released from the backfield on 3rd and 10 in the 4th QTR and set up for what looked like a WR screen. He caught the ball with his hands and ran through a tackle to get the first down. He dropped a 1st and 10 swing pass with 7:51. He had to extend his hands over his head and the ball went right through. He's much more reliable a body catcher at this stage of his development. To his credit, he followed up with a catch across the middle with his hands extended away from his body and in tight coverage. He took a hit and still held onto the ball. He knew he was getting hit and still made a fully extended, over the shoulder catch.

Durability:

Only played five games last year due to a high ankle sprain.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Peyton Hillis

Date: 11/23/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths:

Hillis has a good burst for a FB/TE. He can get into the second level of a defense with a good hole or a good release as a receiver. He has excellent hands which is demonstrated on film as well as testament from his coaching staff. He can catch the ball over his shoulder, his arms extended, or adjust to low throws. He comes back to the ball as a receiver. He also functions well as a lead blocker. Hillis is a versatile player who has a chance to become an H-back for an NFL offense or a productive pass catching fullback.

Overall Weaknesses:

He lacks dynamic lateral movement or any variety of elusiveness. It's questionable whether he can develop into a TE on every down because of his skills blocking at the LOS against defensive linemen.

Power:

Good body lean and ball protection with both hands against a 9-man front on 3rd and short for a 3-yard gain with 8:02 in the half.

Ball Handling:

Elusiveness:

His feet are pretty good in tight spaces, but he's not going to make dynamic, plant and cuts to bounce the play outside or to another lane.

Balance:

Speed:

With 10 men in the box, Hillis got the hand off from the Wild Hog formation and showed enough speed to outrun the LB for the score from 65 yards away. The play was a misdirection to Jones which gave Hillis the opening and no one in the secondary as he from the right hash to the left has as he left the opening.

Blocking:

Good seal off block at the edge on a 2-yard run during the offense's opening series. Good block from the FB position split to the right side of the Wild Hog formation to run across the formation after the snap and hit the LB in the side to knock the defender off balance as McFadden took the ball around the left end for a 4-yard gain. He sprang McFadden for a 73-yard score in the 3rd QTR with a crunching lead block on the LB at the left corner.

Vision:

Good job recognizing the lane and open space on the 65-yard run. He actually allowed a small crease to open. He had gains of 5 and 6 yards with this same play to end the 3rd QTR.

Receiving:

He caught a 3rd down pass on a circle route out of the backfield with an LB in close coverage with 12:30 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball with his hands and running away from the QB, just turning his body enough to catch the ball while running away from the LB. Hillis ran a crossing route from the slot on 3rd and 5 for an 11 yard gain at the left sideline. He adjusted to the QB and came back to the throw, catching the ball with his hands with the all-American safety in tight coverage. Hillis lined up like a TE and ran a seam route, catching the underthrown ball with his hands as he turned back to the QB for a 24-yard score with 5:06 in the game.

Durability:

Missed three games in 2006 due to a thigh bruise and missed three games due to three fractured vertebrae in 2004.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score : **Overall Score:**

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:
Balance Score :
High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:
BHandling Score :
Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :
Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:
Vision Score:
Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :
Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :
Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :
Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :
Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Rafael Little

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths:

If Little can stay healthy, he has the versatile skills to be a 3rd down back who can also fill in as an every down player in the NFL. He catches the football, runs with good balance, and excellent lateral movement. He sees the openings and cut backs at the line of scrimmage as good as any college player in this draft. He's a high effort player who is also a talented kick returner.

Overall Weaknesses:

He has injured both knees in his career, requiring surgery. He's also had wrist and thigh injuries. He's difficult to knock down, but he's not as difficult to slow to a standstill with a hit. He won't drag defenders with his size. He fights the ball a little bit as a hands catcher. His speed is good, but not the type to generate big gains on its own.

Power:

Good job twisting his way forward and leaning for an extra yard after the DE hit him in the gap with 8:02 in the 1st QTR. I like how he will try to deliver a forearm at the end of runs, such as he did on a 3-yard run towards the sideline with 3:19 in the 1st QTR. On his cutback run for 7 yards, he made a nice stiff arm of the DB to get around the corner for the first down. Although not very big, he has the skill for twisting and turning for extra yardage after contact. Although he got hit hard by the DB at the end of a smash screen he still fell forward on the play for an 11-yard gain in the 3rd QTR. At the end of his 11-yard run off the smash screen with 8:34 in the game, he saw the on coming safety and actually leaned backwards a bit to anticipate the contact. He was given credit for the 1st down, but it was questionable whether he earned it as the hit drove him backwards.

Ball Handling:

He fought the handoff on a run to the right side with 4:06 in the 1st QTR but maintained control of the ball. He carries the ball in the correct sideline arm. He ran to both sidelines in the 1st QTR a few times and each attempt he exhibited the correct technique. Excellent job switching the ball to his outside arm as he went around the corner on his 7-yard run with 12:27 in the half. He made the switch just prior to using a stiff arm on a DB to take the left corner to get to the sideline.

Eloiveness:

Nice jump cut behind the LOS from RG to the gap at LG to get the 1st down on 2nd and 1 with 8:02 in the 1st QTR. He has a knack for avoiding the first hit. On 1st and 10 with 13:18 in the half, he took a run off LG, but encountered penetration into the lane as he got there and spun away towards RG. He didn't gain any yardage on the play, but it was a quick move. Very good plant and cut to the left upon taking a handoff to avoid two defenders getting penetration in the backfield on 3rd and 4 with 12:27 in the half--excellent lateral move.

Balance:

Little has a low center of gravity and is a fairly stocky runner with good thigh and trunk strength. On a 1st down run to the right side with 4:06 in the 1st QTR, the LB tried to drag him down from the back with a horse collar, but Little was too strong for the move. Just as he broke free he was hit hard from over top at the sideline for a 3-yard gain. He was hit by the safety shooting upfield in support as he took the left edge for 5 yards with 6:00 in the half. He was hit hard in the side and wrapped up and although the momentum of the collision pushed him back, he kept his legs moving and drove forward until the DB took out his legs. Good balance versus the initial hit.

Speed:

Little's first attempt went for a loss of a yard--a misdirection pitch to the right side which was well-covered by the UT defense and Little could not beat the defenders to the corner. Moving north-south, Little showed a very nice burst off RG out of the I-formation for a 10-yard gain and a first down with 8:55 in the 1st QTR. Little gained 4 yards on a pitch to the left side with 7:43 in the 1st QTR. Good burst to the edge of the defense to get around the shooting DE with 3:20 in the 1st QTR. He's a very quick runner to change direction as he's taking a handoff and much of that quickness has to do with his ability to see the field. While he lacks elite speed, he's quick enough to take the corner for positive yardage on a consistent basis. He got 5 yards around the left end with 8:48 in the half from the shotgun formation and lined up to the right of the QB.

Blocking:

Little made a good block on the edge rusher on 3rd down with 13:02 in the 1st QTR. He got into the chest of the DE and delivered a blow. Although the DE still moved past Little rather quickly, it gave the QB enough time to deliver the ball. If Little didn't deliver the hard pop he did to the DE, the result would have likely been a sack because of the speed at which the DE was coming off the line. Although the QB got sacked by the MLB on the play, Little was able to move well from his position next to the QB in the shotgun and slide with the LB coming off the right edge to deliver a solid punch and stop his progress on a 3rd down with 6:53 in the 1st QTR. Little did a great job picking up the stunting LB on 3rd and 5 with 8:02 in the half, but the DE came free and sacked the QB from the same side. The general pass protection rule for an RB is to look inside-out and that's what Little did. Little made a sound hit on the safety blitz off the right edge, but the DB continued to get around the corner and Little didn't hustle enough to follow up. The QB held onto the ball too long and the DB sacked him on the play with 2:30 in the half. Little made a nice effort to block for WR Johnson on a 20-yard catch/run with 7:36 in the game. It wasn't a great hit, but it was enough to shield the pursuing defender from an angle on the receiver.

Vision:

Little's 10-yard gain was through a nice-sized hole that developed as he hit the crease with 8:55 in the 1st QTR. Excellent vision on 3rd and 4 with 12:33 to see that a lineman and LB were coming free off the backside and had the angle on him if he were to follow his pulling guard to the right. Within a step of taking the ball, he veered across their path to the left, making both players miss by the time he reached the LOS with this change of direction and once he was past them, he had a huge lane with blocking to the first down marker, gaining 7 yards on the play. He's very adept at bouncing plays outside. He gained five to left end with 6:00 in the half after planting and cutting behind the C to take the edge. He wasn't very patient in short yardage. He was supposed to follow the pulling guard--which he did--but the guard could not get penetration and Little shot too hard upfield and ran into the lineman's back. If he were a bit more patient, he could have bounced the play outside for the yard he needed for the first down. A lot of players are taught to hit the play hard in short-yardage, but the best short yardage runners are patient: Priest Holmes and Marcus Allen were two great examples.

Receiving:

Little made a nice chip and release on a circle route with :40 in the half, but the QB threw the ball to the LB. The first catch of the game for Little came on the first offensive play of the 3rd QTR when he was split wide to the left, catching a 5-yard hitch at the sideline with his body then turning upfield and taking on the DB a yard before the marker with his shoulder leading the way to pick up another 2 yards after contact with the defender for an 11-yard gain and a first down. He was split wide two plays later with 14:47 in the 3rd QTR and ran a 4-yard hitch. He caught the ball in his body, turned, and stiff armed the DB as he headed toward the left sideline for a 10-yard gain. Nearly an identical play. Little caught a smash screen from the slot with 10:47 in the 3rd QTR and burst upfield behind his blockers to get an 11-yard gain and a first down. This pass he caught with his hands. Little caught a smash screen to the left side with 8:33 in the game and took it behind his two linemen leading the way down the left for 11 yards. He caught the ball this his hands, but fought it into his body a bit. Little got a release through the middle of the line and curled to the right, catching the ball at the right hash and gaining 23 yards as he directed his receivers to block downfield until he reached the right sideline with 7:13 in the 4th QTR. UK attempted a smash screen to Little who came inside from this position split right at the LOS, but the throw was into a lot of traffic and Little did a good enough job just to get a hand on the ball to keep it away from the defense with 6:20 in the 4th QTR. He caught a short out for 4 yards in tight coverage with 4:56 in the 4th QTR. He left his feet to turn towards the QB to catch the ball at stomach level with his hands before taking a shot by the DB as he landed inbounds, but the hit knocked him about 5 yards into the UT bench. On the next play, he caught an out route at the first downmarker with his hands and kept his feet inbounds. This time no UT defender was in the area. Little made a 4-yard gain off a swing pass to the flat that he caught with his hands with 2:11 in the 4th QTR. He dodged a defender with a quick little turn of his shoulders while running to the sideline. He caught a swing pass to the left side with 1:30 in the 4th QTR and took it up the left sideline for 16-yards, bursting past DBs engaged with WRs for the first down. On the next play he caught a ball at thigh level with his hands on a swing pass to the flat, made a move on the DB coming at him and bounced off a hit for extra yards for a 6-yard gain. He made a nice jump cut to avoid a DB from completely wrapping him up on a swing pass for an 8-yard gain that ended with a hard-fall on collision to clean up the play.

Durability:

He has injured both knees in his career, requiring surgery. He's also had wrist and thigh injuries.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Rashard Mendenhall **Date:** 10/6/2007 **Opponent:** Wisconsin

Overall Strengths:

Mendenhall is a thickly-built RB with a good core mass of muscle and strong arms. He actually reminds me a bit of Terrell Davis with better speed. He can catch the football with his hands and makes small, but effective cuts as he's running downhill. He has a good stiff arm and body lean. He runs low to the ground and has a quick first step which helps him get 3-5 yards on most carries downhill. Although the offense had great blocking, the RB did show some recognition of holes that were small creases and make the right choice to exploit them. He has enough speed, vision, and strength to be an effective, between the tackles back at the NFL level.

Overall Weaknesses:

He lacks the ability to make dramatic, lateral cuts. The option plays enhance his production on outside runs. While I believe he can develop into a starter, his pass protection skills need a lot of work and this will hold him back early if he doesn't improve.

Power:

Mendenhall gained 6 yards up the middle on his first run on 2nd and 16 with 14:17 in the 1st QTR. He hit the hole hard with very low pad level and ran through a LB's tackle attempt at the line of scrimmage. On his 26-yard run with 7:40 in the 1st QTR, Mendenhall made a very nice stiff arm with his left arm to knock down the DB at the end of the crease and gain another 13 yards on the play. Good stiff arm on the DB at the end of his 32-yard run. He broke two tackles on a downhill run off LG where he angled away from a full hit coming from the side and then ran through the arm tackle of a second defender before he was brought down by two defenders on a 5-yard gain on 2nd and 6 with 8:35 in the half. He ran through an arm tackle on a 3rd and one power play up the middle with a small gap for him to lower his shoulders through. He gained 4 yards on the play. When he squares his shoulders and commits downhill early, he cannot be knocked down with a hit or tackle above the waist. He ran through an LB's attempt at his shoulders on 3rd and goal with 6:20 in the 3rd QTR and dragged the player two yards before the LB fell off and the RB dove over the goal line for his 3rd score of the day. The RB broke a 24-yard run with 12:57 in the game after running to the left corner and breaking free from two defenders trying to grab him by the shoulders. He reversed his field getting a great block on a DL and LB at the same time from a skill position player (this was by far the best part of this play) that sealed the edge. Excellent job driving his legs with his back to the pile to gain 4 yards after getting stuck against the line 2 yards down the LOS.

Ball Handling:

He kept the ball in his right hand in the first quarter--all plays where he ran down the right sideline or the middle of the field. Good job carrying out a playfake on the option with 9:50 in the 3rd QTR that helped the QB gain 24 yards on the play to the outside. He ran the ball the entire game with the ball under his right arm. Another good playfake carried out for the QB to once again have a 24-yard gain with 8:40 in the game.

Elusiveness:

Mendenhall is a one-cut runner. On his 26-yard run with 7:40 in the 1st QTR, he got 12 yards past the LOS and made a small hesitation move to throw the DB over top of him off balance before stiff-arming him to the ground and gaining another 14 yards on the play. He made a nice sharp cut to the inside of his FB on the 22-yard run with 4:37 in the 1st QTR. He seems better at picking holes and small creases when running downhill. When the defense filled the right gaps while going east-west, such as a 1-yard loss with 8:59 in the half, he was less effective because he lacked that lightness on his feet to bounce a play laterally in the way one would see from a smaller back like Jamaal Charles or an elite, big-back like Adrian Peterson. Once he committed to the hole with that first cut, he couldn't make a second cut to avoid the penetration. He can make the first man miss in the open field and he has a quick first step. On the 15-yard gain off a screen with 8:09 in the half, Mendenhall made a very quick move to the inside of the LB in front of him and burst downfield for the 1st down. He made a nice stop-start cut at the line of scrimmage before sliding to the gap off LG with a quick burst for a 5-yard gain.

Balance:

On his first reception he was brought down with a DB cutting under his legs from across the field. His balance is good moving downhill. He got hit 2-yards into the hole from the OLB and the shot turned Mendenhall to the side, but he kept plowing forward as he was hit gain. He still churned his legs to drive forward for another 3 yards. On 3rd and 1 with 8:06 in the 3rd QTR, he took a hit to his side by the LB in the hole, but continued to plow forward and just like the run before kept working is legs for a 5-yard gain and a 1st down. He was wrapped at the waist from and LB coming through the hole from the outside but ran out of it for a 5-yard score in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

He has a nice burst up the middle for an 8-yard run to open the game and then on a 10-yard shuttle pass with 8:03 in the 1st QTR. On his 26-yard run he beat a DB's angle as he burst up the middle. The OLB in pursuit made up 4 yards on Mendenhall to get the tackle on the play. His 32-yard run was through openfield after a pitchout on the option that was very well blocked down the sideline. The safety actually got to Mendenhall from across the field at the 5 yardline, but tried to tackle him high and just pushed the RB into the endzone, but Mendenhall showed enough speed to not even make it possible for a defender pursuing from behind to catch him. He showed a terrific burst out of a cut off RG with 4:40 in the 1st QTR that got him through a well-blocked lane at the second level for a gain of 22. Although he could beat a DT with his speed off a screen pass, the OLB 5 yards away made up ground to catch Mendenhall 3 yards past the 1st down marker. His speed is good for his size and although I don't believe he'll break 50-yard runs for scores in the NFL, it's more than adequate to break 10-20 yard runs in every game. Today, the Illinois line is opening huge gaps and the second level of the defense is getting blocked, but the RB is getting caught from behind regardless. He blew buy a DB on a screen pass with a very nice first step for a gain of 15-yards with 8:10 in the half. While Mendenhall scored on a run off the right corner from 5 yards out with 7:06 in the half, the play was a well-executed fake to the FB up the middle that sucked the defense to the inside and a pitch where the safety coming from from 10 yards away had the only chance to make a play on this well-blocked call. The RB reversed his field for a 24-yard run with 12:57 in the game after running to the left corner and breaking free from two defenders trying to grab him by the shoulders. He reversed his field getting a great block on a DL and LB at the same time from a skill position player that sealed the edge.

Blocking:

Mendenhall did a good job of recognizing the opportunity to help out the LT against the edge rusher on 2nd and 3 with 8:08, but he completely missed the block. Fortunately, the QB was already in the act of delivering the ball. He routinely delivered chip blocks whenever there was the opportunity to do so on a pass play in the 1st half. With 2:53 in the half, he had the responsibility of blocking the rusher off the left edge, but completely misjudged his cut block and missed wildly on the assignment. Mendenhall's blocking was so consistently bad, I could not award him points for even the effort, although he clearly tried. He just consistently misjudged the angles of his assignments. He was the lead blocker on a run where Benn was following Mendenhall's lead block. Mendenhall was assigned to the LB coming up the middle, but he overran the LB and allowed the defender to sidestep him and get into the backfield, forcing the WR to the edge that was not free and the WR lost 3 yards on the play and hurt his shoulder.

Vision:

Mendenhall's 10-yard run on a 3rd and 3 with 8:03 in the 1st QTR was very much a product of the formation and play call. The offense lined up in a 4WR spread formation and the defense was forced to play nickel. The QB rolled to the left after the snap with Mendenhall running up the LOS as the focus was on the QB. The QB then shuttle passed the ball to Mendenhall who had an open lane for 10 yards. He was tackled within a yard of the first player to get his hands on him. Although the spacing of the holes were very big in the first QTR, the RB did a good job of spotting the cutback lane on a run from the spread formation off RG where he followed the FB into the hole and cut off his lead block to the inside and gain 23 yards through that alley to the sideline. One his most impressive runs of the day was a 3-yard run for a 1st down with 13:22 in the half. He took the ball out of the I formation towards the gap between C and RG and that was were the biggest push had occurred, but the RB saw a smaller crease between the FG and RT, slowed down, cut between the very small crease and easily got the first down where he would have had to barrel through a DT to get it with the other hole. This is the type of run he'd have to make at the NFL level and he did it. His 7-yard gain on 1st and 10 with 11:26 was through a huge hole off LG where he had a 2-yard gap to his right and a RT walling off the edge rusher to his right. The alley with blocking that sealed off the backside of the line gave him 7 yards of space before he was hit and brought down with a DB undercutting his legs. Very good job from the I-formation with 10:00 in the game to hesitate a split-second for his lead blocks to set up then bursting through the opening off LG for a 5-yard gain.

Receiving:

Mendenhall ran a nice route that involved him chipping the rushing on the right edge and then releasing behind him to catch the football with his hands. He found the soft spot of the defense up the middle and took that lane for a 3-yard gain on 2nd and 9 with 12:19 in the half. Good catch on a run on a 3rd and 12 screen for a 15-yard gain and a first down with 8:09 in the half. He set up the route well and caught the ball with his hands. The touchdown from 5-yards out was actually ruled a reception off the option pitch.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: Rashard Mendenhall **School:** Illinois **Opponent:** Iowa **Surface:** Grass
Height: 5-10 **Year:** Junior **Score:** 6-10 **Climate:** Sunshine
Weight: 225 **Date:** 10/13/2007 **Location:** Iowa **Temperature:** Temperate

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

13

86

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

9

N/A

Yes

Yes

14

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

11

Yes

Yes

Yes

4

No

Yes

N/A

12

Yes

No

Yes

N/A

No

3

No

Yes

No

10

Yes

N/A

N/A

Yes

Yes

Yes

10

Yes

N/A

Yes

Yes

Game Stats

Attempts:

15

Rush Yds:

67

1st Downs:

4

Rush Tds:

0

Target:

3

Rec:

3

Rec Yds:

27

Rec Tds:

0

Fumbles:

0

Broken Tackles:

2

BLKs Assigned:

7

BLKs Made:

3

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Rashard Mendenhall **Date:** 10/13/2007 **Opponent:** Iowa

Overall Strengths:

He's a north-south runner with power and burst when his shoulders are square to the LOS, but also shows good balance when hit from indirect angles in the hole or open field. He also exhibits a good stiff arm and leg drive to finish runs. Mendenhall has good hands and he's a reliable receiver out of the backfield. He sets up his blocks skillfully as a runner and demonstrates reasonable change of direction. Mendenhall has the physical skills to be a solid between the tackles runner at the NFL level if he can improve his vision at the line of scrimmage on runs to the outside.

Overall Weaknesses:

This was his first full year as a starter and could not definitely beat out two other RBs--one of them was the Saints FA pickup Pierre Thomas. The RB coach for the Illini said Mendenhall was "forced to be good this year by all the carries he's getting." he is not an aggressive downfield blocker or run blocker. He often misjudges opportunities to make a play without the ball in his hands. He needs to learn to press the hole more effectively and he misses some larger openings in the hole. If he can become a better pass blocker and improve his understanding of blocking schemes and make better decisions off this knowledge he could become a reliable starter on an NFL team.

Power:

The OLB immediately brought down Mendenhall on his first attempt off an option pitch despite the fact he was covering the QB and had to slide off the QB to hit the RB. The RB showed the size to lower his shoulder and plow a DB backwards for two yards while carrying another DB for 3 yards on his 3rd and 1 run for 10 yards. He did this with a 7-yard head start. What Mendenhall has is power when his shoulders are square. He took an option pitch with 6:03 in the 1st QTR and ran out of an LB's hit to the head and upper body by brushing the defender off with his left arm. He did a good job running through an arm tackle on 1st and 18 with 14:55 in the half after catching a swing pass. He does show the leg drive to help move a pile. On 1st and 10 with 6:41 in the half he took a handoff up the middle and helped push the ball another 3-4 yards after contact at the LOS. He got another 6 yards on the next play out of the I-formation against an 8-men in the box for a 1st down. He showed good leg drive and body lean while running off the hip of his lead lineman at the second level. Good stiff arm against the LB in the hole on a run with :16 in the half. He also split two defenders and dragged the CB clamped around his waist for 5 yards. He has the power to drive an LB or DB a few yards after contact.

Ball Handling:

Excellent job playing out a fake to him up the middle. He looked like he still had the ball and was looking for an opening up the middle. So much so, the LB tackled him and didn't realize the entire time that the RB didn't have the ball. The QB gained 13 yards on the run after the fake. He nearly did the same thing out of the spread formation with 14:12 in the half. Good job holding onto the ball when the CB tried to pry the ball loose on a run with :16 left. He carried the ball primarily in his right arm and did not attempt to switch the football when running towards the left sideline. He didn't have any issues with fumbling the ball in this game, but he tended to carry the ball loosely until he prepared for contact. His ball protection style leaves him open to losing the ball to backside pursuit.

Elusiveness:

He did well to bend a swing pass back towards the inside with 14:55 in the 1st QTR. This helped him get into an alley for a gain of 12 yards on a 1st and 18 situation. He made a nice juke move off a swing pass to the left with 4:51 in the half. The move caused the DB shooting through the alley to miss wildly as he ran through a second lane near the sideline for a 5-yard gain. He can change direction, but not with suddenness. He tried to change direction against penetration in the backfield on a run with 13:53 in the half, but couldn't avoid the tackle. He doesn't have the ability to plant and cut with a lateral move. He's more a stutter step or spin move player.

Balance:

Good balance to deflect the LB's hit to his left side on an option pitch with 6:02 in the 1st QTR. Nice balance to spin out of an ankle tackle after catching a shovel pass with 12:32 in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

He has good speed and on his 1st and 18 swing pass with 14:55 in the half he ran through an arm tackle. He saw an opening on the backside of a play slanting to the left with 14:03 in the half, but could not outrun the shooting DT and did not make a gain. Very good burst after stopping, changing direction and dipping the play off RG for a 15-yard gain with :13 in the half.

Blocking:

Mendenhall's first attempt to block came off a short pass to the left flat on 2nd and 8 with 8:02 in the 1st QTR. Mendenhall tried a cut block, but dove at the feet of the edge rusher on the backside and did not make contact with the defender. He did a bit better on the left side with :02 in the 1st QTR, but was still very low on the edge rusher and not as effective as he could have been. The play was called back for holding on a teammate. He missed the opportunity to block two defenders at two separate times. The first one he shot too low on the cut block and this forced the QB out of the pocket. Mendenhall got up and then knew he didn't have the angle on the LB, but could have dove for his legs, but chose to run upfield to try to block someone in case the QB could outrun the LB. This resulted in a sack. His first stand up block occurred with 13:40 in the 3rd QTR on an edge rusher. He did not deliver much of a blow, it was a wall-off block. Much better job controlling the edge rusher on a 3rd and goal with 9:04 in the 3rd QTR. He didn't show good hand placement technique (too wide from the defender's chest), but his effort was enough to hold off the edge rusher on the pass attempt. As a run blocker for the QB he tends to have issues tracking the correct angle to block a player in pursuit. He missed a second opportunity to block for his QB with 5:45 in the 3rd QTR, resulting in a 1-yard loss. Very good block on the DE on the QB's blindside on a 1st and 3 deep pass with 8:58 in the game. He delivered a decent strike after setting his feet and did not get knocked backwards at the point of attack, but the 83-yard score was wiped out with an illegal receiver downfield penalty.

Vision:

It must be noted that Mendenhall often plays in a spread attack with a QB who is also a big threat to run the football. His first attempt was against 6-men in the box on an option pitch in the right flat where he gained 4 yards. On 3rd and 1 with 6:29 in the 1st QTR against 6-men in the box from an I-formation set with 3 WRs, the RB did a good job anticipating the cutback lane, although he did not press the hole. He did vary his stride before bending the run towards the opening off the LG for a 7-yard gain before encountering a DB and CB. Good body lean as he got to the LOS and was planted by the LB for a 2-yard loss. He also did well to press the hole against 8 in the box on a run with :16 in the half. He followed the pulling LG to the hole between the RG and RT and gained a first down after running through a tackle and splitting two defenders. He had 8 rushes for 47 yards in the 1st half. His first carry of the second half was for 9-yards through a lane off LG that allowed him to run for 6 yards untouched on the play. After this he gained 11 yards on 6 carries. He had 8 yards on his 10th carry up the middle through a nice hole off RG. He lost 5 yards on an ill-advised option pitch at the goal line by his QB. Mendenhall had a huge hole on the left side off the LG and C if he cut off the left hip of the RT who pulled to seal the penetration in the middle of the LOS. Mendenhall clearly didn't see the hole and tried to cut off the RT's right hip into a smaller lane and was brought down by the pursuing DE for a loss. If he sees the correct hole and hits it, he has at least 5 yards, but probably a chance at far more because there was 2nd level locking.

Receiving:

Good hands on an option pitch that was tossed high and late with 6:03 in the 1st QTR. His first reception was a swing pass on 1st and 18 to the right flat with 14:55 in the half. He caught the ball against his body and turned upfield for a 12-yard gain and displayed a nice burst to run past the angle of an LB in pursuit. On 2nd and 7, he made a nice catch of a swing pass to the left flat with his hands extended from his body before turning upfield for 5 yards with 4:41 in the half. He gained 10 yards on a 2nd and 11 shovel pass with 12:32 in the 3rd QTR.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Rashard Mendenhall **Date:** 1/1/2008 **Opponent:** USC

Overall Strengths: Mendenhall has a lot of positives. He has power when he's running north-south. He makes good moves in the open field with an economy of motion--stutter steps, small lateral cuts, and the occasional spin move. He has a quality stiff arm. He has a nice burst and sees the holes pretty well. He makes cuts in the hole and will press the hole on occasion. He demonstrates good ball control despite players aiming for the football. He can catch the football with his hands and is a frequent target in the passing game. When he gets running, he has good build-up speed and his top speed is fast enough for him to break a long play. In a downfield, zone-blocking offense, Mendenhall could be a big factor for an NFL offense, but possesses the versatility to be an every down back in just about any system once he shores up his pass blocking.

Overall Weaknesses: Mendenhall is a liability as a pass blocker. He makes the effort, but consistently misjudges the angles which allows blockers to get around him with little effort. He doesn't have great lateral cutting ability. He loses his balance moving east west. The light didn't turn on for Mendenhall until this year. Last year he split time with a surprisingly good, but undrafted Pierre Thomas who is a back up with the Saints. Despite these issues, I believe Mendenhall is a back who could eventually start or be a significant part of a rotation for an NFL offense as a role player.

Power: Decent stiff arm to ward off the penetration 4 yards in the backfield on a 1-yard run off the option pitch to the right side on a 2nd and 12 with 14:26 in the 1st QTR. He was dragged down from behind by two players on the run. Although he only gained three yards on the 3rd and 13 pass with 6:55 in the 1st QTR, he spun away the first hit by the CB and ran through the LB's arm tackle for a gain three before the safety cut his legs out from under him. Broke an arm tackle in the hole off LG and had a clean run for another 14 yards on the play. He is a classic, yards after contact runner who will drag players, spin off hits, or lean forward after contact for extra yardage.

Ball Handling: Good job bringing the ball tight against his body as the defender hit his ball-carrying arm on an 8-yard run with 10:13 in the 1st QTR. What I might like the most about Mendenhall is that the USC players were gunning for the ball on most of his opportunities in the first quarter and they could not rip the ball away from his chest. His 5-yard swing pass with 3:02 was a good example when #4 came from the backside and ripped at his right arm from behind and could not pry the ball free even as the RB was getting smacked head-on as it was happening. Although running towards the left end with 14:15 in the half, Mendenhall carried the ball in his right arm and did not switch the football despite all the defenders in pursuit were near his inside arm. He carried the ball under his left arm for the first time on 29-yard run with 2:42 in the 3rd QTR and when he fell to the ground the ball popped out for the first time all game.

Evasiveness: When he can plant and cut downfield he has some explosion. He was able to plant and cut past the OLB on his first run and then on the option at the corner by turning upfield. Mendenhall made a nice spin move as he reached the right end at the LOS to get past the DB for a 3-yard gain on 2nd and 2. Jump cuts and wide-angled, lateral moves are not his specialty. Good job side-stepping the defender on the ground in front of him after catching the swing pass on 2nd and 6 with 3:04 in the 1st QTR to gain 5 yards. He slipped trying to make a more dramatic cut to the inside while in the flat on 14:05 in the half. He had just finished turning the corner on the play and it was too dramatic of a cut for him to make at full speed.

Balance: When he's running north-south, Mendenhall demonstrates good balance and can spin away from hits. He spun away not only on the play with 6:55 in the 1st QTR, but on a run around right end with 3:45 where the LB grabbed his ball-carrying arm in the backfield as he was approaching right end. He spun away and gained 4 yards with the LB still hanging onto him. He bounced off a direct and indirect hit on a swing pass to the right flat with 6:55 in the 1st QTR to gain extra yardage. On was a hit on the hip by an LB while he was spun from a first attempt at the LOS. He was able to run around some penetration towards the left corner on 2nd and 1 with 14:15 in the half, but as he got a few yards past the first down marker, he tripped over his own feet after a gain of 4 yards. He was trying to make a cut to the inside and slipped.

Speed: The first run of the game speaks a lot about Mendenhall's speed/quickness. He was quick enough to cut the run to the backside and gain 16-yards, beating the OLB through the gap, but not fast enough to hit a second gear and outrun the OLB completely. It was the same player he beat through the hole that caught the RB from behind and dragged him down. He has a very strong initial burst, but not sure if he has the special second gear. He'll break a big run, but not sustain it unless there's help. He gained the corner on an inside hand off to start the 2nd QTR, dipping away from penetration in the backfield to get the corner. The RB showed good speed on his 79-yard run, but if you look at the play 10 of the 11 defenders were in the box and 7 of them were on the opposite side of the alley he took. Also, it was the RB's ability to press the hole to force the overpursuit that gave him a very good start--even the LCB came up on a run blitz so the entire left sideline was clear when he broke the hole. He also had a blocker downfield on the safety who had the angle but was cut off by the receiver in front of Mendenhall. Nonetheless his speed was more than adequate to break the long run and the play designed made it possible for him to get this exact situation to do so.

Blocking: On 2nd and 3 with 10:26 in the 1st QTR, the RB set up to block the edge rusher off the left side, but the defender was able to engage and quickly run by the RB. If the QB hand not rolled to the far side of the pocket, the defender would have had a good shot to sack the QB. On the next play, Mendenhall slid to the gap between LT and LG to wait for a blitz up the middle but the LB changed directions and cut behind the left end. Mendenhall was not quick enough to slide over and was only able to paddy cake the inside shoulder of the LB, which forced the QB to step up on the pocket and run the football. Mendenhall made a block to the backside DT on a 9-yard pass play to the left flat with 14:30 in the half. It wasn't a great block, but it did present an obstacle to insure there wasn't backside pursuit. Once again, Mendenhall did not take a good angle to the assignment with 1:36 in the half. He came across the formation to pick up the DT and misjudged the angle, which forced the QB to hurry his throw. This is the third game where I have seen him misjudge pass blocks on a consistent basis. On the next play he was able to get into the face of the DT, but it was a much quick pass and at the end of the pass the defender was still able to slip the RB. On the next play, Mendenhall waited for the blitzing LB up the middle to hit him and was blown up into his QB for the sack. He did a better job on the bullrush by the same LB with :45 in the half, but the QB was deeper in the pocket as well. He did manage to take the hit and deliver enough of a blow for a standstill. He just not doing a good job of being the aggressor in blocking situations.

Vision: Excellent job on the first play of the game to spot the LB filling the gap between C and RG and getting to the backfield before the pulling LG could hit the defender. Mendenhall immediately cut the play to the backside and gained 16 yards on the play. Mendenhall's 8-yard run with 10:13 in the 1st QTR came off an option pitch where the entire right side of the defense was sealed off at the sideline and there was no one in the area of Mendenhall until he gained 6 yards, leaning forward for the last two. On a spread hand off up the middle where he was following the pulling LG, you could tell he saw everything developing in the hole but lacked the special quickness to act on what he saw. As the LG was pulling he saw the intended direction of the play had defenders filling that gap and he felt the cut back lane. He initially veered a step towards the cut back but saw the free OLB at the corner coming quick. He then tried to make a small jump cut back to inside and squeeze between the penetration into the backfield behind him and the pulling LG. If he were quick enough to slide through, he could have broken a nice gain, but was caught from behind for no gain. On the next play he lost three on a spread formation run to right end. He hesitated at the corner rather than attacked the LOS because he saw two players shooting through at the corner. He fell backwards as he was hit. He's quick, but he lacks that special lateral movement to knife through at angles he'd need to make these runs. He's more of a Terrell Davis/downhill guy than a Marshall Faulk score from anywhere runner. Mendenhall's 79-yard run with 12:34 was a product of his vision, not his speed. He pressed the hole opening to the left side by the C and LG then bent it back through the alley as he got near the C's butt. This forced the LB to over pursue his angle in the hole off LG and let Mendenhall run past him at full speed as the LB was heading the other direction. His 29-yard run to the outside was a result of a very good, last-minute pitch by the QB who sucked in the edge defenders to the inside before pitching it far enough to the outside that Mendenhall had a huge gap. He showed a good north-south burst, but the blocking was very good for 3/4 of the run.

Receiving: He gained 3 yards on 3rd and 13 with 7:05 in the 1st QTR. He caught the swing pass with his hands and his back to the QB. He caught a swing pass on the side of a safety and OLB blitz to his side of the formation. He allowed the ball to get into his chest rather than catch the football with his hands. He did gain 5 yards on the play with 3:02 in the 1st QTR. He had a 1-yard reception with 12:30 in the half, catching the swing pass to the left flat and allowing the ball to get into his inside shoulder rather catching it with his hands. He caught the ball cleanly, but not with the best technique. He caught a pass in the right flat with 8:31 after a playfake. He drifted to the flat and turned back to face the QB, catching the ball with his hands, but very close to his body. He gained 55 yards on the play with some very good open field running. On his 55-yard reception/run he had two very good blocks down the sideline about 10-12 yards downfield that cleared a lane. He did outrun the angle of the LB coming from the inside with a nice burst. He made a very good stutter step at the 50 to mess up the DB's angle at the 50 so he could run right by the falling defender. He gained another 29 yards angling back towards the inside before the pursuit caught up with him. His next catch was a swing pass to the left side, but the USC defense had players in the area and in his face as he caught the ball with his hands. He hopped away from one player, but was immediately brought down by the next for 5-yard loss.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Ray Rice **Date:** 10/18/2007 **Opponent:** South Florida

Overall Strengths:

Ray Rice is a workhorse back who will punish defenses at the end of runs. He had 36 carries in a game five days prior to this match up where he wound up with 39. He has a very good burst that allows him to get big gains up the middle as well as take the corner and he understands how to time this burst in traffic to knife through a defense. The biggest strength is his power generated by his low center of gravity. He knows how to lower the shoulder pads, helmet or use the stiff arm to initiate the contact and punish defenders. He also gets very low in the hole and in this respect, reminds me a bit of Edgerrin James although Rice--who one day might-- doesn't yet do this as effectively. He is also a good pass blocker who spots the blitz and can stone him. He's not the best blocking RB I've seen, but he has good enough technique that he looks like he could improve upon it to the point that he can become an excellent pass protector who can really punish someone. He is pretty good at pressing the hole and bouncing runs to the outside as well as allowing his blocks to set up before bursting through the opening. He sees downfield well enough to choose a smaller hole with more open field behind it than the bigger hole with less.

Overall Weaknesses:

Rice was only looked at once in the passing game. He needs to improve his skills with cut blocks. He lacks elite gamebreaking speed. Rice has been worked a lot in the last two seasons and people will question whether Rice can hold up in the NFL. I don't think many backs in the NFL will get 25+ carries in the game and if they do, very few hold up anyhow. So this doesn't seem like a very good point of detracton. I think Rice will be an every down back in the NFL and potentially a pro bowl player.

Power:

Rice nearly ran through the CB with a stiff arm. The DB met Rice 10 yards down field on the RB's first run of the game and the stiff arm held off the DB for another 5 yards despite getting brought down by a facemask. The play was negated on a holding call. On the next play, he gained 8 yards after running through the CB in the left flat 4 yards earlier. Good body lean and pad level to finish the run. Rice ran through an arm tackle and then carried two DBs about 4 yards during a 14-yard run on a 1st and 10 with 2:00 in the 1st QTR. Rice lowered his shoulder into a CB 4 yards downfield on his way to a gain of 8 at the end of the 1st QTR. Rice ran extremely low through a hole off LG and C with :20 in the 1st QTR and got through the line before running through the hit of a safety 4 yards past the LOS and then pushing two DBs backwards for a 13-yard gain. He had to be brought down with a blatant facemask. He's easier to bring down when forced to run east-west behind the LOS. On his 11-yard run with 5:15 in the half, Rice knocked the DE on the left corner to the ground with a stiff arm. He did try to stiff arm the DE on the right corner on the next play, but the defense was too far into the backfield for him to have the advantage and he was knocked down for a loss. He gained 33 yards and ran out of two arm tackles--one by the DT and one by the LB within 5 yards of the LOS with 8:25 in the 3rd QTR. He gained 5 yards on the next play against 8 in the box again, dragging a defender for two yards. Excellent leg drive on a 5-yard rush with 4:55 in the game. He gained three extra yards on the play with this effort.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball under sideline arm on his run to the left corner on the first offensive play of the game. He covered the ball with both hands on a few runs up the middle as he was finishing the play against multiple defenders. He routinely carries the ball under the sideline arm regardless of which direction he is going. Rice fumble the ball on his 35th carry after an LB stuck his helmet directly into the ball. No one would have held onto the football in this situation.

Elusiveness:

Rice is a downhill runner, but he has a good wiggle with his style. He has good head and shoulder movement and runs with a slippery style. His change of direction is quick and he has the ability to get in and out of smaller spaces with a burst. His lateral movement isn't exceedingly quick and he can get caught in the backfield with good penetration. He generally gets minimal gains when this happens because of his good body lean and power.

Balance:

Excellent balance to make a cut in the hole on his second run of the game and then run over a CB in the left flat and gain another 5 yards. Rice is a short, but wide-bodied runner who is very muscular from shoulders to knees. He knows how to run with short, choppy steps in traffic. Good job turning sideways to run out of a DT's tackle in the hole on a delay against 8 in the box that went 14 yards for a first down with 8:40 in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

Rice is facing a very fast defense. A defense that had not allowed 100 yards to a rusher since Rice in 2006. This included games against Auburn, UCF, and West Virginia. Rice showed very good speed to the left corner on his first run of the game. He gained 10 yards before he even encountered a defender and gained 15 yards total, but the play was called back on a hold. Rice gained 11 yards against 9-men in the box on a run to the left corner out of the shotgun formation. He was able to beat the CB to the first down marker on the play. Excellent acceleration around the corner to be a well-regarded, speedy CB's angle. I'm very impressed with his burst through small spaces on runs up the middle of the defense in the 1st QTR. Rice got around the left corner with 5:15 in the half and beat the DB to the first down marker on an 11-yard gain. Impressive burst off the pulling RG out of a single back set with 13:24 in the 3rd QTR. He gained 4 on the play. He gained 33 yards on a run where a back with elite speed might have scored, but he was run down by the MLB. He could not beat the angle. At the same time, he also carried the ball two times before and ran out of tackles and this was nearly his 60th carry in 5 days. Does this matter? Not sure, but he nearly broke it for a score. The LB's tackle was a diving attempt.

Blocking:

Nice job heading off a blitzing LB on a 2nd and 8 pass play with 5:42 in the 1st QTR. Although the LB was able to tip the ball, Rice did engage the LB and keep him from gaining ground. He could have done a better job to chip the blitzing LB on 2nd and 10 pass play with 3:46 in the 1st QTR. The LB ran a delayed blitz up the middle and Rice only got a hand on the arm of the LB before he released to the middle of the field from his position as blocker. Much better job chipping the LDE on and 3rd and 3 pass play that was complete for a 1st down. Nice job picking up the blitz with :35 in the half. He took on the MLB who came on a delayed blitz and hit the player square in the chest and stopping his momentum. He made a pretty good cut block on the blitzing LB up the middle with :15 in the half. He went a little too low because the LB went flying over Rice after the hit, but it did allow the QB time to throw a very accurate pass to the corner of the endzone that the WR dropped. On the next play, he did well to move across the formation to find the OLB and hit him.

Vision:

Rice's first run of the game was supposed to go up the middle, but he saw open space to the left flat and bent the run around the left corner for a first down, but the play was called back on a hold. He also bounced an off tackle play outside after getting through the hole on the next play. Very good vision against 8 in the box on 2nd and 10 with 3:42 in the 1st QTR. He took the ball and went off LG, but make a quick cut in the hole towards the middle and gained nearly 7 yards on the play. Good patience to try to run off guard but bounce the play to the left side on an 8-yard effort with less than :30 in the 1st QTR. On 1st and 10 with 5:19 in the half Rice got the 1st down on a run where he pressed the hole towards the middle and waited for the RG to pull to LG. Once Rice got on the G's hip he bounced the run to the left corner and gained 11 yards. Excellent job on a shotgun delay handoff with :25 in the half to choose the second, smaller hole past the LOS. This got him 11-yards untouched before he lowered his shoulder into the safety and split a second DB for a 15-yard gain. He's very much a one-cut runner who doesn't do much dancing. He'll drive his legs to get maximum yardage in situations where there is no open lane, such as a 1st and 5 with 5:15 in the 3rd QTR. He could have easily lost yardage if he tried to make something bigger that wasn't there.

Receiving:

Rice fell down before he could set up to receive a screen pass to the left flat.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Ray Rice **Date:** 11/9/2006 **Opponent:** Louisville

Overall Strengths:

Rice is a workhorse back. He runs with good pad level, gets north-south quickly, and runs with very good vision between the tackles. He can make cuts in the hole, make the first man miss with a lateral move, and initiate contact at the end of runs. One of the best things about him as a runner is his ability to gain yardage after contact and his decisiveness at the LOS. He faced 8-10 defenders in the box all night long and just got better as the game went along. He has a very low center of gravity and thick legs. He protects the ball very well as a runner. This is a back who should have an opportunity to start for an NFL team by his second season and be a fixture in an offense.

Overall Weaknesses:

Rice needs to work on his 3rd down skills of blocking and receiving to become a reliable, every down player. If he can become a strong receiver, he has a shot to have an excellent NFL career.

Power:

Rice ran through a tackler who came from the backside to making a diving attempt for his waist as Rice entered the hole on the toss sweep with 13:56 in the 1st QTR. He hit the safety head on in the hole with 12:58 in the 1st QTR and drove him backwards for an extra yard on the play. Good pad level on the run. Although hit in the chest at the LOS by an LB with 12:10 in the half, Rice twisted out of the contact and drove his legs forward for 2 yards. Rice exploited a hole off LG and split two defenders by lowering his shoulders and getting low as he knifed through the lane. You could see him carry a defender an extra yard after the contact. Rice had to cut away from an LB shooting through his gap and ride the back of his blocker, but maintained his leg drive and got 5 yards on and 3rd and 3 with :41 in the half. He gained another 4 yards driving his legs behind his blockers at the LOS against 9 men in the box with 5:52 in the 3rd QTR. This is a very sound, yards after contact runner. He got very low pad level on a 1st and 10 run off LG and hit the safety, then churned forward for another two yards as the LB hit him with 2:19 in the 3rd QTR. Rice sent the DB to the ground with a forearm shiver to end his 16-yard gain with 11:29 in the game. He gained three yards after contact on a 7-yard run with 10:54 in the game on a run off RG and C. Good body lean and leg drive. The LB was literally hitting his fists to the turf after he got run over by Rice during his tackle. On 2nd and 6 he took a sweep to the right side against 9 men in the box and burst through a well-blocked opening off RT before lowering his shoulders into the pile that was driving back the MLB and generated a push of 4 extra yards after contact.

Ball Handling:

He carried the first time with the ball under his sideline arm on a toss sweep to the left. He carried the ball under both arms throughout the first half depending on which side of the line he was running to. His scoring pitch down the left sideline was carried under the correct arm. He's a very reliable ballcarrier in terms of protecting the ball. The ball didn't go anywhere on plays where defenders were ripping at it. Especially in the 4th QTR such as the tail end of a 10-yard run with 11:50 left.

Evasiveness:

He made a very quick cut off LG after taking the ball towards RG with :52 in the half. Good burst out of his cut to find the softest spot at the line to exploit. He made a subtle dip further towards the middle while in the lane off LT during his 5-yard run with 4:43 in the 3rd QTR. He made a slashing, plant and cut at the LOS behind his pulling guard to exploit the lane for 20 yards with 1:41 in the game.

Balance:

Rice only gained a yard on a 1st and 10 run off LG with 3:49 in the 1st QTR, but he was grabbed by the side of the helmet by the LB slipping the FB's block. Rice demonstrated good core strength to spin with the hit and then bend backwards to still fall forward for a gain on the play. He lost his balance out of a lateral cut with :45 in the half, but put his free hand into the ground and gained 2 yards when he almost lost 2 yards. Against 9 men in the box, Rice gained 4 yards after spinning away from a hit at the LOS and churning his legs to lean forward for the gain with 5:06 left.

Speed:

Rice scored from 18 yards out on a misdirection pitch to the backside of the play. Rice outran the backside DE, the LB, and a DB down the sideline for the score. The play was a big reason why, but his burst was more than adequate to make the play work. Rice took a pitch to the left side and cut off tackle from the 5 yard line for the score with 4:43 in the 3rd QTR.

Blocking:

His first opportunity to block came in the 4th QTR, but there was no real effort needed because the LB was playing deep off the snap. By the time he reached Rice, the ball was being thrown. Rice whiffed on a cut block to the edge rusher off the right side because he dove for the angles rather than aimed for the thighs.

Vision:

Rice gained 6 yards on a very well-blocked toss sweep to the left side versus a 10 defenders in the box with 13:56 in the 1st QTR. He timed his burst for the pulling linemen to get a few yards downfield and then Rice hit the crease between them. Rice found a wide primary lane up the middle as he followed his FB on 1st and 10 with 13:00 in the game. The 6-man defensive front got a good push on the offensive line on either side of the hole, but Rice hit the right spot and then found a secondary crease to the left of his FB for an extra 2 yards. It was only a 3-yard gain, but he demonstrated the ability to pick and slide in the small space. Although he got hit at the LOS on a 2-yard run with 12:10 in the 2nd QTR, he followed his blockers well. The LB just got by the pulling G who didn't take the correct path to seal that hole. Nice job spotting the LB shooting through the gap he chose and sidestepping the defender to ride his blocker's back for the 1st down on 3rd and 3 with :41 in the half. With 9 defenders in the box with 12:32 in the 3rd QTR, Rice had little choice but to take the softest spot in the middle he could find and drive his legs forward. He only gained a yard on the 1st and 10 play with 12:32 in the third QTR. A very patient run on the draw with 12:00 in the game. He followed the FB off RG then pushed the FB into a block and cut to the inside while in the hole and burst for another 7 yards for the first down. On the next play, he did an excellent job decisively hitting a yard-wide crease between LG and the FB for 10 yards before cutting outside off his WR and finish the run for 16 yards. He gained 20 yards with 1:45 in the game when he followed his pulling G to the right side then cut off that lineman to the inside to exploit a lane for 20 yards before getting hit by the safety.

Receiving:

His first pass came to him on 2nd and 9 with 12:32 in the 3rd QTR. It was a quick outlet pass over the middle after the QB encountered pressure. Rice ran this route at least three times in the first half but the QB was able to hit someone else downfield. Rice caught the ball at belt level while facing the QB. He allowed the ball to get into his body rather than make the catch with his hands, but he controlled it quickly and turned for an extra yard as he was immediately wrapped up. Rice allowed a ball to bounce off his hands on a release to the middle with 12:02 in the game that could have been intercepted due to the way the ball floated back into the air off the tip.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Rodney Kinlaw

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Indiana

Overall Strengths:

He has decent straightline speed and burst. He leans forward at the end of runs and has some start-stop ability. He understands where the blockers are supposed to open holes. I don't see him making an NFL roster, much less a practice squad for an extended length of time.

Overall Weaknesses:

Indiana gave up 288 yards on the ground against Illinois and 368 versus Michigan State. Kinlaw lacks vision in the hole. He lacks an arsenal of cuts and lateral moves. He missed opportunities to make key blocks in pass protection. He carries the ball with the same arm regardless of where he's running.

Power:

He had difficulty shedding tackles in the 1st QTR. He didn't show a lot of leg drive when wrapped up. He did show good leg drive at the goal line for a score with 4:03 in the game. He reached the ball across the goal as he was driving forward. He was getting facemasked on the play as well. He demonstrated good determination on the play.

Ball Handling:

He primarily runs the ball under his right arm.

Elasticities:

Kinlaw had a great opportunity to plant and cut in the open field against a safety on a 12-yard gain off a draw. He had plenty of space to set up the move and could not make the lateral cut. He took some false steps to try to generate some wiggle, but the defender wasn't fooled. When encountering a DT in the backfield in both the 1st and 3rd QTRs he did not have the ability to make a jump cut or hard plant cut to get out of the way. He danced in place before getting tackled. He does have some start-stop skills to make people miss. He did this a few times in the second half to make the first man miss in the backfield.

Balance:

He has shown difficulty running out ankle tackle attempts. He gets tripped up often if someone gets a hand on his ankles. He does a decent job of leaning forward for extra yardage when it happens.

Speed:

Kinlaw has decent quickness and when he makes the right decision with a hole, he can cut up field with a good burst. He got 12 yards on a well-executed draw.

Blocking:

Kinlaw completely missed the opportunity to help out the RT who allowed the DE to get inside of him as Morelli dropped back. The missed block forced the QB to run.

Vision:

Kinlaw's first attempt came at the 10:31 mark in the 1st QTR. He lined up in the I-formation and the play was designed to go between the LG and C. The LG and C released to the second level and double teamed a safety, while the FB picked up the LB in the hole, but the DT peeled off the RG as Kinlaw squared his shoulders and he either had to try to bounce it outside which was well-covered by the defense or get as much as he could in the hole. He made the right choice although he only got back to the line of scrimmage. The LG appeared to miss his assignment on the LB. Kinlaw tried to reverse his field on a 3rd and 2 with 9:51 in the 1st QTR, but didn't have the vision to make the play. The OLB got great penetration on the right side on a designed sweep and took out the RB 3 yards into the backfield. Kinlaw had a chance to outrun the trailing DB and LB facing him, but he tried to cut it up the middle too quickly. If he widened his path he had a better chance to race them to the first down marker in the open field. Nice cutback to the inside off a play designed to go to the left edge of the defense for a gain of 8 on 1st and 10 with 4:17 in the 1st QTR. From a 2-TE set with :16 in the 1st QTR he missed the alley on the left side with good downfield blocking and chose to go off RG for a minimal gain. He basically gained one yard instead of potentially 7-8, if not a touchdown on a play starting at the 16-yard line. To his defense, the line was getting beat off the ball on run plays.

Receiving:

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

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Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
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Target:
Rec:
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Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Ryan Torain **Date:** 9/23/2007 **Opponent:** California

Overall Strengths: The best things about Torain as a runner are his footwork and strong angular cuts coupled with power. He is a slashing runner out of the style of the Curt Warner-OJ Simpson-Curtis Martin--players with good hip movement, but less speed than these three. His speed is more along the lines of Rudi Johnson-Stephen Davis--reliable chain movers who can break a gain if the defense sells out and the offense catches them. Otherwise, he's a chain mover who can wear out the defense. When moving downhill, he is difficult to tackle. Defenders need to hit him low and wrap him up or he will run over them or spin away from them. If they wrap him up, he will drive his legs for extra yardage. The best bet is to hit him before he gets into the hole where his power builds momentum and he's still upright. He catches the ball well with his hands and understands his blocking assignments. When Torain is healthy, he has the power, vision and moves to be a reliable contributor on an offense.

Overall Weaknesses: He needs to be more aggressive at the point of attack as a blocker and show more effort in the open field as a blocker. He lacks elite speed and he runs a bit upright. He takes a lot of punishment as a runner, although he does do his share of attacking defenders. His cuts are sudden, but his burst isn't. A lot of his 15-20 yard runs will be more 5-10 yarders at the next level if he gets the opportunity to contribute. He was rated in the preseason by one service (Mel Kiper) as the #2 RB prospect prior to the Lis Franc tear. The injury takes 4-6 months to heal, so Torain will likely not be fully healed until at least April or May of 2008. It was projected that he may work out on a limited basis at the combine, but probably wouldn't be able to run. Since he did run, it's a positive sign. This injury issue and inability to work out will likely mean he'll plummet down draft boards.

Power: His first run off tackle ended with him getting stood up by the safety rather than lowering his shoulder at the point of contact. This was a difference between possibly getting 4 yards and only netting 2. Although Torain knocked the helmet off a charging safety, he was a bit upright when the hit came because the safety came fast and seemingly out of nowhere. He did a good job turning one shoulder into the hit and driving his legs through the contact and that's what got him the first down and a safety laying on the ground looking for his helmet. Torain demonstrated good leg drive after contact to get 5 yards on a run up the middle with 7:56 in the 1st QTR. He doesn't consistently finish his runs with a great body lean. He'll drive his legs, but he doesn't lower his pads enough and he'll get hit at the end of runs in ways that knock his upper body backwards. This increases some risk for injury. Torain's rushing score came off a cut into the hole made by the RT. He did a good job lowering his pads against the LB at the 2 so the hit didn't stand him up and he was able to keep driving his legs to get the score. He actually broke two tackles on this run--the LB at the 2 and the safety at the 1.

Ball Handling: He carried the ball with his sideline arm on his four attempts, but he doesn't keep his elbow locked to his side and the ball looks like it could be knocked out easily. Torain picked up a fumbled ball when the QB was hit on a scramble and got two yards for a first down. He follows through on playfakes rather well, keeping his hands in a position as if he were carrying the ball and his head down.

Elusiveness: Nice burst out his cut. He didn't have to take a false step to make the cut out of the backfield on his second run with 13:22 in the opening quarter. Nice job dipping to the outside on the way out of the hole to avoid the oncoming safety who shot for his legs. On a run with 12:35 in the 1st QTR he made two impressive cuts in the hole to get the first down. He made a strong lateral cut after pressing the hole between LG and C and then a second cut off the hip of the C to run through a 2-yard alley before turning upfield and making a very subtle dip back to the inside of an LB shooting for his legs at the 30 before being dragged down from behind at the 21. He seems to weave in and out of holes without false steps. He's not very fast, but this balance allows him to run at a higher speed than those with a straight line burst but have to take false steps to change direction. With 11:26 in the 1st QTR he illustrated this point by dipping away from the penetrating DT in the backfield despite the fact he had to make the adjustment just a half step away from the defender before making sharp turn upfield through the hole. Good stop-start move in the hole to make the pursuing safety miss his angle as Torain burst forward for another 4 yards and the first down. He showed a very sudden and sharp, stop-start move with 3:13 in the half in the hole between the C and RG. The LB was 2 yards deep in the hole and the RB planted his right foot and cut to the left, turning his upper body sideways to avoid the hit before dragging another LB for 3 yards.

Balance: Good balance to get an extra five yards after eluding the oncoming safety who did hit his leg on the cutback with 13:20 in the 1st QTR. Torain runs with very good balance because he has a very angular running style. He seems to weave in and out of holes without false steps. Torain showed good balance after running 8 yards untouched to the left edge and getting hammered by the safety two yards before the marker. Torain met him with his shoulder and the safety fell off to left and lost his helmet as Torain ran over a second defender for 3 extra yards and a 1st down. On his next run with 7:54 in the 1st QTR, he got 5 yards into the hole up the middle and tried to dip to the left of the oncoming safety. The defender grabbed Torain around the shoulders and spun the RB 180 degrees clockwise, but the RB planted his foot and drove himself backwards downfield as three Cal defenders converged on him from each direction and his body lean (with the help of an ASU lineman) got him the extra 4 yards for a first down. Very good balance. On 3rd and 1 with 13:42 in the 4th QTR. Torain faced 9 men in the box and took a hand off from the weak-I. After getting to the first down marker untouched behind his C and RG, he met the MLB head on 3-yards in front of the marker with the RDT coming off his block to hit Torain in the right side. The RB hit the LB with good pad level and spun out of the wrap towards the middle of the field. He sidestepped the LOLB in the hole and broke the run to the left hash another 3 yards downfield. He ran out of tackle where the safety grabbed both legs at the 39 and angled just enough away from an LB at the 41 to gain 4 more yards after the LB's initial hit for an impressive display of power and balance during a 15-yard gain.

Speed: Torain is known more for his slashing skills than his speed. He has shown a good burst out of his cuts. He's not very fast, but this balance allows him to run at a higher speed than those with a straight line burst because many of these players have to take false steps to change direction. Torain's straightline burst is probably average. He got a 7-yard gain on a draw but was easily caught by the LB on an angle that a top speed back would probably outrun. He did a better job lowering his shoulders on a 10-yard run for a first down with 5:21 in the half. He bulldozed through the contact for an extra two yards, knocking back the safety. When he's not planting and cutting, he seems to have one speed, which is kind of a plus and minus for him. He popped a draw up the middle through the 1st and 2nd tier of the offense with :41 in the half, but could not outrun the angles of the secondary, which a back like McFadden, Jones, Johnson, or Thomas Brown could have done on this play. He was the same distance from these defenders going full speed as draws I've seen these four runners bust for scores but he had to try to make a move to elude a player than just outrun them. The run was for 23 yards.

Blocking: Torain's first assignment was in the 1st QTR with 6:10. He took on the edge rusher off the left side. He was prepared to make a hit, but the edge rusher slowed down as the QB released the pass. Good 3rd and 5 block on the Cal OLB on the blindside. This helped the QB break the pocket and get the first down when he couldn't spot an open receiver downfield. He still could have delivered a more aggressive pop and got his hands into the chest of the player and drove him back with his legs. He leans well into the hit, but doesn't drive his legs. He had the same problem on the next play with the edge rusher off the front side and he was driven back by a safety who got into the QB's face and forced a hurried throw. He doesn't seem to have a knack for anticipating blocking opportunities in the open field or it's just a lack of effort. Torain's cutblock attempt on the RDE was sidestepped on the play that Carpenter was intercepted at the end of the 2nd half.

Vision: His first second run was a basic zone blocking set up designed to the left side. Torain pressed the hole and cut back to the gap between RG and C when he saw the C clearing the way 4 yards away. He burst through the hole for a first down. Torain got the ball with 12:10 in the 1st QTR facing a 9-man front. The blocking by his line was great and he ran through a huge hole off the LG and LT untouched for 5 yards. The offensive line was opening very wide holes for Torain on each of his runs thus far. He did not have to create much in the backfield or hole to get through the line of scrimmage with the exception of one run. The only time he was stopped after his 1st run was against a 9-man front with 6:50 in the 2nd QTR and the ASU line was called for holding. On 3rd and 1 with 13:42 in the 4th QTR. Torain faced 9 men in the box and took a hand off from the weak-I. He did a good job angling toward the upfield movement of the right side of the line and got the first down behind that push without any defensive contact--good vision. The rest of this impressive run is detailed in the section about balance.

Receiving: He got good depth on his swing route on 3rd and 8 on the opening drive of the game. The ball wasn't thrown to him, but he created a lot of space to do something with the ball if it were thrown to him. His first catch was a swing pass to the same side as mentioned before. The ball was on snapped on the near hash, so he didn't have a lot of room to operate as before. He caught the ball with his hands and his back to the QB. He got to the sideline at the 10 and blockers ahead of him at the 4 yard line. He outran a diving attempt at the 6 and reached the endzone while tightropeing the sideline for the score. Nice job running a flat route out of the backfield and turning back to the QB to catch the football with his hands before turning upfield. He faced down a CB and spun out of his tackle before help arrived to knock down the RB.

Durability: Torain suffered a season-ending, Lis Franc injury in 2007. He was rated in the preseason by one service (Mel Kiper) as the #2 RB prospect prior to the Lis Franc tear. The injury takes 4-6 months to heal, so Torain will likely not be fully healed until at least April or May of 2008. He may work out on a limited basis at the combine, but probably won't be able to run. This injury issue and inability to work out will likely mean he'll plummet down draft boards.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Steve Slaton

Date: 1/2/2006

Opponent: Georgia

Overall Strengths:

Excellent speed, change of direction, and patience. He times his acceleration very well. He has great skill at preventing defenders from getting a good angle on him in the open field so he appears to break a lot of tackles. In reality he is eluding these tackles by changing the angle of where he's running with great quickness and a variety of moves. He was the most dynamic player on the field in this game, but still needs to learn how to be the well-rounded position player necessary to compete at the next level.

Overall Weaknesses:

Slaton is not a powerful back. He has good body lean and will bounced off blows when at full speed, but he is not as much of a tackle breaker as he is an edge runner. His huge runs through inside were through huge holes or very well-blocked alleys. He shows good effort to block this early in his career, but he either came off blocks too early to hit someone else or did not sustain the block to prevent the defender from making a play. Slaton will have more difficulty making these across the field moves, jump cuts, and stop-start moves against the fast defenses at the NFL level, but as long as he's decisive behind the line of scrimmage he has the speed to be effective in an offensive role. He's very unproven as a receiver at this point.

Power:

Slaton's game is much more speed than power. His speed can generate enough momentum that he will carry a defender an extra yard or two, but tacklers don't often slide off him when they get a hit. He also does a good eliminating good angles for defenders to hit him. On 1st and 10 with 6:08 in the 1st QTR, he took a handoff from the spread formation to the right side and ran through two glancing blows at the second level of the defense after going untouched around the corner for 5 yards. Each LB had an angle before he changed direction and hit them with a forearm on the way past. When stood up at the LOS with 1:52 in the 1st QTR, he did well to lean forward for a minimal gain. As the defense wore down, he was able to drag tacklers for extra yardage.

Ball Handling:

Slaton did well to hang onto the football that he carried under his sideline arm on his first run. The RB might have gained more if the LB trailing had not tried to rip the ball as his means of tackling. On his first touchdown run he switched the ball a little late--after he encountered the defense, but did get it to his sideline arm once he got free of traffic. Slaton lost the ball and recovered it on a run from the spread formation with 9:54 in the 3rd QTR. The LB hit him from the blind side and spun him around, jarring the ball loose. Slaton was able to fall on the ball to maintain possession.

Elusiveness:

Terrific fullspeed cut on the 53-yard score where he planted his right leg and shifted laterally to leave the safety diving for air. By the time he dipped past his blocker two steps later, he was racing the MLB down the sideline to the endzone. He is very good at dipping around blocks in tight spaces in the openfield. On another I-formation delay, Slaton made a great jump cut in the middle of the hole to bounce the play to the right edge of the formation. He accelerated away from two tackle attempts to get the edge for a 5-yard gain. Slaton also makes himself small in the hole. He runs with a compact style between the tackles and knives through small openings. He did this on a 4th and 2 with 11:26 in the 3rd QTR. Great use of jump cuts, stop and start moves, and stutter moves to take a run up the left side of a defense and cut it across to the opposite hash to get the 1st down. He traveled about 70 yards for a 10-yard run. He made 5 players miss with his moves on this play. His slippery style is reminiscent of O.J. Simpson in the open field.

Balance:

A glancing blow will not knock down Slaton. A player will have to hit him in the legs or wrap his upper body well. He was met in the hole by the LB on a 3rd and 1 run from the I-formation and still got close. The LB hit Slaton's leg and held on, but Slaton kept his balance on the hard hit and dragged him for nearly a first down.

Speed:

Slaton's first run went around the weak side of the defense for 10 yards. He was untouched for the first 10 yards of the run. The right guard did a great job of getting to the second level and eliminating the OLB from the play. And there was a very good block on the LCB by the WR near the sideline to create the alley. Slaton's second run was for a 53-yard score on a well-executed draw out of the I formation. The WVU o-line all came out of the snap as if they were pass blocking and cleared two 5-yard wide holes at the line of scrimmage on either side of the center. Slaton chose where gap where the LG and LDT lined up but nothing was there but open space. He outran the MLB to the endzone 40 yards downfield. Slaton bounced an I-formation run to the right side and outran three defenders to the edge before the CB took him down after a gain of six yards with a little more than 8:00 in the half--very quick.

Blocking:

He completely missed a block he tried to throw on a pass play with 8:26 in the opening QTR. The QB got rid of the ball quick enough for it not to matter. Good backside block on the LB off a play fake and throw for a score with 6:30 in the 1st QTR. He delivered a good hit after setting his feet. Slaton made two helpful blocks on a pass play to Renaud for a 1st down with 11:44 in the half. He was in the slot of the diamond formation and blocked down on the DE then ran upfield to block an LB that helped the WR get a first down. On a 2nd down pass with 11:00 in the half, Slaton was the lead blocker on the roll to the left. He blocked the DE, but instead of attempting to sustain the block he moved to the LB, allowing the DE to cut through the QB and force a quick throw. Slaton's real trouble is repeatedly not sustaining his blocks. He'll square himself against an edge rusher like he did with 4:52 in the 3rd QTR, but he will contact him once or twice, but not try to stick into the player's body and drive him back. The LB off the edge on this play, got the sack because Slaton did not try to impose his will on the block. The same thing happened with the LB on a long throw at the top of the 4th QTR, but the QB got the throw off despite taking a big shot.

Vision:

On Slaton's 53-yard run for a score on the opening drive, he ran 7 yards untouched before he had to make a cut. Slaton got a 8 yards on a 1st and 10 from the UGA 32 with 7:57 in the first quarter from the spread formation. He followed his FB into the hole, but made the best choice of the three holes available to cut it up the middle untouched for 6 yards. He uses his acceleration very wisely, waiting until he clears traffic. Slaton found an excellent alley with 4 blocks for him to run through untouched for 18 yards and a score. Great job squeezing through the gap between the guard and center and accelerating 50 yards downfield to score and effectively put way the game with 8:39 in the 4th QTR. The LB made a mistake with his placement to the outside and left the middle open.

Receiving:

Slaton's only catch was a swing pass he caught with his hands. He was wide open in the flat and gained 8 yards before running out of bounds.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

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Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

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Effective short area burst [7pts]:
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Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

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Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
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Runs precise routes [1pt]:

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Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Steve Slaton

Date: 11/6/2006

Opponent: Louisville

Overall Strengths:

Slaton recognizes the cutbacks very well and has the speed to exploit them for big gains. He's a runner with good open field moves who can create in the openfield with head fake, shoulder fakes, and lower body jukes. His lateral movement is sickenly good in the open field. He catches the ball very well with his hands. Slaton is a dangerous player with the ball in his hands and would be an ideal 3rd down back or slot receiver.

Overall Weaknesses:

He doesn't break many tackles or bounce off hits effectively. He also gets knocked backwards at the line of scrimmage when he runs into opposition. He has issues holding onto the football-at least in this game. He's a versatile player in open space with good between the tackles vision, but he lacks the power element to be more than a situational RB.

Power:

On his 3-yard gain off RG with 7:12 in the 1st QTR, he ran through an arm tackle at his chest. Slaton was grabbed from behind while entering the hole on 1st and 10 with 13:00 in the half and pulled backwards by the NT. This not the type of thing that happens to most backs with any power. He tried lowering his shoulder to run through a hit at the LOS but was brought down easily for a 3-yard loss. On the next play he did run through an arm tackle to his legs as he cleared the hole for a 24-yard gain with :41 in the half.

Ball Handling:

He primarily carries the ball in his left arm. His first fumble came from a strip to his left arm as he passed the CB down the left sideline on a run where he did an excellent job following blocks in tight alleys down around the corner and down the sideline but the CB grabbed his arm and pulled it away from his body and White lost it. On his next carry with 12:08 in the 3rd QTR he was tackled from behind and dropped the ball as the LB stripped it from his grasp. Interestingly enough he had the ball originally in his right arm the switched it to his left as he approached the LOS. He needs to improve his ball security so a hit or pull to his arm doesn't dislodge it. He was wearing a sleeve on the left arm and after the two fumbles Slaton removed it and sat on the bench for an entire series. On the first reception of the 4th QTR he actually carried the ball under his right arm.

Elusiveness:

Nice job dipping away from the DB penetrating at the right has on a play we wanted to take around the has with 5:35 in the 1st QTR. Although he only gained a yard on the play, he showed nice elusiveness while running at a high speed. He made three great cuts on a 13-yard gain off RG with 5:45 in the half. First he made a sharp cut from the LOS to the gap off RG. This was more of a quick hip-turn that you'll also see from Darren McFadden and Kevin Smith. When he got through the hole with a DB facing him over top, Slaton hopped to the left and spun to the outside of the defender to make the DB miss completely on the tackle. As he dipped to the right hash from the outside, he saw another DB coming over top and made a jump cut backwards reminiscent of Barry Sanders, but more recently seen from Dante Hall or DeSean Jackson on a kick return. This move got him away from the DB completely. If he had recognized that he had three blockers ahead of him and a small crease, he would have accelerated through it for a possible score, but he tried to bounce it back inside of the block and wound up running into the pursuit. Very good open field running and moves. It was a showcase for cuts and change of direction on one run. Nice stutter move at the end of the lane about 12 yards into a 24-yard run with :45 in the half. He made the DB miss with ease. A very quick backside cut to get 8 yards on 13:50 in the game.

Balance:

He got hammered by the CB from the outside as he was cutting a play upfield with 5:32 in the 1st QTR. A bigger back with more power probably slides off some of this hit, but Slaton was planted where he stood.

Speed:

Very quick and fast player who will get outside or upfield if someone takes a bad angle. When Slaton hit the right hash on the cutback for the score with 4:24 in the 1st QTR, he was fast enough to outrun the angle of the CB peeling off the receiver and a yard ahead and away. He showed great speed around the corner for a 13-yard gain to pass the LB around the corner.

Blocking:

Slaton made a crushing hit on a DB about 15 yards downfield to help his QB on the designed draw.

Vision:

Excellent job pressing the hole on an inside handoff headed to the left side of the line from the spread formation on their first offensive series. He got about a yard from the far side of the line, forcing the unblocked defender behind the LOS to take a step toward the left hash and then turned back into the line, anticipating a crease that opened between RG and RT just as he was a yard away. He made a hop step around the RG and through the hole to get five yards on the run. If he didn't trip through the hole, he would have had a big gain. He followed his FB into the the lane off RG for a 3-yard gain with 7:12 in the 1st QTR. Good job pressing the hole on an inside hand off from the spread to cut it back a couple of steps to the right end and up the right hash for a 42-yard score. Excellent cutback for 15 yards on 1st and 20 on a run play designed for him to press the hole towards the left and bend it back to the cutback, which he did to perfection. In tight spaces, he tends to tiptoe through the hole rather than hit it decisively. He did this for a 3-yard gain with 11:10 in the half. Starting the 3rd QTR, he did another great job presing the hole on an inside handoff with 14:30. He started towards the right then made a quick stutterstep to LG, which caused the LB to overrun towards the right side and opened an alley in the second level that he burst through for 20 yards.Slaton tried to reverse his field after spinning away from a tackle but lost 12 instead of 5 yards as a result.

Receiving:

Slaton ran a seem route veering towards the inside, but the QB threw the ball over the outside shoulder and too high for Slaton to catch on the second offensive series of the 1st QTR. Very good catch on a wheel route on 1st and 10 with 14:16 in the game. He had to turn back to the QB and catch the ball over his head with his hands and carried it with a CB on his back for 3 more yards, gaining 20 on the play. Good catch on a release around the edge then a cut outside to take the ball for 10 yards with 3:40. He's a pretty natural receiver. He made a catch wide open down the left sideline for 17 yards and then gained 27 more as a runner.

Durability:

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Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Steve Slaton

Date: 9/28/2007

Opponent: South Florida

Overall Strengths:

Slaton is very quick and anticipates penetration very well. He faced a very fast defense that dominated the WVU offensive line and he still managed to get minimal gains out of potentially big losses due to his quick change of direction and vision. This is a runner with a strong burst of speed through an open hole and can change direction with a suddenness that makes him an elite athlete. Slaton is a talented situational back who might develop into a player capable of bigger role in a pro offense as he matures.

Overall Weaknesses:

He did a poor job of holding onto the ball tonight. He also showed very little power.

Power:

Slaton continued to drive his legs on a 3-yard run where he was brought down by an arm tackle at the LOS after eluding the backfield penetration with 1:03 in the 1st QTR. Nice stiff arm with to get 6 yards around the left corner with 9:34 in the half. Good job lowering his shoulder pads and helmet to initiate contact to end his gain of 13 on the swing pass. Slaton ran through an arm tackle to his ankle on a 2nd a 4 run for 8 yards on a 1st down off an inside run out of the spread formation through a huge hole up the middle. Slaton ran out of two arm tackles to get 4 yards and a 1st down with 8:00 in the 3rd QTR. He was dragged down for a 4-yard gain, but gained two of those yards after contact and had to be dragged down.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball under his outside arm with 5:35 in the 1st QTR. On the next play he was planted the LB and lost the ball. The tackle was a perfect form tackle, he wrapped the RB after sticking him in the chest with his helmet and then planted the RB on his back. Slaton lost his second fumble on a 1st down handoff where the snap was bad and the QB/RB lost their timing on the play. The QB did get the ball to the RB, but it was placed a bit high, but the RB did not lock down on the ball. On the next series, the same exact snap happened, but the handoff was clean and he did a good job of switching the ball to his outside arm on a run to the left for 6 yards. Better job with :40 in the half to cover up the ball with both hands in a short yardage situation in the redzone.

Evasiveness:

Slaton made a very nice cut to avoid penetration by the DT 3 yards into the backfield and find a huge lane for a 14-yard gain with 5:39 in the 1st QTR. He has a smooth stride and demonstrates quickness as he bends the direction of his runs. Excellent cut to avoid the penetrating lineman 5 yards into the backfield on a 1st and 10 with 2:36 in the 1st QTR. Nice little hop step to get past the penetrating DT in the backfield with 1:03 in the 1st QTR. Good job turning quickly on his only pass reception of the night to avoid the DB and gain 13 yards on a first down. With 8:00 in the 3rd QTR, Slaton slid away from penetration 2 yards into the backfield and getting 4 yards on a 2nd a 2. Good shoulder fake to make a penetrating defender miss in the backfield before cutting upfield on a 4-yard run on 1st and 10 with 6:51 in the game.

Balance:

Speed:

Good burst through the open lane on 1st and 10 with 5:35 in the 1st QTR.

Blocking:

Slaton made a quick block on a penetrating LB to begin the game, but it appeared more as if the LB ran into Slaton than the other way around. Slaton shielded his man on a 3rd and 10 block downfield for his QB to scramble for a 1st down.

Vision:

Slaton showed excellent patience and a spread formation hand off designed to go around the right corner on a 3rd and 3 with 13:27 in the opening QTR. The defensive line drove the right side of the line (RG and RT) 4 yards into the backfield and Slaton saw the DB with the advantage on the corner, so he cut the play between the G and T, but gained less than a yard. Good job seeing the penetration into the backfield on an I-formation run with 5:35 and also spotting the huge lane that slanted down the right side of the line which he exploited for a 14-yard gain. Slaton once again took an inside hand off out of the spread formation to find the DT 5 yards behind the LOS and two other defenders 1 and 3 yards deep into the backfield. Slaton made a good decision to plant and cut upfield for as much yardage as he could get. The result was a 1-yard loss, which really should have been a 5-yard loss. Once again, very good job to avoid the penetration 2 yards into the backfield to gain three yards up the middle on a 1st and 10 run with 1:03 in the 1st QTR. He completely missed a huge alley to the right side of the formation on a 1st and 10 run with 4:03 in the half. If the two DBs get picked up by downfield blocking as it appeared would happen, Slaton could have hit the right sideline for a huge gain. Very patient on the inside hand off out of the spread to find the soft spot up the right side of the formation and then dipping to the left for another 4 yards on an 8-yard run.

Receiving:

Slaton ran an 8-yard hitch on 3rd and 11 and the QB was late on the throw, so the LB was able to make up ground and the ball was overthrown. Slaton was the target of a swing pass to the right flat with 8:11 in the 1st QTR, but the pass was deflected at the LOS. Slaton took a pass to the left flat on a 3rd and 11 with 7:55 in the half. He caught the ball with good hands technique on a stomach-level pass while facing the QB. Slaton dropped a low pass in the flat that hit him in the hands. The RB should have made the grab but he got sloppy and did not look the ball into his hands. Slaton released down the sideline on a 1st down pass with 10:10 in the game, but the route was covered and the QB threw the ball out of bounds in the Slaton's direction on the play.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Tashard Choice

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: Miami

Overall Strengths:

UM DE Calais Campbell said Choice was the toughest RB to tackle that he faced in 2006--prior to this game. DE Chris Long from Virginia echoed Campbell's sentiments about Choice. The RB runs with good vision through smaller creases at the LOS and does not go down with arm tackles. He is a very tough runner who will lower his shoulder, drive his legs, and maintain his leverage for extra yardage. He has a decent burst and can get into the secondary on inside runs. Choice can catch the football with his hands and he is a capable pass protector, who took on one of the better DE's in college football and won the match up. He's an excellent leader in the locker room and performed very well while hurt. Choice should make an excellent back up in the NFL who is capable of producing as a situational player on a weekly basis and possibly become an effective starter in the right offensive system that employs misdirection and pulling linemen on inside runs.

Overall Weaknesses:

Choice has a decent burst, but he lacks elite acceleration and top-end speed. He has the frame to add extra weight, but he'll need to be careful not to sacrifice speed. If he can do this he has the skills to be a good starting quality back at the next level. At this point he's a chain-moving back with an all-around game to be a valuable depth chart player--a better version of Marcel Shipp or possibly, Maurice Morris at the start of his career. He's an Emmitt Smith type of runner in terms of style, but it's difficult to put Choice in that category of actual talent. If he demonstrates consistent speed to the corner in the NFL, he could really surprise. I just didn't see that kind of speed on film. It appeared he was getting to the corner on very well-blocked plays.

Power:

Choice lowered his shoulder and took the safety head-on during his 3rd and 7 swing pass. He bounced off the safety and gain another 5 yards for the first down. Although choice was untouched for 4 yards on his 7-yard run with 7:55 in the 1st QTR, he did generate enough power to lean through the initial hit and gain 3 more yards. Choice gained 3 on a 3rd and 2 with 1:07 in the half against 9 men in the box. He was hit at the LOS and still squeezed for three extra yards by staying low. He ran through an arm tackle 1 yard behind the LOS with 14:17 in the 3rd QTR before nearly running through the LB's tackle for a 5-yard gain. He ran out of an arm tackle in the hole on a 9-yard gain from the I-formation through a small crease off RG made by his lead blocker with 10:25 in the 3rd QTR. Good leg drive to power through the hit at the LOS and push forward for the first down on a 2nd and 1 with 9:40 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

On the first drive Choice demonstrated the ability to carry the ball with either arm. He had the ball under the sideline arm on his 17-yard gain. Good job switching the ball to the arm away from the pursuit as he cleared the 2nd level on his 54-yard run. Went 341 carries without a fumble.

Elusiveness:

On a 1-yard gain with 11:50 in the 1st QTR, Choice made a nice quick cut to the inside of the penetration in the backfield. Choice makes good quick cuts and demonstrated a decent burst through the hole on a 3-yard gain with 1:49 in the 1st QTR. On 2nd and 10 with 13:50 in the half, Choice tried to go off RG, but the DT got penetration into the backfield. Choice did a good job bouncing the run outside of the penetration for a 2-yard gain rather than a 1-yard loss. He consistently did a nice job of making the first player penetrating into the backfield miss on runs in the first half--even if he only gained minimal yardage on the play. Strong, stop-start cut in the hole to find a lane up the middle that angled towards the backside for a 4-yard gain with 10:00 in the game. Nice stutter step to the outside to get 15-yards to the left flat against the safety coming up at the edge of the defense with 8:36 in the game.

Balance:

There were three plays in the first half where Choice ran into someone head-on and did not go down upon contact. Good balance. He nearly ran through the LB's tackle from an indirect angle with 14:15 in the 3rd QTR. He bounced away from the hit and the LB couldn't wrap up, but Choice couldn't maintain his balance. Excellent job setting up a move around the corner on a 14-yard run where he ran through a hit to his leg in the flat and gained another 7 yards.

Speed:

Choice demonstrated a decent burst through the hole on a 3-yard gain with 1:49 in the 1st QTR. Choice's two outside runs in the first half were so well-blocked it was difficult to determine whether he had the outside speed to get to the corner on a consistent basis. His second run was an 8-yard run with 3:09 in the half. Only the OLB had a chance to get to the corner, but he was late getting the area and Choice went untouched for the 8-yard gain until he ran out of bounds. Choice ran with a noticeable stiffness and slowness to his gait on his 54-yard run. Although he ran away from a safety, he had to bounce off a hit from S Kenny Phillips and was brought down 10 yards later by the CB. If healthy, he might have had a 69-yard TD. He did beat the defense around the edge of the defense on 3-4 runs in the game.

Blocking:

Although he went too low on the block, he knocked the DE off his feet on a cut block with 14:53 in the half. His next cut block was much better from a technique standpoint with 13:52 in the half. Nice job helping out with a stand up block of the DE on 1st and 10 with 10:27 in the game.

Vision:

Choice's 17-yard gain with 12:43 in the 1st QTR came out of a shotgun set with the leadblocker split off the LOS behind the RT. Choice followed the lead blocker through a huge hole off LG and gained 17 yards without a defender within a yard of him until he ran out of bounds. Choice's 7-yard gain with 7:55 in the 1st QTR was off an other well-executed run play with lead blocking off LG and the linemen getting to the LB's. On the next play, the same call where Choice gained 17 yards, went for a 1-yard loss as Miami didn't allow the same play to fool them. Although he only gained 3 yards, he made an excellent cut off the pulling RG on a run play off LG with 1:49 in the 1st QTR. Good patience to allow two pulling blocks to develop on a 3-yard run with on the last play of the 1st QTR. Excellent patience on pulling block off C and RG to split the small seam and go 54 yards on the play on a 2nd and 10 to start the second half. He also did well to veer away from the pursuing safety, which helped him gain another 15 yards. He made a nice cut back off a developing block by the pulling guard on a run with 12:40 in the 3rd QTR. He had only a minimal gain, but the decision was a good one based on the positioning of the defenders at the point of attack. Good patience and decision making for Choice on a consistent basis. He runs counter plays very well in this offense.

Receiving:

Choice gained 13-yards on a 3rd and 7 swing pass. He caught the ball with his hands, turned upfield and ran through a tackle for the first down. The QB undrew a screen pass on 2nd and 7 with 12:00 in the half.

Durability:

Came into this game with a hamstring injury. He also played all but one game despite getting knee surgery in the middle of the season.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Tashard Choice

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: Notre Dame

Overall Strengths:

Choice has good vision and feet. He gains yardage after contact and runs through arm tackles effectively. He's very good at protecting the football. He is a slashing runner with quickness to the hole and enough speed to get to the edge more times than not, although he needs good blocking to be confident about reaching that edge. He sets up his blocks effectively and catches the ball well with his hands. Choice should stick as a depth chart player in the NFL, but unless he improves his strength and long speed, he won't be able to capitalize on his excellent vision in the same way at the next level. He's a solid all-around option with above average vision. He has a chance to develop as the Ravens-Vikings RB, Chester Taylor or Falcons Warrick Dunn--a sneak strong runner with good movement and excellent vision.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's not extremely fast. He is more apt to keep his runs inside rather than bounce them out when there is an opportunity for a speedier back. He only had three runs of over 25 yards in 2006. He is not extremely powerful and will not run over a player in the 1st or 2nd level of the defense. If he's wrapped up well, he may drag a player for a few yards if he keeps his pad level low, but he won't shed the player. He doesn't accelerate as well after he stops his momentum. Behind a great offensive line in the NFL or a Broncos style blocking scheme, Choice could be a 1000-yard rusher. His desire to block is good, but he needs more coaching on how to set and deliver a blow. He also doesn't judge angles very well and can get taken off balance easily by the average defender. Choices early work on blocking will likely be the difference between him sticking to an NFL roster as a #2 or #3 RB or bouncing around to practice squads during his initial attempts to play as a pro.

Power:

Choice gained 21 yards on his first run. Although he was untouched for 15 yards, he did a great job lowering his pads and bulling into the DBs on the sideline when he didn't see a cut back to the inside. He finished the run by driving his legs after the initial hit and leaning for another 6 yards. Choice is the type of runner who will twist and turn his body to finish runs after he's initially wrapped up by a defender. On a 1st down run with 8:32 in the 1st QTR he angled his body after a direct hit to back into the line for a minimal gain that could have easily resulted in a loss. He wasn't powerful enough to run over the defender, but he did make the most of a bad situation. He nearly twisted away from a tackle on a run to the left where the tackler latched onto his ball-carrying arm. He consistently lowers his head and shoulders in the hole to gain extra yardage after contact. When running north south, he is capable of getting 3-5 extra yards after a hit on a regular basis. He gained 9 yards in the second half on a run up the middle where 4 of those yards came after he was grabbed by an LB in the hole. He did an excellent job leaning forward and driving his legs. His second score was a run up the middle on a tired defense where he broke 3 arm tackles up the middle for a 7-yard play.

Ball Handling:

On the run to the right side, he maintained the ball in his inside arm at the sideline. He did use his outside arm on the next run. He did a nice job keeping the ball in the outside arm on his 18 yard run in the 1st QTR. Choice did a nice job of maintained a tight grip on the ball when the defender at the line of scrimmage on a 1st and 10 run with 3:00 in the 1st QTR tried to pry the ball loose. He only lost one fumble on 297 attempts in 2006. He did a good job tucking the ball under the outside arm on his 3rd reception of the day--a swtng pass to the left with 4:30 in the 3rd QTR.

Eisiveness:

Choice makes very quick cuts when running in the open field. He took his first pass for 15 yards after cutting inside of a block downfield. His cut on the play wasn't at a sharp angle, but the cut was very sudden. On 1st and 10 with 12:30 in the half, Choice made a strong cutback from two yards outside the hash to a yard inside the hash as he gained 9 yards up the middle of the ND defense. He's a one cut runner by style.

Balance:

Good balance on the first run to maintain his body lean on the first hit to his thighs at the sideline and drive forward. Again demonstrated excellent body lean on a cut back run to the inside of the single back formation with 12:25 in the 1st QTR and gaining 3-4 extra yards after contact. He ran out of an arm tackle by a DL on the next run as he started inside and cut back to the outside when he was in the hole.

Speed:

Choice demonstrated good speed around the corner on his first run of the game. The Yellow Jackets pulled the offensive line to the left side out of a formation where there were three backs in the backfield in smiliar formation the Green Bay Packers use on run plays. Choice ran past the open defender on the edge and went untouched down the sideline for 15 yards before he was brought down at the 9 yard line for a 21-yard gain. On 2nd and 7 with 8:42 in the 1st QTR, Choice took a hand off to the right where his line was pulling and got the corner, beating #40 Maurice Crum who got free but not fast enough to cut off the edge. Choice gained 18 on the run. He can get dragged down from behind by 1st and 2nd level players, but he does hit the hole hard. He just doesn't accelerate as quickly after he changes his direction. Choice's longest run was a 44-yard scamper on a 3rd down trap play that caught ND off guard. He had excellent blocking downfield which helped him get down the sideline before he was caught from behind by a DB.

Blocking:

On a 3rd and goal to open the game, Choice got his body onto a blitzing defender to give his QB time on the right side of the formation. It wasn't a clean hit, but enough to alter the LB's course to the QB. Unfortunately, the right tackle missed his pick up of the blitzing safety and let the DB through untouched for an easy sack. With 3:05 in the opening quarter, Choice took on a DE on a long sideline fade pass attempt. He got into the body of the DE, but was driven back a yard and nearly knocked to the ground. He needs to learn to deliver his block with a pop or else he will get overpowered in these situations. On 3rd and 11 on the same drive, Choice attempted to chip the DE coming free from a block, but really didn't take a great angle to hit him flush. On a play action pass with 2:55 in the half, Choice had no one to block so he took a shot at a DL trying to get off the ground after getting cut by the offensive lineman. Choice made sure he didn't get up. Choice completely whiffed on a corner blitz. He spotted the assignment and set his feet too early when he bit on the CB's jab step to the outside before cutting back to the inside. Choice only got a hand on him as he tried to change his momentum when the CB ran inside of him. Choice did a better job on the next play, but the defender did not set up Choice with a fake.

Vision:

Choice took a direct snap on the second offensive possession of the 1st QTR and followed his pulling guard. The DE on the right side did a good job squeezing the play back to the inside and Choice had no other decision than to try to squeeze between the DE and the DT to get to the open area on the right sideline, but the backside pressure caught up with him before he could gain more than 3 yards. It was a good decision on the part of Choice. He did enough on his 18 yard run to the outside to give a bit of an impression he'd cut it into the line, before accelerating to the edge. With 8:16 in the 1st, he took a hand off designed to go around the right end, but the FB missed his assignment on the MLB. Choice saw the free MLB lurking behind his lead block at the line and cut the play back to the inside for a minimal gain. He had more space to possibly defeat the LB one on one, but didn't appear confident in his speed to get the edge. He has noticeably good vision in the hole. He cut a 2nd and 1 run back to the outside while in the hole for about 8-9 yards. Although the blocking was good, many of the holes he ran through for yardage gains over 4 yards required patience and setting up his blockers ahead of him. These weren't all gaping holes inside. Choice scored on a direct snap where he had 3 lanes and he sensed the outside lane had the greatest space and ran to daylight down the sideline untouched for 22 yards and the score with 2:44 left in the half.

Receiving:

His first catch was a flare to the right side in the flat coming out of a 3-WR formation where he was lined next to the QB in the shotgun. He caught the ball with his hands and allowed the pass to travel over his shoulder. The QB side armed a short throw to Choice on 2nd and goal with 1:55 left in the opening QTR, but the play was well covered. Choice caught the ball facing the QB and the defender immediately hit the RB in the back after making the reception and drove him back for a loss. Choice's third catch was a short swing pass to the left side which he caught with his arms extended above his head. He easily brought the ball into his body and took off downfield for an 8-yard gain.

Durability:

He is a compact runner who runs with an economy of movement.

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Overall Score:

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Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
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Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

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Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

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Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

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Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

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Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
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Game Stats

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1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Thomas Brown

Date: 1/2/2006

Opponent: West Virginia

Overall Strengths:

This game was against the 8th best defense in the nation. Brown demonstrated very strong pass protection skills. He's an aggressive hitter who sustains his blocks. Brown has good balance for his size and excellent speed. He's very strong for his height and won't go down with an arm tackle. His extra effort, aggressive play, and strong fundamentals will likely earn him a roster spot as a runner on an NFL team. He will be capable of surprisingly good production at the very least in spot duty. He could make an early contribution as a complementary runner or 3rd down back on a strong offense.

Overall Weaknesses:

Brown tore his ACL as a junior. He managed to come back in record time, but he was still regaining his acceleration and long speed. Because he has shared time with several backs over the years, the question will be whether he can be a primary back in the NFL, much less an effective inside runner.

Power:

Brown cleared the hole on a 3rd and 2 short yardage run with the WVU stacking the line. He was three yards past the line of scrimmage when he lowered his shoulder into the LB and the LB slid off him as Brown gained an extra two yards on the play. He is very strong for his size and has very good body lean to finish a run. On a 1st and 10 with 13:49 remaining Brown took the hand off up the middle, lowered his shoulder into the right shoulder of the DT in the hole and managed to gain an extra four yards as the DT struggled to hold on and final drag him down. Pretty impressive power for an RB of this size.

Ball Handling:

He did not switch the ball to the sideline arm on his first run on the opening drive. He did not switch the ball to the sideline arm on this touchdown run. Brown fumbled on a 3rd and 1 where he went into the line with both hands around the ball, but his elbows loose. It was clear the ball was not adequately protected and the moment the LB hit the RB in the chest, the ball flew out.

Eisiveness:

Brown runs with a wiggle. His tempo and body movement is very fast even when he takes choppy steps. He did a well to dip out of traffic to the soft spot of the line on his first run on the opening drive of the game. Very good job dipping away from the outside pursue before hitting the hole on a 3rd and 2 with 3:32 in the opening quarter. Brown, like Slaton knows how to make himself small and dive through small holes in short yardage situations.

Balance:

Brown's balance earned him the 52-yard touchdown run. He took an inside handoff out of the spread formation, ran through a hole between the LG and C and lowered his shoulder into an LB getting blocked down by a lineman. He kept his balance as he ran over the top of the defender while another hit him in the left hip. Brown kept his feet, bounced it outside and his speed took him the distance. Brown got hit hard by penetration in the backfield but managed to spin away and still gain two yards through the middle of the defense.

Speed:

Brown demonstrated great speed on his 52-yard touchdown run with 9:00 in the half. He accelerated at the 45 yard line and split two defenders ahead of him on either side. He was past both of them 10 yards later and outran them by 5 yards by the time he was in the endzone.

Blocking:

Brown got into the LB on a pass block off a playfake, but the LB was going over the top of Brown. So as the RB lifted him into the air, the LB batted down the QB's pass. Brown will attack first as a blocker. He made an excellent block that saved the QB from getting sacked with 2:33 in the 1st QTR. The LB came through the gap untouched and Brown met him with a solid hit and did not allow the LB to release. This allowed the QB to sidestep the rush, look downfield, and then run for a 9-yard gain. Another very strong block on the edge rusher one on one that stopped the LB in his tracks and allowed the QB to deliver a pass to the sideline for the first down. Very aggressive block. Excellent cut block on an untouched defender with the angle to Shockley. This block helped the QB throw in the direction of the blitz for a score with 1:00 in the half.

Vision:

Good patience behind the line to spot the cut back and slide through for a few yards with 9:45 in the half.

Receiving:

Brown got good depth on his route to set up the screen pass, but the the QB overthrew the route. Brown leaped to get a hand on the ball, but wasn't close to bringing it in. Brown's first catch was at the 8:05 mark of the 3rd QTR. He lined up in the spread formation and circled out of the backfield before settling underneath the zone. He he caught the ball with his hands while facing the QB. He made a very quick turn to elude the oncoming DB about to hit him in the back and turned upfield. He lowered his shoulders and accelerated through two defenders to pass the first down marker and get three extra yards. Brown's second catch and run was even more impressive. With 7:07 in the 3rd (the same drive) he released from the spread formation to the left side flat. He caught the ball with his hands but angling back to the QB. He turned upfield in stride as the DB grabbed Brown's shoulders. Brown leaned through the tackle attempt and planted his free hand on the ground while falling forward. He managed to keep his legs moving and ran back to an upright position to meet a second DB head-on. Brown was lower than the DB so he delivered the blow first and leaned through the second tackle and stretched two yards across the first down marker. Excellent balance and second effort.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Tim Hightower

Date: 12/7/2007

Opponent: Appalachian State

Overall Strengths:

He has a decent short burst and some explosion out of his initial cuts. Hightower can plant and cut very well and make some agile dips to the outside. He has good vision as an inside runner who can cut in the hole or bounce it outside. He has balance to spin out of hits and protects the football with both arms when he finishes runs. I think he has a shot to develop into a depth chart RB.

Overall Weaknesses:

Despite his improvements in the speed department, he lacks that second gear. He carries the ball with only with his right arm regardless of the direction he's running. If he continues to develop at the rate he did in college he could be a starter one day, but that's not very likely.

Power:

Good body lean on his first run off LG for 3 yards against 8 men in the box to start the game. He almost stiffarmed the all-american DB to the ground on a play he tried to bounced outside with in the 1st QTR, but was tackled by the ankles. He ran through an ankle tackle from penetration into the backfield on a 1st and 10 sweep to the right edge with 14:27 for a minimal gain as he went out of bounds as the gaps were filled by the defense. Good job running over the DB at the end of the 19-yard gain a few plays after his 25-yard gain on the opening drive of the 2nd half. Even when hit in the backfield, his body lean is good enough for him to try to drive his legs forward and at least fall forward. He completely whiffed on a stiff arm at the end of the screen pass.

Ball Handling:

Good job carrying the ball with both arms as he lowered his head into defender off left guard for 3 yards to begin the game. He carries the ball with his right arm consistently. He should have switched the ball to his left arm on the 25-yard cutback to start the 2nd half, but neglected to do so. At the same time, he covers the ball with both arms when he prepares for contact to finish the run.

Elasticity:

He has a pretty good plant and dip step to get outside, although on the play he displayed it the blocking didn't help him out at the left edge and he had to lower his shoulder into the LB for a 2-yard loss with 9:27 in the 1st QTR. With 7:00 in the half, he made a nice move to plant and cut away from the penetration into the backfield and burst into the crease off RG for a 1-yard gain rather than a 3-yard loss. He made a nice plant and cut and another lateral dip to the outside on his 25-yard run. Very sharp, slashing move in the hole on 1st and 10 with 11:44 in the 3rd QTR. He was in the hole off RG the slashed to the left for an extra 4 yards for a 6-yard gain.

Balance:

He gained 8 yards after getting hit head-on in the hole and spinning away from the tackle. He ran out of two hits on his 17-yard run after the screen pass with 9:17 in the game. One of the hits came from the backside and spun him around. The other was more of an arm tackle that he ran past.

Speed:

The RB did not look like he had a very quick first step when he tried to bounce the play outside on a 2nd and 10 with 11:24 in the 1st QTR. He has been bothered by a sore knee in recent weeks. The story on Hightower is that he improved his speed dramatically from one year to the next. His coach claimed he's never seen a player improve his speed this dramatically before. Hightower supposed runs a 40 in the high 4.4's to low 4.5's rather than the 4.6's he ran before his senior year. He worked on his stride with yoga, pilates, and running hurdles to develop better technique and speed. He showed a very nice burst to the right of the C on a 2nd and 10 run from the single back 2 TE set with 2:09 in the half for a gain for 8 yards. He did the same thing on a 4th and 2 for a 4-yard gain and a 1st down. The RB demonstrated a good burst to get through the 1st and 2nd level of the defense on his 25-yard run off the backside hole to open the 2nd half. He still doesn't appear to have that top-end speed as he was dragged down by a DB in pursuit. He hits the hole pretty hard when he sees an opening. He gained 19 yards a few plays later in the same series as his 25-yard gain and most of it came off his burst. He has a short area burst, but he still seems to have difficulty maintaining that pace after 10-15 yards of running.

Blocking:

He mostly released from the backfield as a receiver in passing situations, but on 3rd and 2 with 1:25 he spotted the DE coming free from a block by the TE. Hightower squared his shoulders and delivered a solid hit to the DE, but could not sustain the block. The DE slid off the block and got enough pressure to force the QB to step up and eventually get sacked. It was a good effort by the RB and it gave the QB a chance to get rid of the ball. It wasn't much of a block, but he did get a push on a DB downfield when he saw his QB breaking the pocket. It was a heads up play that helped, but nothing punishing in terms of a hit.

Vision:

The RB tried to bounce the run outside on a 2nd and 10 with 11:24 in the opening QTR, but he was brought down for a 1-yard gain. He would have at least gotten a few more in the direction he was heading with better blocking, but was drawn to the open space on the backside. Good vision and reaction to elude the penetration into the middle of the backfield and find a crease for a 1-yard gain with 7:00 in the half. Very good job spotting the cutback on a run where he read the zone blocking and cut back off C and RG. Very good job pressing the hold on the opening run of the 2nd half and spotting the cutback lane off LT for a 25-yard gain. Very decisive move through the hole off LG for a 19-yard gain a few plays later. Nice job turning the screen pass to the inside of the field and running across field to open space for a 17-yard gain.

Receiving:

He has 31 receptions this year. Very good job catching the football with his hands on a screen pass. He did some very good open field running to gain 17-yards on thye play with 9:16 in the 3rd QTR. Good job defending what looked like an easy interception in the flat with 4:41 in the game. He batted the ball away at the last second as the defender jumped the route.

Durability:

Playing with a sore knee--technically a stretched knee ligament for the past four games, but it is the playoffs.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Tony Temple

Date: 12/1/2007

Opponent: Oklahoma

Overall Strengths:

Temple is a runner with a god variety of jump cuts, spin moves, and lateral cuts. He has decent quickness to the edge and hits the hole hard. He finishes runs with decent leverage and will attempt to deliver a blow against bigger runners. He has good balance. He has a chance to become a solid reserve if he can stay healthy, but it's not likely he'll catch on with a team right away.

Overall Weaknesses:

Temple wasn't used as a receiver at all in this game. The Missouri run offense is predicated off very wide line splits and Temple benefits from massive gaps to run through. He follows his blockers well on most plays, but in tighter gaps he is prone to making the wrong choice or lacking patience. He lacks great power and tackle-breaking skills. He wasn't used often as a blocker. There is a lot that is unproven about Temple's game based on this film study. He's missed extensive time due to injuries--none that should hamper him as pro.

Power:

He demonstrated enough of a stiff arm on his run around left end in the 1st QTR to gain 3-4 extra yards by warding off the LB just long enough to get around the corner. Temple kept his pad level low on a run for 6 yards with 5:15 in the 1st QTR. This helped him gain two extra yards as the DT jumped on his back in the hole. Temple has a tendency to try to spin away from defenders in the hole. Missouri lines up with very broad splits, which creates bigger rushing lanes. Temple tries to take advantage of this by delivering a blow and spinning away when he meets up with an LB in the hole as he did with 11:57 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling:

Temple had the ball under his sideline arm on second run, an attempt he bounced outside to left end. As he went of right guard on a 6-yard run, he carried the ball under his right (sideline arm).

Elusiveness:

Good little lateral jump cut from LG to left end to get outside on his first run for 6 yards with 6:56 in the 1s QTR. Very good jump cut at the end of the hole on a 7-yard run. He made the LB miss at the 1st down mark as he made a strong stop and lateral cut to the left--the same direction in which the LB was coming from. He demonstrated the ability to make a fluid spin move, but didn't time it well enough for it to be effective in gaining yardage with 13:03 in the half. Temple made a nice lateral move to bounce a run to the outside with 2:07 in the 3rd QTR. If he doesn't make this move, he loses 2 yards rather than gaining three.

Balance:

At the end of his 7-yard run with 4:33 in the 1st QTR, he was hit head-on, but managed to stay upright until the DB slid down his leg and dropped the RB. Good balance to stiff-arm the DT penetrating into the backfield and at least get a bit closer to the LOS on the play with 4:00 in the 1st QTR. The fact he stayed upright was a testament to his balance. He remained upright after lowering his shoulder on a DB at the sideline on a 3-yard run that he had to bounce outside to get positive yardage with 2:07 in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

He showed a bit of explosiveness out of his cut on a run off RG with 5:15 in the 1st QTR. The lane at the LOS was pretty wide, but he attacked it hard. He was able to gain 6 yards on the play. He hits the hole hard, but I'm not sure he has a very strong burst. There was a run with 13:41 in the half where he appeared to have a big gap off RG, but he couldn't split the defense and was brought down for a 3-yard gain.

Blocking:

Temple aggressively delivered a blow to the chest of the LB on a pass play from the shotgun to begin the game. He didn't knock the LB down, but he did stop the defender's forward progress with the blow.

Vision:

Temple did a good job following the pulling guard on his first run from the shotgun with 11:32 in the 1st QTR, but as Temple approached the lane the DE pushed the RT into the backfield and threw the lineman to the side to wrap up the RB from the backside for no gain. The RB gained 6yards on 1st and 10 on a play he bounced from LG to the corner, but if he followed his to pulling linemen, they were in great position to seal off the second level of the defense and Temple potentially had a much bigger gain if he stayed patient and disciplined. Both the 6 and 7-yard runs around the 5-minute mark the 1st QTR were through large caps in the defense caused by the pulling guard and the spread formation that forced the OU defense to play nickel. On 2nd and 2, Temple had a large enough gap to get the 1st down off RG, but instead of running through the DB shooting low and getting at least 3-4 yards, he tried to put a spin move on the DB, who hit Temple and knocked him a yard shy of the 1st down. While outrunning the LB to the corner on a 1st and 10 with 12:40 in the half, he did not show the patience to allow his pulling G to hit the LB so Temple could cut the run back to the inside for a potentially larger gain. He's small enough with a low center of gravity to generate good yardage when he gets very close to his pulling G and C, which is the staple play from the spread formation in this Missouri offense. He gained 7 yards using this technique with 10:29 in the 3rd QTR. He made a good decision on a 3-yard loss with 1:06 in the 3rd QTR. The only chance he had to gain yardage on this play was to attempt to reverse his field, but even then, he would have to outrun the MLB with a good angle. He saw the gaps getting filled and tried to bounce the run outside which allowed him to beat the penetration of one player that would have been a loss of 5 yards and then quickly attempted to cut the play upfield when he got outside of that first penetration into the backfield.

Receiving:

Not used at all in this game.

Durability:

Ankle injury that cost him a season and a shoulder injury requiring surgery.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Power Score :

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Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Tony Temple

Date: 1/1/2008

Opponent: Arkansas

Overall Strengths:

Temple has good balance in the open field, a pretty good stiff arm, and enough burst to get to the second or third level of the defense. He sets up his blocks effectively and shows some patience. He runs low to the ground and will break tackles in one on one situations. If he demonstrates the ability to block and catch the football, he could be a quality role player in an NFL offense.

Overall Weaknesses:

He lacks great speed, dynamic lateral movement, and he sees a lot of great holes due to an offensive system that spreads out the opponent's defense much like the Texas Tech system and their huge line splits. He didn't have to do much to anticipate the opening of holes--most of his openings were huge. Although powerful for his size, he is not a punishing runner. His blocking and receiving are unproven based on this game.

Power:

Temple was dragged down from behind by the LB on a run out of the spread when the defense blitzed from both sides with 9:06 in the 1st QTR. The LB was able to get one hand around the RB's waist and stop his progress for a 4-yard loss. Nice job getting low and running with enough lean on a 3-yard gain off guard to slide off most of the tackle attempt by the DT. Temple did fall down on the run, but not before gaining 3 yards with a much bigger player hanging onto him. Excellent stiff arm with his right arm to finish off the DB at the sideline to get into the endzone on his 22-yard run with 2:31 in the 1st QTR. He used a stiff arm with his left arm to knock down a defender on his next 22-yard run in the 1st QTR to the right sideline. He makes it a practice to drive his legs after he's wrapped up. Although he only gained 2 yards on 1st and 10 with 6:15 in the half, he turned his back after the hit at the LOS and kept moving his legs, moving the pile for 2 yards. He ran through a tackle at the sideline about 20 yards downfield on a 38-yard run with 4:40 in the half. The defender tried to grab his legs, but could only get one and slipped off Temple as the RB pushed him off with his free hand. Temple ran through a tackle and leaned over the line for a 4-yard score on the next play. He used a stiff arm to ward the safety off him until he got past the defender. It was only then that the DB could grab his leg. By that time Temple had the angle to the goal line and leaned across. He also finished his 19-yard run to start the 3rd QTR by lowering his shoulder into the DB at the sideline and broke the tackle for an extra 3 yards. On his 40-yard core with 8:34 in the game, he stiff armed the DB to the ground about 15 yards downfield and then spun out of a tackle at 25 yards downfield before outrunning the field for the score.

Ball Handling:

Temple carried the ball under his left arm (sideline arm) during the 22-yard run with 2:31 in the 1st QTR. He carried the ball under his right arm on his second 22-yard run in the 1st QTR. He consistently used the correct sideline arm depending on the direction of his run during the first half. He lost the ball during an 8-yard run with 9:15 in the 3rd QTR. He was hit head-on and into the football. As he was trying to make a second effort to gain more yardage he was hit again and the defender punched the ball out.

Elusiveness:

Temple isn't an extremely dynamic openfield runner. He had one man to beat over top on a 22-yard run with 6:05 in the half. A good open field runner will string two moves together to set the defender up and make him miss. Temple could not do this. He telegraphed where he was going with one move and that move was made from more than 5 yards away from the defender. Good stop-start move behind the LOS on a run to the left side that froze the defensive penetration enough for him to help the blockers in front of him create a lane to the outside for a 5-yard gain. Nice subtle move to turn his shoulders away from the backside pursuit through the hole for a 4-yard score up the middle. He made a nice stop-start cut in the backfield to the turn the play up the gap between RG and RT for 5 yards. He can make small, quick cuts in the hole. He did this with 9:35 in the 3rd QTR with a stutter step and dip to the inside of a lineman to get 14 yards and a first down.

Balance:

Good balance to stay upright after a hard shot by the DB as he went out of bounds. Excellent balance to take a hard hit by the safety 15 yards downfield and still stay upright and move forward for another 7. The hit was under his chinstrap and could be heard in the stands. Good balance to spin out of a tackle attempt while at full speed.

Speed:

Temple appears to have a decent burst through the hole. It's a bit difficult to gauge how good it is because of the huge line splits that are opening large lanes for the RB to run through without getting hit until he's in the 2nd and 3rd level of the defense. Temple outran the angle of the LB 20 yards downfield along the right sideline. He demonstrated enough speed to run past the MLB at the left corner for 38 yards. Once again he got the corner for a 1st down on a 19-yard run off the right side to start the second half. Although he has speed to get around the corner and a burst, he lacks a great second gear. He didn't beat any angles with his 40-yard score with 8:34 in the game, but he ran through two tackles and dragged the third tackler a few yards for the score after the defender made up ground.

Blocking:

He wiffed on a cut block on the edge rusher on the right side during a pass to the left flat with 9:18 in the 1st QTR. Temple lowered his head too quickly and dove at the defender's legs too early.

Vision:

The Mizzou line has such huge splits that Temple had massive lanes to run through much of the day. His first gain with 9:20 in the 1st QTR was a 9-yard run from his spot right of the QB in the spread to the left side of the field, going untouched until he reached the sideline after gaining 8 yards. Temple got three excellent blocks from his RT, who pulled along with the RG on a 22-yard run for a score in the 1st QTR. The RT pushed a shooting LB to the ground as he pulled left, then got a hand on an LB from the outside as Temple rode the RT's hip 4 yards downfield until the RT took on the safety, which sprung the RB outside for another 11 yards before the downfield blocking by the receivers got him the remaining 7 yards to the endzone. Temple lost 12 yards on the opening run of the 2nd QTR when the Arkansas defense filled the gaps very well. The RB did not make a decision to cut the play inside to get whatever he could and his desire to try to get outside forced him backwards and into a big loss. On Temple's 40-yard run with 9:35 in the half, the hole off the right side was so big, he went untouched for 20 yards. In fact the the left guard didn't see another Razorback in front of him for 12 yards as he pulled downfield and was still looking for someone to hit 20 yards downfield. Temple showed enough patience to allow his pulling LT to get a block on the second level and open a wide hole off RG for him to run through untouched for 22 yards with 6:07 in the half. Temple made a nice move to press the hole to the inside, then dip outside to gain a step on the LB and get by him at the left corner for a 38-yard gain with 4:40 in the half. He as consistently patient with runs with his pulling guards and tackles. He set his blockers up very well in the 1st half.

Receiving:

Durability:

Missed nearly an entire year with an ankle injury forcing him to redshirt.

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Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
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Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:
Vision Score:
Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :
Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :
Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :
Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :
Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Game Stats

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
1st Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Xavier Omon

Date: 12/15/2007

Opponent: Valdosta State

Overall Strengths:

Omon compares himself to Willis McGahee and his coaches talk about his skill sets being comparable to Joseph Addai. I see Omon more as a Joseph Addai type in terms of his quick feet, good lateral movement, and balance. He had good quickness and vision and protects the ball very well. He is a polished receiver with good hands on routes in the flat and screen passes. Omon runs with good leg drive. It takes more than one player to bring him down and he runs through arm tackles with little difficulty. He demonstrates good fundamentals with ball protection. The best comparison I can make to a back right now might be former Georgia Southern star and current Chicago Bear, Adrian Peterson. A good all-around player who is capable of solid performances for a team, but is not a superstar. But I think he might have a chance to be better than Peterson at the NFL level, because he is quicker.

Overall Weaknesses:

Omon lacks top end speed. He has a decent burst, but he will get caught from behind by the 2nd and 3rd level of the defense without a bit of a headstart. He's not an angle breaker in terms of his speed. There were points in this game where he got frustrated and did not take what little the defense was giving him at the time. Omon got tripped up in the open field several times in this game.

Power:

Good body lean and leg drive to drag the DT and LB an extra 3 yards on a 6-yard gain with 6:40 in the 1st QTR. It takes more than one player to tackle Omon in the hole. Valdosta state did a good job gang tackling Omon in the 1st QTR. Omon effectively stiff armed the LB at the left end of the defense after making a lateral cut to bounce his run outside. He was able to use the stiff arm to get enough distance from the LB to turn the corner at the LOS and gain six yards. Excellent leg drive as he exploded into the safety into the hole and drove him backwards over the first down marker. Good pad level and leverage on a 4th and 1 situation. He actually got more yardage than the officials credited on his forward progress, but he did get the 1st down. Good job leaning forward from 2-yards out for the score with 12:30 in the game. He was hit at the LOS but extended his body while protecting the football to get across the goal line.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball under his sideline arm.

Elasticity:

Excellent lateral cut back to the inside of a DE getting penetration 3 yards behind the LOS on 2nd and 7 with 1:34 in the 1st QTR. He was able to run through the tackle by cutting inside and the spinning out of the grasp and running over the DE for a 3-yard gain rather than a 3-yard loss. He was dropped for a 6-yard loss on a 1st and 10 with 8:26 in the half because the 312-lb, NT was literally in Omon's face before the RB could take a step. Omon tried to spin out of the tackle, but the LB came in to help clean up the play. With 5:20 in the half Omon made a very quick lateral cut to the left corner and inside the penetrating DE to get the edge and gain of 6 yards. Omon made two very nice lateral cuts on an 11-yard run with 9:34 in the 3rd QTR. He made one move behind the line of scrimmage to cut inside of the outside penetration and a second cut in the hole to exploit the lane to the left hash. Good quickness on 1st and 20 with 8:41 in the 3rd QTR to make a quick cut to the left after the DT got penetration 3 yards behind the LOS and directly in front of Omon has he took the handoff. He made a second move one step later to avoid the LDE who got inside of the LT and 3-yards deep into the backfield. Omon then got to the corner and made a hesitation move with his shoulders and feet to freeze the pursuing LBs and get to the outside for a 7-yard gain.

Balance:

Omon has good balance and will twist, turn, slide, and spin out of the grasp of players to get extra yards. But in this game he was brought down by ankle tackles both in the hole and the open field. He didn't go down easily on plays where he faced a player head-on with a running start, but he did get dropped on tackles from an indirect angle.

Speed:

He nearly got caught from behind by the backside DE on a 3rd and 3 run to the left corner for a 1st down with :55 in the 1st QTR. He was trying to patiently allow the hole to open before bursting through it. Omon does not have great speed. He found an opening on an 11-yard run with 9:34 in the 3rd QTR where if he had great speed, he could have taken the play 65 yards for the score. Instead he got 11 yards and was run down from behind by the LB. He demonstrated a very good burst off LG with 5:30 for 11-yards, but the TE was called for holding.

Blocking:

He delivered an effective cut block on 2nd and 17 to an LB up the middle with :33 in the 3rd QTR.

Vision:

Omon missed a huge opening in the right flat between the RG and RT and chose to plow into the softspot of the line between C and LG for a gain of 3 yards. His next run came with 6:37 in the 1st QTR. He found a small crease up the middle and burst through it to split the DT and LB for a gain of 6 yards. On 3rd and 2 with 5:36 Omon showed the patience to follow his lead FB and pulling G to the left side of the line against 9 men in the box. He cut behind the G and dove through the lane to get 3 yards on the play. Omon came very close to busting at least 3 runs for long gains in the first 16 minutes of the game but got tripped up from behind by a player beating a block as the RB made a good read of an opening hole. Omon began to get frustrated and try to bounce runs outside where the defensive line was forcing him to cut it back inside and just take what was available. He gained nothing on a 1st down run with 3:08 in the half. On the next play he was greeted 3 yards in the backfield by the DE who dominated his lineman at the snap of the ball and he lost 2 yards. The offense absolutely. Good patience by Omon to follow his pulling G to the outside on a 1st and 10 run four 4 yards with 5:40 in the game.

Receiving:

His first touch was a pass to the flat which he caught with his hands. He looks like a polished pass catcher by the way he extended his arms from this body and looked the ball into his hands although the rest of his body was facing the LOS. Omon ran a short route to the flat on 3rd and 6 with 11:30 in the 1st QTR, but was well-covered. He was late in recognizing the opportunity to break downfield as the QB rolled right and this allowed the defender to maintain tight coverage when Omon did decide to run down the sideline. This also forced the QB to hold onto the ball too long and overthrow the ball. Omon's second reception was an outlet to the right flat with :47 in the half. He accidentally stepped out of bounds trying to take it upfield. He gained six on the play, but could have had the first down with more awareness of the sideline after catching the ball. It was probably better he stepped out due to the game situation anyhow. His next catch was a swing to the right flat with 8:48 in the 3rd QTR. He caught the ball with his hands and tried to cut the pass back inside of his blocker. He gained 5 yards but the offense was called for an illegal block.

Durability:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

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Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

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Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

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Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

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Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

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The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Xavier Omon

Date: 12/8/2007

Opponent: Grand Valley State

Overall Strengths:

This was in the NCAA Division II Semi-Final Game with the right to play Valdosta State in Florence, Alabama. They had to beat two, 12-0 teams to get here and have lost the championship to these two teams. Omon is the only runner in college football history to have 4 straight 1500-yard rushing seasons. Omon has very good balance, body control, and will not go down with an arm tackle. He runs with a wiggle and has a quick first step. He catches the ball with his hands. He is a physical runner and reminds me a bit of Earnest Byner in the way he runs. Priest Holmes--who credits Byner as a mentor--is another guy he runs like, but Omon has more power. He is one of the more instinctive runners I've seen and if his quickness translates to the NFL, then he will be a contributor and one day a starter in an NFL backfield. He has very good vision and if there aren't 8 or 9 in the box he will find the opening and move the chains for a team. The only way this team stopped him tonight was getting regular penetration 2-3 yards into the backfield and loading up the box and he still regularly made the first man miss. In fact, he had two runs all night where he didn't make the first man miss!

Overall Weaknesses:

He lacks elite speed according to official measurements. He's no Ladinian Tomlinson, but he has the skills to be a productive RB for an NFL team. He may need a bit of time to get used to the speed of NFL defenses, but he has the vision, quickness, balance, and power to develop into productive pro back.

Power:

Omon gained 7 yards after contact on his first run by lowering his shoulder and driving his legs while 4 defenders attempted to ride him to the ground. He was met in the hole by two DL's on a delay and kept his legs moving with good body lean to gain 3 yards. Omon has good body lean to finish runs. When he makes contact with a defender or runs into traffic with no hole, he will spin, twist and fight for every inch of space. He did this on a 2nd and 13 draw with 3:30. Omon gained 15 with 2:28 left and 5 of those yards came after lowering his head and giving a ride to the safety. Omon's first score was a 33-yard run off an inside hand off out of the spread formation. He dipped to the left, broke an arm tackle around the corner and then cut it back to the middle and across the field, breaking another arm tackle for the score. When he ran out of an ankle tackle on his 25-yard run with 13:01 in the 3rd QTR, he actually popped the safety with an elbow to the helmet first. He had a 22-yard run with 2:20 in the 3rd QTR where he dragged two players for another 6 yards and spun out of one of the player's grasp while towing the other with his legs still pumping the entire time.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball under his outside arm on the first run. He routinely used the outside arm depending on the direction of his run. He was equally comfortable carrying the ball with either arm. He keeps the ball very close to his body and did not have issues with ball protection despite a lot of players attempting to rip it from him.

Elusiveness:

Omon has the ability to give and take away a leg. On a run up the middle with 2:35 in the 1st QTR, he followed his TE as the lead blocker and went between the hole made by the TE and the C. The MLB charged through the hole and keyed on Omon's left leg, but Omon made a very subtle move to angle his leg away from the LB's grasp while on the run and this allowed him to get through the hole untouched. He has a wiggle to his running style when in the hole. On 1st and 10 from the 45, he took a hand off to go off tackle to the right side. The pulling guard completely missed his block on the outside linebacker who met Omon two yards in the backfield. Omon planted and cut to the inside of the LB. Leaving him grabbing air and followed the same pulling guard who found a safety and knocked him to the ground, so Omon got the corner and a 16-yard gain. At the first down marker he made a good spin move off his WR's block to get the extra 6 yards. This is on a field where there's a noticeable coating of ice and the offensive linemen have had trouble with their footing. For a downhill runner, he has an array of moves. He put a good start-stop move on a safety behind the line of scrimmage to get the corner and 4 yards when 4 defenders were 3 yards behind the LOS.

Balance:

The field turf in this game was icy and on 1st and 10 with 10:24 in the opening quarter, his LG fell flat on his face after the snap and the run was designed for Omon to go up the LG. Two defenders came free and greeted the RB in the backfield as he tried to bounce it to the edge and was able to lean forward for a yard loss. When he gets into the secondary, he has to be gang tackled to be brought down. He runs low to the ground and with great body lean. He ran through an ankle tackle on a 25-yard run up the seam with 13:01 in the 3rd QTR and then hit the safety and pushed him forward for 8 yards as two other defenders had to help out to bring him down. He is very much a yards after contact runner.

Speed:

His projected 40 time is 4.59 according to the commentators. He honestly does not look fast at all. Part of this may be him and the other the fact that the field is icy. He has quickness in small spaces and I bet his short distance times will be more on par with the better prospects than his 40 time. He has a quick first step on the field. He showed enough speed to beat two DBs to the pylon on his 38-yard score. He beat 4 players around the corner on a sweep where 4 of them were in the backfield. His quickness was even more impressive on a pitch to the left on the 8-yard line with 9:00 in the 3rd QTR. The defense got great penetration by the safety who beat the TE and was a half yard from Omon as he caught the pitch. He saw the penetration with great peripheral vision and cut up field to elude the safety, burst past the backside CB and through the gap between the RG and RT for the score--breaking a waist tackle in the hole. Omon broke a 98-yard run for a score in the 4th QTR out of the I-formation with 8 men in the box. He got a great hole by his TE, FB, and RG which he burst through as the safety, slipped about 4 yards behind the LOS, but still stayed on his feet. At this point it was a footrace between him and the safety about a yard behind. He extended the lead to about 5 yards about 20 yards downfield, but the safety made up three yards at the 50, but that was it. Omon varied the direction a bit at the 20 and then the 5 to keep the safety from getting his legs with a last moment dive. For the sake of entertainment, I used a stopwatch from the 5 yard line to the 45 to see his 40 time on this icy field with pads on in the 4th QTR after two dozen carries and a dislocated finger. I measured three times and got 4.828, 4.89, and 4.828. Remember he had a five yard running start, although he was changing direction until he got to the 5-yard line. From the 10 to the 50 his time was 3.953, 3.933, and 3.906. The entire 98-yard run from the moment he touched the ball until he crossed the goal line? 12.453, 12.531, and 12.393. Definitely not world class, but did Carl Lewis carry a ball and wear 10-15 pounds of equipment? His next run came on the following series with 7:08 in the 4th QTR. He got a huge hole off the RG and exploded through it at the 20, then slowed down to make a stutter step at the 25 to get outside of the same safety he outran before at the 30. He was run out of bounds by another defender with a good angle at the GV 32 yardline for a gain of 44 yards. He used a stiff arm with his bad hand to ward off the player.

Blocking:

Out of the shotgun, Omon stepped up and took on the OLB coming off the edge. He effectively walled off the LB. What was impressive about his blocking that I don't normally see from a back was his feet. He was light on his feet and didn't just plant and wait for the LB to come to him. He bounced to adjust to the LB's route so he could make sure he met the LB head-on. On the next attempt, Omon went to greet an LB up the middle, but ducked his head and the LB did a swim move right past him. Good cut block on the LB with 13:03 in the half. Excellent block into the body of the LB on a 4th and 16 to eliminate the blindside rush and allow the QB to complete a seam route to the TE.

Vision:

Omon's first run was out of a two-TE, I-formation on 2nd and 1 on the opening drive of the 1st QTR. He accurately spotted the LB waiting for him in the hole created by the LT and and FB and made a nice dip to the corner where the FB and TE created another gap. He stayed very close to the FB's hip to turn the corner and followed the alley created by the WR's block to get the 1st down and another 15 yards. He routinely faced 8-9 in the box in the 1st QTR. It seemed like there was an extra two players free at every snap in the 1st QTR. For example, with 1:24 in the 1st QTR, Omon took a pitch on a sweep to the left. The line of scrimmage was at Grand Valley's 25, but there were 4 defenders at the 27--two yards into the backfield after Omon took 3-4 steps with the ball. He was repeatedly gang tackled behind the line of scrimmage. In the second half, the Bearcats made a nice adjustment to run a few spread run plays where the defense played 6 in the box anticipating pass. Omon took one up the middle for 25 yards with 13:04. There was no hesitation when he saw the hole--and it was really just a crease between the C and RG.

Receiving:

Omon's first target was a screen to the right side, but the DE, DT, and LB sniffed it out at the snap. Omon was facing three defenders before the QB even threw the ball. He had to reach over his head with his arms fully extended to snatch the ball--a good catch--and then spin away from the defender. He lost 6 yards on the play. He dropped his second pass, but it was probably better that he did considering 3 linemen were in his face behind the line of scrimmage. Omon's second catch was a screen pass inside the ten where he made a leaping one-hand catch with his outside arm to bring the ball in to his body. He took a huge lick that knocked him 2 yards forward. Omon took a swing pass with 11:10 in the game and scored on a great run after the catch weaving his way down the sideline. He caught a low throw in front of him at knee level with his hands and make a jump cut past the safety who overreacted to the move and jump out of bounds at the ten. Omon set up another defender with a stutter move at the seven and this is where it gets insane: The safety who missed him comes back into the play and is trailing him just a half yard away. A linebacker has the angle a yard away and heading towards Omon's left shoulder and another defender has the angle from the five and is a yard from earholing Omon on the left side. There is also a WR two yards in front of Omon blocking a CB. The earholing defender misses Omon and hits the safety that came back into the play. The linebacker and the earholing safety get a piece of Omon's leg as the CB sheds the block to grab Omon's back. Omon somehow maintains his balance with great body lean while tightropeing the sideline and at the four yard line fully extends his body--ala Reggie Bush--but with the CB holding on to get the ball over the pylon. An incredible play. And the next play he got the ball was a 98-yard run for a score.

Durability:

Omon dislocated a finger on his right hand at the start of the 4th QTR. This was before his last two touchdowns, one of them a 98-yard run. He did not miss a play. He had his forearm and finger worked on twice between the time he originally hurt it.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
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Overall Score:

Power Score :

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]:
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
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Runs precise routes [1pt]:

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BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Yvenson Bernard

Date: 12/29/2006

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths:

Bernard is a technically a very sound runner. He does all the little things right from the standpoint of cutbacks, protecting the ball, leaning forward and getting low to finish runs, and finding the softspot when there is no opening. He has a good burst and enough speed in the open field to break a long gain. He is a great effort player as a blocker and generally gets in good position to be effective despite his size. He is a very good receiver out of the backfield.

Overall Weaknesses:

Bernard lacks top-end speed and he is not difficult to bring down. He lacks great leg strength and leverage as a runner. He doesn't always see the cutback lane to corner and in contrast to most runners doesn't bounce plays outside that maybe would be best for him to do.

Power:

Bernard demonstrated good body lean on a 2nd and 1 carry with 8:59 remaining. The OSU line opened an excellent running lane, and Bernard burst through the opening for the first down before a DT came off a block and rode the RB to the ground. Bernard did well to lean forward for two extra yards after initial contact. He consistently did a nice job leaning forward for maximum yardage when finishing his runs in traffic. Although he has a good understanding of how to maximize his yardage when finishing runs, he is not difficult for a DT or LB to bring down--sometimes with just one arm. He was tackled with one arm on a run up the middle with 8:17 left in the half. On his 28-yard run to open the 2nd half, Bernard made effective use of a stiff arm with his inside arm to ward off pursuit. This helped him gain another 17 yards after the stiff arm.

Ball Handling:

Bernard used his outside arm to carry the ball on the 1st QTR sweep. He generally carries the ball with his outside arm and will enter a hole with both arms around the ball occasionally, but not consistently.

Eloquence:

Bernard runs with a wiggle--on a 1st and 10 from the Missouri 40 with 5:10 left in the opening quarter, Bernard took a handoff up the middle with and adroitly ducked under the arm of the DE getting penetration into the backfield. Although the RB only gained minimal yardage on the play, he plowed into the softspot of the line and fought for as much yardage as he could get. The move he made upon getting the ball was what turned a potential loss into somewhat of a gain. Bernard gained 9 yards on the next play on a run play designed to get between the C and G, but he dipped to the RT with a quick lateral move and then dipped outside twice more--each time just as he sucked in the penetration of a defender in pursuit. As he was around the corner and near the first down marker, he dipped back inside to split the defense and finish the run with a first down.

Balance:

He's easily knocked off his feet when someone gets a good shot on him. He lacks great balance despite being built low to the ground.

Speed:

Bernard's first run was a draw play up the middle for a 5-yard gain. He demonstrated enough burst to get through a decent sized hole. On the first offensive play in the 3rd QTR Bernard showed excellent burst up the middle through a huge hole for 28-yard gain.

Blocking:

Bernard did an excellent job picking up the edge rusher that came free on the right side of the formation. He slid to his right and engaged the LB with little effort. He is high-effort player as a blocker. On a 2nd and 12 with 6:37 left in the half, Bernard got pushed back at the point of attack but as this pressure flushed Moore to the right side of the field, Bernard made sure he was in front of Moore to provide blocking and did a nice job of knocking down an LB in pursuit. Bernard tried to block a safety blitz, but the safety went around Bernard and put a hit on the QB to alter the course of the throw for an interception.

Vision:

Bernard timed his burst very well on a sweep to the right. He allowed the pulling guard to get into the hole and engage a defender before bursting through the seam.

Receiving:

Bernard's first target was the second play of the OSU's first offensive series: a swing pass to the right side. Missouri came on an ILB blitz and Moore threw the ball a little earlier than intended. Bernard tried to one-hand the pass, but dropped it. It seemed to me Bernard knew he would lose yardage on the play and actually batted down the ball, which might have been the best decision. Bernard was targeted on the next play on a pass to the flat. The RB did a good job releasing from the backfield through the right side of the defensive line--he had to slip past a DE attempting to hold him up on the timing of the route. Bernard caught the ball against his outside shoulder while running towards the sideline. He made a nice dip to the outside to get the first down before running out of bounds. Bernard gained a first down in the 4th QTR on a screen play. Good catch with his hands and acceleration upfield. He dropped an outlet pass because he was trying to run before he brought the ball into his body. He caught the next attempt on the same play call with his back to the QB and his arms extended. He did a good job accelerating and splitting the secondary for the 1st down. After a strong gain on a screen pass, they went back to the outlet pass off the roll they tried twice before on the drive and Bernard scored on the play. Bernard broke a tackle on a pass up the middle to begin the last drive of the game. He made a catch on a hitch thrown about shoe-high level. Difficult, but good catch in coverage and high-pressure situation.

Durability:

Excellent stamina and hates being taken out of the game.

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Elusiveness Score :

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]:

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Yvenson Bernard

Date: 9/29/2007

Opponent: UCLA

Overall Strengths:

Bernard is a versatile, hard-running football player who can catch the ball, see the holes between the tackles, and make strong lateral cuts, spin moves, and start stop movements. He has a good quick step. His movement reminds me a bit of a Ricky Watters, Brian Westbrook, Priest Holmes, or Domanick Davis because he demonstrates the ability to make the first defender miss in the backfield and can elude a defender with a spin move, jump cut, dip to the inside or outside, or plant move. His ability to get low at the end of runs makes him an effective short-yardage runner. Fundamentally speaking, Bernard is one of the better runners in this draft class.

Overall Weaknesses:

Does Bernard have what it takes to be a Priest Holmes or Domanick Davis? He runs through a lot of big holes at the LOS that won't be there on nearly as consistent basis in the NFL. He has limited power. His blocking needs work. He attempts to cut block, but routinely goes too low. Because he lacks great speed and size, he will need to perfect every other aspect of his game to get a chance even as a 3rd down back. If he can manage to stick with a team and develop the skills he's missing, he could surprise in a few years and contribute, but his likelihood of making an immediate or every down impact is extremely low.

Power:

On 4th and 1 with 12:41 in the 1st QTR, Bernard followed the pulling G to the right side, ran through a tackle attempt to his ankle and did an excellent job of getting lower than the defender meeting him at the first down marker to get the ball across the line. On his first reception for a yard, he did use a stiff arm to ward off the first defender as he tried to run around him to the right sideline. Bernard ran through three arm tackles on the 14-yard gain with :41 in the 1st QTR. He used a short stiffarm to run through a waist tackle just past the LOS on the play. He also demonstrated good body lean as two players tried grab him at the 5 yard line and he fought his way to the 1-yard line. One of the best things he does in short yardage situations is get his pad level extremely low and lean for the gain. He did this off RG for a 1-yard score at the end of the 1st QTR. He frequently uses the stiff arm effectively. He did so on a run he bounced to the right side to end the 1st half with a 3-yard gain.

Ball Handling:

Bernard carried the ball under his sideline arm after his first reception to the right flat. Although runnign towards the left side with 9:07 in the 1st QTR, he carried the ball in his right hand only. When he's facing a defender head-on at the end of a run, Bernard generally lowers his head and covers the ball with both arms as he did on a screen pass reception with 8:24 in the 1st QTR. He ran to the left edge but still had the ball in his inside arm with 9:58 in the 3rd QTR.

Elasticity:

Bernard runs with a very good wiggle. His first run was an 8-yard gain where he got six of those yards off a nice cut to the outside while in the hole and then a spin move just a couple of steps later that helped him get back to the inside. He made a nice plant and cut downfield from a run that started towards the left side. He planted in the backfield and burst off LT to get 5-yards on the play. He's capable of very quick lateral moves as well such as the one he made between RT and TE with 8:00 in the 1st QTR. Excellent spin move after dipping away from backfield penetration and getting to the right edge of the defense. The spin was extremely quick and helped him gain 8 yards on the play. He had about 4 yards before executing the spin to the inside of the defender facing him over top. He is adept at making on step cuts that allow him to subtly change direction on he move such as a cut he made in the hole about 4 yards into his 8-yard gain with 3:41 in the 1st QTR. Bernard did well to elude the LB shooting through the gap off LT on a 2nd and 2 run. He spun towards the inside, forcing the LB to miss completely and with his back against his lineman he tried to drive his legs to gain more yardage. He relies a great deal on spin moves in traffic. Nice job turning sideways to maximize a 4-yard gain with 10:07 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance:

He has a low center of gravity and unless hit in the legs or with a high-velocity hit wit a great angle, he bounces off arm tackles and indirect hits.

Speed:

Bernard has a noticeable burst through the hole. He's not very fast once he gets through the hole, but his initial steps are noticeably quick. He demonstrated a good first step out of the screen pass with 8:30 in the 1st QTR to gain 5 yards and a 1st down. If Bernard had better than average speed, he would be a special back along the lines of a Brian Westbrook because he's a versatile back with very good vision and he runs tough, but he gets caught from behind. He was caught for a 1-yard gain after making an excellent cut through a small crease off RT and TE with 8:00 in the 1st QTR. Excellent quickness to avoid the DT in the backfield on a run he turned into a 6-yard gain by bouncing it to the right side.

Blocking:

Bernard made an effective cut block against the OLB coming from the left side with :49 in the 1st QTR. The reason he made the OLB fall to the ground was the fact Bernard raised his head as the LB tried to hurdle the block and the defender's foot hit the helmet and shoulder pad of the RB, tripping him up. He was once again a little too low on his initial attempt to cut block a player. This time it was a DE with 11:00 in the half. The DE got past the RB and pressured the QB. The RB tried a stand up block on an end around, but the defender threw him aside and was on the tackle.

Vision:

Bernard's first run was an 8-yard gain off the right side which got a two-yard push off the LOS. Bernard did a nice job cutting in the hole to the right and then making a spin move to the inside of a defender to pick up another 6 on the play. On the 2nd and 2 he faced 9-men in the box, but did not trust the original hole the line made on the play. Instead of running up the middle where each blocker had a helmet on his man and he had a chance to get to the second level with an angle on the MLB, he chose to attempt to bounce the run to the left side. As a result, he allowed the OLB and the MLB into the play and had to try to bounce the play back to the middle for a gain of one yard. The RB's 17-yard gain with 9:34 in the 1st QTR was through a hole up the middle that was 3 yards wide and spanned 7-yards in length with a blocker on every player at the LOS. On 1st and 10 with 8:00 in the 1st QTR, he did a good job squeezing through a gap between the TE and RT to get positive yardage. His 8-yard gain up the middle with 3:41 in the 1st QTR was once again through a large hole with an alley that spanned the length of his gain. Good patience to allow his pulling guard to make contact downfield before bursting through the hole off LG for a 14-yard gain with :41 in the 1st QTR. Another wide hole off LG for a 4-yard gain with 10:13 in the 3rd QTR. He followed two good pulling blocks on a sweep round left end for 10-yards before getting touched for the first time when he was pushed out of bounds.

Receiving:

Bernard did a nice job of faking a set up to block on the right edge, then drift out to the flat and turning to catch the pass with his hands. The RB's second catch was a screen pass thrown a bit high, but he caught the ball with his hands, turning quickly upfield for another 4 yards and the first down. Bernard caught a short pass to the left flat in coverage for a minimal gain with 7:15 in the 1st QTR, but he did make the reception while running downfield and in the path of a defender waiting to deliver a hit. He did a good job shielding the ball from the defender. Although Bernard missed the cut block he made a good fingertip catch on a low-thrown ball under pressure and gained a yard on the play. Bernard tried to reach back and catch a short pass behind him in the flat, but dropped the ball after getting hit by the LB in coverage. He should have hung onto the ball despite the inaccurate throw.

Durability:

Wide Receivers

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the Position

Overrated and Underrated

Projects

Best by Category

Fantasy Top 25

Combine/Pro Day-Adjusted Rankings

Scouting Checklists and Profiles

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the WR Position

Fantasy rookies at the wide receiver position are the least likely of the skill positions to make an impact in their first year. For every Anquan Boldin, Michael Clayton, Randy Moss, and Terry Glenn are over 1300 rookie receivers in the history of the game that never attained their level of production at the onset of their careers. Receiver is one of the more difficult positions to play at the next level. The adjustment period to learn more complex offenses, adjustments to advanced coverage schemes, and the speed of the game often takes 2-3 years. Although it seems lately there has been one rookie per year who is productive (Dwayne Bowe in '07 and Marques Colston '06), dynasty leaguers should temper their expectations and only select a rookie receiver in the first two rounds if they have a deep squad that will contend, as is. In most situations, re-draft owners would be best advised to use caution, and draft a rookie receiver late—if at all.

The lower scores for wide receivers across the board is a reflection of this extended adjustment period. Other than quarterback, receivers require more significant coaching than any other position: blocking, route running, releases against press coverage, and route adjustments based on the play call. The majority of college offenses only need to exploit a receiver's athletic talents to create a successful passing game. Timing routes such as skinny posts, deep posts, and deep ins aren't as common in college ball as hitches, streaks, fades, and slants—routes that allow a receiver to out run, out jump, or out muscle his opponent without worrying about excellent timing with his quarterback. When you look at these scores, there are a number of receivers with scores in the mid-to-high 70s who can develop into quality contributors at the next level.

Overrated Receiver Prospects

Mario Manningham, Michigan: Manningham demonstrates quickness, but he doesn't have the speed to get deep on every play. He lacks elusiveness as a ball carrier and tended to shirk from contact, which will make learning how to work with press coverage (something he has difficulty with already) a bigger problem. He also drops the ball too often to be considered an elite prospect in this class. I just didn't see enough from Manningham to consider him a dynamic playmaker at the NFL level. If the Michigan product can learn to defeat press coverage and shore up his lapses of concentration as a receiver, then he could be a solid complementary option in the passing game. I just think his deficiencies are more significant than his press clippings indicate.

Andre Caldwell, Florida: Caldwell and Manningham have similar reputations, but Caldwell is consistently more dynamic after the catch and his speed is not a question mark. What does plague the former Gator is his difficulty catching the football over the middle and breaking free of press coverage. He doesn't run inside routes effectively and needs to learn how to use his body to shield the ball from the defender. Caldwell should develop into a contributing player at the pro level, but he's not a lock to become an every down starter.

Lavelle Hawkins, California: Hawkins raised some eyebrows with positive play in one of the senior showcase games, but I think he still remains a raw prospect. Hawkins is a fluid athlete, but he didn't show the ability to catch the ball with his hands or defeat press coverage. He has no aversion to contact so I think he's a worthwhile project if he can make a squad as a return specialist, but I wouldn't project him too highly as a receiver.

Underrated Receiver Prospects

Adarius Bowman, Oklahoma State: I loved watching him on film, but his 40-time left many to pause. The problem was a knee injury that is still healing. When healthy, Bowman might just be the best combination of size, power, hands, and skill after the catch in this class

outside of Devin Thomas. I watched him make excellent adjustments to the football everywhere on the field and in traffic. I don't think he's as impressive a runner or blocker as last year's top rookie receiver, Dwayne Bowe, but he's a great bargain if he drops. A lot of people have written off Bowman and maybe I'm missing something, but at this point I'm confused. He should become a solid #2 WR in a starting lineup with potential to become a dominant primary weapon as he develops.

Paul Hubbard, Wisconsin: I think Hubbard is regarded as a project with raw skills, but from what I saw on film he was fluid athlete who caught the ball in traffic, adjusted well to throws and snatched the football, and could run through hits for extra yardage. Running a 4.46 at the combine was impressive to me because it confirmed how good of an athlete he appeared to be on film for a 6-3, 224-lb receiver. Remember Larry Fitzgerald is about this size and he's closer to a 4.6-40 guy. If you're looking for player with potential to be what people expect from Limas Sweed and Malcolm Kelly but at a bargain rate, Paul Hubbard could be that guy.

Keenan Burton, Kentucky: I love watching Burton when he's playing at his best. If you're looking for what people talk about with Mario Manningham and DeSean Jackson, Burton has the skills many tout about the Wolverine and Bear: body control, speed, and after the catch skills. Unlike Manningham, Burton does not shy away from contact and unlike Jackson he won't be called into question due to his size. The problem with Burton is he's missed time with injury and I saw one game of his where he simply looked flat and it was against the type of competition (LSU) where you should be up for the game. He's a risk, but if you're a dynasty league owner, you won't need to reach too high to take a shot on him—and that's a reasonable gamble.

Harry Douglas, Louisville: Here's an undersized receiver I love to watch play football. He has demonstrated no problem going across the middle in traffic to catch the football and he adjusts to the football very well. The big question is whether he can defeat press coverage and has enough speed to be a multidimensional threat in the NFL. Like Burton, I believe where you can acquire Douglas in a dynasty draft makes him a worthwhile gamble.

Projects

William Franklin, Missouri: Remember Darnay Scott of the Cincinnati Bengals? Franklin reminds me of Scott: good speed, decent hands, and enough size to win some single coverage match ups downfield. I think this prospect could develop into a #2 receiver if all the pieces fall into place. At worst, I see him as a Cedrick Wilson type, who will be a decent bye week option in a pinch.

Mario Urrutia, Louisville: He lacks the desired speed, but he has excellent size and catching the ball over the middle is not a concern. He could make a good option on the perimeter, over the middle, and in the red zone. If he takes his career more seriously than former USC Trojan standout Mike Williams, he could develop into a complementary option in a starting lineup.

Michael Bumpus, Washington State University: USC coveted the dynamic Bumpus as a prep school prospect. Darius Reynaud is a player many people think could become a nice underneath option, but I thought Bumpus had more balance, speed, and elusiveness as an open field runner. In fact, Bumps ran some pretty good timing routes in the intermediate range and I think he could surprise if he lands in the right situation. Unless a team picks him high, he's at best a future free agent option for a dynasty owner.

Best and Worst By Category

The Best WRs By Category	<u>Category</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	Separation	Limas Sweed	Royal and Jackson have the pure speed to get behind defenders and Sweed knows how to use his body to create separation.
		Eddie Royal	
		Dexter Jackson	
	Routes	Harry Douglas	Hardy could still use some work, but demonstrated sharp breaks that you don't see from a man his size this early on. Douglas and Rivers bailed out their QBs on a regular basis with strong routes in terms of depth and adjustments when the play broke down.
		James Hardy	
		Jason Rivers	
	Receiving	Malcolm Kelly	Both players catch the ball very naturally and easily with their hands and can adjust the ball in the air. Jackson gets an honorable mention here as well.
		James Hardy	
	Elusiveness	DeSean Jackson	These two guys can make all the cuts in the open field and also have the vision to pop a long run with the ball in their hands.
Michael Bumpus			
Ball Handling	Malcolm Kelly	Good technique and it was tested often in the game I watched.	
Balance	Darrell Blackman	I saw Blackman take flush hits and bounce away from them, which makes him a good return specialist as well.	
Blocking	Marcus Monk	There are several players who make a good effort, but Monk consistently gets the job done and dominates his opponents.	

The Worst WRs By Category	<u>Category</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	Separation	Terrell Golden	Strictly an underneath target.
	Routes	Darius Reynaud	Very raw route runners who got the job done on their athleticism.
		Dexter Jackson	
	Receiving	Adrian Arrington	They may not be the worst at catching the ball, but they dropped a lot of easy passes.
		Dorien Bryant	
	Elusiveness	James Hardy	Hardy is a quality prospect, but he is not a player who changes direction effectively while on the run.
	Ball Handling	DeSean Jackson	He carries the ball like a loaf of bread and with the amount of opportunities NFL teams will want to give him, Jackson better correct this or he'll wind up on the bench.
Balance	Mario Manningham	Of the name prospects, he went down the easiest from the first hit.	
Blocking	Devin Thomas	He needs to give more effort because he's a strong candidate for a west coast offense and he'll be relied upon as run blocker.	

The Top 25 Receiver Prospects for Dynasty Leagues

These are my top-25 receivers based on film study. I am leaving out players I did not study and there are 4-5 quality prospects I just could not acquire film to evaluate. These players, and possibly others, could have made this list if I watched them play. My rankings are based a combination of collected data in this portfolio, my view of their potential fit with any offensive system, and their potential for growth based on the film study. The Score on these rankings is the highest raw checklist score performed on this player.

Since this publication was written prior to the NFL draft, the rankings are a reflection of players with the greatest chance to make a positive impact with their overall skill sets, and how flexible their skill sets are to the widest varieties of offensive systems. In any dynasty league setting, I would be comfortable drafting the first four receivers on this list in the early rounds. After that, it depends on the size of the league but I think the top 12 prospects all have potential to be worthwhile fantasy players within a three-year period.

Rank	Name	Score	Height	Weight	Comments
1	Devin Thomas	91	6-2	215	Thomas has the best combo of speed, size, elusiveness, and balance as a runner after the catch. His receiving and return skills make him the player with the highest ceiling of potential in this class. He'll make a strong primary receiver in any offense.
2	Earl Bennett	93	5-11	208	Early Doucet is garnering the Hines Ward comparisons, but Bennett is the more natural receiver who has shown a knack for making difficult catches in traffic. He'll be a better pro than collegian.
3	Malcolm Kelly	88	6-4	224	I believe Kelly and Sweed are about even at this point, but the OU WR has slightly more upside.
4	Limas Sweed	89	6-4	216	Sweed has the physical tools to be a primary NFL option. He'll need to transition to the complexities of the pro game, but he's demonstrated the ability to produce at the highest level as a short, intermediate, and deep threat.
5	Adarius Bowman	86	6-3	223	His 40-time caused his draft stock to plummet, but on film I saw Bowman display flashes of dominance as a downfield playmaker.
6	Early Doucet	84	6-0	209	Doucet makes the tough catch, blocks downfield, and is a strong athlete. The big question mark is the fact that Doucet doesn't catch the ball very well with his hands.
7	Paul Hubbard	84	6-3	221	Hubbard is seen as a raw prospect, but what I saw on film was one of the better performances I've see from a receiver this year. He'll catch the ball anywhere on the field and is not afraid to finish runs.
8	DeSean Jackson	83	5-9	169	I'm not sure Jackson has what it takes to be the next Steve Smith or Santana Moss, but he's a special athlete who can make things happen as a receiver and on special teams. He's as good of a runner as the players I mentioned, but I didn't see him show the toughness over the middle

9	Keenan Burton	85	6-0	200	Burton is one of my favorite receivers in this draft. When he is on his game, he's as good as any receiver I have watched this year. The problems are inconsistency and durability.
10	Harry Douglas	88	5-11	176	Douglas may not be the next Marvin Harrison or Terry Glenn, but he's savvy, tough receiver who made Brian Brohm look very good. Derrick Mason potential is possible here. He'll be a bargain for someone.
11	James Hardy	82	6-5	217	Hardy has the size, speed, and work ethic to succeed. But at this point he still has moments where he's not fluid or comfortable with contact after the catch. He's still learning how to maximize his speed on the field.
12	Andre Caldwell	79	6-0	204	Caldwell is excellent after the catch, but needs to raise his game to a more consistent level
13	Jason Rivers	88	6-1	200	I really like Rivers for his toughness, hands, and versatility. I think his upside is more limited than 2/3 of the players in this range, but a player with Keenan McCardell potential is still nice to consider.
14	Ryan Grice-Mullen	84	5-10	187	Devon Bess got the press, but the faster Grice-Mullen demonstrated a promising all-around game. He looks like a promising slot option.
15	Michael Bumpus	84	5-11	192	Bumpus wasn't even invited to the combine, but he's a top-shelf athlete who runs good routes. He could very well become what people expect from DeSean Jackson because he's strong for his size and runs well with the ball.
16	Devon Bess	85	5-10	194	Bess is a very good receiver with strong legs, a low center of gravity, and a flair for the acrobatic. I'm not sure he has the speed to be a starter.
17	Darrell Blackman	83	5-10	205	Speed, after the catch skills, and the ability to gain yardage after contact make Blackman a versatile prospect. His return skills should give him a chance to make a squad and develop as a receiver.
18	Steve Johnson	82	6-2	210	Johnson doesn't have great speed, but showed a knack for getting downfield and making the big play. He's not flashy, but he could grow into a reliable contributor with occasional big games.
19	Mario Urrutia	81	6-5	232	Urrutia is a raw, slower receiver in the mold of Limas Sweed.
20	Jabari Arthur	79	6-4	224	Arthur has decent hands, body control, and smarts. He has potential, but at age 26, teams will be shying away from him. If they do, he was a 1st round pick in the CFL in 2007.
21	Adrian Arrington	78	6-3	203	I think Arrington has more every down potential than Manningham
22	William Franklin	79	6-0	214	Franklin is an underrated player who has decent hands and enough speed to be a starter if he continues to improve.
23	Mario Manningham	79	5-11	181	I just didn't see what people rave about here. He's very one-dimensional as a perimeter receiver at this stage of his development.

24	Darius Reynaud	82	5-9	203	He has return specialist skills, but he needs refinement with routes.
25	Maurice Purify	79	6-3	224	Good measurements, but raw.

WR Comparisons

One way to sum up a prospect is to compare him to other pros that played his position. It's also difficult to be accurate with just one player as a comparison because football players—as with anyone in their careers—have an amalgam of influences. Each prospect has skills reminiscent of multiple players so in this chart I list the players I believe are the best match for each. The order in which I list them is how I rank them (best to worst) on a spectrum of stylistic similarities. The “**x**” is where I believe the prospect will eventually fall along this spectrum if he fulfills his potential as a pro. The dashes indicate an approximate skill gap between the players in terms of where they fall and a slash indicates these players will likely be the same in skill set.

Rank	Name	Score	Height	Weight	Strengths	Comparison
1	Devin Thomas	91	6-2	215	Hands; Speed; Elusiveness; Balance	Terrell Owens-- X /Javon Walker--Michael Westbrook
2	Earl Bennett	93	5-11	208	Hands, Quickness, Body Adjustment	Sterling Sharpe--Chris Chambers-Greg Jennings- X
3	Malcolm Kelly	88	6-4	224	Hands, Body Adjustment, Balance	Plaxico Burress- X /Malcolm Kelly/Reggie Williams-Ernest Wilford
4	Limas Sweed	89	6-4	216	Hands, Body Adjustment, Balance	Plaxico Burress- X /Limas Sweed/Reggie Williams-Ernest Wilford
5	Adarius Bowman	86	6-3	223	Power, Body Control, Hands	Larry Fitzgerald--Plaxico Burress-Malcolm Kelly/Limas Sweed/Reggie Williams-Ernest Wilford/ X
6	Early Doucet	84	6-0	209	After the catch, Body adjustment, Quickness	Chris Chambers-Greg Jennings-Earl Bennett- X
7	Paul Hubbard	84	6-3	221	Hands-After the catch-Body Adjustment	Andre Johnson--Marques Colston-Jerry Porter/ X
8	DeSean Jackson	83	5-9	169	Speed, Elusiveness, Hands, Body Control, Vision	Steve Smith-Santana Moss-- X -Antwaan Randle El--Samie Parker
9	Keenan Burton	85	6-0	200	Quickness, Elusiveness, Hands, Body Control, Vision	Jerry Rice--Rod Smith- X -Darrell Jackson-Antonio Bryant
10	Harry Douglas	88	5-11	176	Hands, Body Adjustment, Routes, Quickness	Reggie Wayne/Donald Driver/Derrick Mason- X -Brandon Stokely--Dennis Northcutt
11	James Hardy	82	6-5	217	Hands, Body Control, Routes	Harold Carmichael-Plaxico Burress- X -Marcus Robinson
12	Andre Caldwell	79	6-0	204	Speed, Elusiveness, Body Control	Joey Galloway--Eddie Kennison/Lee Evans-- X
13	Jason Rivers	88	6-1	200	Hands and Routes	Keenan McCardell-TJ Houshmandzadeh-- X -Ike Hilliard
14	Ryan Grice-Mullen	84	5-10	187	Hands; Quickness, Elusiveness; Balance	Steve Smith-Santana Moss--DeSean Jackson-Antwaan Randle El/ X --Samie Parker
15	Michael Bumpus	84	5-11	192	Hands; Quickness, Elusiveness; Balance; Vision	Steve Smith--Laveranues Coles/Terry Glenn-- X

16	Devon Bess	85	5-10	194	Hands; Quickness, Elusiveness; Balance; Vision	Derrick Mason---David Patten/ X
17	Darrell Blackman	83	5-10	205	Balance; Vision; Quickness	Chris Chambers-Greg Jennings-Earl Bennett-Early Doucet--Marty Booker/ X -Josh Reed
18	Steve Johnson	82	6-2	210	Hands; Elusiveness	Braylon Edwards--Marcus Robinson-- X -Justin McCareins
19	Mario Urrutia	81	6-5	232	Body Control; Blocking	Keyshawn Johnson--- X --Mike Williams
20	Jabari Arthur	79	6-4	224	Hands; Body Control Routes	Keysahwn Johnson--Mario Urrutia/ X --Mike Williams

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:**
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:**
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:**
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:**
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:**
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:**
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:**
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:**
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:**
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:**
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:**
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:**
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:**
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:**
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:**
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:**
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:**
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:**
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:**
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:**
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:**
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:**
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:**
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:**

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Adarius Bowman

Date: 12/28/2006

Opponent: Alabama

Overall Strengths

Excellent hands, good concentration, and capable of acrobatic catches. He is a big, powerful player who can block and gain yardage after the catch. He runs routes all over the field and has enough speed to get separation in intermediate routes and size to be effective in deep routes and the redzone.

Overall Weaknesses

He doesn't have top-end speed. He didn't face press coverage. His blocking is good when he engages, but his effort is inconsistent. He lacks dynamic open-field cutting ability.

Separation

Bowman demonstrated fluid, quickness on the corner fade in the 4th QTR for the score.

Routes

Bowman ran a crisp 10-yard hitch on 3rd down during the first series, but the DB got the jump on the route and the pass was also thrown too far to the outside. Bowman ran a short out from the slot on 2nd and 12, but the ball was thrown at his feet and he could not come up with the pass despite getting decent separation. Bowman ran an excellent double move with the QB on 2nd and 6 with 12:15 in the half. He faked to the inside with his shoulders and then burst to the corner, getting both vertical and horizontal separation on the DB for a 28-yard gain. Very nice job reading the CB playing inside position on a 1st and 10 from the 11 yard line. He ran a very good corner fade pattern where he faced the QB all the way up to his break so he could force the CB to maintain that inside position. Then he turned and made a beautiful sight adjustment to the ball, catching it over his inside shoulder with his hands. A very crisp in route of 3 yards on 3rd and 2 with 1:40 in the game. Although he faced zone coverage, his route forced the DB to drift back a bit too far, which allowed Bowman to have separation to make the catch, break the DB's tackle and dive forward for another 4 yards.

Receiving

Bowman's first catch was a the corner route off the stutter and go like fake with 12:15 in the half. He caught the pass thrown over his inside shoulder with one hand extended away from his body and bringing the ball back to him while on the run. On the next play, Bowman rolled with his QB towards the right sideline, but the throw was too low and out of bounds. Nice over the shoulder catch coming out of his break on the 4th QTR score off the corner fade. Bowman caught an in-route on 3rd and 2 with 1:39 in the game and gained another 9 yards after the catch. The ball was placed at stomach level and he allowed it to get into his body on this play, but he was also shielding the ball from the nickel back in coverage.

Elusiveness

Ball

After making the one-handed grab with 12:15 in the half, he quickly switched the ball to his outside arm before the trailing DB could knock it out of his body. Excellent awareness.

Balance

Blocking

Bowman locked onto his defender during a reverse to his side and drove the DB back a few yards until the WR with the ball was brought down just behind Bowman. The action actually ran up behind him and took him to the ground. Bowman helped block for his QB on a 2nd and goal from the 9 with 11:42 in the half. The QB pointed for him lead block the edge against the LB and Bowman not only took on the LB standing up, he also stopped the LB in his tracks and sustained the block long enough for the QB to get to the edge (although he was brought down from the pursuit). Bowman seriously misjudged a run block with 11:52 in the game on a 3rd and 4. He waited for the DB to engage him rather than get close enough to the DB to make the hit. As result, the DB charged past him to get into the play on the RB.

Vision

Power

After making the one-handed catch he dragged the DB wrapped around his waist for another 5 yards. He ran out of the DB's arm tackle on 3rd and 2 with 1:40 in the game and then dove forward for another 4 yards for an 11-yard gain.

Durability

Character

He had some off-field issues that got him into trouble with his UNC squad. This led to him switching from the UNC squad to OSU.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

85

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Adarius Bowman

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Texas A&M

Overall Strengths

Bowman's athleticism and receiving skills are reminiscent of the kind of receivers any NFL team would like to have: Terrell Owens, Anquan Boldin, Brandon Marshall, and Dwayne Bowe. He's a big, strong, fast, and acrobatic receiver who will catch the ball anywhere on the field and gain yardage after the catch due to his speed, balance, and power. The ball does not need to be thrown perfectly for him to adjust to it. Although he'll need to refine his route running and skills against press coverage, he will have a very good chance to make an impact early in his NFL career.

Overall Weaknesses

He's not a great blocker, although he can be. His effort is inconsistent.

Separation

Bowman got good separation on a wheel route on 1st and 10 with 12:24 in the half, but the ball was under thrown. He made a good attempt to adjust to the ball, but slipped and the ball landed a yard short of his destination. Very good speed for his size. He can create separation with his speed and his strength. Bowman made a nice move to get inside position on a streak with 6:57 in the half. He planted and angled to the right to open the CB's hips towards the inside and then ran through.

Routes

Bowman's first target was a 10-yard hitch on 1st and 10 with 7:24 in the 1st QTR. He did not get enough depth on the route to make his break and still be behind the first down marker. He dropped the pass after contact. Bowman made a good route adjustment with 10:35 in the half and caught a 30-yard pass for the score off an RB option pass. Bowman's 2nd score was against zone coverage and he showed good speed to get behind the safety. Good depth on the 14-yard crossing route to find the open area of the zone catch the ball past the first down marker.

Receiving

Bowman dropped his first pass. The CB hit him as he tried to bring the ball into his body. The throw was at stomach level and the WR let the ball come into his body which negated his ability to use his back to shield the ball from the defender, who knocked it loose. His adjustment to the ball on an RB option pass for a score--a 30-yard streak--was very well done. The RB had the foresight to throw the ball a little behind Bowman so the CB in coverage couldn't get it but just a hair past the safety cutting across the field. It shouldn't have been thrown, but it was a very good pass. Bowman turned back towards the ball while on the run and cradled the ball between two defenders for the score. He showed very good concentration to adjust to the football. His second touchdown was 46-yard catch where Bowman started from the slot off the strong side. He caught the ball 25 yards downfield with his hands at helmet level. He made a very good adjustment on the ball because it should have been thrown to his inside shoulder but wound up behind him. Bowman turned back to the QB while running, caught the ball and completed the 360 turn on the run to score with 6:50 in the half. His first three catches were difficult because of tight coverage crossing in front of the ball (1st catch), turning opposite of where he was running (1st and 2nd catch) or having to fully extend his body with an oncoming safety overhead to catch the ball with his hands and over his shoulder (3rd catch) on a deep slant. Bowman caught a short pass at the line of scrimmage off a designed play where he went in motion presnap to the opposite direction the QB was going to roll, but then led the roll like he was going to be a blocker. He caught the short pass at the 20 and gained 8 yards on the play before he was hit out of bounds. Bowman's next catch was the same misdirection play but with 6:28 in the 4th QTR. He went airborne trying to get past the DB, but was cut down three yards short of the first down.

Elusiveness

He's a long strider in the open field who will make you miss more because of his speed and power than his lateral movement. He tried to make a lateral plant and cut on a safety one on one in the open field and was sent airborne.

Ball

Bowman didn't have an issue with ball security, but he doesn't tuck the ball away as well as he should in traffic. There were clear opportunities for players to punch the ball away. He has big hands so, his grasp on the ball is a bit better than the average player, but if he cinched it to his chest in traffic, the potential for a turnover would diminish greatly.

Balance

Excellent balance to turn 360 degrees back to the QB to catch the ball and complete the spin on the run to continue moving forward. Then he ran out of the safety's attempt to grab his free arm and then ankle and maintained his balance for another 5-6 yards to reach the end zone. Great job maintaining his balance on a 17-yard slant where he had to fully extend on the run to get the ball and stay upright.

Blocking

He will shield his man on run blocks, but he's not as aggressive for what you would expect from a man his size. He did sustain a block downfield with 7:36 in the half on a run for a first down by Hunter. He made a good block on the LB on a designed sweep to the right side on a 2nd and 2 with 7:09 in the 3rd QTR. He helped clear a path for the RB to get a first down. Bowman did well to block downfield on a 3rd QTR run by Hunter with 4:36 left.

Vision

This is one big, muscular receiver who just ran through a safety's tackle to score a 46-yard touchdown. Bowman dragged a safety, who grabbed onto the WR's waist, 3 yards and then bounced off another DB before spinning an extra yard after his catch on a deep slant for a 30-yard gain. The first defender could not bring down Bowman on any catch and run today. He caught a deep cross 14 yards downfield and it took 3 players to bring him down. He exhibited a decent stiff arm on one of the DBs to initiate the contact. He broke two tackles on a second down flare pass inside the 20 with 3:27 in the game. He ran out of a waist tackle towards the sideline, an ankle tackle by the LB shooting from the middle of the field and then ran over the CB with his right shoulder to gain three more yards before getting knocked out of bounds. He actually lost two yards on the play because the pass was behind the line of scrimmage.

Durability

Coach Mike Gundy praises Bowman as a person and leader for his team when asked about Bowman. But Bowman had some off-field issues that got him into trouble with his UNC squad. This led to him switching from the UNC squad to OSU.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

78

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- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
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Game Stats

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Missed Target:
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Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
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Rush Yds:
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Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Adrian Arrington

Date: 11/10/2007

Opponent: Wisconsin

Overall Strengths

Arrington is an acrobatic receiver with very good hands. He can be a physical player, but he's inconsistent with doing so. When he does, he is good at beating press coverage and run blocking. He has a knack for creating separation and will catch passes anywhere on the field. He has pretty good burst and can be effective in the intermediate passing game. He will make tough catches in tight coverage.

Overall Weaknesses

He's not a consistent home run threat, although he can get deep in the right situation. He is not a powerful runner after the catch. He leaves his feet too often on throws where it is not required. He didn't demonstrate a lot of elusiveness with the ball in his hands. He doesn't sustain blocks downfield. His routes are pretty good, but he needs to refine his breaks, especially coming back to the QB on certain routes after the break. He will drop balls in high traffic areas if he sees the impending hit, although he will hang onto balls where he's hit in the back after the catch.

Separation

With 12:45 in the 2nd QTR, Arrington was in the slot and facing tight press coverage. He did a good job using his hands to beat the jam and get an inside release on the play. With 11:35 in the 2nd QTR on a 2nd and 13, Arrington made a great fake during his release to beat the CB in single coverage on a streak patter than was overthrown by about 3 yards. If the ball was accurate, Arrington would have scored. At the same time, Arrington did get bumped slightly as he went by the DB which could have made the difference.

Routes

Nice crisp out with 9:32 in the 1st QTR. Good job beating the jam with 12:45 in the 2nd QTR, getting inside release and then making a strong break to the outside to catch the out with a full yard of separation. Arrington ran an out route where it appeared he had good separation, but the CB Ikegwuonu showed great speed to jump from the inside and bat the ball away. This is a reason why receivers are often taught to come back to the ball on their break, which he didn't do.

Receiving

Arrington's first catch was a 7-yard out with 9:32 in the 1st QTR. The pass was thrown high and behind him, but he made an excellent leaping adjustment to the ball with his hands extended well over his head to snatch the ball and hang onto it as the CB Ikegwuonu hit him in the back as he was coming back to the ground. Good catch. Arrington dropped a short out that was thrown from the opposite hash. The ball was thrown low and Arrington had to make diving attempt. He got his hands on the ball, but could not bring it into his body. Arrington's next catch came with 3:39 in the 1st QTR. It was simply a throw out to his side and he caught the ball with his hands, turning up field for a 9-yard gain. Arrington attempted to make a diving catch at the right sideline on a rollout, but the ball was thrown too far out of bounds. The WR nearly got to the ball despite the overthrow. Nice diving catch on a low-thrown ball about a yard from the sideline on a release from the slot against press coverage with 12:42 in the 2nd QTR. Arrington made another diving catch with 6:19 in the half on a 23-yard in-route. Again he was angled toward the secondary on the break, which could have allowed the DB over top to jump the route. The best route runners in the NFL in the past decade have been the Rams receivers Holt and Bruce, both emphasize bending back the break toward the QB on ins and outs. Arrington ran a 7-yard hitch and as he went low to catch the ball, the DB came over the top and hit the WR and knocking the ball loose. Arrington miss-timed his leap on a 26-yard corner route to the flag. If he ran through the ball, he probably scores. In fact, the 2nd QTR in-route was a play where he didn't need to dive, either. He tends to leave his feet too often on plays where it isn't necessary and even detrimental for him to do so. On the next play, he actually timed his leap perfectly on a streak down the left sideline. He made a subtle push off on the DB just before leaping for the ball with arms extended to catch it over his shoulder for the score. On his last catch of the day, he made a good adjustment on a slant to catch the ball as he got turned around. He then gained another 8 yards on the play. He dropped a slant on 2nd and 20 with 2:30 left when he saw the LB was in his face from the middle of the field. He did a better job of holding onto balls after contact when he didn't see the impending hit coming. He dropped a crossing route on the next play in tight coverage with the DB trailing him on his hip.

Elusiveness

Arrington is more of a straight-line runner with the football in his hands. He's not very nifty with footwork. On the 4th QTR slant with 5:39 in the game, he got free because the DB overran the pass to jump the route, but made a straight-line downfield despite two defenders over the top ready to tackle him if he didn't try to make a cut.

Ball

Good job switching the ball to his sideline arm on his 9-yard run after his second catch with 3:39 in the 1st QTR.

Balance

Blocking

Arrington made an aggressive cut block on the backside defender on a 1st QTR run that helped the RB gain 5 yards on the play. It was also good technique, getting into the upper thigh/hip region with the hit and knocking the DB's legs from under him. He's definitely not afraid to hit someone. Even on stand up blocks, he'll be the first to deliver a blow. He does need to be more consistent about sustaining the blocks rather than just delivering a punch. He didn't sustain a block downfield and as a result he was hit from behind by the runner. If he sustained the block in the open field he could have driven the DB further from the play.

Vision

Power

He could not run out of an ankle tackle with 3:55 in the 3rd QTR on a throw out to the left side.

Durability

Character

He was arrested on domestic violence charges for pushing his girlfriend out of her car, grabbing her keys from her hand, and driving off. She claimed he was driving while intoxicated and made the report because she was worried about him. She never showed up to court and the case was dismissed, which is common for domestic violence charges.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

75

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
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Game Stats

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Juggles:
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Yards per Catch:
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Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Adrian Arrington

Date: 11/18/2006

Opponent: Ohio State

Overall Strengths

Arrington is a quality possession receiver and end zone threat because of his ability to adjust to the ball and the toughness to maintain possession after getting hit. He makes the effort as a blocker downfield as well.

Overall Weaknesses

His speed isn't eye-popping. He needs work against press coverage. He misjudges angles to block players downfield and this is the reason he doesn't always succeed in this area. He's not a regular threat to gain yardage after the catch.

Separation

Arrington got wide open down the left sideline, catching a pass thrown to his inside shoulder from the opposite hash 22 yards downfield. He then gained the last fifteen yards with his speed and quickness for the score with 2:38 in the half. He was so open because he ran a wheel route as Steve Breaston ran off the zone coverage with a deeper route.

Routes

His routes get rounded off a fair bit. Most he's most effective in zone coverage or perimeter passes where he can use his athleticism on the play.

Receiving

A good, over the inside shoulder catch with his hands down the sideline for a score with 2:38 in the half. Arrington caught a 3rd and 4 pass over the middle for 14 yards. The ball was thrown a bit behind him, but he turned back to the ball to catch it with his hands and still maintained possession after the trailing CB hit him and then the safety over top. Arrington gained 26 yards against the zone from the slot on a seam route. He turned his shoulders back to the ball, catching it as the safety hit him in the chest. Good job holding onto the pass. He made a good catch for a 7-yard gain for the 1st down with 4:37 in the game. The ball was thrown low and Arrington had to dive forward with his hands under the ball to make the grab. He made a 6-yard grab on a crossing route with 3:48 in the game, but fell down as he tried to turn the corner against to OSU defenders in the flat. Arrington caught a 6th ball in this game on an in route where he was nailed in the chest by James Laurinitis as he caught the ball and managed to maintain possession, but the offense was called for a holding penalty that negated the 15-yard catch. Arrington leaped high for a corner fade to the pylon at the front of the end zone but the ball was overthrown.

Elusiveness

A very nice shoulder shake and cut back to the inside to lose the over the top DB at the 5 yard-line on his 37-yard score with 2:36 in the half.

Ball

He carried the ball with his right hand down the left sideline during his 37-yard scoring reception with 2:35 in the half. He was about to switch the ball a the corner after catching his crossing route with 3:48 in the game, but when the OSU defender pursued him at the outside shoulder, he decided to keep the ball in his right arm.

Balance

Blocking

Arrington made aggressive tie-up of his CB on a 4-yard run by Hart with 5:31 in the 1st QTR. The WR had to release the block as the RB ran behind the DB or else get called for a hold, but the block was good enough for the RB to get the edge and a positive gain. On a Hart run downfield, Arrington did not aggressively close the gap on a CB because he thought he lost the angle and allowed the DB to pass him. The DB would have tackled the RB if the runner didn't fall down on his own. Sometimes he overruns his angles on run blocks. He did this on a run to the right against an LB and one to the left with 6:00 in the 3rd QTR against the CB. He made an aggressive block downfield on the CB after the RB caught a 6-yard pass to his side.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

Had an off season assault charge for domestic violence.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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78

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Missed Target:
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Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
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Rec Yards:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Andre Caldwell

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths

Very fast, excellent open field vision, and highly elusive. He catches the football with his hands and is a big play threat from anywhere on the field. He's a very dynamic football player who should excel in the slot, but has a chance to develop into a starter if he become more consistent as a blocker and receiver dealing with contact.

Overall Weaknesses

He has lapses of concentration catching passes. Drops balls thrown over the middle after contact. Makes the effort to block, but does not show the desire/ability to sustain blocks.

Separation

He's very quick out of is breaks. He made a sharp cut on a slant on 3rd and 8 with 13:32 in the 1st QTR but dropped the ball. Caldwell demonstrated a very good burst around the corner on an end around for 20 yards with 12:45 in the 3rd QTR. This is one of the faster WRs in this class and he blew by a few defenders down the sideline on this run, generating enough momentum to run through two arm tackles. Nice job getting inside position against press coverage using a swim technique to get the positioning at the end of the 3rd QTR--excellent elusive technique to beat the jam.

Routes

Receiving

Caldwell ran a slant with the CB giving him a 5-yard cushion on 3rd and 8 with 13:32 in the 1st QTR, but dropped the ball. The pass was thrown a bit higher than helmet level and away from his body. He got his hands on the ball to snatch it from the air, but could not bring it into his body as the CB was grabbing Caldwell as soon as the receiver made contact. He caught an 9-yard out route at the left sideline against his body with coverage near his back. Good job tiptoeing the sideline to stay inbounds for the catch before getting out to stop the clock with 1:41 in the half. Nice catch of a crossing route thrown low and behind him. He used his hands to catch the ball low and away before turning away from the pursuit for a 4-yard gain. He made an easy catch in the right flat with his hands for a the score, but the play was called back on an illegal shift. It was the same play that was run for the TE earlier in the game. On the next play, he adjusted back to the QB who was under pressure and made a diving catch to come back to the QB, getting low and bringing it into his body. Caldwell caught an 8-yard crossing route that he turned into a 24-yard gain with a very strong cutback move. He caught a slant from the slot and turned up field for a 13-yard gain on 1st and 15 with 2:38 in the 3rd QTR. Good catch on a 3rd down slant between defenders and gaining another 7 yards for a first down at the end of the 3rd QTR. Caldwell went across the middle on 3rd and 10 with 6:44 and had a chance to catch the ball as a defender was running at him, but dropped the ball after the collision. It was a tough catch, but the kind most decent NFL receivers make.

Elusiveness

Great stop-start move on an 8-yard cross to take the ball up the left hash rather than into the teeth of the zone where the cross was leading. He made a second move--a strong lateral cut to avoid the backside pursuit at the first down maker just a step later.

Ball

Caldwell was losing his balance as he turned up field on the crossing route with 1:33 in the half, but as he gained his balance he did not switch the ball to his outside arm and nearly took a shot on the ball carrying arm on the play. He was also holding the ball far from his body--partially due to the fact he was trying to keep his balance and had his free hand planted to the ground while on the run. Good job carrying the ball under his outside arm on the 20-yard and around with 12:46 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Caldwell took a poorly conceived option pitch to the outside with a gang of UK defenders waiting for it. He was stood up a yard behind the LOS and it at first appeared as if he had a chance to turn away from the hits to reverse his field, but he was soon snowed under by 3 other players. Nice job spinning away from a tackle down the sideline on this 20-yard run with 12:45 in the 3rd QTR.

Blocking

He's more of a shield off blocker, but he makes the effort downfield and designed plays.

Vision

Very good vision to recognize that his 8-yard cross with 7:57 in the 3rd QTR was leading into the teeth of the zone. He cut back to the left hash and gained another 16 yards on the play. He also saw the backside pursuit and cut away from it to set up a block by his teammate to seal the edge and get the sideline.

Power

When he's moving at top speed, he's difficult to bring down because he has good balance and arm tackles don't work. He slid on a run up field to avoid a hit at the end of the 13-yard catch/run with 2:38 in the 3rd QTR.

Durability

He missed 4 games this year.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Andre Caldwell

Date: 10/27/2007

Opponent: Georgia

Overall Strengths

Caldwell is a very quick, athletic receiver with some yards after the catch ability. He has decent power for his size and an excellent burst. He catches the football with his hands and is capable of taking it the distance from anywhere on the field. He isn't afraid to hit the defense as a run blocker and will go across the middle to hit a player on a run play. Caldwell demonstrated the ability to adjust to the QB and create separation with his routes. He also showed good ball protection. He should have a chance to become a decent #2 receiver at some point in his career.

Overall Weaknesses

Caldwell demonstrates some reticence in traffic or coming across the field on pass routes. He needs to learn to run inside routes and shield the ball from defenders with his torso. He has decent size, but even with his speed he is more likely a complementary receiver or slot option at the early stages of an NFL career. He needs to work on breaking the jam.

Separation

Caldwell faced a cover two on 3rd and 15 with 13:22 in the 1st QTR. He did a good job being the first man to deliver a shot and knocked down the shallow DB who was off balance trying to play inside technique. Just based on the 14-yard hitch and the 5-yard run after the catch, it's clear Caldwell has a good burst of speed. He has a suddenness to his acceleration after the catch or off the line of scrimmage. He demonstrated a very quick first step on his final catch with 3:33 in the game. He ran a short in-route caught the ball and turned away from the LB towards the inside of the field to gain another 9-yards on the play.

Routes

Caldwell did a good job coming back to the QB who had to roll to the left on 3rd and 15 with 13:22 in the 1st QTR and still getting enough depth on the route for the 1st down. He drove the CB backwards with his route on a 14-yard hitch on 3rd and 18 with 3:43 in the 3rd QTR. He primarily ran perimeter routes or short routes towards the inside where he could use his speed to gain yardage across the middle. The one route he ran in traffic resulted in a drop in double coverage.

Receiving

Good job catching the ball with his hands extended away from his body to make the reception at helmet level and still keep possession after getting drilled in the back. Caldwell ran a short hitch on 3rd and 6 but the ball was tipped. He still had a chance to get a hand on the ball, but it would have been a very quick-reacting, one-handed grab for a completion. Caldwell caught a 14-yard hitch with his hands extended from his body and then gained another 5 for the 1st down on a 3rd and 18 with 3:43 in the 3rd QTR. Caldwell attempted to catch a slant in double coverage, but he could not hold onto the ball after the LB came from the inside and delivered a blow at the same time as the DB over top. He did a nice job of trying to catch the ball with his hands, but he alligator-armed the pass in the sense that he did not try to use his body to shield the ball from the LB and safety which made the incomplection more likely after the hit. Caldwell caught a 10-yard hitch on 3rd and 12 with the DB hanging off his back. He did an excellent job extending his arms away from his body and catching the ball with his hands as he was falling towards the sideline. Good concentration. His final catch was a short in route that he gained an extra 9 yards on the play for a 12-yard gain and a 1st down with 3:29 in the game.

Elusiveness

Nice stop-start move with 3:33 in the game to freeze the pursuit and get the first down on a 12-yard reception.

Ball

He had the ball under his sideline arm with his runs and after the catch.

Balance

Caldwell demonstrated good balance for a receiver after the catch or as a runner. He was able to shed a couple of tackles as well as gain yardage after an initial hit.

Blocking

Caldwell was very aggressive with his block from the slot on the DB with 14:10 in the 1st QTR on a WR screen. He delivered a hard blow and continued to hit the DB until after the whistle. He made a decent attempt with 1:38 n the half from the left side of the formation. He ran to the blitzing safety and got enough of a hit to alter his course away from the runner. On the next play he made a block, but did not sustain it downfield and the CB was the one to tackle the QB with :51 in the half. All of these blocks Caldwell made up to this point were hard hits, but he didn't sustain them. He needs to learn to get into the defender's chest and drive his legs/steer the DB out of the play.

Vision

Caldwell was caught behind the LOS on an end around with 13:13 in the game because he tried to dip the play off tackle, but the gap was filled. This caused the WR to hesitate enough for the OLB to shoot the gap and take Caldwell down for a 2-yard loss.

Power

Nice job using his elbow to punish the CB closing in after his 14-yard catch on 3rd and 18 to knock the DB down and run through the tackle to gain an extra 5 yards for the 1st down. Two plays after the first end around for a loss, UF tried it again with Caldwell coming from the right side. He did manage to run through an arm tackle 4 yards behind the LOS, but he was hit for a 3-yard loss a couple of steps later with a good form tackle.

Durability

He fractured his leg in 2005 and had to red shirt that season. He also missed three games due to a sprained MCL in 2007.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
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- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Vision Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Anthony Russo

Date: 9/22/2007

Opponent: UCLA

Overall Strengths

A former high school RB, Russo has a good burst and a bit of power for his size. He runs with a solid stiff arm. He catches the ball with his hands and demonstrated the ability to catch the ball over his shoulder and utilize his speed on deep routes. He has the short area quickness to gain yardage after the catch. He's not as quick but his style of play is similar to Derrick Mason or Terry Glenn.

Overall Weaknesses

Not very big and has difficulty sustaining blocks in the running game. He drops some balls he should be able to catch. He has difficulty in press coverage and needs to refine his routes on some patterns. He was not used over the middle like the receivers his skills seem to match.

Separation

Russo had enough speed to get a step on the defender on an out and up. Russo didn't have much separation on the CB on his dropped pass with 4:44 in the 2nd QTR. He did managed to get enough separation at the end of the route to make a play on the football. He demonstrated decent body control in this tight space. He got inside position on a sideline streak with 1:45 in the 3rd QTR. He had about a half step of separation, but the ball was overthrown. He did show a good burst of acceleration on this play. He also demonstrated a nice burst on a short pass he turned into a 12-yard gain with 1:22 in the 3rd QTR. He flashed good enough speed to outrun the angle of the safety on a seam pass out of the slot for 63 yards and a score. He caught the ball at the 31 and beat the safety who was at the 29 and closing the distance.

Routes

Russo ran a good out and up on 1st and 10 at the left sideline. When he turned the corner, he was able to quickly get separation on the DB in coverage. His first score was off a post corner route accompanied by a pump fake. The DB still had tight coverage, but Russo was able to leap for the ball.

Receiving

The first target was a WR screen with 9:04 in the 1st QTR. The QB threw the ball too far in front of the WR. The ball was thrown the spot where the WR ran to before stepping back as the pattern dictates. Russo should have caught the out and up in the 1st QTR, but it appeared he was expected the ball to his inside shoulder. Although the throw was to the wrong shoulder, he didn't make an attempt to adjust to the ball. He did a better job of adjusting to the football on a corner fade in the end zone with 4:44 in the half, but the ball bounced off his hands twice--once the ball went through his mitts as he was facing the QB and behind the CB and a second time after his initial miss when he was following the ball to the end line. He couldn't hold onto the football as he was falling out of bounds. Good job catching the ball with his hands on a 1-yard hitch that he turned into a 12-yard gain with his speed. Very good adjustment to the ball in tight coverage on a post corner in the end zone. He leaped over the DB in front of him and caught the ball with his back to the end zone with his arms full extended over his head, turning away as he brought the ball into his body. Excellent catch on a seam pass thrown 33 yards in the air over his inside shoulder. He caught the ball over his shoulder with his hands at a full gallop.

Elusiveness

Good short area quickness on short passes. He made a DB miss to open the 4th QTR on a 1-yard hitch.

Ball

Good job carrying the football with his sideline arm on the 12-yard reception/run with 1:23 in the 3rd QTR. Good job switching the football to his sideline arm on a 1-yard hitch to start the 4th QTR.

Balance

Blocking

He made a good initial hit on a 7-yard run by the RB with 14:48 in the 1st QTR, but did not maintain his positioning and could not sustain the block. He had another good initial hit on the safety during the next series when the QB ran down the sidelines for a 30-yard gain. He couldn't sustain the block, but the hit was enough to spring the QB to the sideline. He was consistently ineffective sustaining blocks where he could control the direction of the DB.

Vision

Power

Good stiff arm on the 12-yard catch/run with 1:23 in the 3rd QTR. He took on the DB at the 21 and gain an extra 3 yards with that stiff arm to the chin. Another good stiff arm at the tail end of his 63-yard score on the safety in pursuit at the 10 yard line.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

78

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
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- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
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- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
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- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Brandon Breazell

Date: 9/29/2007

Opponent: Oregon State

Overall Strengths

Overall Weaknesses

Separation

Breazell demonstrated decent speed around left end for a 7-yard end around with 12:17 in the game. Excellent burst to run past three defenders within the first 7 yards after the catch to get into the open field untouched for a 69-yard scoring catch and run.

Routes

Receiving

Breazell was triple-covered on 3rd and 9 with 11:12 in the half when he ran a deep seam route from the slot. He did get a chance to touch the ball by doing a good job of timing his leap, but one DB was in front of him and had his hands on the ball first. Breazell at the very least was effective in defending the pass from an interception. Breazell's smash screen was a reception he made with his body. He caught post route with his hands and over his inside shoulder for a score with the CB close behind in coverage and tackling the receiver as he made the catch. The catch was actually made with the CB coming over his shoulders and getting a hand on the WR's hands as the catch was made. The safety over top tried to deliver a blow to jar the ball loose, but the WR ducked under the shot.

Evasiveness

He made a pursuing defender fall down with a quick stop and attempt to cut the play up field as he reached the sideline on the end around with 13:19 in the 3rd QTR. Excellent change of direction on the smash screen with 9:20 in the game to elude the full hit by the LB and blow past the angles of two other players before getting into the open field untouched for the score. The stop-start move was what prevented the LB from getting a full hit on the WR.

Ball

Good job switching the ball to his outside arm on an end around to the left flat with 13:19 in the 3rd QTR for a 3-yard gain. He primarily carries the ball under his left arm. On a catch and run up the middle he kept the ball under his left arm.

Balance

Breazell's 69-yard score was off a smash screen that he took back to the inside, bounced off a hit by the LB from the inside and cut up the middle untouched for most of the yardage.

Blocking

He'll attempt to get into the body of a DB but he gets thrown aside pretty easily. This happened frequently in the 1st half. He's got a body side not much different than WR Brandon Lloyd.

Vision

Power

Good job lowering his shoulder and taking the LB's hit at the sideline for a 7-yard gain on the end around.

Durability

Tore the left posterior ligament in spring practice this year.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Brandon Breazell

Date: 12/22/2007

Opponent: BYU

Overall Strengths

He has decent hands and will fight for position despite his slight size. He has speed and will make the acrobatic play.

Overall Weaknesses

Slight frame, not effective as a blocker or runner.

Separation

He faced a bump coming out of his break on the post for the score, but he continued to run through the pattern. Good separation on a corner route from the slot for a 25-yard gain.

Routes

He didn't look like he was running very hard on a 3rd and 15 deep out that was thrown to him. He was very lethargic out of his break and the ball landed about 3 yards closer to the sideline than he was. The QB yelled at him after the whistle. He ran a post from the slot with no time left to get open along the end line. Breazell did a good job jockeying for inside position on a sideline streak in the 2nd half, but the ball was overthrown.

Receiving

He caught a 3-yard hitch in the right flat and gained 4 yards after the catch, running out of bounds to stop the clock with less than a minute in the half. He made a nice diving catch along the end line with no time in the half. He caught a 25-yard corner route thrown over his outside shoulder with his hands and made sure to keep both feet inbounds with 4:03 in the 3rd QTR. He took his eyes off the ball and looked downfield to run trying to turn to get the first down and the ball went through his hands, hit his stomach and dropped through his legs. This was on a 3rd down with less than 4:00 in the game on a short hitch that was thrown short of the first down marker. He caught a short in-route with his hands turned up field but was brought down after a 4-yard gain.

Evasiveness

He demonstrated some quickness on an end around, but he could not elude the defender in the backfield who horse collared him for a 5-yard loss. He almost cut past him on the play.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball under his sideline arm on the end around to start the second half.

Balance

Blocking

He made an attempt to cut block the edge defender at the LOS, but dropped too low and missed the block with 7:40 in the half.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

Breazell overthrew his WR in the end zone on a reverse pass with 6:15 in the half. He threw the ball about 50 yards in the air.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

71

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

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Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
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Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: D.J. Hall

Date: 9/29/2007

Opponent: Florida State

Overall Strengths

DJ Hall has a lot of skills that could make him a very good NFL receiver. He is fast and smooth as a runner. He has a bit of wiggle as a runner after the catch and he catches the football with his hands. He is capable of acrobatic catches at the sideline, downfield, and in tight coverage. There's a lot that he does very naturally that may be appealing to some NFL team. If he can overcome his deficiencies, he could be a quality player.

Overall Weaknesses

Hall will remain an one-dimensional outside threat if he doesn't overcome his reticence for contact on the football field. He does not block aggressively or run aggressively after the catch when there's a prospect of physical contact. He is a physical talent, but his attitude towards contact is what will be the difference from him being a solid NFL prospect and a receiver who is best known only for a good college career. He does not give full effort as a route runner when the ball isn't thrown in his direction. Since I watched him and De'Cody Fagg in the same game. I can say the FSU receiver has more potential because not only of his size, but also his overall effort and attitude about physical contact. He's a more aggressive football player than Hall--despite the fact that Hall could easily be much better than he plays if he concentrated more on the finer points. He gets by on his natural skills at this level. He won't be able to do this on a pro team.

Separation

Both of his first two receptions were out of the slot late in the first half. Hall has an extremely smooth gait that belies his quickness when he knows what he's going to do with the football or a route.

Routes

Hall's first catch was a short out, but he did not show good awareness of the sideline and stepped out of bounds as he brought the ball in to his body. Hall ran a slant for a 7-yard completion with 5:06 in the 3rd QTR. The CB was playing inside technique with a 4-yard cushion at the LOS. Hall made a very quick jab step to the outside, setting up the break to the inside. Hall did not finish his route on a short square-in thrown low and to the inside of him. As a result the CB nearly intercepted the pass. He appeared reticent to take the hit if he attempted to catch the football. He trotted downfield on the next play when he knew the play wasn't going to him.

Receiving

Hall caught a crossing route with 6:30 in the half and was immediately knocked off his feet by the LB. He did a good job catching the football with his hands on the short pattern. He ran a short hitch on the next play, catching the ball with his hands as he was hit immediately by the safety and an LB. Hall caught the ball with his hands first on a 7-yard hitch that he was able to turn into a 27-yard gain. Hall caught the slant with his body with 4:54 in the 3rd QTR. He has very good leaping ability and can make catches where he has to adjust his body in the air in single coverage against a DB.

Evasiveness

Hall tried to jump away from the LB's shooting tackle for his legs with 6:30 in the half, but could not elude him. He made a very fluid spin move to the outside on a 1st and 10 hitch route with 5:26 in the 3rd QTR. His spin move left the DB stumbling and he gained 20 yards after the catch.

Ball

Hall did not switch the ball to the outside arm as he ran near the sideline after spinning away from the CB in coverage during a 27-yard gain with 5:34 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Blocking

Hall was not aggressive with his first run block opportunity on the first play of the game.

Vision

Power

This is not a receiver who is comfortable with contact. He cuts routes short when he runs them inside to avoid contact. He veers out of bounds on runs in the open field as he gets close to a DB he can't outrun.

Durability

Character

Hall does not make a good effort to block in the open field. He plays the game as if he's trying to do just enough on the field where he won't stand out enough for the coach to yell at him in the film room. This isn't likely his true motivation, but he seems to play to avoid contact rather than initiate it.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

73

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
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- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
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- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
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- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Game Stats

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Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
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Routes Score:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: D.J. Hall

Date: 11/10/2007

Opponent: Mississippi State

Overall Strengths

Hall is a very smooth, fast receiver with good hands. He catches the ball very well with his hands away from his body and exhibits decent awareness of the sideline. He comes out of his breaks well. These strengths along with his height make him a viable NFL prospect with upside if he can develop the bigger shortcomings of his game.

Overall Weaknesses

In this game Hall was used in a very one-dimensional manner--an outside threat. There was one time he was targeted over the middle and the pass was nearly intercepted. Hall is a passive blocker in the run game and needs to improve his effort.

Separation

The Miss St. DB was playing nearly 10 yards off Hall on the WR's first reception and Hall took advantage by running a 15-yard out. The DB was still 3 yards away from the WR on his break. In the first half Hall ran slants, hitches, and outs against DBs giving him a large cushion. Hall demonstrated enough speed to beat his CB deep on post pattern to open the 4th QTR, but the QB did not see Hall. The DB was playing several yards off Hall, but the WR ate up the cushion fairly quickly and had a couple of steps on the defender.

Routes

He sat in the shallow opening underneath the zone in the right flat on a 1st and 10 with 8:43 in the 3rd QTR. When the QB felt the pressure and rolled right, Hall adjusted to the QB and made himself a good outlet target for a gain of 4 yards. He did a good job getting out of his breaks on short, outside routes. He runs very smooth routes and the defense gave him a lot of cushion to get open as deep as 15 yards downfield on just about every snap. They were very wary of his deep threat ability.

Receiving

The first time Hall was targeted was a 2nd and 9 with 1:52 in the 1st QTR. Hall ran a short slant, but the QB threw the ball into double coverage. Hall tried to leap for the ball that was thrown high, but the DB jumped the route and got in front of the WR, nearly intercepting the ball. His second target was on a 15-yard out with 11:25 in the half. He caught the ball with his hands extended over his head and displayed good awareness of the sideline to get one foot in bounds. Hall made a very nice catch on an out route to the left side with 4:04 in the half, but the ball was thrown high and when Hall went up for the ball, the DB hit him and the WR could not stay in bounds as he caught the pass. He looked very smooth and effortless on both of these catches where he fully extended his body to snatch the ball out of the air. His next catch was a short hitch for 7 yards with 1:16 in the half. Hall's next look was a short out with 8:43 in the 3rd QTR. He caught the short pass in the flat with his arms away from his body and running towards the sideline for a gain of 4 yards. His next reception was a 7-yard hitch at the left sideline with 9:48 in the game. Very smooth catch with his body angled back on a 14-yard out where the ball was a bit behind him with less than 9:00 in the game.

Elusiveness

Hall did not have any opportunities to run with the ball in the open field after the catch.

Ball

He only had one catch where he carried the ball and it was in his non-sideline arm at the sideline. Of course the moment he caught the ball a defender was on him.

Balance

Blocking

His blocking is highly suspect. If he's lined up against a CB tight, he'll shield the man but does not ever initiate an aggressive block. On running plays up the middle where Hall is to slant over the middle he consistently gets enough depth so he avoids coming into contact with an LB or safety. In contrast some of the better blockers at the position I've seen will consistently take this opportunity to hit an LB or S on this type of play. A good example in recent years was Ohio State WR Santonio Holmes. On 2nd and 7 with 2:28 in the 3rd Hall did manage to shield his CB from a chance to hit the Alabama QB on a 14-yard scramble, but the effort was once again very passive. He did a decent job shielding and turning his CB on the left sideline to create an alley for his RB to gain 6 yards with 9:00 in the game.

Vision

Power

Hall went down easily when he was wrapped up by the CB on his 7-yard hitch with 9:49 in the game.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
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Overall Score:

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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
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- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
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Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
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Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: DJ Hall

Date: 12/28/2006

Opponent: Oklahoma State

Overall Strengths

He can catch the football with his hands. He is the type of effortless athlete who makes things look easy. He demonstrated the ability to go across the middle and take a hit while maintaining possession of the ball.

Overall Weaknesses

His effort is lacking with numerous small points of the position that make him a very raw prospect or a low effort player depending on one's perspective.

Separation

He gained 6 yards on the end around to open the 3rd QTR. His speed is deceptive due to his smooth stride. Hall faced press coverage on a 3rd and 2 slant for a 6-yard reception and a first down. He initiated the bump off the line and cleared his own path to the inside due to his push.

Routes

Hall ran a short hitch across the middle from the slot with 8:35 in the 1st QTR, but did not do a very good job settling into the zone. He continued to back his way towards the LB and DB behind him in the zone rather than creating a cushion. This forced the QB to throw a ball into double coverage and incomplete.

Receiving

Hall made an over the shoulder catch with both hands over his head on an out route for 12-yards, but could not get his feet inbounds. In fact, it appeared he had enough room to get his feet inbounds, but did not show good awareness of the sideline or technique to lean towards the sideline with his toes balancing the line. I might seem a little harsh in criticizing this effort, because Hall has a very effortless style. The problem is this graceful receiver doesn't always show maximum effort on little details that could make him a much better player, such as this here. His first catch was a 9-yard hitch on 1st and 10 at the right sideline. He caught the ball with his back to the defense and with his hands bracing the ball as it bounced against his chest. He then turned and leaned over the 1st down marker for a 10-yard gain. He caught a 10-yard hitch at the right sideline with 5:25 in the half. He caught the ball against his stomach and it appeared he fought the ball into his body just before the DB hit him. He managed to turn and lean forward for an extra two yards and a 10-yard gain. Good job catching an in route in a lot of traffic with a the first down and a gain of 16 yards. He saw the LB coming across the field but still caught the ball with his hands--although close to his body--while sliding into the hit. He took a shot to the head but still held onto the ball. The hit wasn't very hard, but the catch despite the threat of the hit was good, even if he made an adjustment to avoid the contact as he was making the catch. Good job using his body to shield the DB from the slant on 3rd and 2 with 4:29 in the 3rd QTR. Hall caught a comeback behind the LOS but could not run past the DB on the play.

Elusiveness

Ball

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
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- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:

- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: D.J. Hall

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths

Hall is a smooth deep threat who commands respect with his speed and acceleration. He can catch the football with his hands and when at the top of his game, snatch the football out of the air. He has good acceleration and dangerous first step or turn after the catch. He's such a fluid athlete that he makes catching the football look effortless. He's an enticing athlete with some natural pass catching skills and body control.

Overall Weaknesses

Alabama gets the most out of him as a receiver by keeping him in the slot mismatched against LBs or safeties where he runs hitches, outs, or corner routes. Or he runs hitches, outs, and post patterns in zone coverage while split wide. He does not run a lot of routes inside or against man coverage. He's not a physical blocker, doesn't always carry the ball under the right arm, and he won't break many tackles with the ball in his hands. He does not face press coverage very often and was easily bumped off course on routes against bracketed coverage. At best, I see Hall as a player who will line up in a 3 or 4-WR set as the deep or outside threat.

Separation

On the post pattern off play action that Hall caught for 43 yards with 10:20 in the 1st QTR, the CB in coverage was playing 9 yards off the WR and still had to grab the WR before his break because Hall ate the cushion so fast. Hall had the WR beat by 2 steps as he caught the ball. Hall could not get physical separation from the safety on a route along the end line on 1st and goal with 7:05 in the 1st QTR. Hall complained he was held on the play, which appeared to be the case. At the same time, he didn't leave himself enough room away from the end line to drift back towards the line to gain some horizontal separation as the ball was in the air. Hall faced bracketed coverage on a crossing route in the end zone with :22 in the half. He was bumped off the line of scrimmage and allowed the defender to alter the path his route. Good job getting separation in close coverage with :14 in the half for a score on the corner fade. He had a slight push off on the CB, but it was more of an instance where he had his hands on the CB's forearms at the same time the CB had his hands on Hall. The WR simply turned towards the QB and kept turning to the sideline to catch the ball. Hall got held up on a corner route with 6:39 in the game and could not get enough separation on the play.

Routes

His out route for 4 yards with 8:31 in the 1st QTR was not very sharp. He did not snap out of his break, but he was fortunate the QB threw the ball too far to the inside and Hall was in the area. It's likely the QB anticipated how his receiver runs this route. On Hall's 9-yard hitch, the DB lined up 4-yards off the WR then backed up to a 9-10 yard cushion before the snap. When Hall caught the hitch, the DB was still 5 yards off the WR. He finally faced coverage where the CB lined up within 2 yards of him, but the defender opened his hips and played inside technique to run with Hall very early into the route. This allowed Hall to run a 9-yard out and catch the football for a total gain of 12 with 13:45 in the half. Hall lined up in the slot two plays later against an overmatched LB who bailed quickly off the snap, giving Hall room to run a short hitch and gain 7 yards. Hall's first catch in the 3rd QTR was a 20-yard corner route from the slot. He had a lot of cushion to catch the ball without contest.

Receiving

His first catch was a 16-yard out against a very soft cushion for a 1st down. The CB was about 4 yards away from Hall as he caught the ball with his hands and tapping his feet inbounds. The ball was at helmet level and Hall caught the ball in front of him. Hall had no one covering him over top on an 8-yard out thrown to the right side with 13:18 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball with both hands, but a bit against his body as he was close to the sideline. On the next play, Hall ran a corner route from the slot, but the ball was overthrown. Hall caught the long post pattern over his inside shoulder and with his hands cradling the ball to his chest while on the run with 10:14 in the 1st QTR. He gained another 8 yards after the catch as the trailing DBs tried to catch him. His next catch was a short out with 8:30 in the opening quarter for 4 yards. He also cradled this body against his chest. He caught the ball and then was hit about a half second later by the LB over his back. Hall caught an 9-yard hitch that he took another 7 yards with 14:44 in the half. He faced the QB on the route and caught the ball with his hands at chest level. Hall caught an out with fairly tight coverage at the sideline with 13:45 in the half. He caught the ball with his hands, snatching it and tucking it quickly. Hall's first score was a post from the slot against LB's in zone coverage. He caught the ball with no one within 2 yards of him in the end zone with his hands for the score. Hall's next catch was from the same formation and pattern. He motioned across the formation to the slot on the left side and ran a 7-yard hitch near the left hash in front of the safety on a 3rd and 6 for the first down, gaining 10 yards on the play after he caught the ball at helmet level with his hands, turned and leaned for another 3 as the DB tackled him by the waist. Hall's second score came with :13 in the half on a fade route against press coverage. He did a good job of breaking with his inside shoulder facing the QB then turning away from the QB to shield the ball from defender while he made the catch with his hands in tight coverage. Good timing and ability to track the ball. He made this play look easy. Hall caught the 3rd QTR corner route over his outside shoulder and with his hands. Hall ran a 15-yard out against a CB who looked like he was in press, but was playing inside zone. As a result Hall was wide open with only a safety in deep coverage to his side as he caught the out 15 yards downfield with his hands. He was able to turn up field for another 16 yards on the play. Hall ran a short out against the LB in the slot with 7:24 in the game. The ball was thrown high and away from his body, but the WR caught the ball with his arms extended away from his body and above his helmet while leaving his feet. He was hit by the LB in the back and still hung onto the ball. Good concentration.

Elusiveness

Hall made a quick spin to the outside to elude the CB's tackle on a 9-yard out with 13:45 in the half. He tried to spin inside of the safety a moment later, but the DB didn't buy it and brought Hall down immediately with a hit to the waist. Hall's best trait as a runner after the catch is a quick first step or turn and his acceleration. He gained 16-yards after the catch for a 31-yard gain with 4:29 in the 3rd QTR by turning up field quickly with the safety a yard away over top and dipping quickly to the inside as the tackler overran his angle. He made the trailing CB miss as he veered inside and swatted away the glancing blow.

Ball

On the 9-yard hitch with a 7-yard run down the sideline, Hall tucked the ball under his inside arm although running down the sideline with a DB in pursuit at his ball carrying arm. On the 12-yard gain on the out route he tucked the ball under his sideline arm. He did a better job keeping the ball on his sideline arm during the 31-yard reception/run down the right sideline with 4:29 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Blocking

He routinely shielded his CB's on run plays in the first half. He didn't deliver much of a hit, but he did get his hands into the chest of the defender and generated a bit of a push. It was common for the Alabama offense to run the ball away from the side Hall was lined up as a receiver.

Vision

Power

He doesn't run very hard after the catch. He finished his 7-yard gain by going out of bounds rather than trying to stay in the field of play and initiate contact against the DB. As the LB tackled Hall on a 4-yard hitch he turned into a 7-yard gain. Hall was able to lean forward during the hit.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

78

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

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Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Danny Amendola

Date: 10/28/2006

Opponent: Texas

Overall Strengths

Is Amendola another Wes Welker because he played the same role at the same school? Well, he is a tough player with good hands who displays an acumen for going across the middle and catching the football in traffic. He also can gain yardage after the catch with quick moves and demonstrates a savvy to get open despite contact in his routes. I think he has a chance to be an effective slot receiver for a team as well as a punt returner--much like Welker. If he can gain a bit more muscle without losing speed, he might have an easier time against press coverage. He's a smart football player who will dish out contact. At best, he's a productive system player as a WR, but not a guy you can plug in any team and watch him get 800-1000 yards.

Overall Weaknesses

He operates out of the slot and often against zone coverage, so he did not see any physical press coverage. Although he fought a little bump at the LOS on a crossing route, he didn't have an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to beat press coverage on a vertical release. Although he's quick and has good balance for his size/strength ratio, he gets knocked down easily. He also needs to refine his routes and work on his breaks so he can get more separation when he faces tighter coverage in the NFL.

Separation

Amendola was hit at the LOS while trying to run a crossing route with 4:03 in the 1st QTR, but he slipped under the hit so they his course wasn't too altered for the QB to get him the ball. He turned the pass thrown 1-yard behind the LOS into a 15-yard gain up the right sideline. He had enough speed on the crossing route to turn the corner and get 15 yards with the CB Aaron Ross in pursuit. He was finally caught from behind and dragged out of bounds by the CB. He made a little shoulder fake on the CB from the slot on an out route to get some separation with 7:24 in the game.

Routes

Good job maintaining the route despite getting hit off the line of scrimmage on the 1st and 5 crossing route with 4:03 in the 1st QTR. He made a good adjustment to get open for the QB when the pass muffed the shotgun snap with 6:56 in the game. Amendola just turned and faced the QB to make himself an easy target so the passer could dump it off to him. Although he only made it back to the LOS, he helped bail the QB out on the play.

Receiving

Amendola's first catch was a 22-yard post route from the slot out of a 4-WR set with 8:01 in the 1st QTR. His coverage was playing about 10 yards off him at the line of scrimmage, giving the WR an inside release. Amendola leaped into the air and turned his body back to the QB to use is body to shield the ball from the CB and the safety in the middle of the field. He caught the ball with his hands at helmet level and maintained possession after the hit. Amendola caught a 1st and 5 crossing route thrown over his inside shoulder one yard behind the LOS. He caught the ball with his hands as he was running towards the right sideline. He turned the corner and gain 15 yards, out-running the pursuit of a DB and LB. Amendola caught a 3rd and 2 hitch with his hands and sprinted downfield for a 21-yard gain. What I liked about his play was that he already turned his hips up field as the ball was in the air so when he caught the ball he could run. This allowed him to get a half-step on the LB and break the tackle attempt at his ankles and get another 15 yards on the play. He caught a 9-yard hitch from the slot with two DBs close by with 12:20 in the game. As he did with his first catch, Amendola left his feet, shielded the ball from the defenders with his body and took the hit. He took a quick look in with his hands with 8:36 in the game and took it 11-yards--a 7-yard gain after the catch. He made a good over the shoulder catch on a ball thrown to his outside shoulder 4 yards downfield with 7:27 in the game. He turned the play up field for another 6 yards with a DB in tight pursuit.

Easiness

He made a quick, sharp turn inside of the LB on a look-in with 8:36 in the game for 11 yards.

Ball

He consistently carried the ball under his sideline arm depending where he was on the field.

Balance

Good balance to get another 15 yards on a 21-yard catch/run on 3rd and 2 with 3:00 in the half after breaking an ankle tackle.

Blocking

He's a very tough special teams player. He was called for an unnecessary roughness penalty during a punt return because of the shot he put on former 1st round pick, safety Michael Griffin. It was a Hines Ward-like hit that changed the tone of the game for Texas Tech.

Vision

Power

Amendola lost 7 yards on an end around from the slot with 3:56 in the 1st QTR because the MLB blitzed up the middle untouched and met him in the backfield after receiving the ball. He had no problem lowering his shoulder into the safety at the end of a 21-yard catch/run off a 5-yard hitch on 3rd and 2 with 3:00 in the half.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

72

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
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- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
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- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Rush Yds:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Darius Reynaud

Date: 1/2/2008

Opponent: Oklahoma

Overall Strengths

Reynaud has excellent quickness and power for a man his size. He catches the ball well with his hands and is a threat to go the distance with the ball in his hands. He should make an excellent return specialist and viable slot receiver if he can improve his route skills.

Overall Weaknesses

Reynaud needs work on his routes: getting more depth, getting in and out of breaks, shielding the ball from the defender, and getting separation from a DB in press coverage.

Separation

Reynaud has a good burst out of his stance.

Routes

Reynaud was supposed to run a 10-yard out, on 2nd and 9 with 2:39 in the 1st QTR. He rounded off his break and did not get enough depth. He made his break about a yard and a half in front of the marker and tried to angle himself past the marker with the ball in the air and the DB in tight coverage and ready to jump the route if the pass were on target. On his next target, a 3rd and 8 with 10:10 in the half, Reynaud ran a 7-yard hitch in zone coverage. He cut the route short because he saw the LB coming from across the middle, but his cutting off of the route was premature and ultimately the reason why he not only dropped the ball. The pass clearly was thrown for a deeper route and Reynaud tried to get fancy and catch the ball with his hands while turning to face the LB so he could make a move on the defender when he caught the ball. Instead the ball bounced off his hands. Once again, Reynaud was in the slot and ran a hitch 1-yard short of the marker. He did do a good job of turning early to make himself a good target for the QB rolling out to the left. Reynaud's touchdown of 21 yards had nothing to do with his route running. OU had a safety over the top of the DB in the slot. The DB thought the safety was helping out, but the safety was actually blitzing. As a result the DB allowed Reynaud a free route to the end zone.

Receiving

His first catch was a short hitch to the inside out of the slot, which he caught with his hands. Reynaud didn't try to shield the ball from the LB on a 7-yard hitch on 3rd and 8 with 10:10 in the half. He tried to avoid the LB and this was why he allowed the ball to bounce off his hands. He was concerned about taking a big hit although the LB was still a good 2-3 yards away. Good job catching the slot screen with his hands away from his body on 1st and 10 with 3:02 in the half. Reynaud's 21-yard touchdown was a pass to the left seam where OU completely blew the coverage. He caught the ball with his hands and trotted into the end zone.

Elasticity

He demonstrated enough quickness on his first reception with 3:38 in the 1st QTR to turn away from the DB over top and elude his shooting tackle attempt. On his second catch an 8-yard hitch in the 2nd QTR to the left side, Reynaud turned up quickly to get another 5 yards and the first down. Reynaud made an excellent full speed dip back to the inside on an end around to fake out the DB about 10 yards past the LOS and he scored from 30 yards out with :30 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball in his outside arm on the run.

Balance

Good balance to keep his feet on an 8-yard reception and 5-yard run after slipping while turning up field. He used his free arm to maintain his footing.

Blocking

His run blocking needs work. His feet on his block on 1st and 10 with 6:55 against the DB in the right flat were too wide and it didn't give him the leverage to steer the DB completely away from the RB with the ball.

Vision

Power

When Reynaud eluded the DB on his first catch, a 2-yard hitch, he slipped down in front of the LB over top. He does have power--he can squat 700-lbs. You can see his leg power when he's one on one with a DB trying to tackle him high. He had to be gang tackled on his slot screen with 3:02 in the half.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

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- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:**
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:**
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- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:**
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:**
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:**
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:**
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:**
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:**
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Game Stats

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Category Scores

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Balance Score:
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Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Darius Reynaud

Date: 9/28/2007

Opponent: South Florida

Overall Strengths

Reynaud is a tough, quick, and elusive receiver after the catch. He is very effective in the slot position and demonstrates good hands on most throws. He is not just a receiver who gets throws to the flat, but also on intermediate routes downfield. He showed the ability to catch the ball in relatively tight coverage and he demonstrated good leaping ability.

Overall Weaknesses

Reynaud needs to run more disciplined routes. He needs to learn how to maintain good depth on a throw. He's built more like a 3rd and down runner than a receiver. He could develop into a #2 WR but it's more likely he'll return kicks and be a slot receiver early in his NFL career.

Separation

Good acceleration on a 26 yard flare pass where he put a stop-start move on the DB to run past 4 defenders on the play.

Routes

Good timing on the 20-yard in-route on 2nd and 10 to get to the spot between the LB and S with 8:05 in the 1st QTR. Reynaud did not show a lot of awareness of the 1st down marker on a 4th down reception. Although the throw was low, the QB may have adjusted his throw if the WR got better depth.

Receiving

The first target to Reynaud was a 2nd and 10 pass 20 yards downfield to the WR on a deep in route with 8:05 in the 1st QTR. The throw was purposely high and over the LB. Reynaud leaped with both hands extended to snatch the ball in tight coverage, but the DB knocked it out of his hands. This is the type of play a pro receiver will often make. On the next play, he caught an inside screen for 7 yards. Reynaud caught a low pass on 4th down and displayed good technique to catch the ball from his knees, but he did not run his route with enough depth. Reynaud caught short pass in the flat behind the LOS. The ball was high and away from his body, but he did a very good job snatching the ball with his back to the LOS. ON the next play, he took a low pass to the left flat with his hands first and from behind the LOS and outran the DB over the top and gain 26 yards down the left sideline. The QB tried to hit Reynaud in the right flat, but the pass was overthrown in the 3rd QTR with 7:08 left. He made a nice adjustment on the same type of throw with 6:30 in the 3rd QTR and caught the ball with his hands extended. But the USF defense dropped the WR for a 2-yard loss. Reynaud scored on a 9-yard cross on the back line. He juggled the ball but still managed to hold onto it with a DB trailing close behind and getting his hand on the WR's body .

Elusiveness

Although he was brought down for a 1-yard loss on a reverse with 9:29 in the 1st QTR, Reynaud demonstrated very quick, stop-start movements and change of direction on the play. Good change of direction skills on a 3rd and 10 screen pass for 7 yards with 7:40 in the 1st QTR.

Ball

Reynaud did not switch the ball to his outside arm on 3rd and 10 with 7:40 in the 1st QTR, but he did demonstrate good ball protection on a 7-yard run on a middle screen. Decent job blocking his DB on a run up the middle by the QB. He could have sustained it a bit longer, but the effort was good.

Balance

Blocking

Good effort to block the DB on a 1st and 10 run with 2:35 in the 1st QTR. He kept the DB from getting into the backfield or near the hole and continued the effort until the whistle blew.

Vision

Good job taking the ball up field and behind his downfield block for a 7-yard gain with 7:15 in the half.

Power

He's built a bit more like an RB, which he was in high school. He knows how to lower his head at the end of plays and drive his feet for extra yards.

Durability

Character

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Power Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Darius Reynaud

Date: 11/6/2006

Opponent: Louisville

Overall Strengths

Reynaud's best skill is his ability to gain yardage in the open field. He has a good combination of quickness, vision, balance, and lateral movement for a slot receiver. He can catch the ball with his hands. He's a quality kick return specialist who will likely make a team due to this skill more than anything.

Overall Weaknesses

In this game he was primarily used as a player to get into open space with short routes split wide. He won't run over many players other than a cornerback. His route choices were limited in this game so it was difficult to judge him as a route runner at all in this game.

Separation

He blew by the LB in the seam on a post pattern for the catch and if the ball weren't thrown where he had to make an acrobatic leap for it, he probably beats the LB for the score from a long distance, but because he had to leave his feet the DB was able to catch his foot before he could fully accelerate. He's very quick, but he can get caught from behind. He showed a quick first step out of a cut to get to the sideline on a 23-yard return with 10:10 in the game.

Routes

Receiving

Reynaud caught a smash screen with 6:38 and split the defenders for a 5-yard gain. Good job catching the chest-level pass with his hands. He got wide open on a post 14-yard downfield on a 3rd and 9 pass. He made a leaping catch with his arms fully extended at 11 o'clock over his head to snatch the ball and bring it in as he landed and hit the ground running. He gained another 12 yards and nearly went the distance if the LB did nick his foot to trip him up. Reynaud caught the screen from the slot with his hands and gained 40 yards on the 1st and 10 play with 6:30 in the half. He caught a crossing route for 7 yards on a 4th and 10 with 7:20, but couldn't beat the 2 defenders over the top as he turned up field. He tried to power through them after attempting a stutter step but didn't get much of a push.

Evasiveness

Reynaud made a great okie-doke move where he took a stutter step to the left then cut laterally to the right and around the DB coming up at the right hash where he caught the football. He burst up field for 8 yards then dipped past another defender to the outside which set up a block downfield by the other WR on lined up on the right and now at the first down marker. He was caught from behind by the LB after a 40-yard gain down the sideline. He made a couple of small stutter moves and turns in tight space on the left sideline to get 20 yards on a kick return with 14:52 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball

He did not switch the ball to his sideline arm after getting past the right hash on his screen pass with in the 2nd QTR. He ran 40 yards down the sideline with his ball under his inside arm. He had a ball knocked out on a kick off after he initially muffed it with 1:30 in the half. The next return he had the ball under the correct sideline arm. He's just inconsistent with being conscious of switching it at times. He did not keep the ball in the sideline arm on a 23-yard return with 10:10 in the game.

Balance

He can run through indirect shots in the secondary and some indirect shots by LBs but a direct hit will put him on his butt.

Blocking

He sustained his block downfield and peeled off to help with another on his QB's 21-yard run off a designed draw with 11:50 in the half.

Vision

Reynaud had the chance to get outside for a bigger gain with 6:38 in the 1st QTR off the smash screen but did not see the opening to his left. Nice job setting up a block on a reverse for 6 yards with 5:36 in the 3rd QTR. Once again, good up field vision on a 42-yard kick return up the right sideline.

Power

He can run through arm tackles.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

78

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Darnell Jenkins

Date: 9/20/2007

Opponent: Texas A&M

Overall Strengths

Jenkins is a tough slot receiver with good hands and an aggressive attitude to get the ball in traffic.

Overall Weaknesses

Jenkins needs to learn to beat press coverage. His deep speed is a question mark as are his skills as a blocker and runner after the catch. He appears to be a one-dimensional receiver who could move the chains in the slot as a situational player, but his upside appears limited.

Separation

Routes

Jackson ran a deep in-route for exactly 13 yards on 3rd and 13 to get the 1st down with 11:23 in the 1st QTR. Jenkins did well on a 3rd and 6 pass play with 6:04 in the 1st QTR to run a short pattern 4-yards past the 1st down marker from the slot position. He slanted towards the middle of the field between two defenders in zone coverage and then settled in the open space by turning to face the QB.

Receiving

Nice diving catch on 3rd and 13 on a low-thrown pass with 11:23 in the 1st QTR. He cradled the ball into his chest with his body fully extended to retrieve the ball thrown at waist level. There were no defenders within 10 yards of him. Jenkins made another leaping catch on a slant in tight coverage on 3rd and 5 with 7:45 in the 1st QTR. He angled back towards the trailing DB to catch the ball over his head with his hands first, despite running into an area where there was a DB coming across and going low. When he landed he took a shot from the CB and LB. Jenkins caught the 3rd pass with his hands and took a hard shot by the safety coming across the middle. He almost dropped the ball, but managed to hang onto it. Jenkins made another diving catch on a low and away throw on a 2nd an 9 slant in the redzone with 7:30 in the half. He caught the ball with his hands and took a hits from an LB and safety over top. The ball popped loose, hit the LB and bounced back into Jenkins body as he fell to the ground. Good concentration. He initially had to lean into the hit to get the ball. Very tough catch.

Elusiveness

Ball

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

He missed last year with a knee injury.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
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- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
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Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Darrell Blackman

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: Maryland

Overall Strengths

Blackman is one of the better special teams returnman prospects in this draft class. He has excellent balance, a decent burst, and doesn't shy away from contact. He catches the football with his hands and can gain yardage in the openfield with his burst and balance. He reminds me of a player with skill sets similar to Josh Reed-Hines Ward: former RB, good balance, tough across the middle, good hands, but questionable deep speed.

Overall Weaknesses

Is he fast enough as a pass receiver to be more than an underneath threat? His routes need refinement. I didn't see many opportunities for him to block in this game. He's had a slew of injuries and lost his RB spot as a starter due to missing practice. If his head is screwed on straight he could be a valuable special teamer and possible #2 WR if he works hard on the small points of the receiving game because he's a tough football player with a knack for making the big play.

Separation

Blackman has enough of a burst to get extra yardage after the catch. I'm not sure he's really much of a gamebreaker with his speed as a potential pro, but he can get up to his full speed rather quickly. He was able to turn the corner on a punt return for 19 yards when the defender who was the first man near him had a clear angle. He got past the CB on a sideline streak but the ball was overthrown. He had a few steps on the player, but it appeared the DB blew the coverage rather than got outrun.

Routes

He needs to run sharper routes. He did not drive the DB off the ball very effectively on 4th and 4 with 6:44 in the game, but still made the catch. He generally ran routes that were streaks or slants.

Receiving

He looked very smooth catching a 1-yard hitch from the slot and turning the play upfield for a 14-yard gain with 12:20 in the half. He caught the ball away from his body with his arms extended at helmet level while facing downfield. Blackman caught a 41-yard pass on a hail mary attempt with :01 in the half. He outleaped the defender behind him to get a hand on the ball, tipping it and then coming down with it as he landed. Good concentration. Blackman caught the slant with the DB playing inside position and 2 yards to the left of him. The WR caught the low-thrown ball with his hands at about shin level while on the run. He gained 31 yards on the play with a good run after the catch. Blackman caught a 5-yard hitch on 4th and 4 for a 1st down despite the CB interfering with a wrap up before the ball arrived. Good concentration and shielding of the ball with his body. He caught a 5-yard hitch with his hands extended from his body at helmet level then ran through the DB for another 3 yards. His next catch was two plays later on a smash screen that he caught with his hands, but lost his balance as he was trying to run through a tackle dipping to the inside with 7:43 in the game.

Elusiveness

Blackman caught the slant at shin level with a CB trailing and a safety 7 yards away with a direct angle head-on. Blackman made a sutter move that forced the safety to break down before the WR dipped further inside, causing both the CG and DB to miss. He set up the block by his WR in the middle of the field with his move as well, opening a lane at the 20-yard line to get the first down.

Ball

Good job tucking the ball under his sideline arm as he turned the corner from the hitch route he caught from the slot. Very good job switching the ball to his left arm as he dipped toward the middle after catching the slant with 9:10 in the 3rd QTR. He was able to keep the backside pursuit from ripping the ball because he made the switch.

Balance

On a punt return that was called back for a 2-yard net gain after a penalty he actually gain about 18 yards. The highlight of the run was colliding head-on with a player shooting downfield and maintaining his balance to get another 5 yards after the hit. Two players actually hit him, but he used his free arm well enough to absorb some of the blow and cause the two defenders to knock each other down. He does not go down easily against CBs. On a 5-yard hitch he gained another three after head-on contact with the DB. A 19-yard gain on a punt return to the left sideline was the result of slipping a tackle from backside pursuit and maintaining his balance by planting his free hand to the ground and keeping his legs moving for another 7-8 yards down the sideline.

Blocking

Vision

He demonstrated some patience to take a kick off around the left corner by following his blocker for a 16-yard gain. Blackman did a nice job getting to the left sideline on 19-yard punt return.

Power

Good stiff arm to knock the DB backwards as he turned the corner on a run after a 1-yard hitch to gain 14-yards and a first down with 12:20 in the half. He might have gotten more than 8 yards on a punt return with :45 in the half, but the defender facemasked him as he reached he corner and pulled him down by it. The officials were shielded from the play and simply thought he was horsecollared, which is legal in the college game. Blackman dragged a DB 10 yards on the reception off the slant for 31 yards with 9:13 in the game. He earned the job as a starting RB in 2005, but was late to a meeting and was benched for the game, then suffered an ankle injury in the next game.

Durability

Missed two games with a knee sprain in 2006. Missed a game in 2005 with a sprained ankle. Had a high ankle sprain in 2004 and missed much of spring practice. He missed a game with a separated AC joint in 2004 as well.

Character

Lost his starting RB job in 2005 after earning the spot because he was late for a practice.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: De'Cody Fagg

Date: 9/29/2007

Opponent: Alabama

Overall Strengths

Fagg is one of those players with excellent potential because he is a physical player who demonstrates flashes of good play. He's very fast, can catch the football with his hands, and plays a physical brand of football with or without the football. He is pretty physical blocker. He should make the practice squad of a roster (at least) and have a chance to develop into a quality receiver if he puts in the work listed below.

Overall Weaknesses

Fagg needs to learn good timing on routes with a pro quality QB. He has to become more consistent catching the football. He catches the ball with his hands, but drops passes he should hang onto. He demonstrates good physical ability to get open, but he needs to learn the nuances of route running in the intermediate passing game.

Separation

Fagg demonstrated a nice burst to run away from the trailing defender on a 3rd and 4 crossing route which helped him gain an addition 20 yards after the catch, but the play was called back on a false start. Fagg did a good job driving his CB back to gain separation on a stop-fade that he dropped in the 4th QTR with 13:00 left. Very good speed. He outran the cover corner for 58 yards after catching a 12-yard hitch in the 4th QTR.

Routes

Fagg has mostly run hitches, crossing routes, stop-fades and streaks through the first 3 and a half quarters of the game.

Receiving

Fagg ran a short crossing route on 2nd and 9 with 5:45 in the 1st QTR. The covering CB was on his back hip and wrapped his arms around Fagg as he reached up for the ball. The WR should have caught the pass but it bounced through his hands and into the secondary. The next pass to him was thrown well behind him in tight coverage on 2nd and 17 with 13:41 in the half. Fagg caught a short crossing route on 3rd and 4 for a bigger gain that was called back on a false start. Fagg caught a 7-yard hitch between two defenders with 14:40 in the 3rd QTR. He did a good job shielding the ball with his body. He allowed the ball to get into his body on the catch. Fagg's TD was a 7-yard curl on the left side of the end zone. He used his hands to secure the ball before bringing it to his chest. Fagg dropped a stop fade on 1st down with 13:00 left in the game. The ball bounced right off his hands. Fagg made a diving catch in tight coverage on an under thrown pass under pressure while running a crossing route with 10:33 in the game. Good concentration on the play.

Elusiveness

Very good turn to the outside to get separation on the cover corner on a 12-yard hitch that he turned into a 70-yard score down the sideline.

Ball

Fagg inexplicably switched the ball from his sideline arm to his inside arm on a 3rd and 4 crossing route as he approached the left sideline with 8:40 in the half. There was no defender at the sideline for him to try to avoid when he made the switch. The play was called back on a false start penalty.

Balance

On a catch downfield to Preston Parker with 14:14, Fagg was seen aggressively going after a DB 10 yards downfield and made good contact with the safety until the whistle blew. Very good job blocking downfield on his CB from snap to whistle on a QB keeper to his side for 13 yards and a 1st down with 12:53 in the game.

Vision

Fagg is a big enough receiver that he often runs out of arm tackles. He nearly ran out of a DB grabbing his ankle on a 7-yard hitch he turned into a 13-yard gain with 14:47 in the 3rd QTR.

Power

Had arthroscopy surgery on knee as a freshman. Broke his leg in high school football. Missed two games due to leg injury as a junior.

Durability

Suspended for the bowl game due to the academic scandal.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

83

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
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- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: DeSean Jackson

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths

Excellent hand and body control as a receiver, return specialist, and runner after the catch. Terrific vision of the field and he can take a hit. He is tough and has good concentration when the ball is in the air. He has excellent speed and leaping ability. Jackson has potential to develop into a complementary receiver in the NFL, but his immediate future will be at best in the slot and most likely returning kicks.

Overall Weaknesses

Jackson has great speed and quickness, but players with these start-stop moves that make them so effective in college football don't usually have the same impact on the NFL level. Jackson is a very thin, light player and unless his quickness is similar to Deion Sanders, he is not going to produce with the same ease in the NFL. Most of his moves are predicated on stop-start cuts. Playing in a spread offense, he faces a lot of zone coverage so his experience with press coverage against top competition is limited. A lot of routes for Jackson in this game appeared to be predicated on finding the soft spot in the zone rather than beating a man with a precise route.

Separation

Jackson's first reception came after getting a cursory bump for the CB playing zone as Jackson released from the line. It wasn't a very hard hit and didn't pose a challenge Jackson quickly getting into his route. Jackson's second reception was a simple five yard in where he settled into the zone between the CB playing deep and the LB playing inside. Jackson could not get separation against the UT CB playing single coverage on a sideline streak with 9:15 in the 3rd QTR but it was due to interference. The CB gave a 3 yard cushion at the line of scrimmage but as he turned to run with Jackson, he placed his left arm into Jackson's chest as he sensed he was losing ground, about 10 yards down field. Jackson was still able to get one hand on the football.

Routes

Jackson had position on a short post in the end zone with :20 left in the half, but Longshore threw it too high and away. Jackson did a nice job eating up the corner's cushion before making the cut.

Receiving

Jackson's first catch was a 15-yard comeback route at the left sideline on 3rd and 10 with 8:30 in the first quarter. He caught the ball with his hands at about helmet level as UT's senior safety delivered a very hard shot. Jackson managed to hold onto the football for a first down, although the ball shifted as he hit the ground. Good hand placement on his second catch. The ball was placed at stomach level and he caught the ball with his hands before quickly bringing it into his body. Excellent job snatching a high throw out of the air on a 2nd and 8 slant with 14:13 in the 3rd QTR. Jackson demonstrated strong body control to catch the ball, bring it to his body and adjusting his body on the way down to mess up the angle of the diving DB to get the first down.

Elusiveness

Jackson is a very good runner in the open field. He nearly split the zone coverage of the CB over top and the LB on the inside to get the first down on his second reception. On his punt return for a score, he started to the left but reversed his field to the right, cut up the middle, and then back to the left for the score. He made two men miss at the beginning of the return that allowed him to follow his blocks. One was a jump cut backwards and away from a charging Volunteer gunner so he could get to the right side of the field and follow the wall created for him. Jackson made an incredible move while bringing down is 3rd reception to open the 2nd half. He had to fully extend his body to catch the football, but on the way down he shifted the direction of his body toward the sideline so when he landed, the DB fell to the WRs feet rather than getting a clean shot on him. Two plays later, he gained 21 yards on a reverse where he made three players miss with start stop movements and dips with enough quickness that it appeared the defenders were moving in slow motion.

Ball

Good job consistently placing the ball under his outside arm after catches or while running in the open field.

Balance

He took a direct hit while running up field on a 3rd and 11 screen pass with 13:10 in the 4th QTR, but managed to keep moving forward for an extra yard.

Blocking

Jackson tends to either try to run off his coverage so they aren't near the run plays or he'll try to shield the defender. He is not a physical blocker. On Jahvid Best's 40-plus, yard run, he simply got in the way of the DB downfield rather than deliver a blow.

Vision

Jackson has excellent vision as a runner in the open field. He can set up moves ahead of him to make players miss before they even get close to him. He did this on a 3rd quarter reverse with a start-stop move that caused the DB to fly past him.

Power

He does know how to lean forward and get low when attempting to gain yardage as a runner, but he won't ever run through a player with a good angle at the next level.

Durability

He played the 4th QTR with a taped thumb that he dislocated on the streak down the sideline where the DB interfered on the play. he caught one more pass, a WR screen on 3rd and 11 with 13:18 in the game. He made a good effort to fight for extra yardage on the play.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
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Rec Yards:
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Rush Yds:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: DeSean Jackson

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Arizona State

Overall Strengths

Jackson will be a quality return specialist in the NFL because he has great quickness and speed coupled with excellent vision as a runner. He can make moves that are reminiscent of Dante Hall or Barry Sanders--sudden stop-start moves or lateral cuts that leave the pursuit at a standstill as he's going the opposite direction. He's very slight as a receiver in this era of football, but he possesses some skill that is difficult to ignore and leaves one to consider that he has a chance to play the position as a pro. He's got a chance to have an upside similar to Santana Moss as a receiver. He's a smart player who maximizes his talents and minimizes his deficiencies on the football field.

Overall Weaknesses

He can handle press coverage on deeper routes because he as the make up speed to get to the football, but on shorter routes he doesn't have strength or size to get good positioning on these timing routes. He is not going to break many tackles if someone gets a good shot on him. If he can get stronger and retain is speed and quickness, he has a shot to be ask good as some expect him to be. He's really not going to block anyone that effectively, but he does make the effort and tries to position himself and his opponent away from the play when at all possible.

Separation

Jackson faced press coverage on a streak route that he caught for a 44-yard gain. He and the CB were about even in size with Jackson a bit taller. Jackson got his arms extended to keep the DB from getting into his body and accelerated past him to the outside. They were running step for step on the 35-yard pass, but Jackson demonstrated great savvy in adjusting to the ball. Jackson beat the press coverage again, taking an outside move after using his hands to clear the bump with 7:53 in the 1st QTR. By the time the ball was thrown, he was 2-3 yards ahead of the CB down the sideline but the pass was overthrown. Jackson gained 5 yards on an end around with 12:17 in the half. The defense strung the play out to the sideline very well and Jackson settled for the gain without cutting it up field. He appeared as if he were running at 3/4 speed to easily get the 5 yards while the RB appeared to be running at full speed just to stay ahead and get a block. On shorter routes, Jackson had a difficult time with press coverage. He was pressed on two slant routes and could not establish inside position. Jackson had at least three steps on the CB on a streak route to open the 4th QTR but the QB under threw the ball and it was intercepted.

Routes

Jackson did not get much separation on and out route on 3rd down with 12:06, so he took the play back inside with a nice fake to get open for the QB and gain 5 yards on the reception. Jackson made sure he left a lot of room to operate between his path and the sideline on the deep route, so he could use the space to his advantage downfield. Jackson hit the cover corner assigned to his teammate on a pick play where Jackson was running an in route and the teammate and out. The teammate caught the ball for a score, but Jackson was called for interference.

Receiving

Jackson caught his first pass on an improvised route in the flat. The ball was thrown just behind him but he got both hands on the ball and brought it in with a DB within arm's reach for 5 yards. What makes Jackson a potential NFL talent is his athleticism. In tight coverage on a streak route with 8:15 in the 1st QTR, the CB has inside advantage, but Jackson left a good 5 yards between himself and the left sideline. As the ball came down, Jackson waited until the very last moment to put his arms in the air to catch the football. When he did, he leaped with his hands over his head and leaned away from the DB to catch the ball with his hands and make a quarter turn towards the sideline as he landed without breaking stride to gain another 14 yards after the catch before he was tackled at the sideline by a DB in trail position. Excellent adjustment to the football on a deep route. This is the kind of adjustment you see from Randy Moss--tracking the ball with only the eyes and adjusting with the hands and body at the very last moment so they don't tip off the defender. The QB missed him on consecutive passes in the end zone on 2nd and 3rd and goal situations in the first QTR. One throw was too far to the outside and the second was an ill-advised throw into the teeth of the zone between 3 defenders on a slant. Jackson caught a 22-yard corner route in zone coverage for a score. It was a very close call, because as he was catching the ball over his outside shoulder he dragged one foot. It appeared that he did not get the foot inbounds but the ball on the field was a touchdown and the review booth did not overturn the play. He caught a 4-yard catch with his hands at helmet level and facing the QB underneath the zone with 7:54 in the 3rd QTR. He was brought down right away. He caught a 15-yard hitch with an effortless leap for the ball above his head and snatching it with his hands against single coverage in the right flat off a hitch route with 12:35 in the game.

Eisiveness

When Jackson came down with the 44-yard streak route with 8:08 in the 1st QTR, he actually made a great stop-start move at the sideline which might have gotten him by the CB in tight coverage if another DB weren't trailing the play. This was impressive because he had run 50 yards downfield, made a very athletic leap with an awkward body turn and still demonstrated a very good stop-start move.

Ball

He did not carry the ball under his sideline arm as he took the end around with 12:17 in the half. Jackson did not call for a fair catch on a punt with 1:15 in the half and was hit as he caught the ball. He lost the football was he was being thrown backwards, but after the review the receiver's knee was down as he hit the ground. One thing is for certain, Jackson held the ball as if he were a 5-year old clutching the football against his chest, which left it highly susceptible to getting knocked out as it did.

Balance

Blocking

Jackson made a nifty move to the inside to set up a block on the CB to get him away from the corner on the run. This set up with a fake route release and block compensated for his lack of size/strength to muscle a player.

Vision

Power

Durability

Had some minor injuries this year, but a thigh bruise caused him to miss nearly three games.

Character

Interestingly enough, when the ball was intercepted, Jackson's first reaction was to look back at the QB and hold out his hands in exasperation rather than try to tackle the CB who just caught the ball. He did quickly realize what he was doing and aggressively went after the CB and after dodging two blocks, brought him down from behind. It was a good effort although the first reaction was not a good one and could have cost his team even more if the situation were such that he was the only one that could have brought down this player.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

83

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Vision Score:
Power Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: DeSean Jackson

Date: 11/18/2006

Opponent: USC

Overall Strengths

Jackson is a dynamic return specialist with great acceleration, stop-start and lateral movement, and open field vision. He can catch the football with his hands and isn't afraid to go across the middle of the field. He's a dynamic football player along the lines of a Roscoe Parrish or Santana Moss.

Overall Weaknesses

How well Jackson fares as a receiver is up for debate. He did not demonstrate the same toughness across the middle on film or after contact that I saw from a player like Santana Moss. He may be just as dynamic after the catch, but he'll need to become a better at using his body better across the middle to be more than a special teams whiz and possible slot receiver.

Separation

Jackson showed good speed to the right sideline for another 20 yards on a 36-yard gain with 4:43 in the half.

Routes

Jackson ran a skinny post on 3rd down, but the safety overtop separated him from the ball with a vicious hit the WR did not see coming. Jackson caught a 16-yard in that he took for 36 yards with 4:43 in the half. A very well-time route. There was an out route and an in route where Jackson was the target but the ball was thrown away because Jackson was double-covered.

Receiving

Jackson tried to body catch a skinny post in tight coverage, but the safety overtop nailed Jackson and separated the ball from the WR. The hit knocked his helmet off. He caught the ball with his hands first, but the hit jarred the ball loose. Jackson ran a deep streak down the left hash, but the QB overthrew the ball and the safety made an easy pick from over top. Jackson made a nice attempt to swat the ball away, but could not do so. He did make the tackle. Jackson juggled an 16-yard in versus a safety over top and a DB trailing, but caught the ball and then turned the play back to the outside for a 20-yard gain after the catch. He was trying to snatch the ball thrown a bit above helmet level before gaining control of it with his hands the second time. Jackson caught a 3-yard hitch but only gained 5 yards total on a 3rd and 10 with 9:14 in the 3rd QTR. He was pushed out of bounds shortly after turning up field.

Elusiveness

Jackson has extremely quick change of direction skills which he put on display after catching a 16-yard in and turning the play to the outside for a 20-yard gain. He made a fake to the inside on a 9-yard end around that helped him set up a block to the edge.

Ball

He carried the ball 20 yards downfield with his sideline arm during the 36-yard gain with 4:44 in the half. All his catches in this game were to the right sideline so I did not see him have to switch the football to his left arm at any point in this game.

Balance

Blocking

He attempted to block the CB out of the slot on a 2nd and 4 run with 3:31 in the 1st QTR. He shield the DB just enough for the Lynch to get to the WR's side and past the first down marker before the DB cut past the block to assist on the tackle. Jackson was split wide on a first down pass to the RB in the right flat. The WR completely missed the angle of his block and the CB quickly made the tackle on the RB with 14:56 in the half. On the next play, Jackson was split to the left side and got a couple of hits onto the DB, but kept his distance from the opponent. If he got into the body of the DB he had a chance to turn the defender away from the run to this side. Instead the DB easily slipped the block, hit the RB and caused a fumble.

Vision

Nice awareness and anticipation of the open field to the outside on a 36-yard gain that included a 20-yard run after the catch that he turned outside. His 9-yard end around was a demonstration of good vision because he had to allow his blocks to set up on the right edge and control his pace and burst. He also had to set up a lane with a fake that appeared as if he were going to dip back to the inside.

Power

Good job lowering his head and splitting two defenders to finish his end around with 3:44 in the 3rd QTR.

Durability

Missed two games this year due to a thigh injury and was nicked with minor injuries throughout the year.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

91

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
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- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
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- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Category Scores

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Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Devin Thomas

Date: 12/28/2007

Opponent: Boston College

Overall Strengths

Thomas is one of the better runners after the catch in this draft class. He's a dangerous return specialist because of his vision, speed, and power, but he's a big threat in the open field due to this power and balance. He's built very well in the thighs and arms and looks more like a tall running back. He shows promise as a route runner and very good concentration in coverage or with higher difficult passes downfield. He has the capability of becoming a dynamic playmaker at the NFL level.

Overall Weaknesses

He only has one good year of production. He gives little effort as a run blocker. He needs to learn how to release from the line against opposition. Thomas can make players miss, but he lacks small receiver moves in terms of planting and cutting in the open field. Some of his routes need refinement, sometimes he tells his breaks too easily.

Separation

Thomas has excellent quickness for his size. Thomas got open on the corner route, but the ball was overthrown on 3rd and 3 with 7:21 in the half. On his 19-yard kick return with 5:00 in the 3rd QTR, Thomas was able to shift away from two hits in tight spaces about 14 yards downfield. He did get ridden downfield a few times in the 2nd half and the play was neutralized. This was against bracketed coverage. Great separation on a stutter and go with 4:43 in the game. He beat the CB by 2 yards on a pass thrown 40 yards downfield.

Routes

Thomas got past the first two defenders in zone on a post route from the left side, but the QB did not see the DB playing deep, who easily jumped the route and got the interception. He gave away his break just a bit on a corner route, but was still quick enough out of his break to keep the position to make the catch and prevent the CB from jumping the route. Excellent job on the stutter and go to keep enough cushion between himself and the sideline to gain more horizontal separation as he was going for the ball.

Receiving

Thomas' first catch was a flanker screen that was well-covered by the CB with 11:09 in the 1st QTR. Thomas caught the ball with his hands extended from his body at helmet level. He caught a short throw out on 2nd and 6 for a 3-yard gain to start the 2nd QTR. He caught a 5-yard hitch between two defenders on 3rd down and 4 with 14:16 in the half. He used his body to shield the ball from the backside defender and maintained possession as he was sandwiched. He fell backwards for an extra yard on the play. Good concentration. The QB threw a comeback route although the CB had tight coverage and the advantage in the 2nd QTR. This ball was batted away. With 3:55 in the half, the QB under threw a screen pass to Thomas. He was the target of an in route that was throw into the zone and the LB playing shallow zone jumped the route about 5 yards in front of Thomas for the INT with 4:50 in the 3rd QTR. Thomas caught a deep corner route in tight coverage for a 23-yard gain in the 4th QTR. He used his hands to grab the ball and pull into his body while airborne towards the sideline as the CB delivered the hit. He kept his feet inbounds and caught the ball despite the CB pulling down his arms as he was landing. He muffed a 4th QTR punt with 5:33 in the game, but it was recovered by MSU. Thomas made a nice over the shoulder grab on a stutter and go 40 yards downfield with 4:42 in the game, but the ball was thrown too far to the sideline and he couldn't keep his feet inbounds. He had one foot inbounds but just before the ball landed in his hands. He actually was running with his head directly up, a very difficult way to catch a football at full speed, which he did pretty well. He had a slight bobble, which made a difference with staying inbounds. His awareness of the boundary was good. He muffed a second punt With 2:29 in the game that forced poor field position.

Elusiveness

Very good job dipping and weaving through the alley on the opening kick return of the game for 78 yards.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball under his sideline arm during the opening kick return. On a 1st QTR punt return for 18 yards on the same side, he did not switch the ball to his sideline arm and there was pursuit coming from the inside. He did carry the ball on his sideline arm on his 3rd kick return of the game.

Balance

Very good balance to hop over his lead blocker's legs on the opening kick return while at full speed. Thomas hurdled a down man on a runback with 8:50 in the half and was hit in the waist as he was landing, but remained upright and got another 5 yards on the play. He gained 19 on a kick return with 5:00 in the 3rd QTR after running through a hit about 15 yards downfield.

Blocking

There are 3-4 plays where Thomas appeared as if he purposely avoided the assigned man to look for someone else and then make a half-hearted attempt as the play ended. He did his very clearly with 5:30 in the 4th QTR on a 1st and 10 run. He had the DB 4 yards in front of him at the LOS and veered towards the middle and allowed the DB to charge forward and change the direction of the runner and still get tackled by that DB.

Vision

Great vision displayed on the opening kick return. Thomas had the wedge at the right hash when he took the kick inside his 10 yard line. He pressed the seam by running towards the right before dipping left, which set up the to outside blocks and the third block up the middle on the second level defender. Thomas' set up helped the create a nice seam to his left, which he burst through then demonstrated excellent change of direction in the seam by eluding two defenders to get to the sideline. When he got to the sideline he veered towards his lead blocker at the 45 yard line to force the last defender further inside before he planned to veer back to the sideline, but he ran too far up his lead blocker's back and had to leapfrog the blocker's legs. He did this very well but he lost a step and this allowed another defender in pursuit to regain an angle. The defender knocked him out of bounds inside the 20 yard line. Thomas gained 18 yards on a punt return with 6:50 in the 1st QTR, setting up a block to get to the right sideline on the play. He was very decisive on a 35-yard return through the wedge with 9:14 in the 4th QTR, but the lane itself was also well-blocked for 25 yards.

Power

He has the size to run through arm tackles and he did so as he weaved through the alley inside his own territory to begin his 78-yard kick return to open the game. Although Thomas only got 2 yards on the flanker screen, he demonstrated the type of fight for extra yardage that you normally see from a good runner--he tried to twist out of the tackle and then stretched forward for as much as he could get when it was clear the CB had a firm lock on his legs. Although he didn't knock down the LB-sized special team defender on his 3rd return with :31 in the 1st QTR he was able to use the stiff arm to gain additional yardage and ward off the defender temporarily. He nearly ran out of an ankle tackle on 2nd and 6 for a 3-yard gain with 14:57 in the half. He did a good job getting low and leaning forward for the extra yardage.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
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- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
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- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Devon Bess

Date: 11/23/2007

Opponent: Boise St.

Overall Strengths

He is a dynamic player with the ball in his hands. He has good burst, excellent stop-start and lateral movement. He has surprisingly good balance and carries the ball with good protection techniques. He's difficult to knock off his feet in the open field. Bess has decent leaping ability and can catch the football with his hands. He will run routes and catch the football in traffic and in intermediate routes downfield. He is not the typical, athlete who only runs crossing and hitch routes. He has the potential to develop into a complete receiver

Overall Weaknesses

He run any deep routes in tight coverage in this game. A lot of his routes came out of the slot and in this offense he doesn't get a lot of looks at press coverage against physical corners. He's not a tall receiver so it's a big question mark whether he can elevate his game to become a starter on the outside at the NFL level. He makes an effort as a blocker, but needs to learn to sustain blocks downfield. He sometimes drops balls in tight coverage after a hit.

Separation

He was not jammed once in the first half. He ran all of his patterns out of the slot. He demonstrated a good burst on three routes in the first three quarters. The first two were touchdowns of 23 and 22 yards, respectively. The third play as a 24-yard run pas the DB with an angle at the sideline about 8 yards past the LOS.

Routes

Bess was facing zone coverage on the first offensive play for Hawaii and ran a corner route versus the cover 2. He was open, but the ball was overthrown and nearly picked off by the safety over top, but could not keep his feet inbound. He ran a 5-yard out in the zone for his second catch for 6 yards with 5:00 in the 1st QTR. He ran a lot of crossing routes, in-routes, and short outs or hitches in the first half. He was facing zone coverage and the timing for the most part was pretty good. The ball came out as he was making his breaks. Although the ball was technically thrown too far from Bess on a short hitch with 6:32 in the 3rd QTR, the WR actually hopped too far to his right after is break. The QB saw the WR break and threw the ball where he thought the WR would be since there was no coverage in the area. Good break on a hitch in tight single coverage with 13:14 in the game for yards.

Receiving

Bess' first reception was a 2-yard out in the right flat on 2nd and 10 with 6:15 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball with his hands a fair distance away from his body and gained nearly 7 yards on the play. Bess dropped a quick pass 2-yards past the LOS on a 1st and 10 with 7:22 in the half. The ball was thrown at stomach level and Bess allowed the ball to get into his body. The LB over the top jarred the ball loose. He caught a 15-yard in at the 8 yard line with 5:36 in the half with his hands and then broke two tackles to get into the end zone for a 23-yard score. Bess caught a 3-yard crossing route from the slot on the left side and gained 11-yards on the play, making three players miss. Good catch with his hands on the next play a 16-yard in route from the slot between zone coverage. Bess caught a 17-yard curl with 6:02 in the 3rd QTR. He broke at the soft area of the zone and the QB hit him right in the chest. Bess leaped for a fade in the right corner on a 2-pt conversion and nearly had a one-handed catch, but dropped the ball as he was coming down.

Elusiveness

He has quick feet. He chopped his steps, then hopped away from a shooting tackle from the CB before the LB came from the inside to take him down for a 6-yard gain on 2nd and 10 off a 2-yard out pattern with 6:15 in the 1st QTR. With 5:00 in the 1st QTR he once again showed a great amount of quickness with a terrific jump cut to make the first DB miss, but the DB over top soon cleaned him up on the play. He made two very strong stop-start moves to make two defenders miss and then dipped away from a third defender on a 3-yard crossing route reception that he turned into an 11-yard gain and a 1st down. Bess' 22-yard score with 13:21 in the 3rd QTR was a product of good blocking and excellent open field running. He made a good lateral cut to the inside of the LB in the flat and then back outside to the left sideline past his WR sealing the edge past the first down marker. He then outraced the DB to the pylon with a somersaulting leap. He hurdled a tackle on a 24-yard run after a 4-yard hitch at the sideline with :58 in the 3rd QTR. Bess made 3 players miss with a jump cut back to the inside on a short catch and run with 11:24 in the game. He is going to be a dangerous slot receiver in the NFL with this skill, if not a dangerous kick return specialist.

Ball

He carried the ball under his outside arm on the first catch, an out route to the right flat. He carried the ball under his outside arm on his 4th catch in the left flat. He routinely carries the ball under he appropriate arm for the situation. Once again, did a very good job carrying the ball under his outside arm on the crossing route he turned into an 11-yard gain to start the second half.

Balance

Very good balance to break the safety's tackle attempt. He slid away from the hit to his back and then ran through a second arm tackle to his legs at the two for a score.

Blocking

It wasn't a great block, but he squared up on the DB to help seal the backside on a CJ Hawthorne screen pass for 22 yards. He squared his body to the target and delivered one quick hit. It was enough. This is a typical style of blocking for Bess. He does not sustain his blocks.

Vision

Good open field vision to read his blocks downhill and set up openings with his moves. He displayed his skills very well on his 23-yard score in the 2nd QTR and a 22-yarder in the 3rd QTR.

Power

He is low to the ground with strong legs and can run through arm tackles in the secondary. He used stiff arm while carrying the ball with his right arm on a short out with :57 in the half. He used a stiff arm once again on an 11-yard gain to start the 3rd QTR.

Durability

Character

He got to Hawaii through the juvenile detention system. He was in there for a charge concerning stolen property.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Missed Target:
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Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Devon Bess

Date: 10/12/2007

Opponent: San Jose State

Overall Strengths

Former Falcons coach June Jones describes Bess as a bigger Andre Rison. He has excellent concentration, footwork, and balance. He is strong for his size and isn't so easy to bring down with just a hit. This is a player a defender in the secondary will have to wrap up. He has a good stiff arm and enough acceleration to beat a defender around the corner. He is a versatile receiver who can play out of the slot or beat a defender deep. He makes the effort to block.

Overall Weaknesses

Not great size. Is he the next Santana Moss or Steve Smith? He doesn't seem as explosive as these two, but he can catch the football. Most of his passes were swing routes, crosses, or hitches. Will he be effective on deeper timing routes?

Separation

Bess faced press coverage from the slot with 11:49 in the 1st QTR on a 3rd and 12 play and beat the jam on a crossing route, getting enough depth to catch the ball near the first down marker. Good burst past the defender in the flat to gain 9 yards with 10:54 in the half. While his burst is good, his deep speed is questionable.

Routes

On a 10-yard hitch with 2:15 in the half, he didn't work back to the ball very well (he did not see the defender fall). He just turned, stood, and waited for the pass.

Receiving

He caught the ball over his inside shoulder with his hands with his back nearly to the LOS on a crossing route in coverage on a 3rd and 12 with 11:49 in the 1st QTR. Bess dropped a crossing route thrown a bit behind him with 6:12 in the 1st QTR. Bess dropped a cross after contact with 5:59 in the 1st QTR. Bess was open on a wheel route that was a part of a legal, "pick" play with WR Jason Rivers. The ball was thrown just a bit too far for Bess to catch. He tried to adjust to the ball but anticipated the throw over the wrong shoulder and adjusting slowed him down. He gained 9 yards after a short swing pass from the slot with 10:54, catching the ball with his hands as he turned his chest back to the QB while running downfield. He took the same play two plays later for 13 yards. He caught a 10-yard hitch for the 1st down with 2:15 in the half. Bess caught a corner route over his outside shoulder with his back to the QB 23 yards downfield with 14:35 in the half. He dropped a low throw on a flat route on 3rd and 2, but he had his hands on the ball and should have caught it easily. He caught a 12-yard in with 5:16 in the 3rd QTR against zone coverage and took the hit over top as he trapped the ball into his body. He caught an out route with his hands with 7:13 in the game gaining 13 yards on the play. He caught an out and up for a score with one hand over his outside shoulder and gaining possession before getting both feet inbounds as he was falling out of the corner of the end zone. It was a very acrobatic catch.

Elusiveness

Ball

Good job carrying the ball under his outside arm on the 9-yard punt return in the 2nd QTR.

Balance

Bess gained 9 yards on a punt return with 12:55 in the half. He took the ball at the left hash, ran across the field, but couldn't get the corner. He was hit near the boundary, but had the balance to run out of the tackle and maintain his footing as he reached the sideline.

Blocking

Bess got into the body of a DB but the defender threw the receiver off balance, slipping is block, and then nearly getting a hit with 11:18 in the 1st QTR. Solid hit downfield on a run with 2:44 in the game.

Vision

Power

Good stiff arm to ward off the DB and take the corner on a swing pass from the slot that he took for 9 yards with 10:54 in the half. Another good stiff arm on an out route where he gained 13 yards and got out of bounds with 7:13 in the game.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

72

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
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- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Dropped After Contact:
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Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Dexter Jackson

Date: 12/7/2007

Opponent: Richmond

Overall Strengths

Overall Weaknesses

Separation

Jackson demonstrated his speed on his one reception, taking the ball in the left flat and turning back to the inside to outrun the LB and DB over top. He outran 5 additional angles from DBs and LBs at the right sideline on the play. He's the 200m champion in the Southern Conference although he has no track training.

Routes

Receiving

Jackson's only catch of the night was a 5-yard hitch that he turned into a 52-yard score. He caught the ball thrown at stomach level with good hand positioning.

Elusiveness

Good job turning to the inside after the 5-yard catch and ducking under the LB's tackle attempt at his shoulders. He then dipped again to the inside at the first down marker to elude the trailing DB. His quick cut also caused the pursuing LB from the right side to nearly fall on his back. Jackson got the corner 15-yards downfield and then turned on the jets to outrun 5 angles on the play.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball under his outside arm on the run.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

77

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
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- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
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Routes Score:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Dorien Bryant

Date: 12/26/2007

Opponent: Central Michigan

Overall Strengths

Bryant should have a strong chance to become an impact return specialist in the NFL. His open field vision, moves, and quickness are NFL-quality. He has good speed and decent enough hands to develop into an effective NFL slot receiver, but his best immediate opportunity will be as a kick return specialist.

Overall Weaknesses

He does not consistently catch the football with his hands away from his body. He dropped some balls that he should have easily caught. He lacks any type of power as a runner and does not make any effort as a blocker. He needs to put more emphasis on ball protection. He will need to work on getting free from press coverage.

Separation

Bryant demonstrates very good acceleration after the catch as both a receiver and return specialist. He operates out of the slot on just about every passing formation for the Boilermakers. Bryant had a step on his man with :40 in the game on a streak, but the ball was overthrown.

Routes

Excellent job on a 2nd and 10 to understand his QB was flushed from the pocket and to adjust his route from a quick in to a deeper route towards the sideline. He was wide open as a result and nearly scored on the play. Bryant ran a short curl on 1st and 10 with 12:28 in the game and tried adjust to the QB by anticipating his teammate's movement in the pocket, but the QB decided at least minute to throw the ball his way to the original spot and the ball was thrown behind the receiver.

Receiving

Bryant allowed a pass thrown slightly behind him on a 3rd and 5 crossing route to go through his hands with 13:27 in the 1st QTR. The pass was intercepted by the MLB in coverage behind Bryant. His next opportunity was a 30-yard reception on 2nd and 10 with 6:29 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball with his hands while angling his shoulders back to the QB and running downfield and towards the sideline. Bryant ran an 11-yard slant between the zone and allowed the ball to go through his hands once again with 6:56 in the 3rd QTR. The safety intercepted the football. Good catch on a 3rd and 6 short slant over the middle with 10:38 in the game. He allowed the ball to go into his body rather than try to catch the ball with his hands. He had a chance to make a tough catch between two defenders on a pass thrown over his head on 2nd and 7 with 9:35 in the game. He had to fully extend his arms to catch a very hard-thrown ball that just sailed through his fingertips. This is the type of catch a top receiver would make on Sundays. Bryant could bring it in. Bryant took a big hit on a crossing route where he got open by running under the clear out of the TE. He again caught the ball against his body rather than with his hands, but held on despite the immediate tackle. Good sliding catch on an in-route of 13 yards with :58 in the game. He was wide open because the defense was giving Purdue the middle of the field. He made another sliding catch with :20 in the game for a 9-yard gain up the middle of the field.

Elusiveness

Bryant flashed his elusiveness on a 2nd and 10 reception where he took the ball to the goal line. He adjusted his route towards the sideline when the defense flushed the QB to the right flat and caught a pass thrown 20 yards downfield to the 10 yard line. Bryant caught the ball in stride and up field he saw the safety three yards away coming from the left at the 5 yard line. Bryant stopped and spun to the inside and spun off the safety's hit to the inside. The trailing LB had the angle from the inside, but Bryant demonstrated excellent peripheral vision to stop and cut once again towards the inside as he allowed the LB to overrun him. At this point he was facing two DBs on either side of him at the 3 yard line. Bryant made a stutter step and cut to the right of the outside safety and stretched his body to the goal line as he was tackled. Bryant made an excellent lateral cut up the right hash with 3:06 in the 1st QTR on a punt return. This helped him exploit a lane in the coverage for 15 yards before making a second dip back to the inside for another 15-yards. His moves on this run were much more economical and motivated to get up field as quickly as possible. Excellent punt return. Although he has very sudden stop-start moves, these don't generally project with the same level of effectiveness in the NFL. He tried to fake out a defender on his kickoff return with a stop-start move after he already got through the first alley for 27 yards. Bryant did manage to make the player stumble, but the pursuit caught up with him.

Ball

Bryant was ruled down at the 1-yard line on a 30-yard pass play, but he was carrying the ball loosely in the open field while trying to make 4 different defenders miss. He needs to cinch his elbow against his body to prevent defenders from getting their arm on the ball from a trail position. He did a much better job holding onto the football with good form on his 30-yard punt return. He also did well on his kick return for 33 yards with 4:00 in the half.

Balance

Blocking

Bryant did a very poor job of blocking on the second kickoff of the game. With 12:34 in the 1st QTR he was the lead blocker for his fellow deep man as they headed toward the right sideline. Bryant spotted #99 running down the right hash and he had the angle on the defender. He approached the defender at the 25 yard line and then slipped behind the defender after placing his hands on the defender's outside shoulder. As a result, the trailing defender caught up to the returner 15 yards downfield for the tackle. If Bryant had made this block, the returner could have gained more yardage.

Vision

Bryant made a very clean catch of a punt at the Purdue 36 yard line with 3:09 in the 1st QTR. He saw a lane developing at the right hash and ran towards the hash a few yards before making a strong cut up field to pass the two defenders who were in pursuit at the 40 yard line. This lane took him all the way to the Central Michigan 35 yard line. Halfway through this 30-yard return, he dipped suddenly to the inside to prevent the trailing defender from getting his legs with a diving tackle--very good peripheral vision in the open field. He had a 33-yard kick off return with 4:00 in the half where he exhibited good vision to exploit a lane just inside the numbers on the left side of the field. Even on his "short" return of close to 20 yards on his kick return to open the second half, he found the soft spot in the coverage and exploited a lane.

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

92

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
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Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Earl Bennett

Date: 9/16/2006

Opponent: Arkansas

Overall Strengths

He's a sturdy player for his size who can break tackles, catch the ball with his hands, and has a good initial burst off the ball. He's smooth out of his breaks. He also makes an effort downfield as a blocker.

Overall Weaknesses

There was not a lot to see in this game in terms of route variations or what he could do with the ball after the catch. So there isn't much to say that points out his weak points other than sometimes he allows the ball into his body as a pass catcher and he could run sharper routes over the middle.

Separation

He looked very smooth out of his break with no wasted motion on and 3rd and 6 out route in tight coverage for a 4 yard gain. He did not face press coverage in this game.

Routes

He did not get enough depth on the out route with 12:01 in the 2nd QTR on a 3rd and 6 pass play. Bennet ran a nice slant where he came out of the slot as if he were going to release to the flat but then turned back inside to catch the ball over the middle. Very smooth breaking towards the middle on a slant with 5:24 in the 3rd QTR, but the QB threw the pass behind him. His break on the post was good enough to force the DB to grab his jersey and draw an interference call to prevent Bennett from catching the pass. Otherwise, Bennett might have caught the ball in stride and scored early in the 4th QTR. Bennett was well-defended on an in-route, but might have had a better shot to catch the ball by breaking back to the QB so the CB couldn't jump it and bat the ball away before it arrived.

Receiving

He did a good job shielding the ball from the DB in tight coverage on a 4-yard out that was thrown a bit too much towards the DB, but he was able to catch the ball against his body and take the hit while keeping a foot inbounds. Bennett caught the slant against his body and then gained another 3 yards for the first down. With 2:33 in the half, he caught a slant with his hands extended away from this body for a 15-yard gain, but the play was called back because his teammate ran a rub that was called for interfering with Bennett's defender early in his release. Bennett nearly caught a slant thrown behind him at shin level with 5:24 in the 3rd QTR. Bennett ran a post pattern and was grabbed as he made his break on the ball which slowed him down enough that he could not get to the ball on the play and the official called interference. Bennett nearly made a diving catch of the ball with his arms extended and almost parallel with the ground as the ball bounced off his fingertips. The Wr caught the same slant route that he did in the first half for an 8-yard gain. He caught the ball thrown slightly behind him with his hands and was tackled from behind as he brought the ball into his body with 4:10 left. On 3rd and 10 with 1:04 in the game and behind by 2 points, Bennett caught a short release to the flat with his hands and backed his way out of a hit and form tackle by the CB before charging up field for an 8-yard gain.

Elusiveness

Ball

On the reception with 2:30 in the half that was called back, Bennett did a nice of switching the ball to his outside arm as he ran downfield for a 15-yard gain.

Balance

On the reception called back on a penalty late in the 1st half, Bennett ran out of a hit to his legs as he was getting wrapped up by a second player. He gained an extra yard after keeping his balance in the face of the hit. Bennett ran out of a perfect form tackle on 3rd and 10 for an 8-yard gain before the DE pushed him out of bounds.

Blocking

The second gain of the game for Vandy--a 69-yard run--was called back due to a holding penalty levied on Bennett. The WR had a very solid block on the CB down the sideline that sprung the RB for the gain. He was just driving the CB downfield and in 9 out of 10 games this play would not have been called holding because the technique was very good. The CB was trying to draw a penalty by putting his hands in the air as if he were getting held. He routinely was seen square with his man and engaging in a downfield block at the sideline on Vandy run plays in this game.

Vision

Power

Good job running through a tackle on 3rd and 10 with 1:01 in the game.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

93

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Earl Bennett

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Auburn

Overall Strengths

Bennett is a good route runner with quality hands. He has the speed to get separation deep and the concentration and toughness to catch the ball in traffic. He has good leaping ability and elusive moves after the catch. I was impressed by his ability to get separation in press coverage and the fact he was already making strides with his technique demonstrates it is likely he will continue to improve in this area. I think it's very likely that Bennett will develop into a quality starting receiver for an NFL team. He's the type of route runner and ball catcher that will likely have a good career, but will need an excellent QB to develop into an elite receiver.

Overall Weaknesses

Bennett struggled with creating separation from the sideline with his routes while split wide. His effort as a blocker was inconsistent at best. While his speed is good enough to get deep, it is not elite. Bennett should make a very good #2 WR in an NFL lineup once he gets adjusted to the NFL game. It might take a few seasons, but he has the skills to have a long and productive, pro career.

Separation

Bennett ran a streak down the sideline and had a step on his CB with 11:41 in the 1st QTR. The ball was overthrown by 10 yards. The second attempt to get him the ball came with 6:17 in the 1st QTR. Bennett got inside release in tight coverage, the Auburn CB did not attempt to jam the WR at the line but did yank Bennett's jersey off his shoulder pad about 5 yards down field as the WR ran an in-route. The ball was under thrown by about 5 yards. Bennett is used in the slot and out wide in the Vandy offense. Bennett made a good stutter move about three steps after the beginning of a route from the slot which helped him get outside advantage and run a corner route. The ball was overthrown. On a 3rd and 6 with 6:55 in the 3rd QTR, Bennett was split to the right side and ran a 6-yard in-route against single coverage. He did a good job subtly returning the physical play of the CB just before making his break to the inside. This helped him gain a yard of vertical separation before he made the catch for the 1st down. Bennett got decent separation on the CB on a 1st and 10 slant at the Auburn 18 in the 4th QTR, but the DB tugged the WR's jersey coming out of the break and was called for pass interference. He did demonstrate good hand fighting to get inside of the press coverage on the slant and it was why the DB held the WR on the play.

Routes

Bennett's first target of the game, a streak route was run very close to the sideline and he did not do enough to establish a cushion between himself, the CB, and the boundary marker. In other words, he didn't give himself a lot of room to operate if the ball were thrown accurately. Good job making a sharp break in decent coverage on a short in route with 2:28 in the half. The QB had the ball slip out of his hand, but Bennett was the target. Bennett ran a wheel route out of the slot on 3rd and 16, but had to come back for the ball and the DB did a good job closing and knocking the ball away before it could get to the WR. He did not run through the ball as he should His next target was a 7-yard hitch that was thrown a bit short and he had to leave his feet and get low to make the reception for 6 yards. The coverage on the play was a deeper zone with :32 in the half. Bennett's 3rd and 6 catch with 6:53 in the 3rd QTR was a first down, but he didn't get enough depth on the route to break it off and still have the first down clearly--it's a minor, but important part of running routes like this. Bennett's biggest issue in this game was not figuring out how to prevent the CB from pinning him to the sideline on routes. On 4th and 4 with 2:32 in the 3rd, Bennett ran a corner fade and the ball was thrown a bit to the inside. Bennett was pinned to the sideline and the WR had to slow down and cut behind the CB's back to make a diving attempt at the pass falling incomplete.

Receiving

Bennett's first catch was a 1st and 10, 7-yard hitch with 3:18 in the half against zone coverage. He gained 11 yards on the play after faking the LB to the inside with a stutter move and running straight down the sideline before going out of bounds at the 41. Bennett caught the ball with his hands first on the play. Bennett made a very good catch with his hands first on a ball thrown slightly behind him on a 3rd and 6 in-route with the CB trailing close behind. He managed to adjust his body to catch the throw and still hold on after taking a hit. Bennett made a leaping grab of a 25-yard pass with his hands extended above his head in the back of the end zone with two DBs hanging onto him. Excellent concentration, hands, and ability to maintain control despite his legs getting nearly parallel to the ground as he was in the air and getting hit in the back by the second DB in coverage. His vertical was pretty impressive and his body was at a 45 degree angle from the ground before the hit that sent him shoulder first into the turf. Even so he held onto the ball. He was not able to get a foot inbounds and it was a viable argument that he was pushed out. He also did a good job boxing out the DB behind him before making the leap for the ball. Although it wasn't a catch, I'm counting it as a difficult reception because of the effort and the strong likelihood that at least 50 percent of the time this play would have been ruled a force out. It was reviewed by the replay crew. Bennett allowed one ball to go through his hands on a 1st and 10 slant at the Auburn 18 in the 4th QTR, but the CB was called for interference for tugging the WR's jersey as Bennett made his break. The WR should have caught the ball that hit his hands, which I counted as a drop despite the penalty. Bennett went in motion and angled a route from the slot to the middle of the field in the soft spot of the zone to catch the ball with his hands.

Eagerness

Nice stutter move to freeze the LB on his first catch for a gain of 11.

Ball

Good job placing the ball under his sideline arm after his first catch.

Balance

Blocking

Bennett identified a defender to block while operating out of the slot on a 1st and 10 with 6:40 in the 1st QTR, but did not engage with an aggressive hit. He did a better job shielding his CB on the right sideline on a run up the middle with 2:50 in the 1st QTR--Bennett had a good stance, hand placement, and effort. He did not demonstrate any effort to block the DB on an 11-yard run up the middle. If the RB broke through the line, Bennett's block on the second level could have meant a big gain for the runner, but he didn't even engage. When he does block, he shows good form but only shields off the DB.

Vision

Power

Bennett nearly ran out of a tackle with 6:21 in the game, but a second defender was able to bring the WR down before Bennett could free himself from the first DB's grasp.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Overall Score:

81

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
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- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
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- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Early Doucet

Date: 11/23/2007

Opponent: Arkansas

Overall Strengths

Doucet has potential to be a quality NFL wide receiver. He has moments where he makes difficult catches and displays the athletic ability to make plays with the ball in the air. He makes the effort as a blocker and has the build of a running back. If he becomes more consistent he should develop into a contributor, if not a starter.

Overall Weaknesses

He often body catches balls where he should use his hands. He had difficulty with physical coverage and there were really no plays to see him as an after the catch runner or deep threat.

Separation

Doucet's first target was a corner fade to the end zone from 25 yards out, but the DB had excellent coverage and inside position step-for-step. He made a nice sharp turn between the gap left in the zone on 3rd down with 3:49 in the 1st QTR as he released from the slot, but dropped the ball on this slant route. Doucet got pretty good separation with some bumping down field with 1:12 in the half but the ball was thrown to far from him to have a chance at it.

Routes

Doucet did not get a great break from the out route he ran with inside action from the slot with 13:24, so even if the pass were on target he would have had to catch the ball with the defender glued to him. A very crisp out route on 3rd and 7 to get good separation out of his break and make the catch for 7 yards and a 1st down. Doucet was not lined up properly on the LOS on a 55-yard pass to Hester for the score that was called back. The alignment mistake was completely his fault.

Receiving

The 25-yard corner fade was a under thrown and Doucet gauged the ball to be coming right to him, although the CB had excellent inside position and a much better chance to catch the football. With 13:24 he ran an out route with inside action to set it up from the slot, but the QB was hit as he delivered the ball and the pass was off target. Doucet caught an out route on 1st and 10 with 8:03 in the 1st QTR, but the ball was thrown very high and the receiver had to leap with his arms extended over his head to snatch the ball and he was pushed out of bounds by the CB as he was coming down with it. Doucet allowed the slant route to go through his hands before he was hit at the first down marker by the CB. It looks like he allowed the ball into his body with 3:40 in the 1st QTR. He caught a swing pass with 2:14 in the 1st QTR behind the LOS. He allowed the ball to get into his body with a basket style grab rather than using his hands first. Doucet made a diving catch with his hands extended away from his body and above helmet level while leaping towards the sideline on a 3rd and 7 pass with 6:35 in the half. He snatched the ball and kept one leg inbounds as he was hit. He did a good job laying the ball out over the marker. He hurt his right thigh on the play. He caught a swing pass from the slot with 13:10 in the 3rd QTR with his hands and gained a quick 4 yards before running out of bounds. Doucet tried to run a corner fade from 12 yards out but the DB was playing well off him and got the inside advantage on the break. Doucet adjusted his body in the air to get his hands on the ball first, but the CB knocked the ball away from his grasp. Doucet was not open on a 7-yard hitch at the left sideline, but the QB made a great touch pass with anticipation to arc the ball over the CB and into Doucet's arms at the sideline. He caught the ball in his chest on the play. Doucet called a 9-yard crossing route and made himself open on a scramble by the QB with 7:40 in the 4th QTR. He caught another 9-yard crossing route with 2:15 in the 4th QTR. He used his hands first just like the last one. Doucet missed a crossing route on the next play in tight coverage that was thrown high. The CB was all over him and tipped the ball before it got to the WR and the ball traveled far enough for the TE running a deep drag route to catch it in stride for a long gainer.

Elusiveness

He only had one opportunity to put a move on a player at the sideline on a 3rd down crossing route but his CB didn't fall for the stutter move. He had more in the same quarter (4th) with 2:15 and didn't get anything from it, either.

Ball

Doucet had the ball squirt free as he was getting hit at the boundary after a 4-yard gain off a swing pass from the slot with 2:13 in the 1st QTR. He out of bounds when he lost control of the ball. He also carried the ball under the sideline arm on the play. He did a good job carrying the ball under his sideline arm on a consistent basis.

Balance

Blocking

Doucet made a decent block on his CB with 14:45 in the 1st QTR. He was able to get a push on the defender to clear a lane inside of him for his runner on the option, but his teammates didn't do as good of a job and there were three defenders unblocked in pursuit closing off the lane for Hester to run. He often shielded players downfield as a blocker, but generally made a good effort. He demonstrated the ability to get into a defender's chest and drive them in a direction away from the play.

Vision

Power

Durability

Doucet missed nearly 5 games with a groin pull.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Overall Score:

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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:**
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:**
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:**
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- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:**
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
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- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
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Vision Score:
Power Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Early Doucet

Date: 11/4/2006

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths

Doucet is very good with the ball in his hands. He can break tackles as well as run around defenders. He's also an active blocker in the run game and decent returnman on special teams. He has potential to develop into a quality receiver that can contribute to an NFL team because of his athleticism and developing skills. He shows flashes of being able to catch the ball with his hands and in key situations. It may take him a couple of attempts to stick with a team, but he could develop into a contributor.

Overall Weaknesses

Doucet is still learning the position. He's a former high school quarterback. He doesn't catch the ball naturally with his hands. He tends to body catch most of the balls thrown his way.

Separation

Doucet has the moves and speed to get at least a yard to two yards of separation on a CB if the defender bites, which he did on a double move in the 4th QTR.

Routes

Doucet's first grab was off a 3rd down square-in from the slot. He ran the route with a lot of precision and found the opening in the zone. Doucet got open on a beautiful double move that faked the smash screen and then he went straight down the sideline. Good square out on the 4th QTR catch with 2:15 left in the game.

Receiving

Doucet ran a square in on 3rd and 15 and made an excellent catch with his arms extended over his head to snatch the ball out of the air on the run. Doucet's next reception was a swing pass with 12:07 left in the 3rd QTR. He cut the play back inside for a first down run. Doucet's 4th QTR reception was a basket catch off a smash route. His next reception was a slant pattern that he took an extra five yards for a first down. Doucet missed the throw on the double move in the 4th QTR. The ball went between his hands as it traveled over his shoulder. The fact the ball was thrown with too much air underneath and the safety was coming fast from the middle of the field also factored into this drop. Doucet took a swing pass to the left side for a small gain on the final drive. He juggled the ball on the attempt to catch it with his hands first, but did manage to bring the ball into his body. Doucet made a nice catch in tight coverage on a square out with 2:15 left in the 4th QTR. This play kept the game alive. He made a basket catch on this play as well. Doucet's last catch was a game-winner that didn't appear to be meant to go to him. He had to extend his arms fully and dive for the ball--catching it with his hands first. Excellent grab.

Elusiveness

Doucet has slippery moves. He made a good spin move towards the inside to get to the 1st down marker in the 4th QTR with 6:13 left.

Ball

Good job running with the ball on his sideline arm.

Balance

Good job shaking off a tackle attempt to the upper body by ducking under, then gaining another 8 yards for the first down on a 2nd and 10 reception in the 4th QTR. Doucet spun out of a tackle to get past the 1st down marker on his next reception with 6:13 left in the game.

Blocking

Doucet did a good job blocking on the right side of the formation on a run for a first down with 7:05 left in the 3rd QTR. He sustained the block and drove the man toward the sideline. He helped RB Williams score on a pitch by sustaining his block and driving the CB back. This block cleared the way for the RB to get into the end zone untouched.

Vision

Doucet has good open field vision and took his second reception 7 yards for the first down because he cut the ball back to the middle of the defense. After his 4th down catch on the last drive of the game, Doucet took a flare pass from the slot and cut it up in traffic after reading Bowe's block and got the first down.

Power

Doucet ran through two tackles on a 2nd and 10 reception in the 4th QTR that he took for a first down. Good body lean on the flare pass to get the extra yards for the first down.

Durability

Character

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Early Doucet

Date: 1/7/2008

Opponent: Ohio State

Overall Strengths

He's a good runner after the catch in the Hines Ward mold. He's not as savvy or tough a runner as Ward, but he has some power, balance, and good stop-start movement. He catches the ball consistently and demonstrate some ability to snatch the ball with his hands. He adjusts to the ball well and can make some difficult receptions in traffic or along the sideline. He has a nice burst and his first step allows him to get extra yardage or get open downfield. He makes the effort to block and does not shy away from contact.

Overall Weaknesses

He doesn't consistently catch the ball with his hands and when he does use his hands he sometimes fights the ball. He needs work on routes that require more timing between himself and the QB. He lacks some football IQ as a receiver because the position is still relatively new to the former QB.

Separation

He looked very quick out of his break on a hitch for 6 yards to end the 1st QTR.

Routes

Good job getting about 4 yards behind the shallow zone coverage to be open for a 16-yard out with 6:00 in the 1st QTR.

Receiving

Doucet dropped a simple flat route while facing the QB with 12:53 in the 1st QTR. He appeared the allowed the ball into his body and lost concentration as he was trying to turn upfield to gain yardage. On 3rd and 7 with 7:40 in the 1st QTR he ran an out route after turning towards the inside, getting enough separation to catch the ball into his body as he turned his upper body at the waist to bring in the pass before turning upfield for a 10-yard gain and a first down. Doucet caught a 16-yard out route at the sideline with his hands fully extended above his head and snatching the ball at the highest point of his leap. He showed the presence of mind to tap both feet inbounds as he came down. Doucet caught the 6-yard hitch in the zone between two defenders--an LB and CB--who both hit him within a beat of him catching the football. He used his body to shield the ball from the CB over top. Doucet caught a swing pass behind a bunch formation of 3 other receivers split from the formation with 13:07 in the 3rd QTR. He caught the ball with his hands at chest level, quickly turning upfield for 7 yards. His 4-yard score with 9:09 in the 3rd QTR began with him lined up behind RT pre-snap and then sneaking out to the flat. He caught the ball at the 7 yard line with two DBs facing him. One was directly over top and the second was two yards closer to the sideline. The safety was also coming into the play from the goalline. Doucet got past them all for a score. He caught the ball with his hands, but he fought it into his body and could simply put the ball under his arm. He had to bring it to his stomach with both hands and then shift the ball. Doucet caught the swing pass with 5:38 in the game with his hands. He ran an in route that was a form of a smash screen from the slot that he caught with his hands in traffic for a 3-yard gain on 3rd and 4 with 4:50 in the game.

Elusiveness

On 4-yard end around, Doucet demonstrated a very quick first step before making a plant and cut to the inside. Doucet made a very quick, stop-start move to force the closes CB to slide past him then broke two tackles to score from 4 yards away with 9:08 in the 3rd QTR. He dipped away from a defender and up the sideline on 5-yard gain off a swing pass from the slot formation with 5:38 in the game. The problem with this play is that he ran the ball out of bounds with a 14-point lead and a lot of time left.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball on his outside arm on the 3rd and 7 out pattern because as he reached the first down marker, the DB shot low and sent Doucet airborne. If he were carrying the ball in the opposite arm this could have dislodge the ball from his grasp. He carried the ball under his sideline arm on a swing pass to the right sideline with 13:03 in the 3rd QTR. He was highly consistent with tucking the ball under the correct arm depending on the direction of his run.

Balance

Doucet nearly kept his balance to get the first down on a tackle in the open field where his leg was lifted off the ground and he tried to spin away from the LB to put the ball over the first down marker.

Blocking

Doucet came across the formation in motion and blocked down on the OLB on a designed block and release to the flat, but the OLB read the play and didn't allow Doucet to release until he pushed the WR far enough off path that he could either sack the QB or disrupt the route. When Doucet cleared, he dropped the pass. He makes an aggressive effort to block downfield. Sometimes he's so aggressive he falls victim to push-pull techniques that leave him falling forward and the DB heading to the ball carrier, such as a 3rd and 1 effort with 14:17 in the half, although the CB never got to the RB on the play. He did a good job generating a push against the CB while split wide on an option play to that side with 10:31 in the half. Doucet was able to sustain the block and push the DB to the boundary as the runner came through. He completely missed the CB on a cut block downfield on an option pitch to his teammate with 9:07 in the half. He timed the dive well, but didn't get enough height on it. On the first offensive play of the second half, Doucet came right off the ball from the slot and delivered a solid shot to LB James Laurenitis, backing him up a set and causing the LB to lose his angle to the RB who gained 10 yards on the play. On the QB keeper on 2nd and 5 during this series, he missed on a cut block downfield, diving too low for the DB's legs.

Vision

Doucet made the most of his blocks and turned up field for 7 yards on a swing route from the bunch formation with 13:03 in the 3rd QTR.

Power

After Doucet faked out the first CB in the open field he was wrapped up by the second one, but twisted himself free. He was coming free before the safety from the goal line hit Doucet, but the blow actually knocked Doucet further away from the DB's grasp and he walked into the end zone from two three yards away.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:**
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:**
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:**
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:**
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:**
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:**
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:**
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:**
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:**
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:**
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:**
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:**
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:**
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:**
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:**
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:**
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:**
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:**
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:**
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:**
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:**
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:**
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:**
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:**

Game Stats

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Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Early Doucet

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Auburn

Overall Strengths

He's a tough player who makes catches in traffic, demonstrates excellent body control, and will make the tough catch. He's very good and gaining yards after the reception with his power and balance. If he can become more consistent as a hands catcher of the football, he has a chance to become a starter.

Overall Weaknesses

He body catches most of his passes. He has difficulty defeating the jam. He is a former QB and still lacks some experience as a receiver. He's not a burner.

Separation

He made a nice stutter move to get an inside release at the end of the 2nd QTR, but Auburn was bracketing him with a safety over top even in 4 WR sets. If Doucet could have defeated the jam quicker on the CB during his corner fade route with 2:25 in the 3rd QTR, he would have had an easier opportunity to catch the pass he dropped.

Routes

Receiving

He caught a swing pass with his hands and made a nice cut off the RB's block in the flat but was brought down by the backside pursuit for no gain with 1:11 in the 1st QTR. Doucet made a terrific catch over his outside shoulder in triple coverage on 3rd down with 13:16 in the game. He had to leave his feet to catch the ball over the trailing defender, catch the football over his shoulder, and then take a hit to the chest while running 33 yards downfield. He allowed the ball into his body, but excellent concentration and body control to make this catch. He caught 10-yard crossing route with his hands, the ball thrown slightly behind him and turned up field for another 10 yards. He caught a 5-yard out and was driven back 2 yards by the hit, but maintained his balance to lean forward for the first down marker. Doucet nearly made a diving, over the shoulder catch on a corner fade in the end zone on 1st and goal with 2:25, but the ball fell out of his hands as he hit the ground. He made a full extension on the play. Doucet was running a crossing route with 13:53 in the game and had to hurdle a fallen player, which forced the QB to pump fake and then throw. Doucet seemed caught by surprised by the throw and the ball bounced out of his hands. He caught a swing pass with 10:55 in the game with his hands while running downfield. He caught a deep curl for 17 yards underneath the zone. He caught this ball facing the QB but with his hands. His last catch was a smash screen from the right side on 3rd and 9 with 9:04. He caught the ball against his body as a DB was trying to hit him, but Doucet ran through his wrap up around the waist and then through his hold on his ankle 3-yards behind the LOS to get another 6 yards.

Elusiveness

Ball

He carried the ball in his outside arm down the right sideline on the 3rd QTR crossing route with 9:17.

Balance

Good balance to stay upright then lean forward after taking a textbook hit with 7:37 in the 3rd QTR that drove him backwards 2 yards when he caught a hitch past the first down marker. Excellent balance to turn away from a waist tackle and then run out of an ankle tackle, planting his free hand in the ground to get 6 yards on a smash screen with 9:04 in the game.

Blocking

He tried to cut block the DB covering him in the slot on the first play of the game, but dropped way too low. This allowed the DB to step over him and get close to the action. He did engage the DB with a pop while running up the middle from the slot to block on a running play with 11:17 in the half. He gave a shot to the DE on a run play with 12:35 in the 3rd QTR. He completely whiffed on a downfield block for his fellow WR in the 4th QTR with 14:04 in the game, but he looked winded--this was the first action he had seen since missing several weeks with a groin injury. He did a better job tying up his man a few moments later on a 2nd and goal with 13:40 left.

Vision

Good job in the open field to press a few steps inside to set up his outside block down the sideline for a 1st down off a swing pass from the slot with 10:51 in the game.

Power

He definite can run out of ankle tackles and arm tackles. He also has the power to run through hits that one would expect an RB to break.

Durability

Missed a few games with a groin pull this year.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

81

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Eddie Royal

Date: 10/25/2007

Opponent: Boston College

Overall Strengths

Royal is a fast, acrobatic receiver. He does a very good job of adjusting to the ball in the air. He is a dangerous punt returner with good acceleration. He has the athleticism and strength to develop into something more than a slot receiver/return specialist in the NFL if he can become more consistent as a hands catcher. He's an explosive player.

Overall Weaknesses

He is primarily an outside receiver who body catches a lot of footballs. He needs to work on his blocking, beating the jam, and working in the intermediate-timing passing game.

Separation

Very good speed. If the post route with 9:14 in the 1st QTR was thrown ahead of the WR, he would have beaten both DBs to the football and scored.

Routes

Royal did a good job trying to come back to the QB who was under pressure on a 3rd and 6 with 13:31 in the opening QTR. Royal gained 21 yards on his first completion a deep-in where he found the opening in the zone, making his break and catching the football before running up the middle to gain another 5 yards. Royal did a good job of staying alive in the end zone for his QB who broke the pocket and rolled right in the 2nd QTR on a 3rd and 7. He pushed a bit off the DB and then was credited for catching a touchdown as he leaned out of bounds, keeping one foot in. Royal got wide open on a stutter and go with 8:37 in the 3rd QTR. The ball was thrown late and with a lot of arc, so Royal had to slow down and wait for the pass to arrive.

Receiving

Royal came back to the QB and tried to settle in an open space when the QB was under pressure on 3rd and 6 with 13:31 in the 1st QTR. When the QB side armed the ball to Royal, it bounced out of Royal's hands as the LB hit him. Royal nearly caught a post 40 yards downfield in double coverage on 2nd and 10 with 9:16 in the 1st QTR. He demonstrated very good leaping ability and turned back to the ball as he went airborne. He caught the ball with his hands close to his body, but could not completely pull it in as the DB from the inside got a hand on the football and pulled it away from Royal as three players hit the ground. Royal caught the deep-in with 1:00 in the 1st QTR with his hands close to his body, but looked the ball in to his hands before taking off for an additional 5 yards. Royal was credited for catching a touchdown pass on 3rd and 7 in the 2nd QTR, but the replay showed he did not have control of the ball as he was falling out of bounds and his one foot was on the line rather than in the field of play. Still, he was credited with the score. He didn't have possession until the foot was out of bounds. Royal tried coming back to a low throw on 2nd and 8 with 14:00 in the 3rd QTR, but the DB on his back jarred the ball loose before he could secure it. Royal made a leaping 41-yard catch with his back to the LOS and the ball landing his arms, cradling the ball in mid-air. Good concentration. Royal had to make a diving catch on a short out that was thrown inaccurately. He did a good job adjusting his body in the air to make the grab. Royal nearly got his hands on a deep pass in double coverage, but the throw was a little long.

Elusiveness

It was a very soggy field, so he had a difficult time making sharp cuts. He did demonstrate some stop-start moves that bought him some space on his punt returns.

Ball

Good job putting the ball under his outside arm on his return with 8:40 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

Had surgery for compartment syndrome on leg at the end of a junior year.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

88

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
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Category Scores

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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Harry Douglas

Date: 11/6/2006

Opponent: West Virginia

Overall Strengths

Douglas is one of the best natural receivers in the this draft class. He reminds me a lot of Derrick Mason--a smaller receiver who has enough speed to get deep, enough quickness to get longer gains from short passes, and the toughness to go over the middle on routes where he knows he will have to get hit to make the catch. He's a good route runner and makes the effort as a blocker. He's a savvy receiver who will develop into a starter.

Overall Weaknesses

His blocking is mostly sub-part because he gets overpowered unless from an angle downfield.

Separation

Routes

Good job drifting towards the outside to present himself as a good target for his scrambling QB on 3rd and 5 to stay open. He caught the ball past the 1st down marker for the conversion. Excellent job faking the deep corner to draw the safety to the right then breaking left on the post for a 40-yard reception.

Receiving

His first catch of was a skinny post 22 yards downfield on the first play of the game. He caught the football with his hands with the CB hitting him in the back in trail coverage and a safety coming over the top. He still held onto the ball. Excellent catch by Douglas on a short out thrown from the opposite hash. He had to leap for the ball and catch the high pass over his head and still get one foot in bounds as he was hit by the CB in the air. Excellent body control, hands, and sideline awareness for a 5-yard gain. He tends to catch everything with his hands. Even a 3rd down play facing the QB with a defender at his back. Douglas ran a post route from the slot and got so open in the zone that he had to turn back to the QB and wait for the pass to arrive to him 35-yards downfield before turning back up field for another 5 yards. If he didn't trip on this play with 9:20 in the half, he would have scored. He also caught this long pass with his hands at helmet level and slightly turned back to the QB. Douglas had to make a turning, leaping grab of a skinny post underneath zone coverage that was thrown too high. He came down with it as two DBs closed on him from over top. It was a very acrobatic catch.

Elusiveness

Douglas gained 2 yards on an end around with 8:49 in the half, but he should have lost 7 yards because of the penetration into the backfield greeting him at the corner as he received the handoff. Douglas did a great job of dipping away from the defender and then putting a stutter step move on a second defender to make him miss so the receiver could charge up field to get past the LOS for 2 yards.

Ball

He carries the ball primarily under his right arm, even on the deep pass to the left hash and the end around to the left on the next play.

Balance

Blocking

He attempted a cut block on 2nd and 1 with 12:10 in the 1st QTR but went too low, which allowed the DB to step over Douglas on the play. he struggles as a run blocker due to his size. He gets push-pulled by CBs and can't sustain the block in the 1st or second level of the defense. He actually pushed his assignment into the RB on an 11-yard screen pass in the 2nd QTR. He did have a nice block down the sideline to help his teammate get down the right sideline after catching a 6-yard cross. He was more tenacious on the next block after that as well.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

88

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- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
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Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Harry Douglas

Date: 11/9/2006

Opponent: Rutgers

Overall Strengths

Douglas is a high-effort, speedy receiver with the fearlessness to go across the middle and make possession catches with imminent contact. He catches the ball with his hands and demonstrates the ability to adjust to the ball in the air. He has the savvy to get separation on defenders either as a route runner or positioning himself at the last moment on jump balls. He has very good acceleration and can gain yardage after the catch. Douglas should be an effective punt returner or valuable slot receiver early in his career. Although undersized, he has the potential to become a starting receiver in the right offensive system.

Overall Weaknesses

He's not going to break tackles. He lacks a height advantage on most corners. He needs work against press coverage.

Separation

Excellent separation on a post pattern from the slot on 1st and 10 with 11:40 in the 1st QTR for a 45-yard reception. Good speed to run by the safety out of the slot on a seam pass that was slightly overthrow with 14:32 in the half. Douglas did a good job eating up the 10-yard cushion by the CB on his 39-yard reception with 8:56 in the half and the slightly pushing off (which should have been a foul).

Routes

Douglas ran a nice crossing route with good separation underneath the LBs in zone with 7:44 in the 1st QTR. He was able to get to the far hash and gain 12 yards on the play. With 1:46 in the 1st QTR, Douglas got good separation on an out that started with a bend to the inside before breaking towards the sideline, but the ball was overthrown.

Receiving

Douglas caught a ball thrown 45 yards in the air on a post route out of the slot on the first offensive play in the game for Louisville. He caught the ball at a very difficult angle at full speed: the ball was over his left shoulder and he had to angle his shoulders to track the ball while running away from the throw. He caught the ball with his hands with two players trailing him within two yards. He gained another 10 yards before he was brought down. The total gain on the play was 45 yards. No problem catching the short crossing route, although there was no traffic for him to contend with on the play at 7:44 in the 1st QTR. It would have been a difficult catch, but Douglas got a hand on a deep seam route of 33-yards but couldn't snatch it. He did a good job of running through the pass rather than trying to dive, but the pass was just at finger tip length when he reached over his head to touch the pass placed over his shoulder. Douglas pushed off at the end of his deep streak and turned back to the QB to catch the ball with 8:56 in the half. Nice adjustment on the play, because if he doesn't push off the under thrown/late thrown pass could have been intercepted. Better an interference call on 1st down than a turnover--and he actually was credited with the 39-yard reception. Douglas could not get to a 3rd and 3 crossing route to open the 3rd QTR, because the DB charged up the field to meet Douglas after the snap and the WR's feet collided with the safety while making is break. In addition the DB hit Douglas at the same time as their feet got tangled up, but the interference penalty was not called, although it should have.

Elusiveness

Very nice stutter move at the corner to fake out the CBs coming from the end zone to head off his run after the crossing route with 7:42. He made two DBs miss as he cut up field before getting dragged down by the safety in pursuit.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball under his outside arm on the crossing route to the left side with 7:44 in the 1st QTR. He carried under his right arm on the 45-yard catch on the first play of the game.

Balance

Blocking

I didn't see him blocking downfield in this game. He was either running off routes or he was out of sight from the camera angle.

Vision

He is a good open field runner who will set up blocks or adjust his angles to an open area after the catch. He did this on a crossing route for 7 yards in the 1st QTR.

Power

He has a decent body lean, but his is a small football player even by receiver standards. He does not shy away from contact and will make a lot of tough catches in traffic or run through traffic with fearlessness.

Durability

He missed two games with an ankle sprain as a senior.

Character

Douglas hustled on the interception with 5:00 in the 1st QTR to get in position to tackle the LB, but tried to rip the ball and failed, which allowed the LB to gain another 15 yards on the run back.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
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Overall Score:

84

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
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- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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Vision Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Harry Douglas

Date: 9/3/2006

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths

A fundamentally sound pass catcher who uses his hands, demonstrates good ball security as a runner, and gains yardage after the catch. Douglas has Derrick Mason-like skills. He runs solid routes and does a good job gaining separation in single or bracketed coverage. He has a solid knowledge of finding the soft spot in zone coverage.

Overall Weaknesses

Douglas is a light receiver and not very tall. Bobby Petrino often placed Douglas in the slot in this game. Most of his catches came out of the slot against mismatches in coverage. He is quick, but can get disrupted at the line of scrimmage in bump and run coverage. He is often the beneficiary of Petrino's strategy rather than him getting open straight up one-on-one.

Separation

Douglas did an excellent job gaining separation on a 2nd and 10 pass with 12:27 left for a gain of 37 yards. He was bracketed with the an LB underneath and a nickel back over top. Douglas drove into the nickel back and made his break to streak past the two defenders and catch the pass in stride. Douglas had outside position on a 40-yard pass attempt in single coverage, but the ball was thrown a bit too close to the inside. Additionally, the DB was still matching the WR step for step and had a height advantage.

Routes

Douglas ran a very well-timed out that began with a cut to the inside before turning back towards the sideline, but the pass was short after Brohm was bumped near the LOS during his release. Douglas perfectly timed his out from the slot on a 3rd and 8 with 7:00 in the half. Although the coverage was a mismatch, the route and throw were perfect and this helped Douglas gain additional yardage after the first down. Douglas did a fine job finding the soft spot in the zone with 6:23 left for a 12-yard reception and a first down.

Receiving

Douglas adroitly timed a crossing route where the slot receiver was able to set somewhat of a pick to clear Douglas from his defender. He caught the cross with his hands first on a ball thrown towards his back shoulder. He turned upfield for the first down. Douglass caught a 9-yard slant in tight coverage with his hands and managed to bring the ball into his body as he was hit. Excellnt job catching the ball in stride with his hands on a 37-yard gain off a slant with 12:20 in the half. Douglas consistently demonstrated good body position and use of his hands on receptions. Even on a long pass attempt where the DB got good inside position and the ball wasn't thrown enough to the outside, Douglas did a fine job of breaking up the play to prevent an interception. Douglas juggled his last attempted because as he came out of the slot, the LB held Douglas' outside arm to disrupt the timing of the play. Douglass still should have caught the ball, but the disruption caused him to fight the ball when he let the ball too far into his body. The ball flew up in the air and 3 UK players had a chance to come down with it, but were unsuccessful.

Elusiveness

Douglas made an exceptional plant and cut back to the inside of the field on a reverse that made a player in pursuit completely miss him on a 27-yard gain. On a 37-yard reception where 30 of those yards came after the catch, Douglas did a nice job making the most of the open space but minimizing any tendency to go east-west. He is a shifty player that does need to be wrapped up. He gained an additional 7 yards after the LB over ran the tackle and didn't wrap up his hit. Douglas ducked under much of the hit, slid past a DB getting blocked at the numbers and gained another 7 yards before spinning off a hit to land at the 50 yard line.

Ball

Douglas' first time with the ball was a reverse out of the 2-TE set with the FB split to the left side. Douglas did a good job tucking the ball under his outside arm and keeping it tight against his body on a 27-yard gain. Douglas immediately tucked the ball on a 37-yard gain with 12:20 left in the half--he kept the ball in his outside arm. He consistently gets the ball under his outside arm after the catch and demonstrates good ball security on some tough runs in traffic.

Balance

Good job maintaining balance on an LB's hit that he ducked under much of it.

Blocking

He demonstrated good hustle on an attempt to block downfield out of the slot on 1st down with 1:02 left in the quarter. He also made an effort with 40 left in the opening quarter. He shielded his man enough to keep him away from the ball carrier on a short gain. With 11:40 in the 3rd QTR, Douglas attempted to block the OLB on a run to his side. Douglas came off the slot and ran toward the OLB, but the defender easily muscled through the WR and brought down Bush in the backfield. Douglas did not have good leverage and the play design was a mismatch in favor of the LB. On this play the OLB broke Bush's leg.

Vision

Douglas did an excellent job setting up QB Brian Brohm's downfield block on a 27-yard gain off the reverse. He has good moves as a runner--start and stops, stutter steps, and fluid cuts while on the run. He took an end around with 1:31 in the 3rd QTR, but the MLB read the play and came through unblocked to bring down the WR easily with a perfect form tackle.

Power

Douglas is a smaller player and doesn't have much power. But he did lean forward as he was brought down.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Jabari Arthur

Date: 12/26/2005

Opponent: Memphis

Overall Strengths

Capable of snatching the ball. Has good leaping ability and body control. Arthur comes back to the football on routes where the play has broken down. He has the speed and size to make plays with the ball in his hand after the catch. Good concentration when the ball is in the air. He made three catches where he was falling away from the football.

Overall Weaknesses

He sometimes allows the ball to get into his body when using his hands would be more advantageous. He needs to sink his hips on routes to gain more separation and needs to learn the timing passing game.

Separation

Arthur showed enough speed to get deep on three passes in this game. A deep post that was overthrown; a streak that turned into a jump ball for a score; and overthrown deep corner route.

Routes

The WR fell a few times in the 1st QTR as he came out of his breaks. One of these falls cost him an opportunity to catch an accurately thrown out from Getsy. Arthur did a good job adjusting his route to come back to the QB on a 3rd and 10 play. He wound up with a 30-yard gain after catching a 9-yard pass. He needs to keep his hips lower prior to making his breaks.

Receiving

Arthur caught a deep crossing route with a basket-style catch to gain 21 yards and the first down on a 2nd and 21 situation in the 1st QTR. The WR caught a 27-yard pass for a first down on 3rd and 23 in the 1st QTR. Arthur let the ball get into this body, but he did a nice job of facing the QB to present a good target downfield. Good catch on a hard-thrown, sideline route as he was falling backwards towards the boundary marker for a first down. He snatched this ball with his hands and brought it quickly into his body. Arthur demonstrated excellent leaping ability and concentration on his first touchdown catch at the end of the 3rd QTR. The DB was facing the throw and had excellent position. Arthur leaped higher than the DB and brought his arms over the top of the DB's head. The ball bounced slightly off the DB's helmet and Arthur showed excellent concentration to catch the ball with his hands and leap two yards across the goaline upon coming down with the ball. It seemed to happen in a fluid motion. It was a 46-yard score. Arthur dropped a pass with 2:00 left, but the ball was thrown pretty high and hard.

Elusiveness

Ball

Arthur did a fine job of switching the ball from his inside arm to his sideline arm on the catch and run for a first down on the 2nd and 21 deep cross in the 1st QTR. He did the same thing on a 3rd and 10 pass of 9 yards where he tucked the ball under his sideline arm in the left flat and gained 21 yards on the play.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Jabari Arthur

Date: 11/14/2007

Opponent: Miami (OH)

Overall Strengths

Arthur catches the ball with his hands and runs a variety of good routes to the inside and outside. He comes out of his breaks cleanly and drives off the ball. He has good body control and can catch the football while adjusting his body in the air in coverage. He uses his hands well to gain separation in press coverage and prevent DBs from bumping him off course in zone routes. He recognizes openings in zone coverage and can take a hit and hold onto the football. He runs with power after the catch and can run out of arm tackles and lower his shoulder to finish a run. This is a smart WR with the opportunity to develop into a possession receiver at the NFL level. He appears to have the frame to add muscle and if he can improve his speed, Arthur could surprise in a few years.

Overall Weaknesses

He needs to refine his routes, especially knowing when to look back to the QB after his breaks. He lacks elite athleticism and separation speed. He dropped balls that he should have caught, even if they were considered difficult catches. His blocking was not very aggressive and he will need to work on become a better run blocker at the second level. It was difficult to tell whether he had enough speed to become a starting quality receiver as a pro.

Separation

Arthur demonstrated on the first 5 of his targets to drive off the line of scrimmage to at least give the impression he's going deep. Arthur used good hand fighting skills to clear the press coverage on 3rd and 13 on a hitch down the right sideline, but the QB threw the ball away and out of bounds. Good job getting inside position from the slot on a 1st and 10 out from the slot with 10:23 in the half. The DB tried to disrupt the route downfield, but Arthur maneuvered away. Although the QB could not get him the ball, Arthur did well to get inside advantage on a deep route from the slot with 4:03 in the half. He got open on a 3rd and 13 hitch down the right sideline with 9:40 in the 3rd QTR, but the DB playing shallow zone tipped the pass. On the 3rd and 7 stutter and go with 3:19 in the game, it appeared that Arthur pushed off a bit to get separation to the inside and make a diving catch. He did not demonstrated good vertical speed on the stutter and go.

Routes

Arthur's first target was on a 20-yard curl from the slot. He got good depth on the DB and had a 3-yard cushion on his break, but the ball was under thrown. His first catch was two plays later against zone coverage and he found the opening on an 11-yard curl on 3rd and 10 j Arthur was thrown the ball on the same drive during a 3rd and 13 play, but he was well-covered despite trying to come back to the football and the DB was able to knock the ball away before Arthur could get his hands on it. On the next series, Arthur ran a short where he criss-crossed the slot receiver on a designed pick play before settling in the zone. He was wide open, caught the ball and gained 6 yards after the catch. Arthur does a consistently good job of getting in and out of his breaks. The WR ran a post pattern on a play action pass with 4:38 in the 1st QTR, but instead of setting up the DB with his eyes, he turned back to the QB and allowed the safety over top to jump the route. At the next level, he'll need to wait to look back to the QB a bit longer after his break and make sure he's beaten the cut off angle of the DB. Good depth on a 12-yard out on 1st and 10 at the sideline with 10:23 in the half. Arthur made a slight stutter and go move on 3rd and 7 with 3:20 in the game. It wasn't very convincing and he could not get vertical separation on the DB playing outside protection over top. Arthur did a good accelerating to the ball in the air and caught the ball with his hands. Nice adjustment to the ball. On a 4th down with 2:00 in the game Arthur got open, but the ball was under thrown and the WR could not plant his feet to come back to the ball.

Receiving

Although the ball was under thrown on the first pass of the game, Arthur would have been expected to make this catch in an NFL game. The ball was low and he did a good job demonstrating the proper form to catch an under thrown ball, but he didn't get the ball into his hands before it hit the ground. On the next attempt, he ran an 11-yard curl and caught the ball between three defenders in the zone. He had to fully extend his arms over his head to catch the ball with his hands while leaping off the ground. He was hit by all three defenders as he caught the ball with his hands and still managed to hold onto the football for the first down. Arthur's second catch was a short in route with 10:15 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball with his hands and turned up field for an 11-yard gain. On the next play, he caught an 18-yard curl from the slot against the safety playing deep. He caught the ball with his hands. Arthur made a catch on a low-thrown ball on a 12-yard out from the slot with 10:24 in the half. He did a good job getting his hands under the ball and keeping it off the ground. Although it will count as a pass defended by the DB playing shallow zone, Arthur allowed the tipped pass to bounce off his hands and chest on the play. he could have gained at least 12 of the 13 yards on the play and possibly turned up field for more if he had better concentration on the play. He caught the ball with his hands on a short out route from the slot with :44 in the 3rd QTR, but the CB coming from the sideline put his helmet right on the football to knock it loose before he could bring the ball into his body. He caught the slot screen on the opening play of the 4th QTR with his hands. Two plays later he ran a seam route down the left hash with 14:03 in the game, but the ball was thrown over the wrong shoulder. Arthur tried to adjust to the ball and nearly caught the ball with his hands, but the DB coming from over the top and the outside knocked Arthur away from the ball. This was also a pass, despite how inaccurate, that he would have been expected to catch in the NFL.

Eagerness

Good, quick move to make the over the top DB miss on a short in-route with 10:15 in the 1st QTR.

Ball

He kept the ball under his outside arm on the run after the catch with 10:15 in the 1st QTR. Although it was a bang-bang play, Arthur needed to be quicker about bringing the football into his body after catching a pass on a short out route with :44 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

As he fell, the ball bounced within range of his shins. An on target throw or the ability to maintain his balance might have tied the game.

Blocking

On 1st and 10 with 13:44 in the opening QTR, Arthur blocked on a short screen and did a fine job of getting his hands into the DB and sustaining the block despite the fact the receiver catching the football was brought down by other defenders in the backfield. While capable of delivering a hit, he doesn't appear to relish the opportunity to hit a defender on run plays. On runs up the middle he did not try to hit the safety or LB as he was coming across the formation on his release. He did a decent job of shielding the safety on a 1st and 10 run with 2:06 in the 1st QTR. He stuck with the defender throughout the run and this helped the RB get into the second level of the defense.

Vision

Power

On Arthur's 11-yard gain with 10:15 in the 1st QTR, he caught the ball 5 yards downfield and turned it up field against a DB on his right hip, a DB over the top, and an LB coming from the middle head-on. After making a quick stop-start change of direction to make the over the top DB miss, Arthur split the LB and covering DB, dragging them 5 yards before lowering his shoulder into another DB at the 1st down marker for an extra yard. On slot WR screen to open the 4th QTR, Arthur ran out of the first tackle but was brought down for a 3-yard loss by the OLB.

Durability

Character

From Montreal and is bilingual: English and French

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: James Hardy

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Penn State

Overall Strengths

The best skill this extraordinarily tall receiver has is his ability to catch the football with his hands. He does this naturally and easily. He runs good routes at this stage of his development. He is precise and snaps off outs, ins, hitches, and curls. He has excellent concentration catching the football. He is fundamentally a decent receiver already. He has natural speed, but doesn't understand how to utilize it on the football field in terms of burst. When he does, he will eventually start for someone.

Overall Weaknesses

He needs work on crossing routes and establishing greater space at the sideline on vertical routes. He has great potential as a vertical threat, but it did not manifest in this game. He averaged 20 yards per catch going into this game. He is not a big threat after the catch. He goes down easily one on one. He did not appear to have a great burst of speed. He's more of a long strider who is still learning how to run fast as a football player. He needs to be more aggressive as a blocker on a consistent basis. He's still developing a taste for the fact that football is a contact sport. He's a former basketball player on the IU team and basketball players often highlight that difference in the intensity of contact between the two sports. If he can't grow to enjoy delivering contact and thrive off getting hit, then his height, speed, and hands won't be as big of an asset as they promise to be at this point.

Separation

Reportedly has 4.4 speed. On the opening drive the Hoosiers tried to hit Hardy about 40 yards downfield on a sideline streak. Hardy was well covered and actually trailing the CB. Hardy tried to use his height to leap over the CB for the ball, but the ball didn't land in the area. His opponent was a 2nd team all-Big Ten CB who is still an underclassman. Hardy could not get separation against the same CB on a sideline streak with 5:52 in the 1st QTR. He got the inside and if the QB threw it over the inside shoulder rather than the outside, Hardy could have easily made the catch by shielding the ball from the CB with his body. He got an extra 10 yards after the catch on an out with 3:23 in the 3rd QTR. Hardy drew an interference call on the next play when he ran a stutter and go. He did not get separation on the 2nd team All-Big Ten CB, but the CB still made contact downfield and was rightfully flagged. Hardy would have gotten even with King and had a chance to out jump the CB for the ball, but he did not get a lead in the footrace. Although he didn't face the jam in this game, he worked with the Steelers' Ike Taylor and Vikings' Darren Sharper on using his hands against press coverage. He also worked on his stride, body angle, and arm swing with Pats speed coach, Tom Shaw. He's still learning to use his natural speed on the football field.

Routes

Hardy ran an 8-yard hitch to open the game. You could seem him slow down well ahead of his break, but the CB was playing about 8 yards off the receiver so the catch was uncontested. Hardy got open on an in-route on 3rd and 10 with 14:05 in the opening quarter. He got inside separation and caught the ball cleanly for a first down, but his break to the inside was very much rounded off and the CB contributed to the reception by anticipating a deep coverage, not jamming the receiver at the line, and looking into the backfield on the run. He allowed the WR to break inside. If Hardy made a sharper cut he could have caught the ball and not only avoided the safety, but possibly kept running with the football. That's the difference between a pro route runner like Torry Holt or Isaac Bruce and a young receiver. Hardy did a good job running with his QB on a deep cross as Lewis rolled right, but the ball was overthrown. He ran a short in-route with 9:52 in the half. The coverage gave him a lot of cushion, so his false steps to get in and out of his break did not impact the play. Hardy once again did a good job working back to the QB on a scramble in the 2nd QTR. He was running a sideline streak and ran back to the QB to get open. Hardy ran an in-route on 3rd down and 1 inside the 15 with 5:35 in the 3rd QTR, but his break was not sharp and the CB jumped the route. The pass was wide, but the CB would have been likely to break up the pass because of the route Hardy ran. The WR got his CB turned around on a route that started as an in and then broke to the outside which helped him get separation after the catch. His in-routes were much better in terms of snapping off the break. It was the crossing route he was less sharp with...everything else route-wise is sharp and well-run.

Receiving

Hardy caught the first pass with his hands and was rode out of bounds immediately. Hardy caught a pass over the middle with his hands extended and coverage wrapping up his waist as he brought the ball into his body on a 3rd and 10 with 14:05 in the 1st QTR. Good concentration and nice job ducking under the safety trying to make a hit from the middle of the field. He did get 22 yards on the catch. Hardy's third catch was a touchdown at the flag. He did a good job adjusting to his QB who scrambled to the left. He caught the ball at chest level with his hands extended away from his body and held on after the CB hit him in the back. On the improvised play in the 2nd QTR where Hardy broke off his streak to come back to the QB, he made a good grab at the sideline where he had to keep his feet inbounds and catch the ball with his hands while his momentum was carrying him out of bounds. Good body adjustment and concentration. He caught an out route with 3:27 in the 3rd QTR that started as an in, but it was to set up the CB to get separation. He caught the ball over his back shoulder and turned up field for a first down. Good job holding onto the football after using the same route as his last catch on the opposite side of the field to get open. He was hit after the catch and brought down immediately, but he held onto the football. Nice job going low to get in accurate throw with 10:19 in the 4th QTR. They attempt a fade in the back corner of the end zone with 9:11 in the game, but the ball was actually overthrown. Hardy got a hand on it, but the ball was within hand's reach a step past the end line and not inbounds. He caught the next pass with his hands away from his body on a low throw where he had to lean toward the sideline to get it. Hardy caught a fade stop pattern for a score with 8:06. The ball was thrown over the CBs head and Hardy was directly behind the CB when he reach over and snatched the ball away. The throw actually could have been 2-3 feet higher and Hardy would have had no problem catching it. He allowed one ball go through his hands on the last drive of the 4th QTR, but the ball was thrown very high--even for the 6-7 Hardy. He still should have caught it because his hands were on the ball. Hardy was the target of a streak rout with 3:09 in the game but the ball was overthrown. Hardy made a good play to knock the ball out of the hands of the DB before he could come down with it. He could have really smacked the DB, but chose to punch the ball out of his hands. His last catch was an impressive over the shoulder catch with his back to the QB on a 2nd and 10 in the flat against a CB and LB with 1:36 in the game. Hardy missed a pass because the CB held his right arm down as he leaped for the ball, but the official did not call the penalty.

Elusiveness

He made a nice start-stop move to make a player miss and gain an extra yard for the first down on an 8-yard hitch with 11:42 in the game.

Ball

Balance

Decent balance to tightrope the sideline after catching an out route and outrunning the CB in coverage for another 10 yards and a first down.

Blocking

He needs to work on recognizing opportunities and consistently executing downfield blocks. He had an opportunity to block downfield for his WR, but allowed the DB to come back to attempt to make the play. He did shield a man on a 3rd QTR run that got to the second level with 6:55 remaining. Hardy did have his hands in the chest of the CB, but he was looking back to the runner rather than giving it a strong effort. There was one run where he did a great job knocking the CB to the ground on 3rd and 1 with 3:27 left. He gave the CB a shot that sent him flying backwards. He needs to do that more often. Decent block downfield to keep the CB occupied while Lewis passed him for a long run and a score with 2:57 remaining.

Vision

Power

Hardy is rather thin for his height and on his first catch, the CB grabbed him by the shoulders and rode him out of bounds as the WR tried to turn up field. On his 7th catch with 9:34 in the 3rd QTR he went down easily after catching a short in for 7 yards. He tends to duck his head before contact and falls down easily. It's not an aggressive finish of a run.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

84

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

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Yards per Catch:
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Yards per Td:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Jason Rivers

Date: 11/23/2007

Opponent: Boise St.

Overall Strengths

Rivers is the best all-around receiver on this team. He has strong hands and catches the ball in tight coverage. He can take a hit and is fearless in traffic. He exhibits good timing on deep ins, stop fades, hitches, and smash screens. He has good height and uses his body well in tight coverage and demonstrates good awareness of the sideline. Ashley Lelle was considered a great prospect, but had difficulty holding onto the ball over the middle. Rivers isn't as good as Lelle as a deep threat, but he is much better over the middle. He blocks well downfield and sustains his effort. I think Rivers has a shot to develop into a good possession receiver with some big play ability in 3-4 years.

Overall Weaknesses

He is not a strong runner after the catch. He needs to learn to lower his shoulders, use better leverage, and switch the ball to the sideline arm. He doesn't see much press coverage, if at all an is unproven against it. He has quickness after the catch, but he's not nearly as dynamic as the other two receivers profile because he lacks the burst and lateral movement.

Separation

Good job getting inside position off the LOS on 3rd and 4 with 4:23 in the 1st QTR to catch the stop fade for an 11-yard gain. He was covered both one on one and in zone coverage, tight and with a cushion but his deeper patterns came against zone across the middle of the field on deep ins. Rivers didn't get much separation on a sideline streak 35-yards downfield. At the same time, the ball was under thrown by about 5-6 yards.

Routes

He demonstrated to good examples of keeping his feet inbounds in the 1st QTR--a stop fade and an 8-yard out. Both in tight coverage as he was catching the football. Good concentration. A good 12-yard in to settle between 3 defenders in the zone with :17 in the 1st QTR. River made a good adjustment on a 12-yard in by continuing the route towards the inside and coming back to the ball in zone coverage as his QB drifted out of the pocket to make the throw. He did a good job to break back towards the ball on his out route to begin the 2nd half. He ran a short hitch of 4-yards settled underneath the zone and waited for the ball on an 11-yard gain for a 1st down on 2nd and 5 with 4:54 in the 3rd QTR. A crisp break on a hitch with 4:05 in the 3rd QTR for 6 yards.

Receiving

Excellent body control and timing to catch a stop fade thrown behind him in tight coverage towards the left sideline on 3rd and 4 for an 11-yard reception with 4:23 in the 1st QTR. He made a catch with his hands, turning back to the throw while falling out of bounds with his feet tight roping the sideline. River's second catch was a smash screen for 8 yards. He caught the ball split wide to the left and ran through the alley towards the middle of the field made by his two WR teammates. Rivers caught an 8-yard out with :22 in the 1st QTR with his arms extended over his head and the defender coming over top, flashing in front of him. Rivers snatched the ball out of the air and kept his feet in bounds as he turned away from the defender at the sideline. He caught the 12-yard in with 3 defenders around him. He used his body to shield the over the top defender and still caught the ball with his hands. Good hands catch of the ball on a 12-yard in route that he took for 14 on a 2nd and 10 with 7:15 in the half. Good 12-yard catch on an in route between zone coverage on 3rd and down with :49 in the half. Rivers caught a 9-yard out with his hands and gained another 7-yards after the catch for a first down with 13:35 in the 3rd QTR. He caught a slant route with his hands with a DB trailing closely and gained 5 yards after the catch for the first down on 3rd and 5 with 6:26 in the 3rd QTR. Excellent catch on a fade to the pylon with 3:23 with the DB all over him on the fade stop. He caught the ball with his hands and as he was falling backwards the DB tried to knock it away. Good awareness of the boundary and shifting the ball in one hand. Rivers was open on a 20-yard corner route, but the ball was overthrown by a mile. I did not see him catch a ball with anything other than his hands.

Elusiveness

Good stop-start move on his catch on the out route with 13:35. It forced the DB to over pursue and he gained an extra 7 yards on the play.

Ball

Good job holding onto the football when the DT came from the backside on the smash screen to nail him on his ball carrying arm. Good ball protection with both hands on the 12-yard in with :17 in the 1st QTR that he took for another 3 yards on the play. He did not carry the ball with his sideline arm on the out route with 13:35 in the 3rd QTR. He was actually tackled on the ball-carrying arm that he could have easily avoided.

Balance

He's not going to break a lot of tackles, but he isn't afraid to take a hit or initiate contact.

Blocking

Excellent, sustained block at the sideline on a DB for Bess to score on a 22-yard catch and run. Rivers got into the chest of the DB and kept the DB's back to the inside of the field and sustained the contact.

Vision

Good job on his second smash screen with 11:56 in the game to take the play back to the outside of his blocks for a 7-yard gain and a 1st down.

Power

He's a tall, wiry player but he demonstrated good body lean and a bit of leg drive to gain an extra three yards on and 12-yard in between the zone with :17 in the 1st QTR. He used a stiff arm to get an extra 2-3 yards on a 14-yard reception off an in-route with a little over 7 minutes in the half. He is not afraid to initiate contact, but he doesn't get really low when he does so.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

88

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Jason Rivers

Date: 12/24/2006

Opponent: Arizona State

Overall Strengths

Rivers looks and plays bigger than his 187 lb, weight listing. He uses his height well and he looks like he could add more muscle to his frame without sacrificing speed or quickness. He's very fast and can beat you anywhere on the field. He runs very well after the catch and isn't afraid of making contact with the ball in his hands. He has good body control and awareness of the sideline. He catches everything with his hands and uses solid technique. He has excellent potential to be an NFL starter. I think he has the skills that the Broncos hoped Ashlie Lelle would develop when they selected him.

Overall Weaknesses

He needs to face more press coverage and possibly gain another 10 pounds of muscle. Durability is a mild concern.

Separation

Rivers has a good burst off the line of scrimmage and can drive a defender back. Although he has the speed to get good separation, I also believe the fact he's lined up in the slot helps him get really nice match ups today. A state sprint champion, Rivers has the speed to get deep. Rivers opened the second half with a catch on a stop fade for 13 yards against the top corner in man coverage. He does a nice job with a subtle push off on the next catch--a seven yard curl. The play after Rivers fumbled the ball he completely beat the coverage for a 38 yard TD on a streak route. No one was within 7 yards of him. Rivers did not face much press coverage in this game until the end of the 3rd QTR. For receiver of his speed, he took advantage of this fact repeatedly. With 4:46 in the third QTR, Rivers got bumped on the line by the CB playing outside technique. Rivers drove into him and then came back quickly on an 8-yard hook, getting nice separation.

Routes

Rivers first catch was on a route where he found the opening in the zone and sat down. Rivers ran a crossing route on this third reception. The DB was playing outside technique against the sideline, because he thought he had help over the top on the inside. He did a good job on his breaks with the curl and out routes. Rivers demonstrates pretty good skills driving and breaking on his routes. He sinks his hips well to drive on the short to intermediate routes.

Receiving

His first catch underneath the zone was a body catch but with good hands technique to bring it in. His second catch was a 15-yard out route from the slot. He did a nice job extending his arms over his head and bringing the ball in. He did a very nice job getting both feet in bounds despite the DB pushing him. Rivers caught his 3rd pass with his hands while on the run. He does a great job extending his hands and plucking the ball out of the air. The reception on the stop fade was once again a nice catch with his hands extended away from his body while turning back to face the ball. I'm really impressed with his hands because the ball was thrown over his head and near the sideline. He did a very good job bringing it in and keeping his feet inbounds--both feet. Of his first 10 catches, only one was not a body catch. Even that reception was a demonstration of good technique due to the position of the ball coming to him. Rivers caught a pass inside Hawaii's own 9-yard line where he had to turn back to the ball and extend his hands. Excellent catch and still had the ability to break a long run.

Eloqueness

Rivers has a very quick first step and can turn around on a pass quickly enough to leave the coverage in the dust. He did this on a 25-yard completion where he gained over 15 of those yards with his legs after the catch. He is so quick getting turned around that in press coverage he was able to run through a tackle and gain 45-yards. It seems like every reception that is in the middle of the field or the cut is back to the QB, Rivers makes a spin move in either direction that gains him separation from the first tackle attempt. On at least 7 of his receptions, he made the first man miss after the catch.

Ball

He puts the ball away quickly once he catches it. He did fumble the ball once on a smash screen--a WR screen designed to run back into the middle of the field. Rivers never got the ball tucked away as he was making a football move, but it was called fumble. Hawaii recovered the ball. Rivers tends to use his right arm to carry the ball.

Balance

Good balance to break a tackle around the waist and keep his footing before taking off for a 35-yard run down the sideline.

Blocking

Rivers shielded his CB in press coverage on a running play, but did not deliver a blow.

Vision

Rivers' first catch an run for a first down was a good demonstration of finding the best area on the field to run. He picked the biggest opening on his turn up field and gained the first down because he gained 10 yards on his own. He made a good decision to put his head down and attempt to run through two tackles to get the maximum yardage rather than try to dance and get hit by the backside pursuit.

Power

Rivers is strong for his size. He isn't afraid to turn up field and attempt to run through traffic. He broke the covering CB's tackle on the 7-yard curl with 14:26 in the 3rd QTR to get the first down. Rivers' burst is so good that he'll run through arm tackles as he did on a 45-yard catch and run. The run was for 35 yards and he did a great job running through the waist tackle, maintaining his balance, and then taking off down the sideline. I'm surprised how often River gained 2-5 extra yards after a CB would wrap him up. He finishes his runs well.

Durability

Had some health issues last season the cost him time.

Character

Had academic issues that cost him eligibility.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

75

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Jason Rivers

Date: 10/12/2007

Opponent: San Jose State

Overall Strengths

A tough receiver who is not afraid of initiating contact when he has the ball. He catches the ball with his hands and is the guy his QB looked to in 3rd down or high pressure situations. He is capable of getting deep or going across the middle. He can adjust his body to make the catch and has the height to get mismatches over the many DBs. He runs decent routes and comes back to the ball. I think he has a future as a #2 WR at some point.

Overall Weaknesses

He's a bit lanky and can use some extra muscle on his frame. He drops some catch able balls. He's had some injury issues that he played through this year.

Separation

A quick job coming out of his break on a 4-yard hitch against a DB playing a sizeable cushion against Rivers. He gained 4 more yards after the catch before slipping. Rivers had difficulty getting separation on a streak, but is slowed by an ankle injury. Rivers got past the CB with inside position on a streak with :31 in the half, but the DB came over the top to break up the play.

Routes

He stopped his route on a play in the end zone that nearly resulted in an interception due to the misread between him and his QB. It wasn't a great break, but he did a good job getting depth behind the LB on an in route for a 21-yard gain on 3rd and 5.

Receiving

He caught the opening hitch with his hands. Good job coming back to the ball on an under thrown out with 12:55 in the 1st QTR. Rivers caught a 21-yard post pattern, but dropped it as the CB in coverage hit him in the back and jarred the ball loose, denying the score with 11:51 in the game. He got his hands on a crossing route in tight coverage that was thrown low and away, but the hit from the CB over top knocked the ball away. Rivers made a diving attempt at an out route with 12:17 in the half where he slipped on his break and the timing caused the ball to appear under thrown. Rivers caught the in-route on 3rd and 5 within his hands, just a few steps after he passed the LB in zone. He got 13 yards on the reception and turned it up field for another 8 yards for a 21-yard gain with 12:12 in the half. He followed up this play with a reception of a low-thrown 11-yard hitch with 11:48 in the half for another first down. Good hands technique on the play. He made a diving catch on a deep out for a 19-yard gain on 3rd and 14 in the 2nd QTR backed up in their end zone. He laid out for the ball, catching it with his hands. Two plays later he caught a hitch in the left flat. Rivers dropped a crossing route thrown at helmet level on a crossing route where he was wide open with 1:53 in the half. Rivers tried to one-hand a streak route thrown between the CB in trail and safety coming over the top from the inside. If Rivers tried to catch the ball with two hands he might have had a chance to make the reception after the hit. Rivers ran an out with 14:49 in the 3rd QTR, but the ball was thrown behind him and late. The DB jumped he route and took the ball back for the score. They ran the same play on the next series and Rivers made sure to run back to the ball on the hitch to make the catch with his hands at chest level and gain 9 yards with 14:42 in the 3rd QTR. Very good job coming back to the ball with 3 men around him in zone to catch the 9-yard hitch then turn it to the sideline for another 3 yards and the 1st down with 10:34 in the half. He caught a 7-yard hitch at the sideline and tried to take it up field rather than run out of bounds. Rivers got a fingertip on an overthrown ball on a corner route where he got behind coverage with 4:03 in the 3rd QTR. It would have been a very difficult catch. Rivers slipped on a deep corner route with 2:23 in the 3rd QTR. He caught a 3rd and 4 crossing route for 8 yards with 5:45 in the game.

Elusiveness

Ball

Rivers carried the ball under his right arm on a hitch near the left sideline to open Hawaii's first offensive play of the game. He did a better job switching the ball to the outside arm with 10:32 in the 3rd QTR on a hitch he turned to the sideline.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Good job to turn the catch immediately up field on a 14-yard in route with 12:12 in the game. His teammate was a few yards ahead in the middle of the field and this allowed Rivers to use him to exploit a lane to run through.

Power

Rivers displays a tendency of not going down after the first hit. With 12:55 in the 1st QTR, he was hit after his catch but the blow only knocked him backwards and he continued to try moving forward until he was gang-tackled out of bounds. Nice stiff arm to ward off the defender as he got the first down with 10:32 in the 3rd QTR off a 9-yard hitch he turned into a 12-yard gain.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:**
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:**
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:**
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:**
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:**
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:**
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:**
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:**
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:**
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:**
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:**
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:**
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:**
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:**
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:**
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:**
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:**
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:**
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:**
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:**
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:**
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:**
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:**
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:**

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Josh Morgan

Date: 1/3/2008

Opponent: Kansas

Overall Strengths

Morgan showed very good speed and quickness against a future NFL corner. He demonstrated good route skills and can catch the football with his hands. He is an effective run blocker.

Overall Weaknesses

He has difficulty catching the football cleanly with his hands. He can make the initial catch more times than not, but fights the ball when he brings it back to his body. He isn't a dynamic runner after the catch.

Separation

Morgan easily beat the All-American CB Talib on a stutter and go, but the pass was thrown too late and with too much arc, which forced the WR to slow down.

Routes

Good execution of a stutter and go versus the All-American CB Talib with 4:22 in the 1st QTR. He beat his coverage by more than a step. He ran a crisp, 7-yard hitch and did a decent job of driving upfield to force the separation on his break. A very lazy break on his curl with 5:48 in the game and he did not get enough depth on the route to catch the ball behind the first down marker.

Receiving

Although Morgan had to slow down to wait for the deep pass on a stutter and go where he beat the All-American CB Talib on the play, he still should have caught the football. The ball actually went right through his hands. This was a sure touchdown if he held onto the ball. His first catch was a WR swing route from the slot for 3 yards. He caught the ball at chest level with his hands. His next catch came with :30 in the 3rd QTR. He ran a 7-yard hitch at the sticks and gained an extra yard for the first down. He caught the ball with his hands, snatching it from the air, but he fought the ball a bit as he was bringing it back to his body. To start the 4th QTR, Morgan caught an out route with his hands extended away from his body and managed to get one foot inbounds, but the officials ruled him out of bounds. The replay shows that Morgan just barely got his inbounds foot down before his other foot landed out of bounds. It also shows that Morgan fought the ball a bit again, and had to brace the ball against his hip as he was landing. Good job catching the football with his hands on a curl with 5:47 in the game. Good catch in the middle of the field in zone coverage with 5:11 in the game. He had to leap and extend his hands over his head to catch the ball with his hands to make the play. It was a gain of 13 yards.

Elusiveness

Ball

Morgan carried the ball very loosely on a 1st and 10 swing pass for 3 yards. He did do a good job of carrying it under his sideline arm. He kept it under his sideline arm on his catch off the 7-yard hitch with :30 in the 3rd QTR. When he was wrapped up and pulled backwards after catching a curl route with 5:47 in the game, Morgan tried to hold the ball away from his body to extend it across the marker and he was fortunate the DB in pursuit did not strip the football. A very unwise play in traffic.

Balance

Blocking

Very good job sealing off the right corner on a 1st and 10 run with 6:40 in the 1st QTR. Morgan helped the RB gain 9 yards on the play because the WR opened up the second level of the field with his block on the safety running up the field as the ball was pitched to the RB. He got his hands right into the chest of the DB on the play. Very poor effort on an Eddie Royal kick return up the middle and then to the left hash with 5:09 in the 1st QTR. Morgan was jogging through the opening and could have hustled across the field to hit one of the players at the left hash before they made a tackle on Royal. Morgan overran his assignment on a 2nd down run with :40 in the 1st QTR, but adjusted and was still able to seal the left side to assist the RB on a 5-yard gain. Another decent job shielding off the OLB with 2:32 in the half on a run to his side. This helped the RB get 4 yards on the right edge of the defense.

Vision

Power

He was brought down easily by an arm tackle around the waist on a 13-yard kick return with 11:55 in the half. Good stiff arm on the LB on a 3-yard gain with 7:00 in the half. He was brought down easily by the DB after catching a curl route for 7-yards.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: Justin Harper **School:** Virginia Tech **Opponent:** Kansas **Surface:** Grass
Height: 6-3 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 21-24 **Climate:** Night
Weight: 217 **Date:** 1/3/2008 **Location:** Orange Bowl **Temperature:** Temperat

Overall Score: 66

- Can physically break jam [2pts]: No
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]: No
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]: Yes
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]: Yes
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]: Yes
- Runs precise routes [5pts]: No
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]: Yes
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]: No
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]: No
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]: Yes
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]: Yes
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]: No
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]: No
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]: Yes
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]: No
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]: No
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]: No
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]: Yes
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]: N/A
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]: Yes
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]: Yes
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]: Yes
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]: Yes
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]: No
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]: Yes
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]: N/A
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]: N/A
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]: Yes
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]: Yes
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]: N/A
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]: N/A
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]: Yes
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]: Yes
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]: Yes
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]: N/A
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]: N/A
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]: N/A
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]: N/A
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]: N/A
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]: N/A
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]: N/A

Game Stats

Target: 12
Missed Target: 4
Drops: 3
Juggles: 0
Dropped After Contact: 0
Rec: 6
Rec After Contact: 0
Difficult Rec: 0
Rec Yards: 64
Yards After Catch: 23
Yards per Catch: 0
Rec Tds: 1
Yards per Td: 0
Rush Att: 1
Rush Yds: 84
Rush Tds: 1
Fumbles: 0

Category Scores

Separation Score: 10
Routes Score: 5
Receiving Score: 10
Elusiveness Score: 10
BHandling Score: 7
Balance Score: 4
Blocking Score: 4
Vision Score: 3
Power Score: 5
Durability Score: 8

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Justin Harper

Date: 1/3/2008

Opponent: Kansas

Overall Strengths

Harper is a good athlete who flashed the capability of getting deep separation. He uses his hands to catch the football and is a fluid runner with the football. With hard work and good coaching, Harper could develop into a contributor at the NFL level, because as much as he dropped the football, he also demonstrated moments where he can make the difficult catch. With greater concentration and dedication to the craft of receiving, Harper could make a significant leap from prospect to potential starter.

Overall Weaknesses

He needs to become better with his breaks with routes. He drops balls that an NFL receiver should catch. He needs exposure to press coverage and learn how to beat it. He's a very raw talent.

Separation

The CB on the Harper's first catch gave him 7 yards of cushion on a 3rd and 6 play. Harper had practically no choice but be open on this play. Good long-striding speed to separate from the DB on a 3rd and 6 crossing pattern. He was able to gain 24 yards on the play without anyone touching him on a ball he caught 5 yards past the LOS. Impressive speed on his 84-yard punt return for a score, because not only did he run 84-yards with the ball, but he also ran another 60 yards without the ball to set up the reverse. He still had enough speed to get the corner and then outrun the last defender for the last 35 yards. Good separation on a 45-yard streak with 5:00 in the 3rd QTR, but he could not come down with the football.

Routes

Harper did not snap off his out route on the 3rd and 6 reception for 11 yards with 14:10 in the opening quarter. He did not show any explosion out of his break. Fortunately the DB was playing 7 yards off the receiver at the snap. This play is significant because he ran an out with 5:20 in the 1st QTR from the right side of the field and didn't snap off the break. The All-American CB Talib, jumped the route and cut across the WR to intercept the ball and return it for a score. The QB stared down the route, but the WR rounded off his break. Harper ran a crossing route on 3rd and 2 with 10:35 in the half and made a good attempt to adjust to his scrambling QB by drifting behind a defender in zone near the right sideline, but the QB ran out of room to make an accurate throw. Harper did not leave a lot of cushion between himself and the sideline on the 45-yard streak that he nearly caught. He veered too close to the sideline on the route.

Receiving

Harper's first catch was an 11-yard out on 3rd and 6 against coverage that gave him a significant cushion off the line of scrimmage. Harper allowed the ball to go into his body rather than catch it with his hands. He did do a good job to keep his feet inbounds on the catch. The ball was thrown behind Harper on a 3rd and 14 with 2:35 in the 1st QTR on a skinny post. Harper tried to adjust to the ball but fell backwards on the pass thrown low and away. Harper showed excellent concentration on a 45-yard streak to nearly catch the football. The throw was late and Harper had to slow down to attempt the catch. The DB grabbed his inside shoulder as Harper turned to the inside to catch the football with his hands. As Harper was falling he managed to keep the ball pinned between his left hand and helmet, but could not hold on as he rolled to the ground. He was also out of bounds as he made the catch and hurt himself on the play. Harper had a tough catch to make on 3rd and 8 with 14:00 in the game when he ran a short route to sit down in the middle of the zone at the first down marker. The pass was thrown behind him. He made the adjustment to get his hands on the ball, but could not hang on. Harper dropped a 3rd and 6 pass on a 5-yard hitch with no one in coverage with 4:41 in the game. He had the ball, but didn't completely look it in as he began to run inside of the block being made downfield at the numbers. Harper caught a crossing route with 4:11 in the game and gained 9 yards. He caught the ball with his hands first. Very good leaping catching in traffic between three defenders down the seam on a post route for a 20-yard score with 3:00 in the game. He caught the ball with his arms extended while turning back to the QB. He snatched the ball out of the air.

Elusiveness

Good stutter move on his 24-yard catch with 4:15 in the 1st QTR to make the DB miss and get an extra 3-4 yards down the sideline.

Ball

Nice job keeping the ball in his sideline arm on the 84-yard punt return down the left sideline. Very poor ball protection after catching the crossing route for a 9-yard gain with 4:11 in the game. He held the ball in his right hand and far away from his body. He wasn't even attempting to tuck the ball.

Balance

Good balance splitting two blocks at full speed after running over 100 yards and not falling down despite making contact.

Blocking

Vision

Good vision to split his blockers back to the inside from the left sideline on his 84-yard return for a score with 11:42 in the 3rd QTR. This was a very tight space and he demonstrated excellent patience in the open field after already running at least

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Keenan Burton

Date: 9/3/2006

Opponent: Louisville

Overall Strengths

Burton is a fast, athletic receiver who plays fast and with great effort. He is willing to throw his body around and deal with contact. He is very good after the catch with his elusiveness and rangy power. He has good concentration and is capable of making difficult catches on errant throws. He demonstrates good ball protection skills as a runner.

Overall Weaknesses

Burton needs to continue to mature with his route running. He also needs to stay healthy.

Separation

Burton consistently did a nice job gaining separation in single coverage, but his QB did not have enough time to make accurate throws. The WR got close enough to two passes to get his hands on the ball although technically these balls were nearly impossible to catch in the situation. Burton demonstrated excellent speed to outrun 5 defenders after getting to the outside after a great cut past a DB in the middle of the field. With :30 left in the half, Burton got behind coverage for a 43-yard reception to the 2-yard line. Burton was so far behind the DBs, he had to turn back to face the QB and wait on the ball.

Routes

Burton and Woodson did not seem to be in sync to begin the game. Burton does a very good job attempting to get back to the QB, but has a difficult time staying open for any length of time because his QB stares down his patterns which causes the DB to jump the routes. Four of his first six targets were on hook or curl routes that the DB jumped. He could be quicker on his cuts, but the QB tips off when he's going to Burton on a regular basis. This time Burton was the secondary receiver and Woodson did a good job buying time but the throw was high-risk due to the coverage.

Receiving

Burton ran a sideline streak on UK's first offensive play of the game. The QB's throw was a high, but Burton leaped for the ball and got his right hand on the ball as he turned back to the QB. He was able to cradle the ball into his stomach as he hit the ground, but he was already out of bounds when he gained possession. An extremely acrobatic catch, but didn't count as a reception. He did show good awareness of the sideline, but the ball was just a bit too high for him to make the catch and stay in bounds. With 13:44 in the half, Burton ran a comeback on a rollout to his side. The ball was thrown high and Burton was hit as he got a hand on the ball. Burton had to fully extend his body to even get his hand on the throw. Burton nearly caught a low, 3rd and 8 pass for a first down but the ball was stripped away from him before he could secure possession. His first true reception came with 9:37 in the half on a comeback at the sideline. He was one yard short of the first down and UK had to punt. He made an excellent catch with his hands. He got good depth on the route, but the ball was underthrown which forced Burton to make a leaping grab on his way back to meet the pass. This brought him behind the line of scrimmage and caused him to be short. Good concentration on the catch and body control to make the grab on a hard throw to the outside. Burton made a basket catch on the 43-yard reception with :29 left the half. Good technique for his body positioning on the play. Burton showed excellent concentration to make a catch with his hands on a ball tipped by a DB that jumped the route on pattern where Burton had to come back to the throw. He had his hands fully extended over his head and still managed to pull the ball into his body.

Elusiveness

Burton has good quickness and movement as a runner. He gets in and out of his cuts quickly when he has the ball in his hands. Burton made a great cut to the outside with a DB facing him over the top. This cut occurred 15 yards downfield and sprung him for the remaining 58 yards. On his kick return for a score he made a great cut back to the inside of the field which eliminate the angles of three players who could only get a hand on him as he ran by for the score.

Ball

Good ball security on the screen pass, although he kept the ball on his inside arm. Exhibited good ball security on every carry although he didn't switch the ball when called for to do so.

Balance

Burton is tall and rangy, and combined with his speed he's difficult to knock down with anything less than a flush hit.

Blocking

Burton made a nice effort to hit CB William Gay on a first down route from the 5-WR set. Burton blocked down on the CB when he saw the QB break the pocket. He didn't knock down the CB. In fact, the CB actually grabbed Burton's helmet and ripped it off the WR's head on the play, sparking some trash talk.

Vision

Burton did a great job exploiting the middle of the field on a WR screen with 3:13 in the half that he took 73 yards for the score.

Power

Nice stiff arm on his touchdown return in the 4th QTR when he broke through the first gap at the sideline and then running through arm tackles when he cut the ball back to the inside.

Durability

Had two surgeries on his foot as a sophomore and missed much of the season after trying to come back and play hurt.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

77

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Keenan Burton

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths

Burton is a very quick receiver with good acceleration and fast in terms of long speed. He will make catches all over the field and catches the football with his hands. He is a threat after the catch as well as in the return game. He makes the effort as a blocker. Burton has the skills to develop into a solid starting WR in the NFL.

Overall Weaknesses

This was probably the worst game I have seen him play. He dropped two balls and did not complete a route that resulted in an interception. He needs to become a bit more physical and understand how to defeat more physical coverage.

Separation

Burton demonstrated excellent separation on his streak in double coverage. He also illustrated good acceleration to get around the first charging defender on his third kick return of the day. This got him to the lane on the right side and he burst past another defender with the help of a short stiff arm to gain 29 yards on the play.

Routes

Savvy route running to wait until the last moment to put his hands up to catch the football on his first catch. He showed very good stop-start movement on his stop-fade pattern where he dropped the football. He dropped a 3rd pass in the 1st QTR on a sideline streak in double coverage, but he showed excellent route skills by leaving enough room on the sideline to give the QB room to throw the ball and also angle back towards the sideline to get extra separation from the trailing DB coming over from the middle of the field. Burton did not hustle on the break of a curl and as a result the DB jumped in front of him and out-muscled the WR on the play for the interception. The interception was more the responsibility of the WR than the QB.

Receiving

Burton catches the football with his hands, but had three drops in the first quarter. All three passes he dropped went through his hands and would normally be receptions. One of the drops, the stop-fade, was a forced pass defense and nearly textbook in execution. Burton caught a 3rd and 1 hitch for a 4-yard gain along the right sideline with 13:30 in the half. He did a good job turning back to the QB and using his back to shield the ball from the DB. He also caught this ball with his hands, but juggled it as he was hit. He did well to control it as he was going down.

Eusiveness

Ball

Balance

Blocking

Burton would actively engage and stand up DBs on runs in the first two quarters of the game--getting his hands into the chest of the opposing defender and at least turning him away from the play.

Vision

Power

Good stiff arm on his 3rd kick return to get to the outside for a 29-yard gain.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

85

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
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Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
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Yards per Catch:
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Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Keenan Burton

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths

Burton is a dynamic player because he's a versatile player. He has just enough of every skill you want from a receiver in every area. His quickness and leaping ability are excellent, which gives him the ability to make plays with his height in the redzone and redzone, but also turn shorter routes into bigger gains. He has strong field vision and elusiveness coupled with good balance. He's not going to run over players, but he does bounce off tackles and prevent defenders from getting good angles with hits. He can make acrobatic catches and has enough speed to get deep. He's capable of making plays that can take over a game as a receiver, returner, and blocker downfield.

Overall Weaknesses

Burton has a history of leg injuries and has endured some bouts of inconsistency. His hands are excellent, but he has lapses of concentration. His speed is good, but not good enough to be a threat to beat a defender on any play. He has good, but not great size--he's not going to break tackles in the middle of the field. If he can sharpen his game and display a level of consistency in the NFL, he has a chance to be a much better pro than a collegian--and he was a pretty good collegian.

Separation

Burton had a step on his man while running a deep corner route, but the DB held his inside arm and prevented Burton from accelerating to the football. The officials called a pass interference penalty on the play. He was still able to get separation on the DB despite getting jammed about 10 yards downfield. He used a swim move to turn himself away from the hit but that's when the DB held onto his arm, preventing further separation.

Routes

Excellent job driving the DB off the route on a 5-yard hitch that he initially ran as if he were running a sideline streak. He gained 7 yards on the play with 13:29 in the 3rd QTR. Burton made a very good adjustment on a fumble snap in the redzone with :08 in the 4th QTR to get open down the end line, but the QB overthrew the ball. If he's on target, Burton catches the ball and wins the game right there. A very well-run corner fade in OT for a 17-yard score where he started to the inside, bent it back to the outside and turned his body in the air to adjust to the ball so he could position his body in front of the defender.

Receiving

Woodson overthrew Burton on the swing pass from the slot on the 3rd play of the 1st series for the Wildcats. He caught a 12-yard hitch versus a deep zone with :17 in the half and then flipped the ball to his teammate on a hook and lateral, play. He caught the ball with his hands extended over his head and facing the QB. Burton caught a 5-yard hitch but gained another 7 after the catch with 13:55 in the 3rd QTR. He caught the ball with his hands at chest level with the DB a half yard away and facing him. He caught the next hitch route (1 play later) with the ball coming to his body in tight coverage--good job shielding the ball and turning inside for 2 more yards on the play. Burton made a very good catch while leaning towards the sideline in tight coverage. He had to execute a controlled fall and catch the ball out of bounds with his hands about a foot off the ground, but his side hit the boundary before he could bring the ball into his possession. Very good effort and demonstration of his hands. Burton was overthrown on a deep in route with 7:16 in the 4th QTR. He made a diving attempt on the ball, but could not get to it. Burton was running a sideline streak with 4:38 in the 4th QTR, but the QB was expecting him to run a comeback and they made an error anticipating the route, because the QB threw the ball expecting a break and hit Burton in the back as he was about 2 yards from passing the DB in zone coverage down the sideline. Burton caught a smash screen with 1:52 in the 4th QTR about 4 yards downfield and bounced off a hard hit to get five more. Burton made a nice hit on the DB who jumped the route and nearly intercepted the ball if not for the WR knocking I free with his tackle with :38 in the 4th QTR. Burton had the separation on the DB on a slant in the end zone, but the ball was thrown late and too close to the DB. Burton had to reach back and try to get a hand on the ball as the DB was diving and in position to catch it. The ball fell incomplete. Burton drew a pass interference penalty on the next play, a corner fade to the right side of the end zone with :13 in the 4th QTR. The DB did not turn around to defend the pass and had his body in the face of Burton while the ball bounced off Burton. His first score came on an out route in OT that he caught at the 2-yard line and turned up field for the score, running through a defender at the goal line. He caught the ball facing the QB with his hands above his helmet on the play. Burton's second score was a corner fade thrown to the outside which he caught in the air while shielding the DB in tight coverage with his back as he caught the ball with his hands extended, getting a foot inbounds as they fell to the ground. A 17-yard score.

Elusiveness

Burton was dropped in the open field easily on his first kick return for 14 yards. His second return wasn't much better. He did dip away from pursuit, but there were more UT defenders on the left sideline than there were blockers. Excellent quickness to catch the 5-yard hitch with the DB in his face and turn inside of the DB to get up field for 7 additional yards. He used his quick step in tight coverage to turn inside for 2 more yards on a 5-yard catch on a hitch for a total gain of 7 yards.

Ball

Good job keeping the ball in his outside arm on the 5-yard hitch and 7-yard run for the 12-yard gain in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Nice job spinning with the tackle on a run after a 5-yard hitch with 13:55 to gain 2 extra yards on the first down on the play. He used his free arm to brace himself as he fell over the defender to get the extra distance. Good balance to spin out of a hard hit on a 4-yard smash screen that he took for 5 more after the hit.

Blocking

Burton got into his man on a 4-yard run to his side off the edge with 7:43 in the 1st QTR, but he could not turn the CB away from the runner and the defender was able to release and push the runner out of bounds. He generated a good push against the CB at the left sideline on a run to that side to begin the 2nd QTR. Nice hard hitting block on the DB downfield as he saw his QB break the pocket for a 13-yard gain on 3rd down with 11:54 in the 3rd QTR. Burton sustained a block on a smash screen to the RB from the slot on the next play so he could get the first down. It wasn't a great block, but he shielded the player and aggressively continued to run downfield with the DB. He sustains his blocks downfield regularly and the RB nearly ran up his back with :40 in the 3rd QTR.

Vision

He reads his blocks very well and knows how to angle through traffic.

Power

Good body lean at the end of his run on the smash screen with 1:52 in the 4th QTR. He runs with the toughness and abandon of a kick returner after the catch. He will lower his shoulder and bounce off tacklers in the secondary.

Durability

Burton twisted his leg on a diving attempt with 7:16 in the 4th QTR and had to limp off the field, but he came back to make some bigger plays afterwards.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
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- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
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- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
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- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Keenan Burton

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Florida

Overall Strengths

Overall Weaknesses

Separation

His initial burst is very apparent on kick returns. He may not have elite, sustained speed but his initial get-off may be better than most. Burton faced press coverage with less than 3 minutes in the 1st QTR, but used his hands to successfully slip past the CB and get a step on him on a sideline streak to the left side. The ball was thrown to his teammate who was more open because the defender fell down on his side of the field. He demonstrated a great burst once again on a swing pass where he blew by his blocker and dove for the first down marker, coming just a yard short on 1st and 10 at the end of the 1st QTR. Burton got about 3 yards separation on the CB on a 4th and 9 streak to the end zone, but the QB threw the ball over the outside shoulder and out of bounds and Burton was expected the ball on his inside shoulder. Very nice head fake to slow down the CB and then burst past him.

Routes

Burton ran a hitch, saw that his QB was in trouble and made a fake back to him before heading up the sideline. It was a smart play, but he QB could only throw the ball in his direction as a throwaway. Interestingly enough, Burton went up for the ball in tight coverage at the sideline and got his hands on it, nearly bringing it down. Burton demonstrated a nice set up move on the streak route against a 7-yard cushion on 4th and 9 in the 2nd QTR by using a slight head fake to freeze the CB and blow by him. He rounded off his 2nd and 5 slant route with 3:45 in the game.

Receiving

He made a good catch away from his body on a swing pass with blocking by his teammate at the sideline to gain 9 yards on the play. Burton was overthrown in the 3rd QTR on a deep streak down the right side. He took a 4-yard hitch caught with his hands back inside for a 3-yard gain with 9:55 in the 3rd QTR. Burton had a slant thrown behind him in the end zone with 3:45 in the game. He did get his hand on it when he reached back for it, but the ball was way too far away for a reasonable attempt to catch it. The next attempt his way was against double coverage. The safety face-guarded Burton (which is not a penalty in college football) but the CB who got beat on the route was pulling Burton's arm as he made his break across the end line. This should have been called. Burton caught a smash screen and gained 8 yards with :15 in the game, leaning forward for another 4 yards after getting wrapped by the DT in pursuit. Burton caught a ball on the end line with his hands--the ball thrown over his head--and got his feet inbounds before taking a shot to his chest with no time left.

Elusiveness

He made a nice upper body move to turn away from two hits and an angle on a 23-yard return with 4:37 in the 1st QTR. He made a nice lateral move towards the inside on a 27-yard kick return that began down the right sideline with :06 in the 1st QTR. On a punt return for 9 yards, he made a good stop-start move, then a stutter and lateral cut to burst through a seam. He nearly ran though a leg tackle at the end of it to break a long return with 7:19 in the half.

Ball

Balance

He has some tough balance for a runner of his stature and can run out of glancing blows

Blocking

Burton made the effort to peel back and get in the way of the OLB on a 10-yard run up the middle with 13:38 in the half. On 4th and 1 with 11:43 in the half, Burton just punished his DB, pushing him several yards off the ball with a very good hit and drive on a dive up the middle. Nice to see this aggression away from the play.

Vision

Power

Burton is not afraid to run into the teeth of the defense. He took a 4-yard hitch inside and lowered his head into the oncoming safety for a 7-yard gain with 9:55 in the 3rd QTR.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:**
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:**
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:**
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:**
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:**
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:**
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:**
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:**
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:**
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:**
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:**
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:**
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:**
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:**
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:**
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:**
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:**
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:**
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:**
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:**
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:**
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:**
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:**
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:**

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
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Yards per Catch:
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Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Kerry Franks

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Oklahoma State

Overall Strengths

Franks is very fast and mentally tough. He did not let the dropped TD bother him. He came back and made a good catch in coverage on the next play and later caught a huge, 49-yard bomb in the 4th QTR to help A&M get back into the game and eventually win it. He can take a hit and hold onto the football. Unless he's playing with a hand injury, he's severely limiting his potential to develop into a better receiver who could perform at the next level.

Overall Weaknesses

Franks does not use his hands to catch the football and this is a huge detriment to his ability to make big plays. He dropped a very easy ball for a score in the 1st half. His targeted routes seemed to be limited to what expects from a one dimensional receiver--hitches, streaks, and fades. He did not have many routes over the middle where he was targeted and he was inconsistent getting depth on his routes to get first down. His route running needs more precision.

Separation

Franks purportedly has 4.3 speed. He is regarded as Texas A&M's big-play receiver. He had great separation on a sideline fade route with 12:52 in the 3rd QTR, beating his man by a few steps. He beat the 2-deep zone. Franks has the speed to eat up a cushion quickly, but didn't drive the corner away as much as he could have. This allowed the CB to tackle him a yard short from the first down marker on his 3rd catch with 12:47 in the 3rd QTR. His long catch that nearly went for a score, although the play was a trick play and he got free release and the DB bit on the fact Lane was the passer.

Routes

Good depth on a 10-yard hitch at the left sideline with 1:47 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball a yard past the marker. Franks ran a perfectly timed deep sideline fade route in the end zone but dropped the ball. He tips off his breaks on hitch routes. He needs to keep his hips lower and run harder as if he is trying to run past the DB. His routes are basic hitches and streaks. I did not see targeted on any route over the middle.

Receiving

Franks' first reception was a 10-yard hitch at the sideline. He leaped for the ball although he probably could have caught it by extending his arms and catching it at helmet level. Instead he allowed it to get into his chest. He came down the ball and maintained possession as the CB hit him. Franks spun to the inside and gained an extra three yards with the CB still on him. Franks' second catch was a Hail Mary at the end of the half. He was the shallow receiver and he made an easy catch with his back to the secondary and was brought down at the six for a 49-yard gain. Franks dropped a deep sideline fade where he was wide open in the end zone with 12:52 in the 3rd QTR. He tried making and over the shoulder basket style catch and the ball went through his hands. Franks caught the next ball at stomach level but allowed the ball to get into his body. It was a 10 yard hitch, but he didn't get enough depth and came up a yard short. Good concentration to catch a ball thrown 60 yards in the air over his shoulder. He did not use his hands, but caught it against his body. He held on as the trailing defender tackled him at the 1 yard line.

Elusiveness

Franks only had one real chance to make a cut and elude a tackler and it was his end around with 8:55 in the 4th QTR. He chose to try to run over the defender.

Ball

Good ball protection once he has possession.

Balance

Blocking

Franks could be seen blocking downfield on run plays and sustaining his blocks until the whistle in the 3rd and 4th QTR.

Vision

Franks is a straight-line runner. He took an end around straight into a CB although the DB broke down 2 yards prior to Franks running into him.

Power

He's not going to run over anyone.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
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- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
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- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
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- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Rush Yds:
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BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Kevin Challenger

Date: 10/25/2007

Opponent: Virginia Tech

Overall Strengths

Challenger is a reliable possession receiver. He has good on-field awareness and works his way back to the QB when necessary. He will run routes anywhere on the field.

Overall Weaknesses

He's not much of a blocker, deep threat, or big play threat after the catch. His upside is very limited due to his size and lack of great speed.

Separation

Challenger is not a fast receiver. After catching a deep slant behind the zone coverage with 14:53 in the 3rd QTR, he had open space down the left sideline and a block 10 yards ahead of him, but he was caught from behind by a LB 20 yards downfield.

Routes

Challenger's first catch was a 10-yard hitch behind the first down marker, but he did a good job settling in the zone to afford himself enough space to run after the catch. Challenger ran an in-route on BC's last drive of the half on 3rd down, but the QB threw a seam route and the ball sailed over his head.

Receiving

Challenger's first catch was a 10-yard hitch, which he caught with his body and then turned up field for another two yards. Challenger caught a deep slant behind the zone coverage with his hands extended from his body while on the run with 14:53 in the 3rd QTR and gained another 20 yards up field. Challenger caught a 3-yard comeback route with a DB over the top in tight coverage on a 3rd and 4 with 12:41 in the 3rd QTR. Good job holding onto the ball, but he couldn't get the first down. Challenger came back to his QB along the right sideline and made a diving catch with good awareness of the boundary for a first down with :46 left.

Elusiveness

Ball

Good job holding onto the football when the LB from the backside try to rip it out on his 32-yard reception/run at the top of the 3rd QTR. He had good technique with his elbow close to the ball.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

62

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
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- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
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- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Lavelle Hawkins

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths

Hawkins' best shot to contribute to an NFL team will be as a return specialist and reserve receiver. He has the height, speed, after the catch skills, and toughness to develop into a pro receiver. In other words, he has a lot of raw talent.

Overall Weaknesses

Hawkins needs to learn to beat press coverage, run precise routes, and be more consistent catching the football with his hands. If he doesn't win a spot as a return specialist, his likelihood of making an NFL roster as a receiver diminishes greatly because he has a lot to learn about the pro passing game and his fundamentals as a route runner and receiver need improvement.

Separation

Hawkins did a good job settling in open space in the middle of the field on several routes, especially a deep cross with 10:35 in the 4th QTR on a 2nd and 10 play. He was able to catch a football without a defender within a 3-yard radius on the play.

Routes

Hawkins either ran very short routes against man coverage where there was cushion or across the middle in zone coverage.

Receiving

His first catch was a comeback to the right sideline about 10 yards downfield off a play fake with 2:15 in the 1st QTR. He allowed the ball to get into his body, but caught the ball cleanly. His second catch was in a similar situation as the first reception--finding the soft spot in the zone and turning around. The ball was delivered to his chest and Hawkins caught the ball with his hands first. He also caught the ball with his hands on a short flat pass with 3:55 in the half. Nice job catching a 21-yard throw in tight coverage to get the first down with :39 left in the half. He made the catch with his hands although knowing the safety in zone coverage was going to lay a hit on him. Hawkins made an incredible diving catch on a fade route with :22 left in the half, but the ball was thrown way out of bounds. There was too much loft, but Hawkins still accelerated enough to catch up to the football and make an impressive, diving reception although it didn't count. Excellent use of his hands on this catch. Hawkins made a leaping grab on a high throw 22 yards downfield with 13:59 in the 3rd QTR. He caught the ball with his hands with a DB trailing. He came down with the high throw as the DB wrapped him up and still managed to move forward for an additional 2 yards. He followed up with a touchdown reception on the next play off a 1-step drop and throw to him in the slot. He caught a very hard-thrown ball with his hands first. He had a chance to catch a ball on quick slant with 13:21 in the 4th QTR where the ball was thrown a bit behind him but it bounced off his hands.

Etusiveness

Hawkins on both kick offs and receptions consistently demonstrates the ability to make the first defender miss, whether he's coming from the backside, overhead or from a different angle. He gained 9 yards after a 15-yard deep crossing route in the 4th QTR, by making a good stop-start move on an aggressive defender in the secondary. He is a dangerous receiver after the catch. He made two players miss a total of three times on this run after the catch.

Ball

Good job switching the ball to the outside shoulder at the end of this first kick return. He did not do this on subsequent returns.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Hawkins is a decisive open field runner with wiggle. He makes small moves while always trying to get up field.

Power

Hawkins is not afraid to lower his shoulder and finish a run. He took a play action pass to the flat and lowered his shoulder into the safety as he tried to gain as much yardage as possible. He did effectively use his free arm to clear out the LB's hit while heading for the safety. This resulted in a 2 yard gain rather than a loss.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

70

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Yards per Catch:
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Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
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Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Lavelle Hawkins

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Arizona State

Overall Strengths

Hawkins is a pretty good kick return specialist in his own right. He's not as elusive or speedy as his teammate DeSean Jackson, but he has more power and balance. He does not fear contact and will lower his shoulder to finish runs. He does have enough speed to get open and very good lateral movement after the catch and will make yards on short passes. He runs decent routes with a good burst, but will still route some off in the intermediate passing game. He's a good blocker as a wide receiver and will take on bigger men with good technique.

Overall Weaknesses

He catches the ball with his body most of the time. If he could make more hands catches he would have a legitimate shot to be a depth chart receiver in the NFL because of his ability to run after the catch and his toughness. If he can improve his pass catching and route running, which I think he's shown on film that he has potential to get better (he caught some balls with his hands), he could make a squad as a return specialist and crack the line up as a #4 receiver in the next year or two.

Separation

Good quickness on the end around to accelerate past the penetration into the backfield as he took the ball and then around the LB at the corner. He only gained 3 yards, but the defense was in position to drop him for a loss of 4-5 yards if he didn't possess such good acceleration.

Routes

He did a nice job of driving the CB and bursting out of his break on a 10-yard hitch to the right sideline in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving

He seemed to fight the ball into his body on a swing pass to the flat with 4:58 in the 1st QTR. It appeared he caught it close to his body and was trying to maintain possession as he was tucking it away. He dropped the first kick off his way with 13:48 in the half. He had to run back to the end zone to pick up the ball then took it for an 11-yard gain. Hawkins caught a short out and allowed it to come into his body as he ran back to the QB to get the ball, but the touchdown was called back because his teammate interfered with the CB covering Hawkins. Hawkins was wide open past the 1st down marker to catch a 14-yard in route underneath deep zone coverage with 1:05 in the half. He allowed this ball to get into this body as well. He is not a natural hands catcher of the football. Hawkins ran a sideline fade and made the adjust in the air to turn away from the CB to catch the football with his hands, but the ball bounce of his mitts. Hawkins caught swing route against his body and burst up field for the first down in the right flat for a gain of 8 yards. Hawkins made a nice catch on an under thrown ball in the flat. He used good hands technique to snare the ball before it hit the ground as he was falling forward. Very nice job for a receiver who caught the ball against his body all night. Hawkins got inside position on a tightly covered corner route with 5:58 in the 3rd QTR, but the ball bounced off his hands. He was too preoccupied with the DB putting his arm in the way of his hands. If Hawkins tried to reach for the ball an snatch it rather than try a basket catch, the official either would have called pass interference or he would have made the catch. He should have caught this ball. He caught a swing pass from the slot with :24 in the 3rd QTR and gained another 5 yards on the play by lowering this shoulder through traffic.

Elusiveness

Very nice lateral move past his blocker in the flat to gain 5 yards on a swing pass with 4:58 in the 1st QTR. Very smooth and fast dip away from a defender in the flat on his 3-yard reverse with 11:39 in the half. He also jumped away from the backside pursuit as he reached the sideline. He made a good stop-start move and a jump cut to elude two defenders on 21-yard kick return with 9:57 in the 3rd QTR. What does concern me is his willingness to leave his feet in situations where he could get flipped as a result.

Ball

Hawkins carried the ball under his right arm on a kickoff to the left sideline, exposing it to the majority of the pursuit on the play with 9:57 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Nice balance at the end of the touchdown reception to turn towards the goal line with a defender pulling him by the shoulder and helmet away from the marker, but still get the ball across.

Blocking

Hawkins did a good job blocking for his RB in the 2nd QTR as the runner took it around the right edge for an 11-yard gain. He delivered a good hit to the CB so the RB could cut inside of him for the first down. Hawkins came out of the slot and took on the OLB driving him backwards by a yard and turning him towards the inside so the RB could cut back on an run to left end for a gain of 9 on 1st and 10 with 10:43 in the half. A very good block for a WR. He got into the LB's body and steered him with good hand placement and leg drive.

Vision

Excellent job spotting cut backs to the inside on a kick off moving towards the left sideline with 9:57 in the 3rd QTR.

Power

Hawkins aggressively lowered his shoulder into the DB to cross the first down marker on a swing pass with 9:11 in the 3rd QTR. He lowered his head and kept his legs driving to get the extra yardage before two more defenders came in to clean up the play.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

87

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
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- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Limas Sweed

Date: 10/14/2006

Opponent: Baylor

Overall Strengths

Sweed is a big-bodied receiver with good hands and has already begun to learn how to play a physical game to maximize his athleticism and strength. He demonstrated a few times that he could get a clean release or get a separation advantage with his size. He has decent speed for his size and has a quick first step. He adjusts very well back to the QB and can hold onto the ball after taking a hit. He runs with good body lean and is not easy to bring down with just one player in the open field when moving north-south. I expect Sweed to continue to develop into a solid NFL starter within the first few years of his career. He had some very good blocks downfield despite some minor inconsistencies with diagnosis early in the game.

Overall Weaknesses

There are comparisons to Roy Williams due to their physiques and both attending Texas, but Sweed is not as fast as Williams nor is he as dynamic a runner after the catch. Sweed is more comparable to Plaxico Burress when Burress first came to the pros. Obviously Sweed has promise to be one of the better receivers from this class, but it depends on the health of his wrist.

Separation

Sweed faced press coverage on a 3rd and 9 with 4:55 in the 1st QTR. He got to the outside of the DB and had a half step down the sideline but the pass was a fade route and he couldn't come up with the ball. Sweed faced single coverage playing a 7-yard cushion on his post pattern to start the second quarter. The WR ran a good enough pattern to eat up the cushion and get inside separation, but the pass was too inaccurate for him to have any chance at a reception. Sweed could not get good position on a corner fade in the 2nd QTR. He also interfered with the CB by underhooking the CB's inside arm and leaning into him. Since both were looking for the ball, the officials let them play. Sweed would have been better served to concentrate leaping for the ball at it's highest point than getting physical for the spot on the field. Good adjustment on the slant route with 3:06 in the half. Prior to make his break, he had to avoid the LB in the shallow zone and did a good job of angling his body away from the path of the LB before making his break. Excellent job selling the sideline streak, then stopping on a dime to catch the ball thrown behind the DB in press coverage on the stop-fade. He had easy running to the endzone for 20 yards after the 30-yard pass.

Routes

Sweed did a good job to get outside on the 3rd and 9 sideline fade and still maintain a good amount of cushion between himself and the sideline. Sweed ran a good post route to start the 2nd QTR, but the QB threw the ball behind the WR. Sweed made a nice attempt to narrow the break of his route to adjust to the ball, but the pass was still too far behind him. A good pass would have been a likely score. Sweed did a fine job of working his way open against press coverage with 1:00 in the half. The CB was play press with outside technique. Sweed took the inside, drove the CB off him and made a strong break back to the ball. All the while he had perfect depth on the route making the break and cutting towards the sideline to get to the outside and still be a yard past the marker. The QB did not deliver the ball and when he did, the throw was too high. The CB also hit the WR in the back prior to the throw. Sweed was lined up wide left on his 18-yard score in the 3rd QTR. The QB was flushed from the pocket and rolled right. Sweed made a good adjustment to his QB and worked his way across the field to get open and make the catch.

Receiving

His first catch was a screen pass. He caught the ball with his hands and was hit immediately after the catch by the charging DB who read the play from the beginning and got past the other blocking WR for a clean shot behind the LOS. Sweed was able to leap over the top of the DB playing tight coverage on a 3rd and 9 fade with 4:55 in the 1st QTR. The WR actually had a chance to get both hands on the ball, but the CB had great position and Sweed wasn't able to concentrate well enough to snatch the pass. The ball went through his hands and bounced off the back of his helmet. The WR was the target of a pass on a sideline comeback, but the QB was trying to get the ball to Sweed as his 2nd or 3rd option against a Cover 2. The shallow CB read the play perfectly and drifted back to make the interception. Sweed attempted to catch the ball, but he was not aggressive about playing the defender in this situation. A more situationally-aware football player would have delivered a hit to the DB and knock the ball away. Good concentration on a slant with 3:06 in the half where the ball was underthrown on the break and Sweed had to turn back towards the ball in coverage while on the run. He caught the ball with his hands and continued to turn on the run for a 21-yard gain. Sweed was split left and caught an 18-yard score at the goal line. The QB rolled right and Sweed adjusted with him, catching the ball running across the field with his hands and taking a hard shot after the catch. With 2:26 in the 3rd he caught a 5-yard hitch in the left flat with two DBs over top at the first down marker. Sweed gained an extra 4 yards for the first down on a 2nd and 7. The WR caught a crossing route with 10:12 in the game for a 2-yard gain on 3rd and 9. His 50-yard score in the 4th QTR was a fade stop that he caught with both hands.

Elusiveness

Sweed faced two DBs over top on a 5-yard hitch to the left flat. He pivoted to the sideline, allowing the two DBs to close to the left and then cut around them to the right, also running around an LB coming from the inside. He met the LB head-on and a second LB at the marker before gaining an extra two yards after contact.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball in his arm moving away from the sideline and the DBs on his 5-yard hitch with 2:24 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Sweed went down quickly on a crossing route after a good form tackle to both thighs as he was trying to turn up field to run after the catch with 10:12 in the game.

Blocking

Sweed often took the path of least resistance and tried to run off his assignment with a longer pass pattern. On two occasions with under three minutes in the 1st QTR, Sweed did not make a block he should have made. On the 1st down play, he ran at the CB then kept his distance but mimicking the direction of the DB's movement as if he were trying to get the right angle on the DB. The second play with 2:02 in the 1st QTR, Sweed ran about 10 yards downfield and was knocked to the ground when he attempted a block. With 1:52 he was more aggressive with his block but did not have great hand placement and the DB was able to pull away. Sweed didn't give up on the block, but was clearly at the disadvantage on this attempt. Sweed did a good job of trying to block his CB on a busted play so his QB could gain yardage to his side. He did a decent job of blocking for a couple of seconds, but was looking back to the QB as if he were more concerned about getting rolled up than executing a good block. He did a better job when DBs covered him a bit closer off the line of scrimmage. He could be seen engaging in a downfield block in the end zone on a 3-yard run by the RB up the middle. He did a good job sustaining a block in the left flat on a run in that direction with 10:47 in the 3rd QTR. He actually got the DB to fall backwards trying to get away. Sweed made a very good block downfield on a crossing route for his teammate. He gave his teammate the sideline, by knocking the CB on his back with a sustained block. He missed a cut block on a WR downfield that allowed the DB to make the tackle in the RB at the sideline with 13:00 in the game.

Vision

He angled away from the pursuing DB as he ran untouched to the end zone on his 50-yard fade stop for a score. He cut inside as his coverage fell down after the catch and then further inside to ensure pursuit didn't get him.

Power

Sweed is a tall, rangy WR with good muscle definition. He did a very good job of lowering his shoulder into the LB on the 5-yard hitch with 2:24 in the 3rd and pushing for an extra two yards after contact with two LBs, and 2 DBs trying to wrap him up.

Durability

He missed most of the 2007 season with a wrist injury.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

89

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Limas Sweed

Date: 10/21/2006

Opponent: Nebraska

Overall Strengths

Overall Weaknesses

Separation

Routes

Receiving

Elusiveness

Ball

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

Has occasional lapses with his effort as a route runner.

Sweed has about an 8-inch height advantage on his corner Grixby in this game. He didn't get much separation on an 8-yard out thrown on 3rd and 7 with 4:15 in the opening quarter, but he used his size advantage to muscle in front of the CB to make the catch and first down. Although the ball wasn't thrown to his side, Sweed demonstrated a good burst off the line of scrimmage on a 3rd and 8 with 2:42 in the 1st QTR. He took an inside move past the DB and looked very quick off the line. Sweed attempted a short slant in the end zone from 4 yards out, but the CB squatted on the route and cut over the top before Sweed made his break. Sweed showed a nice burst to pull away after the catch on a 55-yard reception for a score. He set up the burst with a slower running of the initial part of the route that he attempted to make it look like a slant before cutting up field and bursting past the DB.

Sweed got into the area on time on his second target, but the throw was anticipated by the safety who jumped the route and defended the pass. Sweed's short slant with 6:49 in the 2nd QTR was not run with a lot of intensity--the CB jumped the route and prevented separation. The WR got a yard of depth behind the first down marker on a 3rd down throw against the blitz. On 2nd and 5 with 13:42 in the game, Sweed ran a 4-yard hitch. Although he got the first down, he did not get enough depth on the route despite plenty of opportunity to do so. Sweed didn't get enough depth two receptions later, when he ran an out just at the marker rather than past the marker. As before, he got the first down, but should have gotten more depth. Although he caught the ball against tight coverage, he was used primarily as an edge receiver.

Sweed's first catch was an 8-yard out on 3rd and 7 with 4:15 in the opening quarter. He did not get distracted by the initial contact when he made his break. He also caught the ball with his hands and snatched it close to his body with the defensive back maintaining contact with him. He has pretty big hands and when he gets them on the ball, he does a good job gaining control. Sweed caught a 55-yard score on a double move with 4:00 in the half. Sweed's score was a reception with both hands extended away from his body. The ball landed about stomach level to his inside shoulder as Sweed turned towards the pass to make the catch. Sweed caught a 3rd down hitch for 4 yards on a 3rd and 8 with 1:09 in the half. The WR had to extend his arms over his head to catch the football with his hands. He managed to hang onto the ball although the CB hit him in the waist as he made the grab. Good out route against a 3rd and down blitz where he caught the ball with his hands extended from his body and behind him as he was running towards the sideline. Sweed nearly caught a fade route in the end zone against excellent man coverage. Sweed was facing the DB who was looking back at the ball the entire time and had better position. The WR timed his leap perfectly and got one hand on the ball before the DB reached into the WR's arms and knocked the ball away. On 2nd and 10 with 13:15, Sweed caught a throwback screen with his hands extended from his body and gained enough yardage for a first down. On 2nd and 9 with 10:46 in the game, Sweed caught a 10-yard out with his hands while facing the sideline--he made the catch look effortless.

Sweed made a nifty move on a 2nd and 9 out route with 10:47 left in the game. He caught the out with the DB about 3 yards off him. Sweed turned from the sideline up field and made a nice stop and cut to the inside as the DB overran his pursuit. He gained 19 yards on the reception and run. This was a very sudden change of direction that helped him lose the CB on the play.

Sweed demonstrated enough awareness to pick up a fumble and gain 5 yards with 3:51 in the 3rd QTR. He should have fell on the ball, but he fortunately caught the fumble on a good bounce. On his 2nd and 5 reception for a 12-yard gain with 13:42 in the game, Sweed did a good job holding onto the football with both hands upon initial contact with the DB. Sweed demonstrated on this play and then two plays later, that he carries the ball on the arm furthest from the pursuing defender.

Sweed is a difficult player to knock off his feet in the secondary due to his size advantage. He caught a 2nd and 10 screen pass with 13:14 left in the game, turned up field, and managed to gain 4 yards after a DB wrapped up his legs near the sideline.

Sweed shielded his man on a 1st and 10 with 8:30 in the opening quarter--mostly hand-fighting with decent position on the defender, no real hit. The WR tends to look for the opportunity to shield his man rather than make contact with a hard hit. He made contact with his DB on a block with 4:00 left but could not sustain it. The DB was able to make a play against the ball carrier.

Sweed makes quick decisions with where to run after the catch. He made good decisions to turn the run back to the inside on consecutive receptions.

Sweed caught a 4-yard hitch on 2nd and 5 with 13:42 left in the game, turned away from the sideline for three yards before grabbed at the waist by the CB in coverage. He carried the CB for 3 yards before the DB spun him to the ground for 5-yard gain after contact. Sweed is a fairly strong runner after the catch. He has the size to run over a DB. In this game he gain yardage after contact, but did not run through any tackle.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

88

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Missed Target:
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Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Malcolm Kelly

Date: 11/11/2006

Opponent: Texas Tech

Overall Strengths

Kelly has excellent hands. He catches just about everything with his hands and can snatch the football out of the air. Made 4 difficult catches out of 6 bad throws in this game. Two of these receptions came with a hit from the defender and one was in a clutch situation that basically sealed the game for the Sooners. He's a big target with excellent leaping ability. Kelly makes the effort as a blocker and has enough power to gain yardage after contact. He has enough speed to get deep in several play calling situations and will run routes and catch passes anywhere on the field. He adjusts extremely well to high passes and demonstrates excellent ball protection skills as a runner and receiver. He's one of the better pro prospects in this draft class of WRs.

Overall Weaknesses

Although his route running is fundamentally sound, he'll need more work getting a good release off the line of scrimmage. He has difficulty with low-thrown footballs. He has good size, but he's not a dynamic runner after the catch. He lacks great lateral movement or power to run through tackles. He'll gain yardage after the catch, but he's not the type of runner who will run through 2-3 players in the open field. His vision as a runner isn't very instinctive and he doesn't always veer away from contact when he has an opportunity to do so. I'm not sold that he has game breaking speed. He has enough to be starter in the NFL, but he strikes me as the type that will need to run double moves or be a part of the play action game to consistently get open deep on a straight vertical route. He will be able to counteract a bit of this with his size, especially on stop fades, corner fades, and corner routes.

Separation

Kelly faced press coverage on 3rd and 4 with 6:20 in the half. He did not appear to get separation off the line. He did hit the CB, but did not run through the defender. The CB was still over top and had contact with Kelly as they were 5 yards past the LOS. Kelly demonstrated a good burst to get past a trailing DB and two LB's over top with an angle on his 1-yard crossing route that he turned into a 10-yard gain with :21 in the half. Kelly's stutter and go route down the left sideline was decent enough for the WR to get a step on his opponent. I was impressed with Kelly leaving enough distance between himself and the sideline to use the boundary as an extra cushion to gain horizontal separation to catch the football on the play.

Routes

Very good job driving the DB backwards on his 2nd and 7 out route for a 9-yard gain. He drove the DB with his route to force the defender to turn and run just before Kelly made a very quick break to the outside. Kelly did a good job coming back to his scrambling QB with 3:10 in the half to catch a very high-thrown ball and taking a shot in the back in the process. Kelly ran an effective stutter and go route for a 40-yard score with :10 in the half. The stutter move was not the best I'd ever seen, the stutter wasn't that good but he did a find job of turning back to the QB with his head and shoulders to make the DB hesitate. Good hustle to run back for the ball in hitch where he had to charge back towards the passer to have a chance at the ball with 7:00 in the game. Excellent out route on 3rd and 10 with 3:53 in the game to get past the corner and cover two and drive the safety. He made a good set up move to the inside before breaking outside.

Receiving

One thing is for sure, Kelly can leap for the ball. On the first pass of the game for OU, the QB threw a 10-yard slant to Kelly in the soft spot of zone coverage with 11:51 in the 1st QTR. The ball was thrown very high--too high for most receivers--but leaped into the air at least 3 feet from his standing position and snatched the ball with his arms fully extended over his head. He exhibited great body control to turn himself downfield as he was coming back to the ground and before his feet even hit the grass, he had the ball tucked under his right arm. On the next play he caught a 7-yard hitch with his hands at the right sideline. Kelly caught another overthrown pass at the sideline for a 9-yard gain on 2nd and 7 with less than a minute left in the 1st QTR. He leaped into the air, caught the ball at its highest point with his torso facing the QB, but then turned to face the sideline as he was descending to the ground and tapped one foot inbounds. Excellent concentration and good hands technique. Kelly had a step on his DB on a sideline streak with 7:12 in the half, but the ball was under thrown. Kelly went up for the ball, but either misjudged the ball was going to be short or just didn't make the effort to defend the pass. Based on the timing of the jump, I believe he misjudged the ball. Still, he didn't make the effort to turn and chance the DB after the interception. Kelly ran a deep corner route two plays later and got behind the CB and safety, but the ball was under thrown. Kelly tried to slow down and bend over for the ball, but the pass landed near his shins. At the same time the ball went through Kelly's hands and he should have caught it. He adjusted to five poor throws in this half--three of them he caught. One he should have caught. The other, he couldn't have caught. Kelly, once again had to leap high for a ball thrown on a comeback with 3:10 in the half. This time he had to take a shot in the back while in the air as he snatched the football with his hands extended over this head. He did a good job of holding onto the football. With :21 in the half, Kelly ran a crossing route 1-yard past the LOS catching the football with his hands between the zone of two LBs over top and a trailing DB. He gained 9 yards after the catch. Kelly made and over the inside shoulder grab with his hands on the 40-yard stutter and go for a score with :10 in the half. Kelly caught a 7-yard hitch with his hands in the right flat on 2nd and 7 with 14:57 in the game. He gained another 10 yards after the reception. Good catch with his hands on a ball the dropped quickly on a corner route with 6:19 in the game. He gained 24 yards on the play. Kelly made a clutch reception in the closing minutes of the game and up by 3 points on a 3rd and 10. He caught a 12-yard hitch between the Cover 2 zone and took a hard shot at the thigh level while in the air. Kelly still held onto the ball and did a great job of using his body to shield the ball from the safety.

Eagerness

Kelly used a stutter step to get the CB coming over top to hesitate before the WR burst past him. The DB was already off balance from the move as Kelly used a stiff arm to help the DB complete his fall to the ground.

Ball

He switched the ball to his outside arm after hitting the ground before taking on the DB on his first catch. Excellent job switching the ball to his outside arm on the 1-yard cross where he gained 9 more yards with :21 in the half. He's very good at tucking the ball quickly against his body when he has to go airborne for the football. He did this on a clutch play on 3rd and 10 with less than 3:00 in the game. The DB even tried to rip the ball as Kelly was coming down, but had no success.

Balance

Kelly faced two LBs over top a trailing DB, and a backside DL on the 1-yard crossing route with :21 in the half. The DL launched his shoulder into the Kelly's hip 3 yards past the LOS, but Kelly kept his footing despite noticeably tacking the impact of the hit. He gained another 5 yards before the safety got his leg. Even then, Kelly fell forward for another 5 yards for a 10-yard gain on the play. Good balance to turn away from a hit to the legs on the comeback with 7:00 in the game. He was able to dive forward for a few more yards on the play.

Blocking

Kelly was very aggressive slanting from the wide out position to take on the safety drifting up the line. He delivered a strong hit to the DB as the RB ran a sweep to his corner. He was able to drive the DB back two yards, but couldn't sustain the block. The DB slipped the block to the inside and made the tackle, but only after the RB gained 6 yards. Kelly did a good job getting the initial block on the his DB on a WR screen and was able to sustain it long enough for the WR to gain a few yards, but the DB slipped Kelly's block and got in on the tackle after a gain of 11 yards.

Vision

Excellent decision on his first catch to run downhill and try to split the three defenders within the area of the zone he caught the pass. But with 6:20 in the 4th QTR, Kelly caught a corner route past a blow coverage and instead of bending the run to the sideline to avoid the LB coming from the middle of the field, he ran right into the LB.

Power

He leaned into the DB overtop and gained 6 yards after contact on his first reception of the game. Good power and leverage on the run. On the next catch, he stiff armed the DB and knocked him to the ground as Kelly tried to go around the DB, but the DB hung onto Kelly's jersey and dragged the WR to the ground for no gain after the 7-yard catch. Very good body lean for 5 yards after losing his balance from the safety's leg tackle with :19 in the half. Kelly gained 8 yards on the 1st pass of the 2nd half, a throw out to him wide right at the LOS. He stiff armed the DB coming up to tackle and ran through the DB for another 6 yards after contact until that DB dragged him out of bounds.

Durability

Character

Kelly made a good effort to dive after a fumble by his teammate Johnson, but he could only get one hand on the ball as a TT DB pounced on it with his chest, turned away from Kelly, and snatched the ball.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

86

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Malcolm Kelly

Date: 12/1/2007

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths

Kelly has good size/speed dimensions as a receiver. He has a physical player off the ball and downfield against DBs and will adjust to the ball in the air. He has enough acceleration from a standstill to make plays and can get open deep. His skills remind me of the same seen from Michael Irvin--a physical receiver with good, but not great speed, and strong hands.

Overall Weaknesses

I'd like to see more from him as a blocker. He didn't appear very dynamic in the open field in this game. He also didn't have many routes in the middle of the field in this contest. He has the skills to be a good NFL receiver with some big play ability. He has the size of a Braylon Edwards or Andre Johnson, but I'm not sure he's as dynamic a player after the catch or as a vertical threat.

Separation

Excellent separation on the deep post, Kelly was both 2 yards past the DB and 2 yards inside of him for a clean opportunity to the ball. The DB played 2-3 yards off Kelly at the LOS and got his hands on the WR off the snap, but the WR used his right arm to push the DB away from him as he was getting inside separation and then simply outran the DB. He has a long gait and didn't seem to have any problem getting downfield quickly. Kelly was very physical in establishing inside position against the DB on a 10-yard slant on a 3rd and 10 with 5:47 in the half. He used his hands very well to hit the DB playing inside position and then shove his outside arm in front of the defender before he made his break to establish his position. Kelly got held a bit on a streak on 1st and 10 with 13:45 in the 3rd QTR. Kelly doesn't have blazing speed. In tight one on one coverage on the pass interference call in the 4th QTR, the CB ran stride for stride with Kelly and the WR had to leap over the top to get a shot at the football. If the CB turned around to look for the ball on the play, there was a chance the WR would have been called for the interference penalty.

Routes

Good job getting horizontal separation on the deep vertical route with 1:25 in the 1st QTR.

Receiving

His first catch was a 1-yard hitch with 8:53 in the 1st QTR. He snatched the pass with his hands effectively. Kelly's second catch was on a 47-yard post pattern where he had to extend his body to catch the football. He had his arms away from his body while falling forward and snatched the ball with his hands with an over the shoulder catch. If he didn't have to extend himself, it would have been an easy touchdown. Another good catch with his hands on a 10-yard slant with 5:43 in the half. Kelly's last catch was a 1-yard hitch to the right side. He caught the ball with his hands extended from his body. Kelly's one drop after contact was actually an under thrown ball on a streak where the WR had the outside and the ball was thrown to the inside. Kelly got enough separation to go over the top of the DB with one arm and get his hand on the football as he was falling forward. The official called interference on the DB as the defender held onto the WR, but it could have been called against Kelly for holding onto the DB's head. The call went the other way because the DB didn't turn around to play the ball. Nice job trying to adjust to the football.

Elasticity

Ball

Good job tucking the ball under his sideline arm on his first catch with 8:53 in the 1st QTR.

Balance

He was knocked off balance pretty easily against DBs coming over top against him on two plays in this game.

Blocking

I didn't see any opportunities for him block in this game. He was either on the sideline or running off the DB on plays he was in the game.

Vision

Power

Kelly put a decent stiff arm on the DB about 6 yards downfield of his 9-yard catch and run to start the 2nd half. He would have gotten free of the DB if there weren't two DBs from over the top that hit him and knocked him to the ground.

Durability

He's missed parts or all of two bowl games with knee and thigh issues, but has been durable for most of his career.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

70

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
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Category Scores

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Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Marcel Reese

Date: 9/22/2007

Opponent: UCLA

Overall Strengths

Pretty good speed for a 240 lb player. He was able to beat a CB down the sideline and make good adjustments to the QB to get open. He typically catches the football with his hands and displays aggressive tendencies as a blocker.

Overall Weaknesses

He's a 'tweener at WR/TE in terms of height and weight. His speed is good for a TE but not so good for a WR. His height is decent for a WR, but short for a TE.

Separation

Reece got a half step of separation on the DB on a 3rd and 12 sideline streak to start the 4th QTR. Nice last-second adjustment to the ball on a sideline fade that looked like a stop-fade. He stopped and drifted behind the DB to catch the ball with his hands. Reece was thrown off his route on the streak down the sideline with 5:15 and this prevented him from getting good position towards the ball.

Routes

Reece's 4-yard route from the slot looked more like the opposing defender didn't realize Reece was his assignment. But Reece recognized he was open and quickly turned back to the QB to signal for the passer to deliver the ball to him. Good job improvising on crossing route and changing direction to drift to the outside and come back to the QB to catch a 10-yard pass for a 1st down with 3:00 in the 3rd QTR. Reece did not run a very refined streak route to start the 4th QTR. He should have created more cushion between him and the sideline so he could angle back to the sideline as the ball was coming to him. Instead he tightroped the sideline and this allowed the CB to get his hand near the ball and distract Reece from making the catch.

Receiving

Reece's first target was a comeback in triple coverage that was thrown very height. Reece was able to get a hand on the football, but was hit before he could control it. His first catch was a 4-yard score on a turnaround out of the slot. He body-caught the ball with his palms up as the ball hit him in the numbers. The 3rd pass to him was on a 3rd and 5 with 4:38 in the 3rd QTR. He was running a hitch and the ball was overthrown. The 4th target with 2:44 in the 3rd QTR was overthrown by about 4-5 yards. Good job catching the ball with his hands first on an improvised comeback route and keeping one foot inbounds. Reece let the long streak at the top of the 4th QTR bounce off his hands. Nice last-second adjustment to the ball on a sideline fade that looked like a stop-fade. He stopped and drifted behind the DB to catch the ball with his hands with 5:27 in the game. Reece dropped the ball that hit him in the outside hand on a streak down the sideline with 5:15 in the game. His 4th and 1 catch with 4:45 was a short turn around in zone coverage that he took up field for another 4 yards--good job catching the ball thrown over his hand with his hands first.

Evasiveness

Ball

He carried the ball in his right arm on most runs.

Balance

Blocking

Reece aggressively ran towards a defender to block the first half, but didn't have many opportunities to get a hit before the whistle blew. At the end of the 3rd QTR, Reece blocked an LB in the back on a run to the outside that would have gone for a long gain if not for his illegal hit. Good block on the DB at the sideline on a 20-yard QB run with 9:20 in the game. It opened the lane for the QB on the play.

Vision

Power

This is a player with a thick core area in the thighs, abdomen, and chest. He gained an extra few years after his reception off the fade. He's a player that needs to be hit in the legs or he'll run through or out of tackles CBs and some safeties.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Overall Score:

70

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- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
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- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
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Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
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Rec After Contact:
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Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Marcus Henry

Date: 1/3/2008

Opponent: Virginia Tech

Overall Strengths

Henry has a build similar to Randy Moss and he is a long strider capable of big plays in the deep passing game on streaks and posts. He demonstrates good concentration catching the football in traffic and can hold onto the ball after he takes a hit. He has a natural height advantage and some decent short area moves after the catch. He has the height and weight and hands to make a roster and possibly develop into a contributor in multiple receiver sets.

Overall Weaknesses

He wasn't on the same page as his QB on two routes. He didn't show dynamic acceleration and he was shut down on a number of routes in press coverage. He needs to work on press coverage, route intricacies and improve his acceleration, if possible.

Separation

Henry flashed some long striding, build-up speed on some of his routes where he ate up the opposing DB's cushion on his routes. His timing on the 20-yard post pattern was well-done. But he did not look especially quick or fast in tight coverage or with the ball in his hands.

Routes

Henry ran a route to the inside when the QB thought it was an out route, resulting in an incomplete pass with 1:35 in the 1st QTR. A similar miscommunication occurred with 7:14 in the half when Henry ran down the sideline and the QB threw what appeared to be a short out. Good job breaking off his route on an in for the score with 7:03 in the half.

Receiving

His first catch was a 4th and 1 WR screen that he caught with his hands 3-yards behind the LOS for a gain of 7 yards and a 1st down. Very good catch on an in-route with 7:03 in the half for a 17-yard score. He caught the bal between two defenders at the goal line, knowing the safety over top was going to deliver a head-on hit.

Etusiveness

Nice stutter move to make a DB miss on the 4th and 1 screen for a 7-yard gain.

Ball

Good awareness on the 4th and 1 screen with 7:42 in the half to tuck the ball under the sideline arm after the catch.

Balance

Blocking

He was able to shield off All-American LB Adibi temporarily on a WR screen for 2 yards. He made a good effort by attempting to get his hands into the LB's body.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
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Overall Score:

73

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Marcus Monk

Date: 11/11/2006

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths

Big, good hands, fights for the ball, and is effective all over the field. He gets yardage after the catch with his size and balance. If he's healthy, he could start for an NFL team in a few years as a possession receiver if he can improve his speed and quickness.

Overall Weaknesses

He needs work with his routes and facing press coverage (although he has the body to defeat it easily once he learns). He isn't a home run threat unless it's assisted with play action or a double move. He lacks quality elusiveness. He also had two knee surgeries as a senior.

Separation

Monk had his CB beat by about a yard on a sideline streak about 45 yards downfield, but the ball was overthrown. The play was also well-covered by the secondary playing deep zone. More importantly, he was pushed out of bounds on the jam as he released from the line. His straightline speed is better than his openfield speed. He gained 18 yards after a 15-yard catch, but he looked slow as he tried to weave round players towards the end of the run. He made a nice elusive move to get free on a sideline fade for a 35-yard gain.

Routes

He ran a streak, hitches, crossing routes, a seam route, and a fade in the first half. None were spectacular routes and most were in zone coverage. The fade route was probably his best route and he was not in tight coverage during the play. His 3rd and 4 slant route for 12-yards was not very sharp with its break, but he did managed to use his body to shield the ball from the trailing defender.

Receiving

Monk ran a crossing route to the endzone with 6:21 in the 1st QTR where the QB rolled in the same direction as the cross. The QB underthrew the ball and the DB in front of Monk leaped for the ball and got his hands on it. Monk leaping behind the DB, reached over the top as they were in the air and stole the ball from the DB, but could not secure it as they landed and the ball dropped to the ground. Excellent play to steal the interception and nearly an excellent play to score the touchdown. Good body control in the red area. Monk caught a corner fade on the next play and it was Monk's height and ball-tracking that made the difference. He tracked the ball by turning his head to his inside shoulder, then turned his head and body to the left to find the ball again and caught the ball over his head with his hands, getting both feet in bounds. Very good job tracking the throw. Monk caught a hitch in the flat with his hands away from his body for 6 yards and gained 6 more with 13:47 in the half. The CB jumped the route and nearly picked off the pass, but mistimed it. Good concentration to catch the ball with the CB flashing in front of his face. Monk caught a crossing route with 7:54 in the half with his hands while facing the QB in the soft area of the zone at the 50-yard line. He quickly turned upfield and gained 18-yards on the play. Monk caught an easy seam pass off a very well-designed fake from their staple run play with 6:53 in the half. The play call was what got Monk so open down the seam in the red area. He caught a 35-yard pass with his hands as the ball was thrown over his inside shoulder with 12:27 in the 3rd QTR. He caught a 4-yard crossing route in traffic and bounced off one hit but didn't get extra yards. Good catch in traffic on a deep in route for 19-yards on 3rd and 7 with 5:00 in the game. He caught the ball despite getting hit as the ball arrived.

Elusiveness

He did a good job of sidestepping the complete hit from the DB in the flat while turning upfield after is 6-yard hitch to gain another 6 yards on the play with 13:47 in the half.

Ball

Balance

He bounced off a hit to his leg by the DB over top on the 3rd QTR crossing route for 4 yards.

Blocking

I didn't see his blocking opportunities in this game.

Vision

Although he didn't appear very fast as a runner, he did set up a downfield block by his WR to get extra yards down the middle of the field rather than try to bend it to the right sideline after his 15-yard catch with 7:55 in the half.

Power

He bounced off a hit to gain 6 yards after catching the 6-yard hitch on 3rd down to gain the 1st down with 13:47 in the half.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Vision Score:
Power Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Marcus Monk

Date: 9/16/2006

Opponent: Vanderbilt

Overall Strengths

Monk is a big, physical receiver who will come back to the QB for the ball for aggressively go for the ball against a DB. He catches the football with his hands and is a load to bring down. He has good balance and gains yardage after contact. He makes the effort to block and has enough speed to break a big play in situations where he can put a move on the secondary.

Overall Weaknesses

He's had knee issues that have hindered his ability to perform. He needs to show better explosion out of breaks and run harder routes. He is not elusive. If he can return to health and keep working, he'll develop into an NFL receiver who will contribute in 3-4 WR sets.

Separation

Monk easily got into the end zone after catching the wheel route in the 1st QTR. When his knee is healthy, he has enough separation to beat a CB down the sideline if he gets a step on him with a move for physical separation.

Routes

Monk ran a 3rd down wheel route for a 56-yard score. Very good job coming back to the QB on a crossing route with 14:29 in the half. This effort was what allowed him to cut in front of two defenders in zone coverage to tip the ball away and catch it for the 1st down and 11-yard gain. Monk did not show much explosiveness out of his break on a deep in with 13:55 in the half. The CB had plenty of time to reach and maintain tight coverage on the play. He did not do an effective job of driving the defender back for force a hip turn on his hitch routes.

Receiving

Monk caught an easy 5-yard hitch, turning it outside for two more yards before getting rode out of bounds by the CB. He allowed the ball into his stomach but caught it cleaning. He got past the CB on a 56-yard wheel route that he caught with his hands over his outside shoulder about 25 yards downfield. Very good effort to top the ball away and catch it on a route where he came back to the QB's throw with 14:29 in the half. Monk caught a 6-yard hitch, nearly getting the first down with 5:35 in the half. Monk caught a 15-yard crossing route in tight coverage at the right flat with 2:15 in the 3rd QTR and turned it up field for a 40-yard gain up the sideline. Monk was interfered with on a 7-yard hitch--the DB pulled him down as he was leaping for the ball with 5:59 in the game. The penalty was not called.

Elusiveness

He's not very dynamic with movement, but on the 15-yard crossing route he caught on 3rd down he was able to stop his momentum and turn back up field, leaving his CB behind him and gaining another 25 yards down the sideline.

Ball

He consistently carried the ball under his sideline arm in this game.

Balance

Blocking

He was called for holding on an end around that negated a 23-yard gain, but the call was questionable. Monk did a poor job of blocking on a sweep to the left where McFadden gained 10 yards. The CB came right off the block to make the tackle. Monk did not try to drive the CB towards the sideline or make a solid hit upon initial contact. Good downfield block on the CB during the screen pass for the score. He stayed on the man for another 5 yards so the RB could score.

Vision

Power

Although Monk was taken out of bounds after gaining two on the 5-yard hitch, he was not knocked down on the play. He's a big, strong kid with a huge height advantage on the CB he faced on this initial offensive play for Arkansas in the 1st QTR. It was a struggle for the CB to bring him down on a 6-yard hitch to the right sideline with 5:35 in the half. He was nearly able to stretch the ball over the marker as he was knocked out of bounds.

Durability

Two knee injuries sidelined him much of his senior year and rendered him ineffective.

Character

Monk hustled down the sideline to catch the CB intercepting the 4th down pass in the 2nd QTR.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Overall Score:

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Marcus Monk

Date: 1/1/2008

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths

Monk has good hands. He catches the ball in traffic as well as on deeper routes. He will use his body to shield the ball from defenders. What I like the most about him as a football player is his ability to block. He consistently locked down his opponent and drove him off the ball or away from the play. If he can regain his health and maintain it, he has a chance to be a weapon in the NFL as a player with Plaxico Burress-like dimensions.

Overall Weaknesses

Does he have the quickness to be an NFL-caliber player? At best, he's a Plaxico Burress type. At worst, he's not even as fast as Oronde Gadsden.

Separation

Monk was open on a FB pass, but the ball was under thrown with 14:40 in the 1st QTR.

Routes

Good route adjustment by Monk on 3rd and 9 to cut his route short when he recognized the CB blitz from his side. He made himself a good target for a short out for the QB. Good depth on an in route for a 1st down and 9 yards with 4:12 in the game.

Receiving

Monk caught a 3rd and 9 out route for 4 yards with his hands first and held on after taking a hit from the LB. Nice job snatching the ball out of the air thrown at helmet level on an out route to the right side with 1:00 in the half for a gain of 9 yards. He dropped a 2nd and 16 hitch after he was hit with the ball in the air. He caught a 7-yard hitch with his hands with 7:24 in the game and turned up field for another 2 yards. Good concentration on an in route with 4:12 to catch the ball with his hands against double coverage.

Elusiveness

It's difficult to judge his elusiveness because he still looks a bit ginger with his lateral movement. He did make a nice dip to the inside after a 7 yard hitch for two extra yards, but his legs looked a bit dead.

Ball

Balance

Blocking

Monk did a good job of sustain a block at the edge on a 1st down swing pass to Felix Jones in the slot. This block gave Jones the corner and a gain of 12 yards on the first play of the game after the kickoff. Nice block on the CB on Jones' 23-yard run in the in the 2nd QTR. He got his body into the DB and immobilized him with his hands to the DB's chest and strong leverage. He made another good block downfield on the CB during a 40-yard gain off a screen pass by Felix Jones. Monk had very good control of his defender and drove the defender about 2-3 yards backwards and also towards the sideline. Good hand placement, sustaining the block, and using his height and power to his advantage. He made another fine block on a swing pass to the slot RB for a 14-yard gain.

Vision

Power

He didn't appear to have much leg drive after he was hit, but this could be due to the fact he's still recovering from knee surgeries this year.

Durability

He had two knee operations this year. Missed most of the season.

Character

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Mario Manningham

Date: 1/1/2007

Opponent: USC

Overall Strengths

He's a more versatile receiver than I first noticed. He can catch the ball over the middle and in traffic on in-routes. He has enough speed to get deep, although I'm less inclined to say he's an every down threat when I see him against some of the faster CBs in college football.

Overall Weaknesses

He's not going to break a lot of tackles, his cutting ability after the catch seemed to be lacking in this game. He needs to tighten his grip a bit on the football. Manningham does not work well against physical coverage and can be rendered ineffective at the line of scrimmage.

Separation

Manningham fell down on a sideline streak that was his first target with 8:49 in the 1st QTR. It appeared he was hesitant with the route he was supposed to run. The DB ran with Manningham stride for stride on an overthrown streak with 6:15 in the 4th QTR, but it was the safety next to him--the DB was well behind Manningham.

Routes

Manningham appeared to stop and anticipate a hitch route on 3rd and 10 with 8:49 in the 1st QTR, but the route was a sideline streak and one he realized this was where Henne was going, he fell down trying to accelerate. He tried to run with the QB on a scramble with 6:39 in the 3rd QTR, but the passer delivered the ball behind him on the play. Nice job getting open between three players in the zone for a 17-yard gain and a first down.

Receiving

Manningham's first catch was a screen pass with two receivers blocking in front of him. He got a clean alley down the left sideline for 9 yards before cutting it back to the inside while making a defender miss to get the final four yards. He caught the screen pass with his hands first. With 3:39 in the 1st QTR. He caught a 16-yard in route beneath zone coverage on a 3rd and 16 to begin the 2nd QTR. He caught the ball facing the QB with his hands and held on as he took a hit on the play. He caught a crossing route with 4:05 in the 3rd QTR with his hands. Manningham caught an out route for 9 yards with coverage trailing close to him with :03 in the 3rd QTR. He did a good job catching the in route for 17 yards and a first down with 9:36 in the 4th QTR. Manningham didn't make a great effort to catch a pass thrown low to him in the flat with 8:11 in the game. He could have gotten lower for the ball. The catch was in a high-traffic area between three defenders in zone coverage. He caught a pass thrown low and slightly behind him on the run with 6:08 in the game on a crossing route.

Elusiveness

Nice job side-stepping the DB to the inside to gain 4 yards after getting 9 on the initial screen pass. He tried to make a stutter move to the CB coming up to stop him on a crossing route with 4:02 in the 3rd QTR, but the CB just got under the WR and flipped him over his back. On the out route he caught with :03 in the 3rd QTR he did not show the ability to stop and cut up field to get the 1st down marker.

Ball

Manningham carried the screen pass down the left sideline in his inside arm with 3:39 in the 1st QTR. He did not tuck the ball under his outside arm when he caught his crossing route with 4:05 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

He was generally knocked down or out of bounds with the first hit.

Blocking

He did not show any effort as a downfield blocker.

Vision

He has decent vision as an open field runner and set up a 9-yard gain on his first catch.

Power

He lowered his shoulder into the CB on a screen pass, but was driven out of bounds on the play. He's not going to break many tackles. He's a skinny receiver with a lanky build and looks awkward when he's trying to employ some leverage to initiate a hit.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Mario Manningham

Date: 11/10/2007

Opponent: Wisconsin

Overall Strengths

Decent speed and elusiveness which he applies equally well in routes and as a runner. He catches the football with his hands and is an outside threat to a defense. He has good concentration when catching the ball.

Overall Weaknesses

He has difficulty against press coverage if the DB gets physical with him. He was not used on routes in the middle of the field at any point in the game. He is not much of a blocker. While he's a talent, at this stage he's a one-dimensional threat on a football field.

Separation

Excellent acceleration on his first run after the catch. The CB closest to him after the catch tripped and fell flat on his face, allowing Manningham to sprint past two other Wisconsin defenders for the score. To open the 3rd QTR, Manningham faced a CB playing 6 yards off the LOS in single coverage and Manningham still got a yard in front of the CB on the play. The pass was under thrown and incomplete. The CB was Ikegwuonu who the Badgers timed at a 4.28 (regardless of the accuracy, he's probably a 4.3-4.4 speedster, which is fast-- he also caught RB Darren McFadden from behind on a certain touchdown last year) and Manningham had a step on him. When Ikegwuonu pressed Manningham with 13:09 in the 3rd QTR, the WR could not get the inside advantage on the sideline face and the CB easily broke up the pass. Manningham did a very good job with a couple of jab steps to the outside on the CB at the 10 yard line in the press portion of cover 2 to get a clean release. Once he got the ball, he beat the rest of the Wisconsin defense down the sideline easily and the CB in press who ran down McFadden was nowhere close to catching Manningham. Manningham made a very good move to get past the Cover 2 with 8:21 in the 4th QTR. This time he made a jab step to the inside and dipped to the sideline to get behind the same CB, but the pass bounced off his finger tips. At the same time the difference in speed by 10ths of a second is about a step or two of difference so even if Manningham ran a 4.59 40 and Ikegwuonu ran a 4.28, that's about 3 steps the CB could make up, not enough for the lead Manningham had on him.

Routes

Manningham demonstrated a well-run out route with 14:02 in the 3rd QTR, but the QB had to throw the ball away. Manningham got open on an out route with 4:42 in the 3rd QTR but the QB overthrew the pass to the right sideline. Manningham ran an 8-yard hitch and got open, doing a decent job of keeping his CB concerned about maintaining a cushion before the WR made his break, but the QB overthrew this pass. The QB overthrew the WR on a hitch on 3rd and 10 with 3:13 in the 3rd QTR. The QB missed Manningham at the top of the 4th QTR on an 8-yard hitch. The WR was well-covered on the play by the CB, so it would have been likely if the QB were accurate, the CB would have intercepted the ball. On the next play he caught a sideline route in cover 2 thrown 20 yards downfield and ran the rest of the way for a 97-yard score. The QB overthrew a slant that was nearly picked off by the CB. This QB's accuracy was really erratic. At the same time he also didn't run back to the ball on breaks as receivers are often taught.

Receiving

Manningham's first catch was a 12-yard touchdown off throw back where he took a step behind the LOS and turned to the QB. He caught the quick throw with his hands and then turned up field and down the sideline untouched for the score. His second catch was a 4-yard gain after he did the same route on the right side of the formation that he ran in the first half from the left side to score from 12 yards away. This time he fell down after turning up field, but he gained enough yardage for the first down on a 3rd and 4 situation. Good job bringing in the ball with his hands while his back was to the LOS on his 97-yard score. He juggled the ball slightly as he brought it into his chest, but got control of it quickly. The WR dropped a sideline wheel route with 8:21 left. The pass was a little high, but Manningham got his hands on the ball.

Elusiveness

Manningham did a very good job with a couple of jab steps to the outside on the CB at the 10 yard line in the press portion of cover 2 to get a clean release and then quickly dipping inside the deep corner after the catch to score on a 97-yard reception in the 4th QTR.

Ball

Manningham did not switch the ball to his outside arm on the 12-yard run after the catch down the left sideline for the score. He has a habit of carrying the ball under his right arm.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Slight MCL tear in knee in 2006 that required him to a few games in 2006.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
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- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
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Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Mario Manningham

Date: 11/18/2006

Opponent: Ohio State

Overall Strengths

Manningham makes great double moves and demonstrates a burst to the ball when it is in the air. He has a good straight-line burst after the catch. He'll make catches over the middle and on the perimeter.

Overall Weaknesses

He has difficulty with press coverage. He drops easy balls due to lapses in concentration. He does not break tackles and lacks elite deep speed. His elusiveness after the catch is not very dynamic and he seems to shirk contact when finishing a play. It's clear that at the very least he's not comfortable with contact.

Separation

Good quickness to outrun the angle of a safety coming from over top in support. Manningham was wide open on a streak down the left sideline when he put a double move on the CB and forced the player to slip, but the QB overthrew the pass by 5 yards. He had about a 10-yard gap on the CB by the time the ball was over Manningham's head. On the next play, they bracketed Manningham with the DE Golston coming outside to chip the WR from the side, knocking him down about 5 yards down field. When he runs in a straight line he has good enough acceleration to gain yardage after the catch. On a 12-yard screen he was caught from behind by an LB while running straight down field with 14:56 in the half. In fact the LB came from the hash to loop under a block and catch the WR from behind at the sideline so Manningham must be a bit more quick than fast or that LB is extremely fast. The WR drew an interference call on the CB on a 3rd and 2 route. In the NFL this would have been a borderline illegal contact play. It actually appeared more like Manningham got jammed about 4 yards downfield and it was sustained for another yard. Manningham had trouble getting away from the press coverage and was knocked far off his route. The CB was step-for-step with Manningham on a streak down the sideline on a 3rd and 2 with less than 2:00 in the 3rd QTR. The ball was under thrown and the CB nearly intercepted it with a diving attempt. If the ball were thrown further down field, Manningham would have had a chance to fight for the ball. Manningham is very good at timing his burst as the ball is in the air to get that extra amount of separation or position advantage on deep throws. He did this with 2:47 left on a 4th and 16 that drew an interference call.

Routes

Good break on the slant route which got him a yard of horizontal separation from the CB so he could gain yardage after the catch. He ran the same play from the other side, just 20 yards down field instead of 10 yards with 12:45 in the 1st QTR. Excellent double move on the stutter and go that was overthrown. He got wide open against soft zone coverage on an in-route with 4:01 left in the game.

Receiving

He opened the game with a very well-timed slant where the CB in coverage was playing outside technique. He caught the ball with his hands and in stride, gaining 24 yards total. He caught a 20-yard slant in stride with his hands with 12:38 in the 1st QTR. Manningham caught a WR screen and gained 12 yards on the play. Again, caught the ball with his hands first. He dropped a hitch thrown to him at the left sideline with 5:41 in the half. Although credited as a rush, Manningham caught a flanker screen with 14:00 in the 3rd QTR and was stopped for no gain. He dropped an easy crossing route with no around him with 11:37 in the game. The ball was thrown slightly behind him, but it still bounced off his hands. He caught the next crossing route with his hands for a 5-yard gain with 5:04 in the game. Good concentration on the deep in route to catch the ball then take the hit from 3 OSU defenders in the zone with 4:01 in the game. He snatched a 6-yard crossing route on the next play and ran out of bounds to conserve time with 2:41 left.

Elusiveness

I'm not terribly impressed with his lateral movement or elusiveness. He caught a hitch in the flat with a DB over top and his stutter move was very predicable and lacked any kind of movement back to the outside. He basically danced himself out of bounds with 13:38 in the 1st QTR. He did make a nice stutter and go move in a route, but as a runner after the catch, his game is predicated on straight line speed. Once again his attempt to make a move to fake out the defenders in the zone on his in route with 4:01 left was very pedestrian and didn't fool anyone.

Ball

He carried the ball downfield on the slant under his right arm. He did the same on a screen to the right side to start the 2nd QTR. He kept the ball under his right arm on a crossing route where he was heading to the left sideline with 5:04 in the game.

Balance

Nice try to reach the ball over the goal line on a 25-yard gain off a deep slant but his butt hit the ground before he could stretch his arms over the DB. He fell on his break while running a corner route with 5:36 in the 1st QTR.

Blocking

He tried to shield his CB on a run to his side with 12:45 in the 3rd QTR, but the DB saw the RB get to the outside and pursue. Manningham did adjust by turning back to the LB in pursuit and delivering a block to the waist that stopped the defender in his tracks as the RB gained 32 yards on the run. On the next play, he was shoved aside by the CB at the left sideline. That CB helped make the tackle on the play which prevented the touchdown. Very good block downfield to turn his man towards the sideline as the RB took the left corner past Manningham with 7:33 in the 3rd QTR.

Vision

Power

He just doesn't look very comfortable with on-coming contact. He caught a hitch in the flat with 13:38 in the 1st QTR and lowers his shoulder and head to brace himself for hits rather than attack the defender. I saw this in both this game and the USC contest. This stance is more of a "I hope this doesn't hurt" position than a "I'm going to hit you before you hit me," or "I'll get the best of you when we collide." Manningham tried to run a flanker screen, but he was wrestled to the ground by the CB he tried to stiff arm for no gain. He was tripped up by an ankle tackle as he tried to run down field after the reception off the crossing route with 5:04 in the game.

Durability

He missed four games with a knee injury as a sophomore and missed a game as a junior.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

81

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
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- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
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- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Vision Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Mario Urrutia

Date: 9/3/2006

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths

A tall receiver who will be a highly regarded prospect if he can continue to refine his routes, speed, and consistency of his hands. He has good body adjustment to the ball and he makes a strong effort as a run blocker. He has a knack for getting separation deep in single coverage.

Overall Weaknesses

He needs to maintain concentration catching the ball. He sometimes allows the ball to get into his body. He also needs to refine his route skills and getting separation in press coverage.

Separation

Urrutia has decent build-up speed and he uses his size well to get separation, but he's not a burner by any stretch of the imagination. He did get open on play action passes, but I think he'll have to rely mostly on his size and leaping ability on intermediate-deep routes in the pros.

Routes

He needs work with timing routes, but he's difficult to bump off course on the basic college patterns where he can use his athleticism to make a play.

Receiving

Urrutia caught a 35-yard pass with his hands on a post that he had to wait a split second for the ball to arrive. Good concentration. His next target came with 4:56 in the 3rd QTR. He caught a 7-yard curl and turned upfield for a first down for a 16-yard gain. He did let the ball get into his shoulder pads when making the catch rather than using his hands to secure the ball. Urrutia got open down the sideline in man coverage with 14:00 left in the game, but Brohm underthrew the football. Urrutia had to turn back to the QB and try to leap over the trailing CB to catch the football.

Elusiveness

Didn't really have a chance to demonstrate this still in this game.

Ball

Good job tucking the ball into his sideline arm when turning to the outside on his second reception of the day. He needs to be careful about holding the ball away from his body when making contact with defenders.

Balance

A strong receiver, Urrutia is a difficult player for a CB to tackle one on one.

Blocking

Urrutia got into the body of the DB downfield on a 48-yard TD run by Bush. This effort to knock down the DB sprung Bush for the score. He also did a nice job shielding his man on the outside on a 5-yard TD run by Bush with 3:30 in the 1st QTR. He maintained contact with the DB for the entire play. He did not do a very good job making his initial hit on a clear out block on a sweep to Kolby Smith with 4:16 in the 3rd QTR, but he did stay with his man and follow up with a shot that kept the defender off Smith and allowed the RB to exploit the hole for a first down.

Vision

Power

The WR demonstrated good power on a 35-yard reception on a post pattern. He quickly turned towards the goal line and dragged three defenders an extra 5-6 yards to the 1-yard line. Good body lean and power. He carried the CB for 4 yards on his 7-yard curl pattern. He demonstrated a good stiff arm and then carried the CB downfield as a second DB pushed Urrutia out of bounds.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Vision Score:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Mario Urrutia

Date: 11/6/2006

Opponent: West Virginia

Overall Strengths

A big receiver with enough quickness to get downfield and use his size to his advantage on intermediate to deep routes. He can catch the ball with his hands and break tackles after the reception. He makes a good effort as a blocker at the line of scrimmage and a downfield.

Overall Weaknesses

He's not a conventional deep threat and has lapses of concentration as a pass catcher. He still needs work on his breaks coming out of routes and dropping his hips to set them up. At this stage he's a red zone and sideline threat for the NFL. To become more he needs to improve the finer point of the receiver position.

Separation

He's not super-fast. On his first route of the game, he did beat the OLB to the corner, but the defender caught him from behind as he turned up field. Urrutia didn't get great separation on the deep route down the sideline, yet the play was against the corner blitz and he was able to catch an alley-oop type throw with ease against an overmatched DB. He has decent build-up speed but it's more like a Marcus Robinson type of speed at best. Urrutia showed good speed to get past his man on a 7-yard corner fade for the score to open the 4th QTR.

Routes

Receiving

Urrutia caught the crossing route into his body, but didn't fight the ball at all. He gained another 7 yards after the catch as he turned the corner to the right sideline with 13:18 in the 1st QTR. He got open on a hitch to the flat on 3rd and 4 with 7:37 but the ball was deflected at the LOS. He got open on a deep cross, but the QB threw the ball behind him and he had to turn back to the inside to get his hands on the ball, which he dropped. It was not a good throw but he should have caught the ball. Good catch on a 14-yard comeback on the left sideline with a DB wrapped around him as he body caught the football into his stomach. Very nice job turning back to the QB and inside of the defender in coverage to catch a 35-yard pass at it's highest point with his hands for the big gain with 4:05 in the half. Urrutia caught the corner fade at a full sprint over his shoulder with his hands and mindful of the boundary to start the 4th QTR. He caught deep cross for 26 yards with his hands while turning back to the QB with 12:05 in the game. He then caught a 14-yard hitch and turned up field for two more yards on the play with 11:07 in the game.

Elusiveness

Ball

Balance

Blocking

Urrutia engaged and sustained his block downfield for the RB to gain 23 yards on the screen play up the sideline. He sustained a block down the right sideline which allowed his RB to get to the sideline and gain 17 yards on the play.

Vision

Power

Nice stiff arm on the on the CB as he reached the corner to get to the sideline, knocking the CB down in the process. He spun out of the CB's grasp on a 14-yard comeback. He ran through an leg tackle for 2 more yards after his 14-yard hitch route with 11:07 in the game.

Durability

Missed two games with a leg injury that hampered him much of the season.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
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Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
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Yards per Td:
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Rush Yds:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Mario Urrutia

Date: 11/9/2006

Opponent: Rutgers

Overall Strengths

A big, powerful receiver who catches the ball with his hands and is difficult to bring down after the catch. He has very good body control and will catch the ball anywhere on the field. He can be a weapon in the deep passing game due to his size and long range speed. He could become a valuable possession receiver with some downfield upside at the NFL level. If he can become more consistent at his craft, he could develop into a starter.

Overall Weaknesses

He lacks game breaking speed. He blocks, but needs more practice with becoming a valuable blocker. He isn't elusive after the catch.

Separation

Urrutia faced press coverage on a 3rd and 3 pass to open the 2nd QTR. He was able to keep the CB at a distance with his long arms and run to the sideline, but he became preoccupied with the defender and maintaining space as the ball was in the air rather than running through the pass to the ball. Urrutia does not appear to have great speed, but his height and athleticism makes him a decent downfield target in one on one situations.

Routes

Urrutia caught an in-route on 3rd and 14 for a 15-yard gain. He could have had better depth on the route to catch the ball behind the 1st down marker, but he did break tackles to get past the marker. Urrutia got bumped off his route by incidental contact with 7:37 in the 3rd QTR, but he continued to run to the open space, catching the crossing route for a 9-yard gain.

Receiving

Urrutia caught a 3rd and 14 pass with his hands on an in route with two players trailing him. The ball was just slightly behind him so he had to turn his shoulders back and snatch the ball with his hands while moving in the opposite direction. There was good velocity put on the ball and he handled it fine. He caught a 7-yard hitch at the left sideline with his hands at chest level and then maintained possession after taking a hit to the back by the CB. Urrutia got open on a deep in but the ball was overthrown. Urrutia made a very good adjustment to a throw that was altered from a hit on the CB blitz and caught the ball in traffic between LB's and linemen with 13:24 in the game. Urrutia caught a 3rd and 2 crossing route for a first down and a 5-yard gain on top of that for 7 yards with 8:56 in the game.

Eusiveness

Ball

Good job covering the ball with both arms on plays where he was wrapped up after the catch.

Balance

Urrutia was hammered with a very good form tackle by the safety after making the 3rd and 14 grab on the in-route, but kept his balance and his legs churning, which nearly allowed him to run out of the tackle if he didn't get hit by 4 more players within the next second. Urrutia took a very sound hit to the waist as he was running east west, but still maintained his balance and nearly got the first down by spinning towards the marker with the hitter wrapped around his waist.

Blocking

Urrutia could be seen engaged with the CB downfield on a 10-yard run by this RB to the right corner that was called back by a holding penalty with 14:33 in the 3rd QTR.

Vision

Power

Urrutia broke the arm tackle of the DB after making the catch on the 3rd and 14 in route with 9:38 in the 1st QTR. He's such a big presence versus an average sized corner that he drags the opposition forward after the initial wrap up. He dragged the CB 5 yards after catching the crossing route on 3rd and 2 with 8:56 in the game.

Durability

Dealt with a turf toe injury in '07 and missed two games.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Overall Score:

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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Game Stats

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Category Scores

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Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Maurice Purify

Date: 10/21/2006

Opponent: Texas

Overall Strengths

Purify is a long-striding WR with good body control. He catches the ball with his hands or body and demonstrates good concentration in traffic or taking difficult angles to the ball. He is a long-strider that can score if he gets loose in the secondary on a crossing route or play action pass. He has the physical skills to be appealing to NFL teams.

Overall Weaknesses

His routes need refinement. He was not a consistent factor in the passing game. His blocking should be more physical for his size. His speed and burst seem a bit questionable in this game. This could be the fact he's tentative with the offense or he's just not that fast. I'll need to see another game to ascertain which.

Separation

Purify did not appear especially fast on his touchdown catch. The fact the safety took out the CB and there was no defender in the area on the left side made it an easy score for Purify. The WR had a bit of difficulty getting past the bump at the line on a crossing route he dropped with 1:34 left in the 3rd QTR. He appeared much faster off the line on his second catch. The CB was playing one yard off Purify and the WR sped past the CB. But the CB was only showing man coverage, because he dropped back into coverage in the flat while expecting the safety to play over top and allowed the WR to run past him.

Routes

Purify seemed a bit choppy with his route on the touchdown catch. The timing between him and his QB seemed a bit shaky. Purify made the wrong cut on a 1st and 10 route with 3:17 in the half that was supposed to be a corner route, but Purify ran the post. Purify showed good quickness out of his break on the 20-yard catch with less than 5 minutes left.

Receiving

Purify's first grab was a 63-yard catch and run for a score. He allowed the ball to get into his chest on the skinny post that was thrown in tight coverage. He did a very good job getting his back to the defender and turning to face the QB while on the run. Purify exhibited good concentration to catch the ball despite the on-coming safety looking to deliver a shot. Purify caught the ball and ran the length of the field for the score when the safety miss-timed his shot and took out the CB rather than the WR. Purify dropped a crossing route with 1:35 in the 3rd QTR. Although the WR didn't have a DB in tight coverage, he was facing a CB just 1 yard away and ready to hit the WR if he continued his path with the ball in his hands. There was a second DB coming over the top and two yards away. Both defenders caused Purify to lose his concentration and the ball bounced off his chest. Purify did not extend his arms and allowed the ball to get into his body first. His next catch was a diving catch with his hands outstretched towards the sideline for a 20-yard gain on a 1st and 10 out with less than 5 minutes left. He did a good job looking the ball into his hands.

Elusiveness

Ball

Balance

Purify did a good job breaking two tackles on his first catch against two NFL prospects and ran for a 63-yard score. The tackle-breaking wasn't very difficult, because it was poor tackling by the safety Michael Griffin, but he did a good job keeping his legs moving and maintaining his balance in traffic to break away.

Blocking

Purify was lined in the slot, not far from the TE on a 1st and 10 run play with 5:45 left in the half. Purify was supposed to block down on the MLB, but he only gave the MLB a partial hit with his outside shoulder. The MLB shed the block immediately and made the tackle on the RB in the backfield.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Overall Score:

84

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Michael Bumpus

Date: 9/30/2006

Opponent: USC

Overall Strengths

Bumpus runs good routes all over the field and catches the ball with nice hand technique. He has after the catch skills that make him dangerous in the open field. He's a good kick returner and has good vision coupled with elusiveness. He has become a dangerous complementary option in this passing game. He'll need to display some rare athleticism as a leaper or have great speed to give the NFL evaluators the chance to envision him as a potential Santana Moss or Steve Smith.

Overall Weaknesses

He isn't very physical and bigger/better cornerbacks can make it difficult for Bumpus to get a good release. He doesn't possess the rare strength of a Steve Smith, but he has excellent balance and elusiveness.

Separation

Bumpus got very good separation on his deep out of 21-yards and found the softspot in the zone. He has the quickness and speed to get open on routes from any distance.

Routes

Bumpus' deep out was run with speed and a defined angle coming out of his cut. It was well-timed with his QB. Bumpus ran a very good corner route in 2-deep coverage. His route options were mainly ones that allowed him to use his speed, but he did show good timing on the two routes that were used in the pros.

Receiving

Bumpus caught his first pass over the middle on a short crossing route. He was greeted with a very hard hit from the MLB that brought him down immediately--good job maintaining possession of the football. Bumpus' next catch was a short release into the flat out of a bunch WR set where the other two receivers ran off the coverage. Bumpus did have to make a diving grab near the sideline with his arms extended to catch the ball with his hands. He did a nice job on the reception. Bumpus' next catch was a deep out near the sideline where he made a diving grab, catching the ball with his hands and staying in bounds for a 21-yard gain. His body control when leaving his feet was fairly reminiscent of something one would see from NFL veteran Terry Glenn because he was able to make a diving catch and still land in bounds by bring his arm down to the ground first before hitting the sideline. Bumpus made a catch on the next play where the QB threw the ball to the flat and the WR had to turn back to face the QB and reach for the ball with his hands to snatch it. This was a very quick adjustment and good reception on a poorly thrown ball. Bumpus dropped a short pass to the flat on a third down situation in the 1st QTR--he attempted to catch the low pass with his hands, but didn't use the best technique on a low throw. As a result, the ball went through his hands, bounced off his knee and to the ground. Bumpus ran a good short slant that nearly split the secondary for a first down at the end of the 1st QTR. Bumpus caught a slant route on 3rd and 5 for a short gain. Good job hanging onto the ball as the DB anticipated the route and immediately hit Bumpus high, knocking the WR down but not dislodging the ball. Bumpus nearly caught a ball in bounds on a scramble drill but was falling out of bounds on the reception. Bumpus has an affinity for swing passes that look more like designed runs. A good over the shoulder catch on a corner route between the bracket coverage. He managed to hold onto the ball after taking a hard hit that sent him to the ground and out of bounds.

Elusiveness

Bumpus is a highly elusive player that runs with a wiggle. He saw a significant amount of time as a third down back in 2005 and he is dangerous in the open field due to his array for stop and go cuts, hesitation moves, and jump cuts.

Ball

He did a good job keeping the ball tight against his body with his outside arm on the first punt return of the game.

Balance

Bumpus makes the effort to block but just isn't very physical. He can temporarily wall-off a DB.

Blocking

Vision

Power

Bumpus is very quick and elusive, but a good hit will bring him down--he's not very big and doesn't run with power. He has decent leverage, but against most larger defensive backs he can only absorb a glancing blow and remain upright.

Durability

Character

Nicknamed "Pinball" due to his ability to bounce off tacklers and change directions in the open field.

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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Paul Hubbard

Date: 11/10/2007

Opponent: Michigan

Overall Strengths

Hubbard handles press coverage very well and can break the jam effectively. He catches the football with his hands and demonstrates good power after the catch. It routinely took more than one man to bring Hubbard down. He has a quick first step and good acceleration with the ball in his hands. He demonstrated the ability to catch the ball anywhere on the field. He shows a good amount of aggressiveness and tenacity as a blocker. He is one of the better receivers I saw on film this year. I hear that he's a raw talent. If that's the case, I really like his upside.

Overall Weaknesses

There's not much to say negatively about Hubbard. He was primarily a long jumper before college, but he plays like a football player and not a track athlete. He missed 7 games with a knee injury but this was one of his first games back and he looked very good. He didn't look very elusive in the open field despite a good first step.

Separation

Hubbard faced press coverage on 3rd and 7 with 14:07 in the opening quarter. He did a very good job of delivering the first punch and hitting the CB so he could get inside advantage as he ran by on an in-route for a reception in tight coverage covering 22 yards. Good burst of speed to catch the improvised route at the 20 yard line and burst past the DB long enough to get another 14 yards after the catch on 1st and 19 with 8:22 in the 1st QTR. On the next play Hubbard got open on a deep corner route versus an LB, but the ball was overthrown and off track off the direction of the pattern. A former Big Ten long jump champion, this type of skill often predicated some explosiveness leaping and acceleration. Great job shedding the CB in press coverage from the slot with 7:12 in the game to get into the corner route and use his arm to maintain a distance between himself and the CB in the route so he could have space to catch the football.

Routes

Hubbard did a good job making his break back to the QB and still being past the 1st down marker on his first target but the throw was too far outside for Hubbard to get. Good depth on the route. Good head fake before he went into his break on the 3rd and 7 square-in where he gained 22 yards. Hubbard's second catch was on a broken play deep in Wisconsin's territory. The QB had to break the pocket to the right and Hubbard adjusted his route back towards the sideline to run with his QB. He got open and caught the pass for a 25-yard gain with 8:22 in the 1st QTR. Excellent job breaking back to the throw on an out route with a CB in the area. He adjusted the route to get a yard shallow of the marker to ensure no competition for the catch, then turned it up field for the first down. Hubbard illustrated repeatedly that he understands how to make breaks. He consistently curled back the break so he was aggressively running towards the ball rather than allowing it to come to him and giving the coverage a chance to jump the route. He found the opening in the zone on a 14 yard corner route and curled a bit back towards the ball after his break to get to the ball before the defense. He also demonstrated good awareness of the sideline and got both feet inbounds.

Receiving

Hubbard made an impressive catch on a square-in 15 yards downfield on 3rd and 7 with 14:05 in the 1st QTR. He got the release in press coverage and after making his break he had to catch a high pass with his arms extended over his 6-4 frame with a trailing DB holding onto him. He brought the ball into his body on the run and gained another 5 yards, dragging the DB wrapped around his waist and the safety on his shoulders. He gained 22 yards on the play. Hubbard's next catch was on a scramble to the right with 8:22 and he caught the ball with his hands despite the pass being thrown slightly behind him and gained 25 on a 1st and 19. Hubbard's next catch was a 9-yard out that he turned up field for another 5 yards and a first down with 6:12 in the 1st QTR. Hubbard's next catch was with 9:55 in the 3rd QTR. He snatched a ball thrown at helmet level on an 8-yard hitch with a DB in close coverage. He was able to quickly turn up field and gain another 6 yards on the play. he caught a 9-yard out and leaned forward for a gain of 10 on a 2nd and 7 with 2:28 in the 3rd QTR. Hubbard ran a deep corner and made a great adjustment to the ball in the air and caught the ball with his hands while turning back to the QB for a 29-yard gain.

Elusiveness

He executed a good, quick turn to the inside of the DB on his 9-yard out to get the opportunity to gain 5 additional yards on the play with 6:12 in the 1st QTR. Hubbard is very quick. He turned inside of the DB on his 8-yard hitch with 9:55 in the 3rd QTR and got another 6-yards. He also dipped one more time to the inside to get a few of those extra yards on the safety.

Ball

Good ball protection on his first reception. The CB tried to punch the ball out of his grasp twice and Hubbard had a firm hold on the ball. On his next three receptions the CB tried to rip the ball away and he managed to hold on to it while gaining extra yardage. He used the same arm to carry the football regardless of where he was on the field.

Balance

Hubbard showed the awareness to block his CB at the sideline when he saw the QB break the pocket to Hubbard's side and take off down the hash for an 18-yard gain with 10:03 in the half. On the next play, he sealed off the front side by blocking the CB although the RB cut the play back. Excellent tenacity to stay with his block on #22 after motioning across the formation and releasing from the slot. He turned the DB to the left and when the DB disengaged, Hubbard quickly re-engaged and pushed him out of the play. If he didn't do this, the RB would not have gotten an extra three yards on the 2nd and 4 run for a 1st down with 2:28.

Blocking

Hubbard showed the awareness to block his CB at the sideline when he saw the QB break the pocket to Hubbard's side and take off down the hash for an 18-yard gain with 10:03 in the half. On the next play, he sealed off the front side by blocking the CB although the RB cut the play back. Excellent tenacity to stay with his block on #22 after motioning across the formation and releasing from the slot. He turned the DB to the left and when the DB disengaged, Hubbard quickly re-engaged and pushed him out of the play. If he didn't do this, the RB would not have gotten an extra three yards on the 2nd and 4 run for a 1st down with 2:28.

Vision

Hubbard has good size and he carried two DBs for 5 yards on his first reception. He dragged the DB on his 25-yard catch another 7 yards with 8:22 in the 1st QTR. Hubbard gained 5 yards after the CB wrapped him up at the waist on the 9-yard out that he turned into a 14-yard gain. He had to be gang tackled by 3 other Michigan defenders on the play. Very good body lean on his runs after contact. He routinely got 3-4 extra yards because of his ability to lean forward.

Power

Hubbard has good size and he carried two DBs for 5 yards on his first reception. He dragged the DB on his 25-yard catch another 7 yards with 8:22 in the 1st QTR. Hubbard gained 5 yards after the CB wrapped him up at the waist on the 9-yard out that he turned into a 14-yard gain. He had to be gang tackled by 3 other Michigan defenders on the play. Very good body lean on his runs after contact. He routinely got 3-4 extra yards because of his ability to lean forward.

Durability

Hubbard missed a significant part of the season with a knee injury.

Character

Hubbard missed a significant part of the season with a knee injury.

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
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Overall Score:

76

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
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- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

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Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
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Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Robert Jordan

Date: 11/18/2006

Opponent: USC

Overall Strengths

Jordan is a quick receiver with excellent deep speed. He makes the effort as a blocker and is willing to go across the middle for the football. He should have an opportunity to develop into a slot receiver or return specialist if he can gain another 10-15 pounds and stay healthy.

Overall Weaknesses

Jordan did not demonstrate the ability to catch the ball after contact. He is not a powerful player and he did not catch the football with his hands on most opportunities.

Separation

Jordan has good speed and looks very quick off the line of scrimmage. He is a definite threat to get behind the defense and the USC secondary routinely gave Jordan the short to intermediate routes underneath to prevent him from getting behind the defense.

Routes

Nice quickness out of his break on the 12-yard slant during 3rd and 8 with 13:56 in the 1st QTR. On the 5-yard hitch with 3:39 in the 1st QTR, the DB was playing 5 yards off the WR and opened his hips to the inside to run deep on the route. Once, the WR saw this happen, he cut his route to a hitch. The QB and Jordan got crossed up on a route with 3:08 in the 1st QTR. Jordan was running out--away from the inside zone--but the QB threw a slant. The WR was taking an inside release and the way he angled around the DB to get free led the QB to believe the WR made an adjustment to a slant route. Jordan's post corner route demonstrated some explosion out of his break, but the break did not appear very precise and the WR nearly overran the throw.

Receiving

Jordan gained 12 yards on a 12-yard slant on a 3rd and 8 call with 13:56 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball with his back to the defender, both hands under the ball and the throw targeted to his stomach. Good concentration to hold onto the ball after he was hit in the back on the play. His second catch was a 5-yard hitch he took for another yard with 3:39 in the 1st QTR. Jordan allowed the ball to get into his stomach, using both hands to brace the ball as it reached his body. Jordan's 29-yard catch was a post corner that he caught with his back to the defense and braced against his chest. Jordan went up for an in-route against the safety over top with 9:18 in the 3rd QTR during a 2nd and 10 situation. He was able to get both hands on the football, but the safety hit Jordan in the hips and threw the WR to the ground, jarring the ball loose. Jordan caught a short sideline route for 5 yards underneath the zone with :58 in the game. He used his hands to catch the ball thrown over his head, demonstrating decent awareness of the sideline while facing the QB.

Eagerness

Ball

I did not see any opportunities for Jordan to switch the ball to another hand in this game.

Balance

Blocking

Jordan got enough of a block to help his FB get a first down on a pass to Jordan's side in the flat, but the WR had the DB at arm's length and did not have the leverage to steer the DB away from the play with a dominating block. The effort was good, but the technique with his leverage against the defender needed work.

Vision

Power

Durability

Missed a game due to a shoulder injury, but had more starts than any player on the team during his span at Cal.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

71

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Robert Jordan

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Arizona State

Overall Strengths

Jordan is a quick receiver who can get deep or make players miss across the middle after catching the football. He operates very well out of this multi-receiver attack.

Overall Weaknesses

He's a good college player, but lacks special skills in any one area. He doesn't catch the ball well with his hands consistently and he has difficulty protecting the football with good technique. He doesn't handle press coverage very well. I would be surprised if he makes a team.

Separation

Jordan took a good initial bend to the inside then burst towards the sideline on a streak route that resulted in a 25-yard reception. He definitely showed enough speed to get deep on his own. Good job leaving room on the sideline on the route so he had some horizontal space to work with.

Routes

There was a mix up between Jordan and the QB on 1st and 10 with 12:18 in the 1st QTR. Jordan ran a post and his QB threw a corner route. His corner route was run to the open area of zone coverage with 12:22 in the half. He did come out of the break with a nice burst of speed.

Receiving

He caught the screen with his hands with 12:12 in the 1st QTR. Jordan got open and a 3rd down out route with 7:08 in the 1st QTR but the ball was thrown a bit high and away. It was still a very catchable ball, but Jordan allowed the football to bounce off his hands before he could bring it in. The only issue if he caught it would have been the ability to keep one foot in bounds, but that looked possible too. Jordan turned back to the QB to catch a late-thrown corner route in zone coverage. He allowed the ball to come into his body and then turned upfield for another 7 yards after the catch for a 22-yard gain. An excellent over the shoulder catch down the sideline with 10:50 in the half for 25 yards. He used his hands to snatch the ball on the run about a yard from his body and took a hit from the trailing CB around the waist and the safety from the side as he brought it into his body while on the run. Jordan was open on a corner route, but the ball was overthrown. The coverage was zone and this route was open consistently in the game. Jordan allowed a high throw in the middle of the field to go through his hands. There was a defender about 3 yards behind him, but Jordan should have made the catch. Jordan caught a deep out at the left sideline for 15 yards with :31 in the half. He was pushed out of bounds as he came down with the ball. He caught the ball against his body. He caught a 12-yard cross to open the 3rd QTR with an LB coming up field to hit him in the chest, but he was quick enough to take lateral move to the inside, making the LB miss and turning the corner for another 6 yards.

Elusiveness

Jordan's first touch was an end around that he cut back in the flat for 4 yards against a defense that stayed at home on the play. Jordan caught a slip screen on 2nd and 10 with 12:12 in the 1st QTR and the defense had the inside sealed off. He quickly changed direction with a hop to the outside to gain 5 yards on the play. Nice stop-start move to get around the CB for extra yardage before that CB ran him out of bounds with 12:23 in the half. Very good lateral cut just after he caught the 12-yard crossing route to open the 3rd QTR. He had to do this or get creamed by the LB charging for his chest. He made the LB miss and took the corner for another 5 yards before taking somewhat of a cheap shot with a stiff arm to the CB out of bounds.

Ball

Jordan did not switch the ball to his outside arm as he bounced to the outside. He tends to carry the ball under his right arm. He did carry the crossing route to the left sideline on the opening 3rd QTR play with his left arm. The technique wasn't very good, but he did use the correct arm. There was a ton of space between the elbow and the side of his body.

Balance

Blocking

Vision

Power

Durability

Missed last week's game with a jammed right shoulder and missed 4 games in 2005.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

84

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
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- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Ryan Grice-Mullen

Date: 10/12/2007

Opponent: San Jose State

Overall Strengths

He's a lot like his teammate Devon Bess in the respect that he can run with balance, elusiveness, and power in the open field when the ball is in his hands. He can catch the ball over the middle and outside. He's not afraid of contact and he will block in the open field. He can catch the ball with his hands and he has a quick first step.

Overall Weaknesses

He body catches a lot of balls that he should catch with his hands. Does he have the explosiveness to be an outside threat in the NFL?

Separation

Good acceleration to beat three defenders to the right sideline for a 19-yard gain after a 20-yard catch with 6:00 in the 1st QTR.

Routes

Very good job reading the coverage and cutting a rout to the inside to help his QB. He caught a 20-yard pass over the middle and gained another 19 yards afterwards.

Receiving

Grice-Mullen's first catch was a crossing route which he took another 4 yards with a defender trying to grab his back until he ran out of bounds with 13:02 in the 1st QTR. He caught the ball against his body. He caught the in route with his hands 20-yards downfield and gaining another 19 after the catch with 6:00 in the 1s QTR. He caught a swing route to the flat, turning back to the QB and catching the ball into his body while running up field for an 8-yard gain with 5:53 in the 1st QTR. He caught a swing route from the slot position to the right flat with 4:06 in the 1st QTR, catching the ball with his hands and running out of bounds as he approached defenders at the sideline. The QB misread the coverage to start the 2nd QTR and threw into 3-deep coverage instead of the 2-deep he anticipated and this resulted in the pass going into the hands of the extra DB coming from over top and jumping the route. He caught the swing pass from the slot with 11:28 in the half with his hands, but fought it just a bit as he tucked it. He caught a tipped pass in the back of the end zone for the score. It was 16-yard score up the seam that should have been intercepted by the DB but it went right through his hands. He ran a crossing route and dropped the ball after the DB wrapped him up with 12:19 in the 3rd QTR. It appeared he allowed the ball into his body on the attempt. He caught a slant for a first down with a defender over his back with 9:00 in the 3rd QTR. He caught a hitch for 13-yards on one knee. He ran a sideline fade, but could not get position to catch the football with 11:34 in the game. He missed square in to Grice-Mullen with 11:05 in the game.

Elusiveness

Nice hop step to elude an oncoming CB during a 13-yard run with 11:25 in the half. He gained another 6 yards because of this move while heading north-south on the play. On a 20-yard gain he demonstrated a stutter step, lateral cut, and 3 spin moves--all of them were done in a tight space that allowed him to maximize his ability to get north-south. Nice combination move of a stutter step and shoulder shake to get himself inside for a gain of 13 yards with 1:45 in the 3rd QTR. He has a quick first move once he catches the ball.

Ball

Good job carrying the crossing route with 13:02 under his outside arm. He did the same thing on an in route with 6:00 in the 1st QTR. Good ball protection, carrying it under his sideline arm and using his second arm to cover it as he was getting hit at the end of the run with 11:17 in the half on a 13-yard gain.

Balance

Grice-Mullen took a swing pass to the flat with 2:15 in the 3rd QTR and spun away from three tackles to gain 20 yards. He made a good cut to the inside, taking a partial hit but still moved forward, then was hit at the 40 but spun out of the hit and stutter stepped to present a partial target to the oncoming DB at the first down marker. He then spun to the outside of the DB before he was brought down by a leg tackle by the backside pursuit.

Blocking

Good job sustaining his block on a DB and driving him backward on a run to his side for a score with 11:19 in the 1st QTR. Very good block downfield on the DB and helping his teammate get more yardage. It was a very hard hit that hurt the DB with 4:25 in the game.

Vision

Good job using his blocks to gain 13 yards off a swing pass from the slot with 11:23 in the half.

Power

He demonstrated twice in the 1st QTR that he will run out of bounds rather than try to break or elude tackles if 2 or 3 defenders are in the area and he's running east-west. He won't turn up field to confront them in non-third down, game on the line situations.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
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- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
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- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
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- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Ryan Grice-Mullen

Date: 11/23/2007

Opponent: Boise St.

Overall Strengths

Grice-Mullen has speed, catches the ball with his hands, and is dangerous after the catch with his burst and lateral movement. He sees the open field very well. He runs good intermediate routes and showed good awareness down the sideline.

Overall Weaknesses

He doesn't see much tight coverage or take many hits after the catch. He is unproven in press coverage and in tight coverage deep. His blocking needs improvement--he needs to sustain his blocks. Like Bess, he'll get his chance more as a slot receiver. If he can do more, he'll need to prove it for a few years first at the NFL level.

Separation

He did not have too many challenging opportunities with tight coverage because he plays in the slot where he gets the benefit of zone coverage. He did demonstrate the ability to settle into the soft area of the zone. He has a nice burst through the lane as a runner after the catch. He's built a bit like Devon Bess.

Routes

Nice adjustment from the slot on 3rd and 3 with 5:40 in the 1st QTR. He ran an in-route, but saw the zone was occupied by a defender so he took the pattern outside to present a better target to his QB under pressure, but the pass was overthrown. Mullen ran a 12-yard slant from the slot with 5:05 in the 1st QTR, but he did not run through the route. He saw the DB over the top charging fast, but instead of running through the route and angling towards the inside he hesitated then dove for the ball. Mullen ran a very sharp corner fade with 3:53 in the 1st QTR for a 6-yard score. Grice-Mullen ran a well-timed, skinny post from the slot formation in deep zone coverage for a 1st and 10 reception for 28 yards with 1:34 in the 1st QTR.

Receiving

Grice-Mullen's first target was a short out that he ran, adjusting to the zone coverage inside from his slot position to make himself a target for the QB, but the ball was overthrown. Grice-Mullen allowed the ball to fly through his hands on a diving attempt on a miss run slant route with 5:05 in the 1st QTR. Grice-Mullen's TD catch was a 6-yard corner fade. He caught the ball over his shoulder, but juggled it a bit as he was getting his feet inbounds. He got one foot in and the other just touched the line. It was highly conceivable based on the replay that this catch could have been overturned, but the call on the field was a score and it was a very close. He caught the skinny post with plenty of room between three defenders for 28 yards with 1:34 in the 1st QTR. It was a basket catch over the shoulder with his hands. He gained about 5 yards after the catch. He allowed a short out 1-yard behind the LOS to bounce out of his hands with 8:33 in the 1st QTR. He caught a crossing route for 8 yards and a 1st down in the soft area of the zone with his hands. The ball was tipped on a 3rd and 5 with 8:44 in the game.

Elusiveness

He made a nice dip away from the pursuit at the LOS on a 3-yard catch from a swing pass to his slot position with 13:30 in the 3rd QTR. Very sharp plant and cut after the catch on a 10-yard gain with 4:27 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball

He carried the ball with his sideline arm on the 13:30 pass to the right flat. He used his sideline arm again on a swing pass to the right flat with 4:27 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Blocking

He did a decent job of adjusting to the angle of his opponent and delivering a quick, square hit to the DB to help spring a 22-yard run off a screen pass with 14:27 in the 1st QTR. He doesn't sustain his blocks. Instead he delivers a quick punch and releases. Much better job sustaining the block on a shovel pass to the RB with 1:30 in the 3rd QTR.

Vision

Took a swing pass from the slot with 4:30 in the 3rd QTR and found the cutback lane inside to take it down the numbers for a 10-yard gain. He caught the ball 2-yards behind the LOS on the play and gained twelve.

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

80

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- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
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- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
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The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Steve Johnson

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths

Johnson has good speed and hands. He shows some savvy as a route runner on deep routes in single coverage. He is a physical run blocker and not afraid of contact. He is capable of making difficult catches with his hands.

Overall Weaknesses

He needs work versus press coverage. He also needs to work on catching balls that aren't perfectly thrown on intermediate routes. He's fast, but not a huge threat after the catch to make others miss in the open field or break tackles. Johnson has the skills to develop into a pretty good secondary receiver as slot option or #2 WR in an NFL offense.

Separation

Good deep speed to get separation on the DB 1-on-1 on his wheel route. The ball was thrown behind the WR, so he had to slow down and cut back to the football rather than catch it in stride. The cutback actually forced the CB to overrun the play.

Routes

Johnson got good separation on a deep out with 13:15 in the 1st QTR, but the QB threw the ball late and too high. This forced Johnson to slow down out of his break and wait for the ball to arrive. Johnson made a very savvy play on wheel route to catch the 51-yard pass near the end of the half. He got behind the CB and angled away from the sideline so he had more room to operate as the pass arrived and cut back to the ball at the last minute to create separation from the DB to catch the football.

Receiving

Johnson made a very acrobatic catch that did not count as a reception with 13:15 in the 1st QTR. The WR ran a deep out that was thrown late. He leaped into the air and caught the ball with his hands extended over his head. As he was at the top of his leap, the DB delivered a hard shot that knocked him out of bounds before he could get his feet in the playing area. Good catch on a 12-yard comeback route at the right sideline in tight coverage with 14:10 in the half. Johnson got his hand on a ball while running a square-in on 3rd down with 11:35, but the ball was behind him due to it getting tipped at the line of scrimmage. He was still able to get both hands on the ball and should have caught it. Jackson body-caught the deep pass at the tail end of the half, but he did a good job of shielding the defender from the ball and adjusting to the throw. Good job catching the ball with his hands on a 5-yard hitch he turned into a 14-yard gain. Very good diving catch in tight coverage on a short out. He had to extend low and away to snatch the ball off the turf to make the reception. Good catch with his hands on a 25-yard pass down the left sideline with 6:35 in the game. He had his back to the QB as he caught the ball and continued up field for another 10 yards. Excellent concentration to make a catch along the end line for a score in OT. He caught the ball with his hands as he was falling backwards to keep his feet in bounds.

Etusiveness

Nice quick turn to the outside on a 5-yard hitch that he turned into a 14-yard gain when he made the DB miss.

Ball

Good awareness to keep the ball in his outside arm on the hitch that he ran down the sideline for a 14-yard gain with 2:02 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Blocking

Good job delivering a hit to the corner and holding him up at the LOS on a 4-yard run by the RB with 11:00 in the 1st QTR. Johnson is a chippy blocker. He was seen delivering a backside hit to the DB, which knocked the player on his butt just prior to the whistle blowing.

Vision

Johnson did not make a great decision to cut his run to the inside after catching a 25-yard pass down the sideline. The TE made a great block on the All-American safety, Steltz at the sideline and Johnson cut way too far to the inside to really take advantage of it. As a result he ran into a 2 on 1 situation and danced a bit before falling down.

Power

Johnson made a good effort to fight for an extra two yards after initially wrapped up by the CB on a comeback route at the top of the 2nd QTR.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

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Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Steve Johnson

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Florida

Overall Strengths

He has the skills to be a quality possession receiver. He catches the ball over the middle and has a quick first step with the ball in his hands.

Overall Weaknesses

Separation

He has a very quick first step with the ball in his hands. He was able to turn to the outside of the CB in tight coverage on a 4-yard hitch to the left sideline and get 10 more yards after the catch. The reason Johnson had more than a step on the CB on the sideline streak for a 27-yard catch was the fact that he was jammed about five yards downfield, but the CB fell down but recovered enough to give chase. Johnson demonstrated a nice second burst downfield with the ball in the air to get two yards past the CB on a streak route that was thrown too close the boundary and Johnson caught it over his shoulder out of bounds.

Routes

Johnson got open down the sideline by taking the outside position on a sideline streak to beat his man downfield, but he made the catch out of bounds. Johnson got open on a short post to the end zone, but the throw with 2:43 in the half was nowhere near him. Good adjustment to his route to go across the middle on 3rd down to get open and make the catch with 4:47 in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving

Johnson ran a 4-yard hitch with 12:16 in the 1st QTR, but had the ball knocked out of his grasp by the CB punching it away from behind. His first catch was a screen to the left side. He caught the pass at shoulder level almost thrown behind him with his hands just before he was hit by two players. Johnson short-armed an out route on the second series of the 1st QTR. He allowed the ball to bounce off his right hand. Johnson caught a short hitch with his hands and turned it into a 14-yard gain because he got a chance to push off the CB before the catch and make quick turn to the sideline for another 10 yards. Excellent 27-yard gain on an over the shoulder catch with his hands on a sideline streak. With less than 3 minutes in the 1st QTR. A good over the shoulder catch on a streak route with 11:24 in the half, but he was out of bounds. Johnson caught a comeback with 4:25 on a 4th an 9 thrown across the field to his spot at the right sideline and gained another 10 yards after the catch. He caught a short out from the slot and turned it inside of the defender for another 6 yards for an 11-yard gain. Johnson ran a short hitch, but the CB came around from behind and knocked the ball down before it arrived. Very good catch on an in-route for 15 yards on 3rd down with 4:47 in the 3rd QTR. He caught the ball at shoulder level with his hands while running across the field with a DB trailing him a half yard away. He gained 10 on a smash screen with 4:00 in the 3rd QTR. He gained 11 yards on a catch/run in the flat underneath the zone. Very good catch across the middle underneath a deep zone for 17 yards. He took a shot in the back by two players as he was returning to earth after snatching it over his head.

Elusiveness

Johnson demonstrated a quick first move after catching a 14-yard comeback on 4th and 9 with 4:25 in the half and turning inside of the CB coming over top. He split two defenders in the open field as he dove forward for extra yardage after a reception on a hitch route with 5:35 in the game.

Ball

Good job carrying the football down the sideline with his sideline arm with 3:40 in the 1st QTR. He did not switch the ball to his outside arm on the 14-yard comeback that he turned into a 24-yard gain. He did hold onto the ball as the LB in pursuit tried to rip it from his grasp during the tackle. He did switch the ball on an 11-yard run after turning inside of the defender after the catch an running downfield. He did not switch the ball to his outside arm while running down the left hash on a smash screen with 4:00 in the 3rd QTR>

Balance

Blocking

Johnson began the game with an excellent block on a receiver screen where he pushed his CB about 3 yards backward with excellent technique, which helped his teammate gain 5 yards on the play. On a 3rd an 1 during the same drive, the RB got outside for an 11-yard gain and Johnson set up his CB for a block that turned the defender towards the sideline and away from the play, knocking the CB to the ground. Good block at the end of the 1st QTR to spring his teammate down the sideline for 9 yards off a swing pass.

Vision

Good job dipping inside of his blocker for a 10-yard gain on a smash screen with 4:00 in the 3rd QTR.

Power

He's lacks great balance or power as a runner after the catch.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

82

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Steve Johnson

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths

He was a big-play threat for the Wildcats due to his quickness, reliable hands, and ability to adjust his body to make the catch. He will catch the ball anywhere on the field and has good lateral movement and elusiveness after the catch. He has good height and is a threat in the red area.

Overall Weaknesses

He's quick, but not extremely fast. He is thin for his frame. He needs work on his routes, although he does demonstrate the ability to come back to the QB. If he can show that he's fast enough for the NFL, he's an underrated prospect.

Separation

He faced press coverage with 12:17 in the half and beat it by taking a very quick and deep jab step to the inside at the LOS but pushed off to the outside with that leg, which forced the DB to turn his hips and react to the inside, putting him in trail to Johnson as he caught a corner fade for the score. Johnson got wide open on a wheel route, but the ball was thrown late/under thrown and Johnson had to stop and try to make a leaping grab over the top of the DB who was trailing him. The ball fell incomplete.

Routes

Twice, he adjusted his routes to come back to the QB while the passer was under pressure in the 2nd QTR. Good job on the in route with :022 in the 4th QTR to break back to the QB, catching the ball as the 3rd option on the play and turning it up field for a few more yards to the sideline for a 15-yard gain.

Receiving

Good job coming back to the QB in the right flat for a 15-yard gain on 1st and 10 with 12:19 in the half. He allowed the ball to get into his stomach--body-catching it--and then ran a few yards past the trailing CB out of bounds. Johnson got a good step on the CB in press coverage to catch a corner fade, by turning back to the QB and catching the ball with his hands over his head for the score. He was hit as he pulled the ball into his body, but he held on and kept both feet inbounds. Good concentration. Johnson caught 3rd down comeback route with 2:04 in the half, but the ball was thrown very close to the sideline and Johnson could not keep his feet inbounds while running full speed to get to the ball. He was pushed out of bounds as he caught the ball with his hands. Johnson ran a 10-yard in route with 1:21 in the 3rd QTR but dropped the ball. He was underneath the zone with two DBs a yard behind him and an LB charging towards him when he let the ball fall out of his hands as he faced the QB. He was hit in the back just as he got his hands on the ball. Johnson caught a 15-yard in route in the soft part of zone coverage at the right hash with 7:42 in the 4th QTR and gained another 5 yards on the play. Johnson made a leaping catch on a corner fade, keeping one foot inbounds as he landed in the end zone. He had perfect position in front of the DB to catch the ball over his head. He actually got both feet inbounds. He did push off the DB to get the position just before making his leap, but the official did not call it. Johnson was overthrown on a smash route with :45 in the 4th QTR.

Elusiveness

After Jones shook the tackle attempt on the 15-yard in at 7:29 in the 4th QTR he made a very nice jump cut to the left of the DB pursuing him from the left hash, making him miss his angle completely and turning up field for another 2 yards.

Ball

Good job carrying the ball in his outside arm as he made his way to the left side of the field on a 20-yard reception with 7:38 in the 4th QTR.

Balance

Good job shaking a the DB who grabbed his shoulder as the WR turned up field after catching an in-route with 7:40 in the game. He gained another 5 yards after sliding off that tackle.

Blocking

Nice block to the outside to seal the edge on a 7-yard run with 12:27 in the half. Good block at the sideline to clear the way for his TE on a swing pass from the slot so the TE could get 11-yards and a 1st down. Once again good block to help the TE get yardage at the sideline with 3:45 in the 3rd QTR on a swing pass to the TE out of the slot. Good block for his TE on a swing pass from the slot to the right side with :06 in the third QTR. He drove the CB out of bounds on the play.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

79

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

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Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
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Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
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Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Terrell Golden

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Indiana

Overall Strengths

Golden is generally a reliable underneath option in the short passing game. He has good size and catches the football with his hands. He looks like the kind of receiver (in terms of height, weight, fluidity) who could make an impact with the ball in his hands.

Overall Weaknesses

For a receiver of his dimensions you would expect him to be more physical. He seemed content with running out of bounds on plays he could have tried to gain extra yardage. He did not initiate contact as a runner and when contact was initiated with him, he tried to get out of bounds. Unless he's playing with an injury no one is discussing, he doesn't play the way he looks.

Separation

He got decent separation on a corner route, but mainly due to the fact the DB was looking into the backfield and saw the screen pass was thrown while Golden was making his break. He showed a decent burst out of break on the slant, but he wasn't running full speed on his initial release from the line of scrimmage so he could set up the LB.

Routes

Golden's first two routes were short releases to the flat. He caught both balls and on the second reception had room to gain 12 yards before going out of bounds. Golden ran an excellent route to catch a touchdown pass with 14:17 in the half. He made a very good head and shoulder fake as if he were breaking to the outside as if he were running a short hitch out of the slot and then burst inside on the slant, catching the LB flat-footed. Golden sold the release into his drag to the flat very well.

Receiving

Golden made a good adjustment on a designed roll out and throw to the left flat. Golden had to turn back to the inside and catch the football. He caught the ball with his hands extended from his body and was met at the sideline by a DB for a gain of 7 with 10:50 in the 1st QTR. He caught a second ball on the same type of play with 2:12 in the 1st QTR for a first down. Again, he used his hands to catch the ball placed near his back shoulder. Good job catching the slant with his hands for a touchdown. Golden dropped a 3rd and 3 pass on a release to the right flat--the same play he ran to catch two balls in the 1st QTR. The ball bounced off his hands because he didn't look the pass into his hands. There was a CB coming up on the play, but he was 4 yards away and Golden would have easily gotten the first down.

Eagerness

On his final catch of the day he tried to cut inside of the DB, but didn't have the quickness to accelerate past him. He was pulled out of bounds by his jersey.

Ball

Good job tucking the ball under his outside arm on the second catch.

Balance

Blocking

He was not called upon to do much blocking. Most of his plays were designed to be a receiver and/or run the DB out of the play.

Vision

Because he was intent on getting out of bounds he didn't illustrate any tangible vision as a runner.

Power

He did not demonstrate any noticeable power as a runner. He often tried to get out of bounds and veer away from contact.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:**
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:**
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:**
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Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
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Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Terrence Nunn

Date: 10/21/2006

Opponent: Texas

Overall Strengths

Nunn has decent quickness and movement with the ball in his hands. He has the type of after the catch skills that translate into bigger gains if he can make the first man miss. He also demonstrates good body lean and leverage as a runner in traffic. For a smaller player he exhibits good skills with the ball in his hands. He commands the respect of his competition on deeper routes and appears to have pretty good speed. He is a willing blocker that consistently shields his defender from the ball carrier.

Overall Weaknesses

Nunn did not make good decisions as a punt return specialist in this game. This cost his team field position on two punts because he chose not to field the ball. He body-caught the ball consistently on passes. He generally protected the ball well, but lost it in a critical situation that was a big factor in Nebraska losing the game. He's built like Derrick Mason but didn't appear to play at the same level of awareness and intensity as Mason would.

Separation

Nunn seems to have the Texas DB's respect in terms of his speed. The CB consistently played 4-5 yards off Nunn with outside technique.

Routes

Nunn was in the area of a 3rd down crossing route with less than a minute in the first quarter, but the throw was way off target. He did a nice job slipping the LB near the LOS to get into the middle. Nunn did a decent job keeping his hips low on a 23-yard hitch for a first down on a 3rd and long pass. He was able to keep the CB focused on keeping Nunn in front of him in zone coverage.

Receiving

Nunn did a nice job getting open on a 3rd down from deep inside their own territory with 9:06 in the half. He was open on the out, but the ball was thrown a big high. It still appeared the Nunn miss-timed the ball as he passed him. I thought he had a chance to catch the football near the sideline. Taylor threw the slant behind Nunn, who attempted to spin towards the outside after he made his cut on a slant. Nunn got his hands on the ball, but was hit as he made contact with the football thrown behind him. Nunn caught his first pass on a 3rd and long on the first drive of the second half, a hitch that he caught with no defender within 3 yards of him. He caught the ball with his palms facing up and allowing the ball into his body. Nunn caught a 2nd and 8 pass on a flare to the flat after running in motion before the snap. He caught the ball with his hands while turning back to the QB and on the run towards the sideline. Nunn caught a crossing route where he ducked under the DE dropping back into zone coverage and caught the ball about 6 yards away from the first down marker. He gained the first down and a few extra yards on the play with 7:12 in the 3rd QTR. Nunn was open on a 3rd down crossing route with around 6 minutes in the 3rd QTR, but the QB threw the ball behind Nunn. The WR was only able to reach back and put his right arm on the ball to prevent trailing coverage from an easy interception. Nunn caught another hitch with 2:08 in the 3rd for a first down. Nunn caught a flat route with 2:20 in the game for a first down, but the CB got low and got a hit right on Nunn's ball-carrying arm for a turnover.

Elusiveness

Nunn has shifty and quick moves while running up field. He caught an 8-yard hitch and ran the ball 3 yards past the first down marker before cutting the run back to the inside for another 10 yards.

Ball

Nunn quickly tucked the ball under his left arm on his first reception. He attempted to duck under a tackle but was brought down within a yard of his reception. He carried the ball with his right hand the 2nd and 8 flare for 6 yards with 8:00 in the 3rd QTR. With 7:12 in the 3rd QTR Nunn caught the crossing route and did a good job carrying the ball with his sideline arm (the left arm). Nunn turned up field on a catch for a first down with 2:20 left in the game. The DB hit Nunn head-first into the ball-carrying arm of the Nebraska receiver and jarred the ball loose. This created a turnover and Texas the chance to drive down the field and win the game.

Balance

Nunn gained 6 yards on a flare with 8:00 in the 3rd QTR. He finished the run against two DBs. He shook one DB's hit as he was brought down by the second DB. He was able to maintain his balance and not get driven backward on the hit.

Blocking

Nunn actively attempted to shelf his DB on a 1st and 10 block with 11:00 left in the opening quarter. He didn't deliver much of a hit--he only attempted to tie up his man. He looked committed to shield his DB on a 1st and 10 run with 1:30 in the opening quarter. He didn't have great position, but did get some contact on the CB. Nunn helped to open the sideline with a block on the DB near the 35 yard line to clear Brandon Jackson for a long run and score. Nunn didn't get a great hit on the DB, but he did generate a push and still shielded the DB out of the play.

Vision

Excellent job cutting the run back to the inside of the numbers on a 3rd down hitch. He gained 20 yards on the play because he knew to set up the one blocker, a WR inside the numbers, to gain the extra 12 yards.

Power

For a receiver, Nunn demonstrated excellent pad level on a 3rd down reception off a crossing route for a first down with 7:11 left in the 3rd QTR. After he caught the ball he surveyed his side of the field while on the run and made a cut downhill to get inside of his teammate blocking on the outside CB closest to the sideline. Nunn cut back inside of the block and lowered his shoulders at the oncoming DB coming from the center of the field. Nunn ran through the tackle and was brought down 2 yards after the initial hit. He was shaken up after the play. Once again another good finish on a 20-yard reception (8- yard catch, 12-yard run) for a first down--lowering his head and shoulders as he encountered two DBs.

Durability

Nunn briefly left the field after gaining a 1st down after running through a tackle with 7:12 in the 3rd QTR.

Character

The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:**
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:**
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:**
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:**
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:**
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:**
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:**
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:**
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:**
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:**
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:**
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:**
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:**
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:**
- Makes receptions on catch able balls consistently [5pts]:**
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [2pts]:**
- Avoids direct shots [2pts]:**
- Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:**
- Effective lateral movement [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:**
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:**
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:**
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:**
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:**
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:**
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:**
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [2pts]:**
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:**
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:**
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:**
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:**
- Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities [1pt]:**
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:**
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:**
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:**

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: William Franklin

Date: 1/1/2008

Opponent: Arkansas

Overall Strengths

Franklin was the QB's go-to receiver in this game both as the deep threat and on 3rd down. He delivered on 3rd down and if the passes were more accurate might have delivered on the big play opportunities because he demonstrated good deep speed. He adjusts to the football well on height and low throws. He generally catches the football with his hands and illustrated repeatedly no problem going across the middle on crossing routes, smash screen passes, in routes, and slants. He caught the ball in traffic and can get high or low to make the reception. He demonstrated some decent skills after the catch with good footwork in the open field and setting up blocks with his moves.

Overall Weaknesses

His blocking, release from physical press coverage, and skills against tight coverage are unproven. If he can get off press coverage, he has a chance to develop into a steady contributor for an NFL team as a possibly a starter. I think he's an underrated receiver. Although not a factor in his evaluation it's interesting to point out that his uncle is former Bengals deep threat Darnay Scott.

Separation

Franklin had an easy time getting separation on his corner route for a 22-yard gain, because the zone blew the coverage of him in the slot. He got a step of separation past the CB on a sideline streak with 12:12 in the 3rd QTR, but the QB put too much air under the ball and under threw the pass. Franklin had to make an adjustment to the ball, nearly catching it before the DB knocked it away.

Routes

He did a nice job of coming back to the QB on a 3rd down play with 11:30 in the 3rd QTR, but the QB threw the ball to the TE. With 10:52 in the 3rd QTR he ran a WR screen, but the QB was under pressure. Still, Franklin adjusted his route to get open but the QB had to throw the ball across his body and under threw the football. Good job driving the defender to the point of turning his hips before making the break to the inside during his 11-yard in route for a 1st down in the 3rd QTR. Franklin got wide open on a 40-yard post, but the ball was under thrown. A precise slant over the middle. Excellent job coming back to the QB on a 3rd and 16 to gain the first down. He got underneath the zone but still had enough depth to be past the first down marker.

Receiving

Franklin's first target was a corner route from the slot position. He caught the pass over his outside shoulder with both hands and managed to keep on both feet inbounds by dragging his second foot. Good concentration on the catch. The WR's second catch came on a smash screen on the next play. He caught the ball with his hands at chest level and gain 12 yards on the run after the catch. Franklin nearly caught a deep pass down the right sideline with 12:12 in the 3rd QTR, but the ball was under thrown and he had to turn back to the QB, leap for the ball, and expose the ball to the DB in coverage. As he got his hands on the football, the DB was able to dislodge the ball from his hands as Franklin was coming back to the ground. Interestingly enough, Franklin was able to take his left hand and snatch the ball back into his body as it was heading towards the sideline and still bring the ball in, but not in time to keep his body inbounds at the same time. Very good concentration to hold onto the football and make the effort to stay in bounds--it was very close to being a reception. He caught an 11-yard in route on 3rd and 10 with his hands. Franklin made a diving attempt to come back to the short throw on a 40-yard post with 2:30 in the 3rd QTR, but could not alter his momentum enough to catch the under thrown ball. On the next play, he caught a 3rd and 8 slant with his arms extended from his body and over his head, snatching the ball as he leaped into the air and bringing it down as the CB trailing behind grabbed his legs. Good concentration over the middle on this play. Good job making a catch on a low pass with his hands as he was falling forward for a 16-yard gain and a 1st down with :10 in the 3rd QTR. He dropped an easy pass down the left sideline. The ball was thrown to his inside shoulder on 1st and 10 with 11:58 in the game. Franklin tried to let the ball drop into his hands and it bounced away from him. He had slipped past the DB in zone coverage and had a good 3-4 yard cushion. Although he catches the football with his hands, he doesn't get his hands far enough in front of his body to prevent the ball from bounced off his chest, stomach, or helmet. Unless he has to extend his body to make the catch such as the over the shoulder corner route or the 3rd and 16 slant, he catches the ball a bit too close to his body despite using his hands first.

Elusiveness

Franklin demonstrated fluid movement to dip inside twice on the same run for a gain of 12 yards on the smash screen with 3:00 in the 1st QTR. He made one player over top miss completely with a lateral move to the inside that helped him gain another 6 yards on the play.

Ball

Franklin carried the ball on his outside arm during the smash screen with 3:00 in the 1st QTR.

Balance

Franklin carried the ball on his outside arm during the smash screen with 3:00 in the 1st QTR.

Blocking

He generally ran deeper routes rather than blocked on running plays.

Vision

Franklin did a good job reading his blocks up field on a 12-yard run after the catch with 3:00 in the 1st QTR. He dipped twice to the inside to get the extra yardage and demonstrated patience to allow the blocks to develop.

Power

Franklin did a good job reading his blocks up field on a 12-yard run after the catch with 3:00 in the 1st QTR. He dipped twice to the inside to get the extra yardage and demonstrated patience to allow the blocks to develop.

Durability

Missed the last two games of the 2006 season with a torn labrum that required season-ending surgery.

Character

Missed the last two games of the 2006 season with a torn labrum that required season-ending surgery.

The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

Name: Jordy Nelson

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: Auburn

Overall Strengths

Overall Weaknesses

Separation

Routes

Excellent job running a 10-yard out on a 3rd and 8 with 12:11. He got good separation on the DB playing off him in the slot and was able to turn upfield to elude the defender. He demonstrated good acceleration out of his break on the route. This was where he got the separation on the play. He rounded off an out route on a 3rd QTR play that nearly got intercepted. Nelson did not try to drive the DB upfield.

Receiving

Nelson's first catch was a short crossing route which he caught with his hands and tucked the ball away to gain 6 yards after the catch. Nelson's next catch was a 10-yard out run on a 3rd and 8 out of the slot. He caught the ball 2-yards past the first down maker and turned upfield for a gain of 17 yards total. Nelson gained another 5 on a short crossing route with 11:10 in the 1st drive. Again, good job catching the ball with his hands. On the next play they tried to throw a fade to Nelson on 2nd and 7, but the DB was hanging all over the DB throughout the route and grabbed his arm while the WR tried to leap for the ball.

Eloquence

Ball

Good job tucking the ball under the sideline arm on this first reception of the game with 13:55 in the 1st QTR...a crossing route he caught 3 yards past the LOS for 9 yards gained. Once again, good job using the sideline arm to carry the ball, this time on an out to the opposite side of the field on 3rd and 8 with 12:09 in the 1st QTR.

Balance

Very good balance on his first catch and run. He ran a 3-yard crossing route, caught the ball with his hands, and was hit 5 yards past the LOS. He managed to keep his balance and hop forward for another 4 yards.

Blocking

Vision

Power

Nelson does an effective job using his body to lean forward and gain extra yards after getting hit. He gained 2 extra yards after getting hit on a crossing route with a little over 11:00 in the 1st QTR.

Durability

Character

Tight Ends

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the Position

Overrated and Underrated

Projects

Best by Category

Fantasy Top 15

Combine/Pro Day-Adjusted Rankings

Scouting Checklists and Profiles

Overview and Fantasy Impact of the TE Position

The 2008 TE class lacks an elite prospect but there are several players who should not only contribute in the NFL, but also eventually earn starting jobs. From a fantasy perspective this is a class an owner will have to be patient with unless one of the top 3-5 players land in a situation where they are relied upon to start immediately. There are several good receivers in this group. USC's Fred Davis could start right away and perform as well if not better than 2007's headlining TE Greg Olsen. MSU's Kellen Davis is a fine athlete and I believe has the physical skills and receiving fundamentals to eventually become the best every down TE in this class—a potential Pro Bowl player—but it will won't happen in year one. Dustin Keller has the athleticism to become a big-time receiver in a system that can split him away from the line for defensive mismatches. Mike Peterson, Martellus Bennett, and Joey Haynos are the type players who could surprise in a few years, but you probably can pick them off the waiver wire during the next year or two.

Fantasy rookies that produce at an elite level upon their entry to the NFL hasn't happened since Mike Ditka arrived in Chicago in the 1950's. Still, the better tight ends often figure out what to do by year two, so they aren't bad investments in the upper, mid-rounds of a dynasty league draft. Re-draft owners only need to keep an eye on the waiver wire. Olsen might be the exception this year, but it depends a lot where he lands in April.

Overrated TE Prospects

Jon Carlson, Notre Dame: Among many analysts he's regarded as one of the top prospects. They cite Charlie Weiss' pro style offense, his all-around game, and playing behind Anthony Fasano as positives. Although I agree that Carlson is a sure fire lock to make an NFL roster, he is far from being the most talented player in any regard. He's not worth drafting as a fantasy football prospect.

Craig Stevens, California: Stevens is a solid in-line blocker and he can catch the football, but he's not a dynamic player. Carolina's Jeff King was a minor surprise last year and I would compare Stevens as a less talented player of King's skill set. As with Carlson, Stevens is a more talented football prospect than a player with a productive fantasy future.

Underrated TE Prospects

Kellen Davis, Michigan State: Davis is regarded as a raw prospect that might actually be switched to defensive end because he was a situational edge rusher for the Spartans. I watched him play both positions and while he demonstrated a good first step and the ability to get to the passer on defense, I think his hands, footwork, body control, and ability to release off the line make him a potential Pro Bowl tight end. This is the one player at this position I would draft in the mid-to-late rounds and hole onto for a couple of years in a dynasty league.

Mike Peterson, Northwest Missouri State: Peterson has the size, acceleration, and hands to be a productive NFL starter. He's a good athlete who runs tough after the catch. His blocking is relatively untested, because he faced defensive ends at the college level who were often the equivalent of undersized, division I LBs. Nonetheless, Peterson demonstrated that he was a versatile threat as an in-line or slot receiver who can get separation 20-25 yards downfield and gain yardage after the catch. He's not as athletic as Kellen Davis, but he should stick with a team and grow into a quality NFL player with enough productivity to be a borderline fantasy starter in most leagues.

Projects

Jermichael Finley, Texas: Finley does the little things well as a route runner in the short yardage passing game. He also has adequate hands and the body type to develop into an effective pro if he can add some weight or increase his speed.

Chris Brown, Tennessee: Brad Cottam is the more coveted Volunteer, but Brown has the type of receiving skills and quickness to be an H-Back. Brown reminds me of Mike Sellers—a TE/FB combo player who can serve as a good-bye week substitute depending on the team that employs his services.

Best and Worst By Category

The Best TEs By Category	Category	Player	Comments
	Separation	Dustin Keller	These are the only two tight ends that consistently have the skill to get open past the short range of the field from their position on the offensive line.
		Kellen Davis	
	Routes	Fred Davis	All three players know how to adjust to the quarterback and run a variety of routes with consistently good results.
		Dustin Keller	
		Kellen Davis	
	Receiving	Jacob Tamme	All three demonstrate body control, good hands technique, and the ability to make difficulty receptions with an impending hit.
		Dustin Keller	
		Kellen Davis	
Elusiveness	Dustin Keller	Keller has good stop-start quickness and some lateral movement. Davis bends runs in different directions with speed.	
	Fred Davis		
Ball Handling	John Carlson	He consistently exercises good technique and demonstrated sound protection of the ball versus hard hits.	
Balance	Mike Peterson	Multiple times Peterson showed he could take a hit, adjust his balance to stay upright, and keep moving forward. Rucker is also good at breaking tackles in the open field—demonstrating this skill numerous times.	
	Mike Rucker		
Blocking	Joey Haynos	Powerful blockers that can take on a defensive lineman and win the battle. Both of these players have the size and fundamental technique to be assets to an NFL ground game.	
	Martellus Bennett		

The Worst TEs By Category	Category	Player	Comments
	Separation	Joe Jon Finley	Finley is primarily a short-range receiver whose best skills are as a run blocker.
	Routes	Gabe Ratliff	Telegraphed his routes and did not show a strong burst in and out of breaks.
	Receiving	Brad Cottam	Most of the tight ends in this class are fundamentally good pass catchers. Cottam had some occasional lapses of concentration.
	Elusiveness	Joe Jon Finley	He's either going straightforward or straight to the ground.
	Ball Handling	Mike Peterson	Peterson earns this by default because he was the only player I watched fumble a ball. He was doing so while making a second and third effort to break tackles.
	Balance	Gabe Ratliff	Not a very dynamic runner.
	Blocking	Gabe Ratliff	Both tight ends can shield off a defender, but need to improve their technique against 1 st and 2 nd level defenders.
Martin Rucker			

The Top 10 Tight End Prospects for Dynasty Leagues

These are my top-5 Tight Ends based on film study. I am leaving out players I did not study. These players and possibly others could have made this list if I watched them play. My rankings are based a combination of collected data in this portfolio, my view of their potential fit with any offensive system, and their potential for growth based on the film study. The Score on these rankings is the highest raw checklist score performed on this player.

Since this publication was written prior to the NFL draft, the rankings are a reflection of players with the greatest chance to make a positive impact with their overall skill sets, and how flexible their skill sets are to the widest varieties of offensive systems. In any dynasty league setting, I would be comfortable drafting the first three players on in the middle of the draft. If any of the three land in a good situation with a real chance to start, I might go as high as late in the second round.

Rank	Name	Score	Height	Weight	Comments
1	Fred Davis	95	6-3	254	The former high school running back is the most polished receiver, blocker, and ball carrier in this draft class. He is not an elite prospect, but he does everything well enough to project as future starter who can make the occasional big play.
2	Kellen Davis	88	6-6	262	Davis has the body of a prototype TE and the athleticism to be an elite player at the position. He adjusts well to the ball and has a quick enough first step to be an effective situational edge rusher for the Spartans. Davis has the best combo of skills to develop into the top TE in this class 2-3 years from now.
3	Dustin Keller	94	6-2	240	Keller has the best combo of receiving skills and after the catch ability in this class. Although he demonstrated good blocking techniques, he will be taking on bigger and more athletic players in the NFL and his size limitations make it reasonable to question if he can be more than a situational TE. He projects best as an H-Back in the NFL.
4	Mike Peterson	91	6-3	250	The small school TE has an excellent combo of skills. I'd consider him much like Fred Davis, but slightly less polished. You may not know him now, but you will hear his name regularly in the NFL.
5	Martellus Bennett	85	6-6	259	Like Kellen Davis, I believe Bennett has the most athletic potential and skill sets to develop into an elite performer. I don't think he'll approach the level of Gates and Gonzalez, but he has the package to be just a notch below.
6	Joey Haynos	83	6-8	260	Haynos has good athleticism for a TE his size and he's one of the better blockers in this class. His hands make him a quality every down prospect, but more as a complete football player than a high-end stat producer unless used in the red zone.
7	Brad Cottam	83	6-7	270	His size-speed combination makes him an attractive prospect if he can stay healthy.
8	Jacob Tamme	81	6-3	236	An excellent receiver who sees the field well, knows how to get open, and plays with smarts, but is not a great athlete. His best chance to be a contributor will come as an H-Back.
9	Martin Rucker	85	6-4	251	Rucker has more upside than some of the players ahead of him but he has to develop more consistency as a receiver and route runner. At this point, he's a situational TE/receiver.
10	John Carlson	82	6-4	255	Carlson should be a solid NFL contributor, but he lacks the athletic upside to be a high-end producer at the position.

TE Comparisons

One way to sum up a prospect is to compare him to other pros that played his position. It's also difficult to be accurate with just one player as a comparison because football players—as with anyone in their careers—have an amalgam of influences. Each prospect has skills reminiscent of multiple players so in this chart I list the players I believe are the best match for each. The order in which I list them is how I rank them (best to worst) on a spectrum of stylistic similarities. The “**x**” is where I believe the prospect will eventually fall along this spectrum if he fulfills his potential as a pro. The dashes indicate an approximate skill gap between the players in terms of where they fall and a slash indicates these players will likely be the same in skill set.

Rank	Name	Score	Height	Weight	Strengths	Comparison
1	Fred Davis	95	6-3	254	Hands; Quickness; Blocking	Dallas Clark- X /Chris Cooley--LJ Smith
2	Kellen Davis	88	6-6	262	Quickness, Hands; Body Control	Jason Witten- X /Heath Miller---Jerramy Stevens
3	Dustin Keller	94	6-2	240	Elusiveness; speed; hands	Shannon Sharpe--Randy McMichael- X ---Irv Smith
4	Mike Peterson	91	6-3	250	Hands; After the catch; blocking	Ben Coates--- X -Chris Baker-Daniel Graham
5	Martellus Bennett	85	6-6	259	Blocking; Hands; Body Control	Bubba Franks-Freddie Jones/ X ---Courtney Anderson
6	Joey Haynos	83	6-8	260	Blocking; Hands; Body Control	Kyle Brady/ X --David LaFluer-O.J. Santiago-Zach Hilton
7	Brad Cottam	83	6-7	270	Quickness	Jason Witten-Kellen Davis/Heath Miller---Jerramy Stevens- X
8	Jacob Tamme	81	6-3	236	Hands; Routes; Body Control	Frank Wycheck--- X /Eric Bjornsen-Billy Miller
9	Martin Rucker	85	6-4	251	Hands; Routes; Body Control	Tony Gonzalez--Marcus Pollard-Desmond Clark- X
10	John Carlson	82	6-4	255	Hands; Routes	Wesley Walls--Eric Johnson-Chad-Lewis-Stephen Alexander/ X --Jed Weaver
11	Peyton Hillis	85	6-0	240	Hands; Speed; After the catch	Brent Jones-Keith Byars- X --Dave Moore
12	Gary Barnidge	83	6-6	244	Hands	Wesley Walls--Eric Johnson-Chad-Lewis-Stephen Alexander/John Carlson- X -Jed Weaver
13	Joe Jon Finley	83	6-6	254	Blocking	Anthony Becht-Mark Bruener-David Sloan- X
14	Robbie Agnone	83	6-6	250	Hands; Quickness	Wesley Walls--Eric Johnson-Chad Lewis/ X -Stephen Alexander
15	Craig Stevens	76	6-3	254	Blocking	Christian Fauria-Jeb Putzier- X
16	Jermichael Finley	75	6-5	240	Hands; Body Control	Kellen Winslow II---Joe Klopfenstein- X --Robert Royal
17	Chris Brown	70	6-3	250	Hands; Quickness; Body Control	Randy McMichael--Desmond Clark-- X
18	Gabe Ratiiff	75	6-3	245	Elusiveness; hands	Shannon Sharpe--Randy McMichael-Dustin Keller---Irv Smith-- X

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

83

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Brad Cottam

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths:

He has good quickness and acceleration for a TE his size. He gets a good release from the line of scrimmage and runs fluidly after the catch. He is a good in-line blocker against LBs and some Defensive Ends in the passing game and on the ground. He has the size, speed, and blocking skills to become an every down TE.

Overall Weaknesses:

He looks thin for 270 lbs, if that is his true weight. He allows some balls to get into his body. He's not a dynamic runner after the catch. He won't be a dynamic option as a TE in the NFL, but he compares well with a player such as Jeff King of the Carolina Panthers.

Separation

Good job getting downfield despite the OLB jamming him at the line. If the RB weren't open down the sideline which resulted in the score, Cottam was open on a deep drag route underneath zone coverage. Very good job on his 59-yard reception to set up the TE screen with an initial block towards the inside before releasing to the flat. When he caught the ball, a pass of 2 yards, he turned upfield and beat and LB and DB down the sideline--both with angles on him. He then beat a CB coming from the middle of the field, blowing by him. I have to think this CB misjudged the angle because there's no way a 270-lb man whizzes by this DB in a foot race otherwise. In fact that DB eventually catches up to the TE 40 yards later for the tackle. Regardless of the reason, Cottam demonstrated an excellent burst and sustained speed for a TE. He gave a shot to the LB as he was leaving the line of scrimmage with 2:48 in the 1st QTR and stumbled out of his break after doing so. Cottam was able to get through the jam at the line of scrimmage by the LB with 9:23 in the 3rd QTR to run a corner route. Once again he was jammed as he got past the LOS by the LB, but he still got into his drag route cleanly with :01 in the 3rd QTR. On a hit and release to the flat with 14:40 in the 4th QTR, Cottam hit the OLB and threw him to the ground. He consistently displayed a good burst with his release from the line and accelerating downfield.

Routes

He ran a nice corner route, but dropped the football with 9:23 in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving

Cottam dropped a corner route while turning back to face the QB. He allowed the ball to get into his stomach. As he fell, the ball dropped out of his body. Cottam ended the 3rd QTR with a drag route to the right side as the QB was rolling in the same direction. He caught the ball with his hands as he was running toward the DB who leveled him in the chest, but he held onto the football for a 7-yard gain on 1st and 10.

Etusiveness

Ball Handling

Cottam neglected to put the ball in his sideline arm as he turned up the left sideline on his 59-yard catch/run in the 1st QTR. He wisely kept it under his outside arm as he angle away from a defender getting blocked downfield, but for the next 40 yards he could have switched the ball. In fact, the CB in pursuit tried to knock the ball loose which he couldn't have done if Cottam switched the ball. He did demonstrate solid protection of the ball when the CB made the attempt.

Balance

Blocking

Although Cottam didn't get a good block downfield, he did hustle across the field to take on the safety. His block allowed the RB to cross the field and score from 65 yards on the first offensive play of the game. Cottom hit and turned the backside LB on the first run of the Volunteer's second series with 12:47 in the 1st QTR. He had his hands on the LB's shoulder pads, which isn't great placement, but he overpowered the player with his size-weight advantage. After running 59 yards downfield, he still lined up and doubled-teamed the DE by pushing him backwards by 5 yards. Good job blocking and turning the LB to the outside of the formation with 11:47 in the half on a run to the opposite side of the line. He does a pretty good job of driving LB's backwards when he lines up on the line as a run blocker. He gets a good initial hit, but he doesn't always lock onto the player and as a result the defender can slip away from the initial hit.

Vision

Good job angling away from defenders down the left sideline on his 59-yard catch/run with 5:24 in the 1st QTR. He looked very fluid running downfield and saw the lanes well. He even tried to angle away from the CB in pursuit who eventually caught him after a 40-yard chase. He actually set up a block by dipping inside early and the dipping back to the outside on a second block downfield.

Power

Durability

Missed most of the season with a wrist injury.

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

70

Can physically break jam [2pts]:

Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:

Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:

Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:

Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:

Runs precise routes [5pts]:

Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:

Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:

Awareness of sideline [2pts]:

Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:

Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:

Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:

Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:

Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:

Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:

Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:

Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [1pt]:

Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:

Effective lateral movements [1pt]:

Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:

Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:

Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:

Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:

Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:

Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:

Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:

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

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:

Missed Target:

Drops:

Juggles:

Dropped After Contact:

Rec:

Rec After Contact:

Difficult Rec:

Rec Yards:

Yards After Catch:

Yards per Catch:

Rec Tds:

Yards per Td:

Rush Att:

Rush Yds:

Rush Tds:

Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:

Routes Score:

Receiving Score:

Elusiveness Score:

BHandling Score:

Balance Score:

Blocking Score:

Vision Score:

Power Score:

Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Chris Brown

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: California

Overall Strengths:

Brown is a heady football player with strength, speed, and moves for a man his size. He has enough skill to become a valuable H-Back or FB in the NFL because of his skills as a receiver and size. He is a good runner after the catch although he doesn't have the speed to be an elite playmaker at the next level. He reminds me a bit of Mike Sellers with the Redskins or Joel Kleinsasser with the Vikings.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's more of a wall-off blocker than a physical road grader at this point. He faced zone coverage throughout this game so there were no instances where he encountered opposition with getting a release off the line of scrimmage or faced tight coverage.

Separation

Brown showed good speed on his first catch--a seam route that caught a second level defender flat-footed.

Routes

His routes in the 1st half were generally seams or releases to the flat. His two touchdowns were off clean releases on play action. One from the backfield and the other at the TE spot. He was wide open for both scores. He did not face man to man coverage at any point in this game.

Receiving

Brown made a nice over the shoulder catch with his hands on his first reception, a seam route 20 yards downfield. His first touchdown came as a FB releasing to the flat and catching the ball with his hands while trotting uncovered to the endzone. His next catch was much like a shuttle pass up the middle in design. He gained 9 yards on his own after the misdirection of the play design caused the defense to flow away from him. His 4th catch was a 3-yard hitch and he was brought down with a good tackle after a minimal gain. His best play may have been a catch and short run for a first down with 1:20 remaining in the 3rd QTR. It was a short release and throw. He caught the ball with his hands and dove over two defenders to get across the line.

Elusiveness

Nice job dipping back to the inside of the safety bearing down on him after catching the football on his first reception. He was looking back to the QB while making the catch, so his reaction was very agile. The move helped him gain an addition 7 yards on the play. He displayed a quick first step on a turn back to the inside to run out of a tackle attempt on a short release to the flat from the TE spot with 1:58 in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling

He carries the ball close to this body and didn't have any issues with losing the football, although he had an LB attempt to rip it from his arm.

Balance

Blocking

As the H-back in this offense, Brown often released downfield on both running and passing plays. He was assigned to attack the 3rd level of the defense as a run blocker. He did a decent job of driving the DE off the line on a backside block in the 1st QTR on the second series. When he lines up as the lead blocker in the I-formation, Brown was not aggressive on either attempt to block. He simply placed his hands on a defender during a 1st and 10 from the red area with 5:06 in the 1st QTR. On Foster's 8-yard run to open the 2nd QTR, Brown was lined up on the right side and helped double-team the DE with the RT. He delivered a terrific cut block out of the I formation on a 1st and 10 run with 9:00 in the half that opened up a lane for Arlan Foster.

Vision

Good job knowing where the first down was on a catch and run with 1:18 in the 3rd QTR on a 3rd and 5 situation. He dove over two players and held the ball over the marker to get the yardage.

Power

He is big enough to gain yardage like a fullback. He got 9 yards on a 1st and 10 with 3:35 in the half after running straight up field after a reception and then dragging an LB for two yards who grabbed his ankle.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Craig Stevens

Date: 11/18/2006

Opponent: USC

Overall Strengths:

Stevens is a consistently good blocker in both running and passing situations. The Cal offense routinely ran Marshawn Lynch to the TE's side for positive gains as a result of the Steven's blocks that sealed the corner. There were times where he dominated as a run blocker in this game. He has quick feet as an edge pass protector, although he occasionally gets beat by smaller players or a good quick move. He can catch the football and made nice adjustments to low throws are passes thrown behind him where he had to turn back to the QB in traffic. He can make the reception after taking a hit. He has some quickness off the line of scrimmage, but it's nothing special for an NFL prospect. He has enough skills to develop into starter as an NFL player, but it isn't likely to happen early in his career.

Overall Weaknesses:

He catches a lot of footballs with his body and the only chance he had to snatch a ball, he missed (it was a very hard throw). Stevens is not a dynamic runner after the catch and he has difficulty getting off the line of scrimmage against physical coverage. He won't be a consistent weapon for an NFL offense, but he should develop into a solid #2 TE who can produce as a blocker and receiver on a consistent basis. If he can improve his quickness, he might have a chance to be more than a role player.

Separation

He got a clean outside release on a seam route during the second play of the game, but was well-covered downfield in the zone by both the safety and the OLB who was running stride for stride with the TE. He got jammed just past the LOS by the LB and clearly struggled to break free to the inside despite having inside advantage. He did not anticipate the hand-fighting needed to get separation quickly. Stevens demonstrated the ability to get open 10-15 yards downfield with consistency in this game. He got decent separation on a 15-yard skinny post with 9:34 in the 3rd QTR. Stevens got 25-yards down the left hash on a 3rd and 5 pass with :27 in the game. He was not too far behind the LB dropping back despite getting a clean release. His doesn't have much of a burst. He has good build-up speed, but lacks that extra quickness-explosiveness.

Routes

Stevens first catch was 9-yard out on 3rd and 8 for a gain of 11 yards. He got underneath the zone on the play. He had to drift a bit more to the outside after his break, because the QB did not immediately throw him the ball. He did well to get depth and settle in the zone away from the safety over top and the LB coming over from the outside. Stevens was able to get to open against tight coverage by the safety on a 3rd down out pattern deep in their own territory with 8:33 in the half.

Receiving

Stevens caught the first pass with his hands and leaned a bit forward after the catch for another 2 yards on 3rd and 8 for an 11-yard gain. The pass thrown to Stevens with 8:33 in the half was too low and hit the TE in the foot as he was coming out of his break. Stevens ran a 6-yard out, but the hard-thrown ball went through his hands as it whistled past his helmet. Excellent concentration on a skinny post for 15-yards between two LBs. The throw was purposely placed low and Stevens made a nice diving grab with his hands placed correctly under the ball to make the catch with 9:34 in the 3rd QTR. Stevens was wide open on a drag route with 12:37 in the game, but the QB missed the TE by about 7 yards to the right. Good concentration to hold onto the 25-yard pass down the seam, because as soon as he turned back to the QB to catch the pass, the LB hit Stevens in the chest. The TE still held onto the ball after the hit and after hitting the ground.

Elusiveness

Ball Handling

Balance

Blocking

He got whipped off the line on the first play of the game--a run to Lynch. The DE off the edge went inside of Stevens and the TE literally tried to hook the defender by the waist after the defender blew by him. The defender was able to blow past the backside to tackle Lynch who was running off right tackle. He did a better job of pass blocking off the right edge on 3rd and 8 with 13:56 in the 1st QTR. Although he didn't show quick enough feet to wall off the edge rusher throughout his looping play, the TE did manage to get enough of a hit to the defender's chest to alter his route and force the opponent behind the QB on the completed pass. On the next play he was able to turn LB to the outside and help his RB gain 5 yards on 1st and 10 with 13:30 in the opening QTR. With 12:20 in the 1st QTR, Stevens was able to drive the LB to the inside so the RB could gain 4 yards. The LB actually ran into the RB when he spun away from the block, but the initial hit and drive by the TE took the LB off the ball and moved him well enough for a positive gain. Good footwork off the right edge on 3rd down with 11:38 in the 1st QTR. He was able to stay with the DE and deliver a hit that put the pass rusher at a standstill and follow up with a second hit. Nice effort to get into the pads of the LB on a 2nd down run with 3:05 in the 1st QTR. He drove the defender 2-yards off the ball. Stevens helped the RB gain 8 yards to the right side, when he sealed off the DE on the right edge with a block that turned the DE and drove him to the inside. On his next block with 1:14 in the 1st QTR, he actually fell down after his release from the LOS and missed the DE, but he immediately jumped to his feet and took on the OLB as the RB ran up the middle. Good effort and awareness of an opportunity to block when he missed his initial assignment. On 3rd and 15 with 12:22 in the half, Stevens released to the second level on a run to his side and got enough of his body into the OLB that the RB got the edge for a 17-yard gain and a first down. He did not do a very good job of turning the LB on the play, but the fact he shielded the LB was enough for the RB. Good effort on the rusher off the left edge on a 1st and 10 with 11:34 in the half. The QB took too long on the play and lost a fumble on a sack, but the TE did not allow the DE to beat him. He sustained a block against the DE to open the 2nd half that allowed the RB to get an extra 4 yards on the play due to his tenacity. On nearly every run for Lynch, Stevens could be seen clearing out a hole against the DE or LB. He's the best run blocking TE I've seen in this class thus far.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

94

Can physically break jam [2pts]:

No

Game Stats

Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:

Yes

Target:

Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:

Yes

Missed Target:

Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:

Yes

Drops:

Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:

Yes

Juggles:

Runs precise routes [5pts]:

Yes

Dropped After Contact:

Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:

Yes

Rec:

Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:

Yes

Rec After Contact:

Awareness of sideline [2pts]:

Yes

Difficult Rec:

Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:

Yes

Rec Yards:

Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:

Yes

Yards After Catch:

Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:

Yes

Yards per Catch:

Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:

Yes

Rec Tds:

Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:

Yes

Yards per Td:

Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:

Yes

Rush Att:

Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:

Yes

Rush Yds:

Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:

Yes

Rush Tds:

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Yes

Fumbles:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Yes

Avoids direct shots [1pt]:

Yes

Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:

Yes

Effective lateral movements [1pt]:

Yes

Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:

Yes

Category Scores

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Yes

Separation Score:

Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:

Yes

Routes Score:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

N/A

Receiving Score:

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

N/A

Elusiveness Score:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Yes

BHandling Score:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:

No

Balance Score:

Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:

Yes

Blocking Score:

Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:

No

Vision Score:

Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:

Yes

Power Score:

Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:

Yes

Durability Score:

Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:

N/A

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:

Yes

Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Yes

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Yes

Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:

Yes

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:

Yes

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

Yes

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

N/A

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

Yes

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Yes

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Dustin Keller

Date: 12/26/2007

Opponent: Central Michigan

Overall Strengths:

Keller runs the football after the catch a bit like a running back. He has a good array of stop-start moves, dips, spin moves, low pad level, and stiff arms. He exhibits strong acceleration in open space and off the line of scrimmage. The TE's concentration as a receiver is very good. He caught the ball in traffic, on the run, and managed to catch a few inaccurate throws. He's a very consistent intermediate threat down the middle of the field and is a clear mismatch with many LBs in coverage due to his speed and routes, but a size mismatch for many DBs. Keller is a fluid athlete at the position with a shot to be a playmaker as a receiving TE, H-Back, or FB in the NFL. He compares quite favorably as a receiver and runner after the catch to Redskins TE, Chris Cooley.

Overall Weaknesses:

Although Keller demonstrated decent skills as a blocker, he's a bit of a 'tweener as a TE. He may need to gain more muscle mass to become a solid option as an every down TE in the NFL. When jammed at the line, he didn't consistently have an answer. He started his career as a WR, but has grown into the position.

Separation

Keller has good acceleration downfield for a TE. He was the primary option on a 3rd and 10, 20-yard skinny post with 11:05 in the 1st QTR, but the throw was high and in bracketed coverage. Once Keller got free of the LB and safety on a 1st and 10 corner route with :17 in the 1st QTR, he accelerated and outran the trailing CB for the score. Keller was a state high jump champion in high school, which is a good indication of his explosiveness as an athlete. It shows when he's coming off the line into his routes. He made a very fluid inside release off the DE and the stunting DT on a 3rd and goal pass play with 11:38 in the half. Nice job faking a block on a play action pass for a score on the opening drive of the second half. He wasn't the receiver on the catch, but he managed to lure the DE off the LOS before dipping under and running a short out. Textbook execution of a short out with 11:40 in the game. He chipped the DE before releasing into the flat. The QB did not throw the ball to him, but he was open. He did a good job on two separate occasions in the 4th QTR to drop his shoulder and run through the LB trying to jam him at the 2nd level of the defense upon releasing from the line. One the second occasion he actually made a catch in tight coverage as a result.

Routes

Keller's touchdown came off a 16-yard corner route thrown a bit behind him. The route was good, but the TE had to adjust the ball with a trailing LB in tow. He looked quick out of his breaks on routes where he was not thrown the ball. Both were inside the redzone during the 2nd QTR. One was a corner route where he made the DB stumble as Keller came out of his break. The other was a short out.

Receiving

Keller almost brought down a skinny post attempt that was high and behind him against bracketed coverage 20 yards downfield with 11:05 in the 1st QTR on 3rd and 10. The TE made a good adjustment on a 16-yard corner route with :17 in the 1st QTR to turn towards the trailing LB and catch the ball thrown away from him. The LB and the safety over top missed Keller as a result of the adjustment and the TE was able to run free from the Central Michigan 45 yard line to the endzone. To open the 2nd half, Keller caught a 24-yard skinny post in double coverage and broke free of the defenders for another 13 yards and a 37-yard gain. Excellent concentration to catch the ball with two defenders over the top and approaching him head-on. He cradled the ball into his hands as he took two hits. Keller did not catch a pass on a 3rd and 9 with 4:26 in the 3rd QTR, but the LB had his arms wrapped around him prior the pass arriving. He still had a chance to catch the ball and it was officially a drop, but the officials could have called it either way. Keller caught the ball with an LB draped on him from the moment he got away from the first level of the defense. He demonstrated good concentration to hold onto the football as he was being thrown to the ground, because the ball popped out of his grasp as Keller hit the ground, but the TE managed to retrieve it as he was rolling. Keller caught a 15-yard sideline route in tight coverage at the sideline with his hands extended over his head. Despite having to leap to make the grab, Keller got both feet in bounds as the safety over top hit him as he brought the ball down. Excellent catch, but the Central Michigan coach had called a timeout prior to the snap. He made a diving reception on a 3rd down throw with 2:15 in the game where the ball was tipped at the line of scrimmage. Keller got low with an LB over his back to catch the football with good form.

Elusiveness

Good stop-start move on a short drag route out of the backfield on 1st and 10 with 10:13 in the 3rd QTR. He was able to make the pursuing LB overrun the angle and then push the tackler away with a stiff arm before accelerating upfield for 12 yards and the first down.

Ball Handling

Good job switching the ball to his sideline arm on his touchdown catch. He made the quick switch as he turned upfield and ran the 45 yards for the score.

Balance

Good job lowering his shoulder into a hit and spinning out of the safety's tackle with 2:40 in the half. He spun out of a tackle near the end of the 1st half and spun away from two defenders on his first catch in the second half. He was hit in mid-air on the second catch and managed to adjust his body to spin away from his original momentum to gain separation and maintain his balance. He gained another 13 yards on the play.

Blocking

Keller demonstrated good hand placement inside the DE's chest and turned him to the outside on a 1st and 10 run with 11:35 in the 1st QTR. He was able to drive the RDE off the LOS towards the sideline on a run block with 7:31 in the 1st QTR. Once again, he used good hand placement to the chest of the defender and got under his opponent's pads while driving his legs throughout. He was late off the line on a 1st and goal from the 1-yard line on a run up the middle, but the WR in motion to his side made the block instead. He did an adequate job against the CB coming off the edge on a 4th and goal run for a 1-yard score with :17 in the half. He lower his head into the defender and made good contact, but his hand placement wasn't very good and the DB was able to spin in the direction of the run. Keller's hit was enough to allow the RB to get through the crease for the score. Not much effort on downfield blocks when split wide. He had a chance to block two players on a 2nd and long run to his side, but he was far too tentative with each opportunity. On a 2nd down with 4:45 in the 3rd QTR he did a good job driving the DE away from the run and 2-yards off the LOS. Again, good initial hand placement, pad level, and leg drive. He's such a critical part of the passing offense, he had only one pass blocking assignment in the game, which he did a good job standing up the OLB and keeping him at the LOS with 5:12 in the game. Nice job standing up the OLB on a 2nd and 10 play for a 4-yard gain by the RB with 11:20 in the game. The RB ran up the alley he helped create on the play.

Vision

Keller sees the open field well as a runner and did a good job using moves to create opportunities to run in open space after the catch on all of his receptions.

Power

Keller broke 3 tackles on his 2nd reception, an 18-yard pass up the middle where he gained 10 yards after the catch. He lowered his shoulder and spun away from the first defender, stiff armed the second defender and ran out of an ankle tackle as he was running towards the left hash. He threw aside a DB near the sideline at the first down marker on a 2nd and 3 catch with 3:15 in the game. It then took 4 defenders to stop his forward progress on the play.

Durability

Missed on game in his career with an ankle sprain.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Dustin Keller

Date: 12/26/2007

Opponent: Central Michigan

Character

Nice effort to run down the defender on a fumble receiver by the LB with :17 in the 3rd QTR. Keller stopped the LB at the 6 yard line.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Fred Davis

Date: 9/30/2006

Opponent: Washington State

Overall Strengths:

Davis is a fluid receiver with skills after the catch as a former high school runner. He adjusts well to the ball and demonstrates a nice release off the line of scrimmage. As a receiving TE, there's little doubt he has NFL skills.

Overall Weaknesses:

I didn't see him block in this game, but he's not the 265-270-lb player NFL teams will seek for an in-line blocker.

Separation

Davis demonstrated a good burst of speed to beat his coverage on an short out, get the corner and a DB, and gain 21 yards on the play-nearly 15 after the catch. Davis has good speed and began his career as a WR. He was open on a wheel route after coming in motion across the formation. Davis timed his acceleration very well to get a yard of separation on the corner when he cut the route upfield. The ball was overthrown. Davis got past the nickel back on the very next play when he was placed in the slot and ran a skinny post. Davis did a great job running past the LB on a skinny post. Excellent release from the line.

Routes

Davis' first out was an adequately run route that got him open in zone coverage. Davi did a nice job blocking down and then releasing into a check-down route on his second catch. He caught the ball and gain 8 yards on the play.

Receiving

Davis' first catch was a quick out that he caught with his hands while running toward the sideline. Davis' second catch was another reception with his hands while running towards the left sideline. Davis nearly caught a skinny post 20-yards downfield after beating the nickel back. He had to fully extend his arms and got one hand on the ball before the safety came across the middle to clean up the play. The ball was overthrown and a catch would have been considered a difficult reception. Davis' next catch was a play where he blocked the man on the edge then released to the flat. He caught the ball thrown to his inside shoulder with his hands and then turned up field. Davis nearly made a diving catch with 7:38 in the 4th QTR, but the pass was underthrown.

Elusiveness

Ball Handling

Good job running with the ball with the outside arm on the out route in the 1st QTR. On his first two catches, he did well to tuck the ball under his outside arm and keep it secure.He still leaves some room for the ball outside his body and that's a concern. He carried the ball in his outside arm on the opening reception in the third quarter.

Balance

Davis didn't break or elude tackles, but he came very close on every reception. And the manner in which he nearly eluded or overpowered the tackle and remained on his feet was a testament to his athleticism.

Blocking

Vision

Power

Davis isn't afraid to lower his shoulder into a safety. He did a good job lowering his shoulder on the opening reception in the flat off a play action bootleg in the 2nd half. He hit the DB square, but powered past for two more yards as he fell forward.

Durability

Character

Davis had some issues that made him a questionmark in terms of commitment early in his career.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

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Overall Score:

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- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
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- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
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- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
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- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
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- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
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- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
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- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Fred Davis

Date: 11/22/2007

Opponent: Arizona State

Overall Strengths:

When you watch Davis run after the catch, you understand why he was a former high school running back. He's very fluid after the catch and has very good acceleration and decisiveness for a 6-4, 250-lb player. He catches the ball like a wide receiver-using his hands to snare the ball away from this body on most catches--and he can block very well. This is the best tight end in the draft and probably the best single-game performance I have seen from a TE on film thus far for this publication in terms of his all-round game. He's as close to a can't miss, future starter at the position that I have seen because he blocks as well as he catches the football and he does both very well. He's a player that projects to perform like a Cooley, Witten, or Dallas Clark.

Overall Weaknesses:

I didn't see him take a hit after catching the football. He only faced reasonably tight coverage once in the game and he didn't have to face press coverage except for once in this game and the ball wasn't even going his way. The way he handles edge rushers, I'll be shocked if he has difficulty with press coverage. They are different skills, but the ability to move and use your hands are related to each other.

Separation

Davis has excellent acceleration for a TE. After blocking down and releasing into the flat he took a pass 2 yards behind the LOS and accelerated around the corner to the first down marker. At this point, a CB at the numbers had an angle on him and so did and LB at the left hash. Davis blew past the CB, dipped to the outside of his WR blocking downfield and beat 2 more more defenders downfield until the safety cleaned up the play from over top. Davis was able to burst upfield for 14 yards after catchign the middle screen, out-running the first level of the defense with his burst. Someone needs to jam Davis at the line or else he'll get downfield too quickly as he has thus far in the game. Excellent speed after the catch to run across the field and gain 26 yards on the play. Vernon Davis is the only TE I have seen run this well after the catch. Vernon Davis is mcuh faster, but Fred Davis is fast enough to get yardage after the catch in the NFL. He's a step below Gates, Winslow, and Davis in these department but he fits in with Dallas Clark, Cooley, and Witten. More bursts from Davis: On 4th and 2 with 1:04 in the 3rd QTR he catches the flat pass at the LOS and has two LBs in pursuit. One LB was two yards away and the other at the left hash about 4 yards away with Davis in the middle of the field. Davis turns and accelerates past both players in the righth flat and then past the DB who was five yards away and an LB in pursuit behind him. He then does a little Walter Payton kick to keep from getting tripped up by the pile of these three players he just left behind for the final 10 yards.

Routes

Davis had short routes in the first half: flat route, crossing routes, and a middle screen. To lead off the second half, USC put Davis in motion and he released past the OLB and then got inside the DB, running past him to make a sliding catch 20 yards downfield on a post pattern. He's very quick in and out of cuts. He made a sharp cut to the flat and then another sharp cut upfield, beating the DB downfield although the ball wasn't thrown his way on a 2nd and 10 with 12:20 in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving

Davis easily caught the first pass with his hands while running away from the QB. His second catch was a short, TE middle screen which was the equivalent of a short toss from the QB. The impressive part of the play was his block and release on a DE. He caught a crossing route 3 yards downfield and gained another 23 on the play with 6:14 in the half on 3rd and 6. His post pattern for 20 yards with 12:59 in the 3rd QTR was an excellent sliding catch in single coverage with his hands under the ball. Excellent catch. On 4th and 2 with 1:04 in the 3rd QTR, Davis moved from the left side of the line to the right flat after the snap. He caught the pass at the LOS after sneaking out there and took it 34 yards for the score on a great run down the right side of the field.

Elusiveness

Very smooth change of direction to dip to the outside while running at full speed on his 25-yard gain off the flat route with 12:42 in the 1st QTR. At the same time, he had opportunities to try to elude defenders with cuts, but showed over and over he was more of a straightline runner who bended runs in a direction rather than stop-starting, spinning, stutter stepping, or lateral cutting his way for more yardage.

Ball Handling

The only thing Davis didn't do correctly on his flat route was carry the ball under his inside arm down the left sideline.

Balance

He ran right through an LB's attempt to tackle him from behind on a 26-yard gain off a crossing route with 6:11 in the half. He was hit in the ankles on his 34-yard flat route at the right sideline but still maintained his balance to score on the play.

Blocking

Good job sustaining his block on the OLB. He was temporarily able to turn the defender to the outside, but when the LB changed the angle he still sustained the block until the whistle. He was very quick around the corner to keep the OLB from getting backside pursuit on a run with 12:25 in the 1st QTR. Very strong pass protection to the DE off the right side with 9:15 in the 1st QTR. He was able to keep the DE from getting downfield with his strength at least for the first two seconds after the snap, and remained engaged until the ball was thrown. Good block and release on the middle TE screen for 14 yards. He actually slowed the progress fo the DE enough to both get open and give his QB time to deliver the ball. The middle TE screen is a very difficult play to run out of this formation because of the block and release. It takes a special player to execute this so well against a bigger player and he did it. On the next play, he generated a nice push on the DE that moved the defender into the line which allowed the RB to cut back behind them. On the next play, he delivered a good initial punch to the DE and moved his feet well to the right, delivering a second punch and keeping the end well away from the pocket. The next play, he was quick enough to be in a bunch formation split wide and make a block on a DB in the open field with 7:45 in the 1st QTR. Very versatile player. Interestingly enough, when Davis lined up in the slot the RT had difficulty picking up the OLB and that edge rusher sacked the QB with :31 in the 1st QTR. This might be the best blocking TE I've seen this year or in the past three years. On 1st and 10, the Trojans tried to reverse pass. Davis was responsible for blocking the DE and did an exellent job of steering the bigger man away from the WR and give the receiver time to make his throw. The effort to sustain this block demonstrated good strength, technique, leverage, footwork, and persistence. Although the pass was not completed, Davis prevented sack on the play. After his 20-yard catch, he kept the DE at bay in pass protection, stringing him well outside the pocket.

Vision

Excellent openfield running on his first catch of the night, using his downfield block to gain 15 yards after getting to the 1st down marker.

Power

Good stiff arm on the 26-yard gain to drop the LB coming over his back to get another 16 yards on the play.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
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Overall Score:

83

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- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
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Difficult Rec:
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Rush Yds:
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Category Scores

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Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Fred Davis

Date: 1/1/2008

Opponent: Illinois

Overall Strengths:

Davis has the all-around game to be a quality every down tight end in the NFL. He has a good burst off the line, sifts through traffic well and catches the ball with his hands. He is not a deep threat at the position, but has a good short to intermediate game. He is a good in-line blocker on run plays. His size, strength, and speed are all good enough to be a solid contributor to an NFL franchise.

Overall Weaknesses:

Although near the top of the class at this position, he's not as good as most of the top tier TEs in the previous 2-3 years of classes. He should develop into a starter, but he isn't a dynamic, game-changing receiver at the position. He's capable of good plays and the occasional big play but defenses won't be game-planning to stop him. He doesn't make the tough catches in traffic or on less accurate throws. He lacks the deep speed of an elite prospect or tackle breaking skills as a runner after the catch.

Separation:

Davis demonstrated a burst of speed to outrun the angle of the LB on his first catch. He gained 18 yards after the catch before running out of bounds. Good burst to get past the MLB at the first down marker for another 9 yards on the play. About 80% of his receptions came out of the slot or standing up at the LOS but close to the tackle. I did not see him have to release against a defender trying to stop him from getting downfield in this game. He is quick off the line from a 3-point stance without opposition. He did well to release quickly from the line on a 1st and goal with 5:20 in the 3rd QTR and angle away from the LB trying to jam him a few yards downfield. He was able to angle away and get to the endline to catch a TD pass. Nice job slipping through a crowded middle of the field on a 1st and 10 corner route from the right end to the left corner and a 21-yard reception.

Routes:

His first route was to the right flat. He went in motion and lined up to the left side behind RT, but then release across the formation on a variation of a drag route with the QB executing a playfake to the RB. Davis ran a very crisp out and up with 7:46 in the half.

Receiving:

Davis' first catch was a drag route off play action. The ball was thrown to his inside hip, which he turned back to catch with his hands while running upfield. Davis' next catch came with 4:37 in the 1st QTR, using his hands to grab a crossing route 5-yards downfield that was thrown at helmet height in stride. Davis caught the out and up with his hands at 7:46 in the half, but took a hard shot from the safety over top which jarred the ball loose. This was a hard hit, but a catch he must make at the pro level. Caught the first pass in the 2nd half, an out route where he left the line at a stand-up position. He caught the ball with his hands and turned upfield quickly for another 9 yards for a total of 18 with 14:54 in the 3rd QTR. On the next play, he caught a crossing route 5 yards downfield for a 15-yard gain. It was a tough catch, but Davis dropped a low and away throw on a short out from the slot with 6:37 in the 3rd QTR. He tried to use his hands to catch the ball, but the ball hit the ground as he was falling forward. Good job catching the high pass at the endline with his hands first with 5:18 in the 3rd QTR.

Eloqueness:

Davis hurdled the CB on at the end of his first catch and run.

Ball Handling:

Davis kept the ball under his sideline arm on his first catch of the game--a flat route to the right sideline. He carried the ball under his sideline arm on consecutive receptions heading to opposite sidelines.

Balance:

Davis fell down on a seam route on 3rd and 11 just as the ball was being thrown.

Blocking:

Davis lined up in the slot, but came inside of the formation on a 1st and 10 with 12:29 and knocked down the OLB on the block. Davis was lined up wide with 11:15 in the 1st QTR. The play was a swing pass to the slot receiver on Davis' side. The TE set up the right angle to turn the DB's back to the sideline and seal the edge, but the WR tried to take the run outside of Davis and ruined the angle of the block. Good technique by Davis, but he couldn't control the direction of the other pursuit and the WR's reaction. Good job on 1st and goal with 3:05 in the half turning the OLB to the right side and driving him off the LOS for a 3-4 yards before the defender could break free. He was able to turn the LB on the backside of the 9-yard run and drive him 3-4 yards off the LOS with 12:23 in the 3rd QTR. On the next play he shielded off the DE on the left side which allowed the FB to get the first down with 11:38 in the 3rd QTR. Another decent block on the LDE with 7:00 in the 3rd QTR.

Vision:

Smart choice to veer underneath his teammate's block on the crossing route to eliminate the angle of the DB coming over the top for a 15-yard gain with 14:30 in the 3rd QTR.

Power:

He demonstrates good body lean at the end of runs and can run out of of arm tackles when he his moving downhill.

Durability:

Character:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

75

Can physically break jam [2pts]:

N/A

Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:

N/A

Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:

Yes

Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:

Yes

Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:

Yes

Runs precise routes [5pts]:

No

Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:

Yes

Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:

Yes

Awareness of sideline [2pts]:

N/A

Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:

Yes

Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:

Yes

Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:

Yes

Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:

N/A

Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:

N/A

Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:

No

Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:

Yes

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

No

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

No

Avoids direct shots [1pt]:

No

Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:

No

Effective lateral movements [1pt]:

No

Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:

Yes

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

N/A

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

No

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

No

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:

No

Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:

No

Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:

Yes

Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:

No

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:

No

Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

No

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

No

Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:

Yes

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:

No

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

N/A

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

N/A

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

N/A

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

N/A

Game Stats

Target:

Missed Target:

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Rush Yds:

Rush Tds:

Fumbles:

Category Scores

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Routes Score:

Receiving Score:

Elusiveness Score:

BHandling Score:

Balance Score:

Blocking Score:

Vision Score:

Power Score:

Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Gabe Ratliff

Date: 9/29/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths:

Ratliff has soft hands and can make catches with his arms fully extended from his body while on the run. He has enough build-up speed to stretch the middle of the field and has the potential to become a decent in-line TE with additional work on his blocking and routes as a dept chart TE.

Overall Weaknesses:

He didn't have any opposition to get a clean release from the line, but he got pushed around at the line of scrimmage as a run blocker. He's a much better receiver than he is an asset for the ground game. He is not a dynamic runner after the catch and his routes need refinement. He tends to go through the motions with setting up moves rather than act them out intently.

Separation

Ratliff has pretty good speed for a TE. I'd be surprised if he really weighs 245 pounds. He doesn't look that big. Nice job on the delayed release on crossing route with 2:21 in the half, but the ball was overthrown. He does have a quick release from the line and can stretch the field when running at full speed.

Routes

Ratliff's first catch was a 4-yard crossing route with a clean release from the line. Good timing to get open on the deep out at the end of the 1st QTR. He didn't accelerate hard enough on a slant where he dropped the ball after contact. He released slowly as if he were running an out but then cut back to the inside. His slow release tipped off his second move.

Receiving

On the 3rd and 4 crossing route, Ratliff did a find job of catching the ball with his hands extended away from his body and bringing the ball in as he ran past the first down marker. His next catch was a 5-yard out with about a step on the LB as he caught the ball over his shoulder and with his hands before bringing it into his body and gaining another 5 yards on the play. Ratliff nearly made a very difficult reception where he had run a deep out and the ball was delivered behind him. He leaped with his arms extended to get his hands on the ball and as he was trying to bring it in, the safety trailing the play got a perfect hit on him. Ratliff managed to maintain control as he fell, but the ball popped loose upon impact with the ground. Very good job catching a hard thrown crossing route where the ball was traveling behind him. He he had to spin back towards the ball and bring it in while shielding it from the charging safety. Good concentration and effort to hang onto the ball. He gained 24 yards on a deep out catching the ball with his hands. He dropped a 4th QTR slant with 7:56 left when the LB wrapped his arms as he was trying to bring the ball to his chest.

Elusiveness

Ratliff tended to move straight ahead and prepare for contact that was coming rather than attmpt any moves. Most of his receptions were in tight enough coverage that he didn't have much room to make a lot of moves.

Ball Handling

He consistently did a good job tucking the ball away prior to contact and finishing his runs with adequate protection of the ball.

Balance

Ratliff goes down rather easily after the catch. He's not a dynamic runner.

Blocking

As one of the inside players on the diamond formation on the WR pass the Green Wave executed in the 1st QTR, Ratliff allowed two LSU defenders to come free and pressure Matt Forte into hurrying his throw. The TE only got an arm on one LSU defender as he passed by, as if he forgot what he was supposed to be doing. On a double reverse, Ratliff did a good job of getting his hands into the LB and driving him towards the right sideline and completely out of the play. He was not used very often as a blocker in this contest and he tends to get pushed around on the line when blocking for run plays.

Vision

Power

He gained 6 yards after the catch and demosntrated good body lean to get an extra 2-3 yards when the LB wrapped him.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

83

Can physically break jam [2pts]:

Game Stats

Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:

Target:

Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:

Missed Target:

Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:

Drops:

Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:

Juggles:

Runs precise routes [5pts]:

Dropped After Contact:

Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:

Rec:

Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:

Rec After Contact:

Awareness of sideline [2pts]:

Difficult Rec:

Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:

Rec Yards:

Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:

Yards After Catch:

Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:

Yards per Catch:

Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:

Rec Tds:

Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:

Yards per Td:

Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:

Rush Att:

Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:

Rush Yds:

Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:

Rush Tds:

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Fumbles:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [1pt]:

Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:

Effective lateral movements [1pt]:

Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:

Category Scores

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Separation Score:

Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:

Routes Score:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Receiving Score:

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

BHandling Score:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:

Balance Score:

Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:

Blocking Score:

Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:

Vision Score:

Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:

Power Score:

Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:

Durability Score:

Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:

Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:

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

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Gary Barnidge

Date: 9/3/2006

Opponent: Kentucky

Overall Strengths:

Barnidge is a good run blocker with good short range receiving skills. He demonstrates some skills getting a release off the line with a defender presenting opposition and has excellent concentration catching the football. He makes good adjustments to the ball and can shield defenders from the pass while in the act of the reception.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's not a dynamic runner after the catch and he's not going to match up very well against NFL defenders on the line of scrimmage. He's more of a short range receiving tight end at this point of his development. He appears to have potential to evolve into a more all around, every down TE but he'll need to become a stronger blocker. His separation skills appeared average in this game. He didn't appear to have the speed to get more than 15 yards downfield in routes.

Separation

Barnidge did a decent job releasing from the line of scrimmage on a 2nd QTR td play pass for a score. He made a little swim move to get into the secondary and gain separation before he made his break. Excellent release on an 18-yard out for a 22-yard completion. He had accelerated past the LB by the time he was 10 yards past the LOS. Very good job releasing from his block as a FB and getting open quickly in the flat to catch a short pass and turn it into an 11-yard gain.

Routes

He demonstrated very good timing with his QB on short and intermediate routes.

Receiving

Barnidge's first catch was a 7-yard hitch which he caught in zone coverage and with no man near him. He caught the ball with his hands turned upfield and gained two yards as he was gang tackled on the play. Barnidge caught a 2nd and 13 reception with 7:40 left for a 22-yard gain. He did a good job keeping his body in front of the ball and bringing the stomach-high throw into his body with appropriate hand positioning and looking back to the QB before gaining another 4 yards after the catch. With :20 left in the 3rd QTR, Barnidge caught a 3rd and 4 pass for an 8-yard gain and a first down. He had a clean release off the line as he ran a short out. The impressive part of the play was his ability to catch the pass that was thrown a bit high. The TE adjusted to the ball in stride and caught the ball over his head with his back facing the QB and only using his hands.

Eloquence

Not especially nifty as a runner. He's agile enough to go for the ball in the air, but he is not going to elude the 2nd and 3rd level of the defense on a consistent basis. He's a straight ahead ball carrier.

Ball Handling

Good protection of the football, although he did not switch the ball when optimal for him to do so.

Balance

He has good footwork and balance as a blocker at the line, in the open field, and as a receiver adjusting to the football in the air. He's not acrobatic, but he does a good job positioning his body.

Blocking

On a 2nd and 9 with 7:00 in the 1st QTR, Barnidge made a very quick move off the line to cutblock the DT on a trap play to the FB. He was able to knock the lineman off his feet due to his quickness off the line. He did a decent job firing off the line on a 2nd and goal from the 9 yard line and getting downfield to shield his man on a 4-yard run. Barnidge made an effective block to the inside on a 5-yard TD run by Bush in the 2nd QTR. He engaged the DB with a hit to the outside shoulder and the defender fell to the ground when his legs got caught in the trash of the hole. With 12:14 in the 3rd QTR, Barnidge was assigned to block down on the inside on a handoff to Bush. Once he saw the man was taken care of, he turned to the outside and made contact with a defender on the edge which allowed Bush to cut the run back to the inside and gain an extra few yards. Barnidge came in motion and led a sweep for Kolby Smith with 4:15 in the 3rd QTR. He made an excellent cut block to open the hole for Smith to gain 11 yards on the run. On the next play he made first down after coming off a block in the backfield as a FB and catching a short pass in the flat to run the remaining 9 yards for the gain. Excellent leverage on the DE who he drove back 4 yards on toss play to his side to open the 4th QTR. He did a good job keeping his hands on the TE. Although the DE did a good job maintain his lateral position to spill the play, the TE took away the depth of his position and the RB got 3-4 yards. On the next play, Barnidge made the key block on the OLB after coming in motion to the left side on 4th and 1. This opened the gap for Kolby Smith to cut the play upfield off the left side for a 1st down. He also knocked down his assigned man on a screen pass to Kolby Smith with 12:04 in the game. Although the screen was sniffed out, Barnidge did his job well.

Vision

His athleticism isn't really on the high end so this skill doesn't come into play often enough as a ball carrier.

Power

Barnidge has the height to use his leverage both as a blocker and runner. He doesn't fold up when hit, but he tends to drag a tackler one on one rather than shed him.

Durability

No known major injuries.

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

78

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Jacob Tamme

Date: 10/13/2007

Opponent: LSU

Overall Strengths:

Tamme has very good hands and is able to adjust to the football in the air. He demonstrates quickness and savvy as a route runner and can get separation by setting up the DB with moves before his break. He has the speed to be an intermediate threat in the passing game. He is an effective blocker on run plays where he can shield off a bigger defender. Tamme should become a solid receiving TE on an NFL depth chart and contribute enough in the passing game to be considered a 3rd or 4th option on offensive passing plays.

Overall Weaknesses:

He needs more size and strength to become an every down player who can block at the line of scrimmage. He needs work dealing with more physical coverage at the line of scrimmage. He lacks game breaking speed.

Separation

Tamme often ran routes from the slot. On his first catch he was on the line, but there wasn't an LSU defender assigned to him at the line so his release was very clean. He got a clean release from the line on his score.

Routes

Tamme ran a well-timed, deep out for 14-yards with 1:30 in the half. Tamme put a good head fake to the outside on a seam route to get open for his 8-yard score.

Receiving

Tamme's first opportunity came on the third play of the first drive of the game. Tamme ran a slant from the slot, but dropped the football when it got to him. The All-American safety in coverage, Steltz, had his arms around Tamme before the ball arrived and the officials did not make the interference call. Regardless, Tamme should have caught this pass. His first catch was a 14-yard out that he caught with his hands with coverage charging his way over top. Tamme's score was on an 8-yard route up the seam. He caught it with his hands. Tamme made a very good catch on a ball thrown to his inside shoulder coming out of the break of a hitch with All-American LB Highsmith in tight coverage for an 11-yard gain.

Elusiveness

Ball Handling

Balance

Blocking

He did an effective job standing up the All-American LB, Highsmith, on a 1st and 10 run off his block at the edge with 6:55 in the 1st QTR. He had his arms full extended into the chest of the LB and was able to steer the LB away as the RB ran past for a 9-yard gain. He also did well to shield off the the DE on a run to his side with 5:10 in the 1st QTR. He also sustained a block downfield on the DB on a run inside the 10 with 3:20 in the 1st QTR. If the RB got past one more player, Tamme's block would have sprung him for the score. He was effective as a shield off blocker on the DE on a 1st down run by the RB with 3:35 in the 3rd QTR. He also helped seal the edge by sustaining a block on the DE for the RB to get around the right corner for an 18-yard gain with 2:22 in the 3rd QTR. Very consistent job sealing off the edge. He was able to turn the DE back towards the pile even if he didn't drive him off the line.

Vision

Power

Durability

Tore both labrums and required surgery at the end of his junior season.

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

76

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Jacob Tamme

Date: 10/20/2007

Opponent: Florida

Overall Strengths:

Tamme is an excellent receiver as a TE/H-Back. He can catch the ball in traffic, tight coverage, and after hard contact. He has tremendous concentration and enough speed to get downfield and threatened the intermediate zone of the secondary. He has enough acceleration to gain yardage after the catch and is big enough to run over some defensive backs. His body control as a receiver makes him a versatile threat at the sideline, redzone, and over the middle on just about any route. He has good height and operates well out of the slot. He will make a team and if a team finds a way to use him in their offensive package as a regular starter--either as a 'tweener TE or H-Back, he could be a steady producer in the NFL.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's a former receiver who probably needs about 20 more pounds to be a valuable in-line TE in 1-TE sets for an NFL squad because he can get pushed around as a blocker when facing defensive ends and linebackers. He has good, but not great speed and his after the catch skills are not dynamic. He will need to work on his route running--he rounds off too many routes.

Separation

When unimpeded, his release from the LOS as an in-line TE is very quick. He burst off the line on a 3rd down with 12:04 into a seam route, getting into the second level very quickly.

Routes

Tamme ran a nice route to set up a smash screen with 11:00 in the 3rd QTR for a 15-yard gain. He started outside then made a sharp break back in, selling the out very effectively. Tamme made a good adjustment during the 2-minute drill to get open across the middle on a 3-yard route and run the ball across the field to the sideline to stop the clock with 1:09 in the game.

Receiving

He caught a 7-yard hitch on 2nd and 7 with his hands and turned it into a 12-yard gain. With 14:25 in the 3rd QTR, Tamme allowed the ball to get into his body and as he turned up field he was hammered with a perfect form tackle that jarred the ball loose. Tamme's catch on the smash screen was away from his body with his arm's extended, bringing it in quickly as he burst up field for 15 yards. Tamme caught a wheel route after releasing from a 3-point stance about 18-yards down the sideline with his hands and make two excellent moves to avoid tackles to score from 28-yards with 8:12 in the 3rd QTR. He got open underneath zone coverage for a 6-yard gain before getting knocked out of bounds with 11:23 in the 4th QTR.

Elusiveness

A very quick first step to the outside on the DB who was behind him as he caught the 7-yard hitch, turning it into a 12-yard gain and a 1st down with 6:43 in the half. He tried to set up an outside block on his smash screen after gaining the 1st down by taking a jab step to the outside, but he could not get inside quick enough to avoid the CB grabbing his leg. After Tamme caught the wheel route he spun away from the tight coverage towards the inside, causing the LB to lose his grasp and the CB coming over the top to lose his angle for the score.

Ball Handling

Good job carrying the football down the right has with his right arm.

Balance

Blocking

Tamme allowed a sack when matched up against the DE with 2:33 in the 1st QTR. He got his hands on the DE, but the defender saw that Tamme had help to the outside, so he used a good spin move to the inside of Tamme's block and stunted up the middle for the sack. Tamme did a good job of sucking the DE into believing a hand off up the middle was a pass play and the RB got 5 yards up the middle before the defender reacted to the run with 6:39 in the half.

Vision

Power

Durability

Tamme took a hard shot to his chin that sent him out of bounds after a 12-yard hitch and run, but popped right up.

Character

Surgery on both labrums prior to his junior year.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

80

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Jacob Tamme

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: Tennessee

Overall Strengths:

Tamme is an excellent receiver as a TE/H-Back. He can catch the ball in traffic, tight coverage, and after hard contact. He has tremendous concentration and enough speed to get downfield and threatened the intermediate zone of the secondary. He has enough acceleration to gain yardage after the catch and is big enough to run over some defensive backs. His body control as a receiver makes him a versatile threat at the sideline, redzone, and over the middle on just about any route. He has good height and operates well out of the slot. He will make a team and if a team finds a way to use him in their offensive package as a regular starter--either as a 'tweener TE or H-Back, he could be a steady producer in the NFL.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's a former receiver who probably needs about 20 more pounds to be a valuable in-line TE in 1-TE sets for an NFL squad because he can get pushed around as a blocker when facing defensive ends and linebackers. He has good, but not great speed and his after the catch skills are not dynamic. He will need to work on his route running--he rounds off too many routes.

Separation

Tamme appeared to have nice acceleration after the catch on a swing pass from the slot with 12:53 in the 3rd QTR for a gain of 11 yards down the sideline for the 1st down. Tamme got very good separation on a corner route about 15 yards downfield, but the ball was overthrown. Nice burst down the righth sideline on a swing pass from the slot that he took 12-yards with a block from his WR and ended it with a diving attempt for the pylon with the ball extended. Tamme got a clean release from the line on his first score with :01 in the 3rd QTR, but had to get past a bump by the LB before getting into his corner route. He's one of the faster TEs in this draft, but is he a mismatch for NFL LB's? I don't think so.

Routes

Most of his routes were hitches, swing passes, or corner routes from the slot. He did catch a corner route as an in-line TE to end the 3rd QTR.

Receiving

Tamme's first catch came on 3rd and 5 with 14:08 out of the slot in a 4-WR set. He ran an in-route and caught the ball with his hands between a DB and an LB. He was hit hard by the LB as he went into the air to catch the ball and the collision spun him around, but he still maintained possession of the football. Very tough catch. He caught a quick hitch from the slot in zone coverage with 5:17 in the half before he was brought down by two players upon the reception for 4 yards. He caught the ball into his body to shield the ball from the oncoming defenders. He caught a swing pass from the slot while facing the QB with his hands at helmet level and turned up field for an 11-yard gain. Tamme made a leaping attempt to snag a ball thrown high on a corner route. He would have had to catch the ball over his shoulder with his hands over his head while in the air and somehow keep his feet inbounds on the play the corner pasted to his back. He did manage to get his hands on the ball. His next catch was a 6-yard swing route out of the slot. A very athletic catch on 2nd and 10 with 1:11 in the 3rd QTR. He was lined up in the slot and ran downfield, getting deep as the QB scrambled left and threw a 40-yard pass to him in single coverage with the DB. The DB had position on the ball, but Tamme came over the top and took the ball away as they both had control of the ball as they hit the ground, but Tamme pulled it away. Tamme caught another swing pass from the slot to the right side and demonstrated a good burst and athleticism for a 12-yard gain with :06 in the 3rd QTR. He caught a corner route from an in-line position for a 2-yard score to end the 3rd QTR. He caught the ball facing the QB with his hands as the ball came to him on his inside shoulder. He demonstrated good awareness to keep his feet inbounds. Tamme made an incredible catch on an overthrown swing pass from his slot position on 3rd and 4 with 4:43 in the game. The ball was thrown high and over his right shoulder and Tamme had to leap with his right arm fully extended with his back to the QB and the ball over his head just to touch the ball. He touched the ball a second time as he was coming down and at this point his arm was fully extended out to his side with the ball on his finger tips while running towards the sideline. He tipped it once more towards his body as he brought his left arm across his body to secure the ball with both hands, turning up field so he could extend the ball over the first down marker before the DB got there. Great athleticism and concentration on the play. Tamme caught a pass over the middle by leaping into the air with the LB coming straight at him. He caught the ball at its highest point, but the hit jarred the ball loose and into the hands on a UT teammate for the interception. Tamme caught an out route on the last drive of the 4th QTR about 17 yards downfield and exhibited great concentration, because the ball was tipped and he had to turn back to the throw, catch it with his hands, and keep a foot inbounds as he took a shot from the safety over top.

Elusiveness

Ball Handling

Balance

Blocking

Good effort to come from the slot and take on the OLB as the FB ran a quick-hitter behind them with 8:47 in the 1st QTR. He doesn't really demonstrate the size-strength to sustain blocks at the line. He got the initial hit on his man during a run on a 2nd and 1 run for a first down with 8:02 in the 1st QTR, but he could not turn his man and the LB was able to release toward the path of the run. As a pass protector, Tamme got sucked in by the zone blitz when he went to block the LDE, but after his initial hit, the LDE dropped into the zone and the OLB on the same side blitzed nearly untouched to the QB. Tamme was quick enough to get his hands on the LB's shoulder but if the man coming free up the middle didn't get the QB, it would have been Tamme's man. He was more often lined up as a slot receiver and there he was effective dishing out a backside hit on the DB, forcing him into the pile so his RB could get outside on a 2nd and 8 with 13:55 in the game.

Vision

Tamme runs through the open field with the vision of a wide receiver, which is what he really has been trained to be.

Power

Very good job lowering his head and leaning forward to finish his 11-yard run off the swing pass with 12:53 in the 3rd QTR. His size is on par with an NFL safety and he is a decent match up in terms of power versus them, but not against an NFL linebacker. He has enough speed to compete with an OLB, but the better LBs in the pros will have an advantage over him.

Durability

Had surgery on both labrums prior to junior season.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

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Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Jermichael Finley

Date: 10/28/2006

Opponent: Texas Tech

Overall Strengths:

Finley has potential to be a solid, NFL tight end. He catches the ball easily on most throws and sets up his routes effectively. He has decent build up speed and makes a good effort as a blocker in the ground and aerial attack. He has some good on-field IQ: he adjusted routes to his scrambling QB, set up a screen very well, and found a way to help block downfield despite not being able to turn back to the defender he was shielding from his QB.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's not very fast and his burst did not look impressive. He's a straight line runner who goes down easily. He needs to work on his balance and leverage as a blocker. He dropped the only pass where he faced some opposition for the football. It was potentially a huge play in the game. He looks like he could get over powered in the NFL with his current size. If he can add another 10-15 pounds without losing any of the speed he currently has, he could be a decent short-to-intermediate threat in a few years. Right now, he'll make a team but won't see the starting lineup right away. I honestly believe at best he'll be a role player.

Separation

He does not appear to be very quick. He was caught from behind by the LB in the flat for a 3-yard gain on an outlet pass. He did not appear to have much of a burst on the screen because he had a chance to sprint past his last block and get the sideline for the score, but didn't generate much acceleration. At the same time he was trying tightrope the sideline around the blocker and defender. Finley got a very clean release from the right end and ran a drag route in the cushion of the zone for an 18-yard gain.

Routes

Great job executing the TE screen for a 25-yard gain with 4:50 in the half. He turned inside at the snap then curled out to put a hit on the edge rusher before quickly releasing to the flat to catch the short pass. Finley did a good job adjusting to the QB's scrambling and got behind the secondary on 3rd down with 9:06 in the game, but dropped the pass.

Receiving

The first reception for Finley was an outlet pass to the left flat with 12:51 in the half. He caught the ball with his hands as if he were receiving a sweep pitch and turned up field for a 3-yard gain. Finley caught the screen pass with his hands with 4:50 in the half. Finley caught the 18-yard drag route with his hands and then ran out of bounds. It was an effortless reception, snatching the ball and quickly tucking it into his body as he ran towards the sideline. Finley had a chance to catch a 30-yard pass while facing the QB, because he got behind the zone on a scramble with 9:06 in the game. The ball was thrown well and he at first caught the ball with his hands at helmet level, but the DB was able to knock it from his grasp. Finley should have maintained possession of the ball.

Eloquence

Ball Handling

Good job placing the ball in his sideline arm during the TE screen for 25 yards with 4:50 in the half.

Balance

Blocking

On 2nd and 8 with :32 in the 1st QTR, Finley blocked down on the DE and was able to get into the DE's body and drive the defender back 2 yards, slightly turning him to the outside, but the DE was able to slip the block as the runner approached and make the tackle. As a pass blocker on the next play, he was able to prevent the DE from taking an inside rush with good body lean and hand placement. This allowed the QB enough time to roll right and complete a pass for the first down. On 1st and 10 with 13:56 in the half, he tried blocking the DE to seal the right corner. He was able to shield the defender, but the man generated enough of a push that the TE was to yards behind the LOS as the RB passed and the DE nearly got to the RB as the back turned the corner. He got pushed backwards by the LB with 6:20 in the half on a run up the middle. He did a good job of throwing down the edge rusher before releasing into the flat. This release gave the QB time as he rolled right to hit the WR in the end zone. Good awareness in the open field to slow down and allow the defender to run up his back when he saw his QB breaking the pocket to his side. This allowed the QB to get a nice gain with 11:00 in the 3rd QTR. Although he cleared a lane for the RB to get a nice run for a 1st down off RT, his block on the DB was not very good. He actually fell down because the DB turned away from his push, but the effort shielded the DB and prevented him from turning quick enough to get his hand on the RB passing by. Good job holding off the DE on a rollout pass to his side that resulted in a score. He had his arms extended, keeping the DE at a distance while they ran towards the left side of the field.

Vision

There isn't much to say about Finley's running skills after the catch on the 25-yard screen because the play was what created such a large gain. When he caught the ball, there were 3 Texas linemen ahead of him by the time he reached the LOS. In fact one of the linemen already knocked a defender to the ground 10 yards downfield. Finley simply followed the blocks down the left sideline until he was knocked out of bounds.

Power

Durability

Character

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The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Joe Jon Finley

Date: 12/1/2007

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths:

Finley is one of the better run blocking TEs in this class. He is a good in-line blocker who can turn and drive back 1st and 2nd level defenders. He also is effective as a slot receiver. He catches the ball with his hands and finishes runs effectively when tackled. He's a high effort player who has the size and athleticism to develop into a reliable, every down TE in a run-oriented, NFL offense. He isn't a dynamic receiver, but he's good enough to be see his share of balls in each game. The likelihood he develops into a top receiving option at his position is small, so he'll be regarded as a better all-around player than receiver.

Overall Weaknesses:

He lacks top-end speed and acceleration. He didn't have to face the jam at the line of scrimmage in this game. He appeared to have the strength and quick first step to get free, but this was based on his blocking and release from one player to take on another during run plays that somewhat mimicked what he would have to do to release from the line in a pass route against the jam. He was not a dynamic runner after the catch by any means. He's a straight-line runner who goes down pretty easily when hit.

Separation

He didn't show much of a burst as a runner. He looked fluid, but not extremely quick on his first catch and run.

Routes

Receiving

He was split to the slot on the right side of the formation on his first reception with 8:00 in the 1st QTR. He caught the swing pass with his hands and turned the play up field for an 8-yard gain on 3rd and 23. Finley was split outside on his second catch, a pass to the left flat with 3:03 in the 1st QTR on 2nd and 10. He caught the ball with his hands and turned up field for 8 yards. His third catch was to the same area on the same pattern at the end of the 1st QTR. He used his hands once again to make the reception. Finley's fourth catch was a 7-yard reception on a turn around over the middle in zone coverage. He did a good job using his body to shield the ball from the LB. Finley's final catch was a 4-yard slant in the end zone. He caught the ball at helmet level with his hands and took a hit to his back and held on for the score.

Elasticity

Ball Handling

Good job carrying the football under his sideline arm on his first catch and run for 8 yards with 8:00 in the 1st QTR.

Balance

Finley dropped like a stone as the LB cut his legs on the run after his third catch with no time left in the 1st QTR.

Blocking

Finley released from the line and hit the OLB square, driving the defender back a yard on the first OU offensive play of the game. He did the same thing from the left side of the formation on a 1st and 10 with 8:20 in the 1st QTR. He wasn't very effective getting low on the LDE on a run with 1:00 in the 1st QTR. Excellent job on Patrick's 4-yard score with 4:05 in the 3rd QTR. Finley first helped generate a push on the DE then released and submarined the LB at the edge which allowed the RB to have an easy run to the goal line. The cut block eliminated the player with the best angle to the RB. He got to the LB on the backside of a short run with 13:02 in the game and drove the LB towards the left flat despite the run going to the right side. Good effort and technique. Great job taking on the DT on a run off his block with 7:51 in the game. Finley was able to hit, turn and run off the DT to the right side as the RB exploited the hole for a 4-yard gain. Good technique and leverage on a shorter, but much heavier man.

Vision

Power

Good body lean to end his first run with 8:00 in the 1st QTR. He made an even better effort at the sideline at the end of his second catch. He leaned over the DB and extended himself as far as possible for 2 extra yards on the play with 3:03 in the 1st QTR.

Durability

Character

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The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Joey Haynos

Date: 11/24/2007

Opponent: North Carolina State

Overall Strengths:

Haynos is one of the better blockers I have seen at the position this year. He has the size to be an every down tight end and he can take on LBs with no problem. He actually will be decent against the occasional DE if he continues to improve his footwork and technique to get leverage so he's not thrown to the side. He can catch the ball with his hands and make adjustments to low thrown balls. I think he has a very good opportunity to become an every down TE in the NFL because of his size, blocking, and hands.

Overall Weaknesses:

Although a good blocker, he sometimes gets away with being off balance because he's a big body, but in the NFL he'll get thrown to the ground if he doesn't tighten up his technique. He ran routes either from the slot or unchallenged from the line of scrimmage in his release. He faced zone on every route so his ability to defeat press coverage is unproven based on this game.

Separation

He has enough of a burst to get 10-15 yards downfield in college, but I haven't seen him face anything but zone coverage for the first three quarters of this game. He looks quick enough to be a factor in an NFL attack, but not a primary weapon.

Routes

He ran a flare route from the slot on 3rd and 15 where the receiver split wide ran in front of him so he could cross underneath and be open in the zone near the sideline 7 yards downfield. Haynos lined up in the slot on 3rd and 15, ran a corner route against zone coverage and was wide open for a 20-yard catch. He looked pretty quick off the LOS during his release on an 8-yard hitch in front of the zone for an 11-yard gain with 9:01 in the 3rd QTR.

Receiving

Haynos caught the 7-yard pass near the sideline with his hands and facing the QB. He was immediately hit on the play and was knocked to the ground. He still maintained possession of the ball. He made a very good catch facing the QB 20-yards downfield on a corner route against zone coverage. He was able to catch the low-thrown ball with his hands and then secure it to his chest as he was falling to the ground. Haynos caught a 8-yard hitch between two defenders in zone, gaining three yards after bouncing off both of them. He was actually hit as he caught the ball, shielding the ball with his body. He caught a 5-yard out on 3rd and 6 by snatching the football at helmet level then turning up field to elude the DB and gain another 7 yards on the play with 7:14 in the 3rd QTR. Once again on 3rd down, Haynos gained 21 yards on a reception on a deep out from the slot. He caught the ball with his hands facing the QB and a DB bearing down on him at the sideline.

Elusiveness

He made a nice set up move with a jab step towards the inside then dip to the outside against the DB on a 3rd and 6 hitch route. This freed the sideline for him to gain a total of 7 yards, exhibiting good body lean at the end of the run when the LB and CB wrapped him up at the sideline.

Ball Handling

Haynos covered the ball with both arms on his 11-yard gain off the 8-yard hitch between defenders for the first down. He did not switch the football to his sideline arm on the 3rd and 6 catch for a 13 yard gain.

Balance

Good balance to turn up field as he was getting hit and run through two hits for a 3-yard gain and a first down.

Blocking

He was able to lock down on the DE on a 1st and 10 run with 13:00 in the game. He was able to turn and push down his assignment into the pile on a 2nd and 10 run with 3:00 in the 1st QTR. On a run with 14:00 in the half, he doubled teamed the DE with the LT to generate a 5-yard push for the RB to run through. He was able to generate a 2-yard push off the LOS on the next run, although he was off balance and would have likely been thrown to the ground against a better DE. Nice job to initially double-team with the LT then quickly peel off and hit the DB at the edge so the RB could run through an open lane for an 11-yard gain with 5:45 in the half. Another great job of blocking the backside LB and pushing him into the pile so the RB could exploit the cutback for a 9-yard gain with 5:20 in the half. In this half, he was able to clamp down on some pretty good defensive players and at the very least prevent them from getting into the action. He uses his size pretty well and can steer his defender once he gets his hands on him. He was frustrating the LBs. #55 gave Haynos a head slap after a block that sent him backwards a few yards on a running play to his side with 1:53 in the half. Although he got thrown aside on a run with 9:11 in the 3rd QTR, he did not quit on the play and as his RB tried to reverse his field away from the defender who beat the TE, Haynos delivered a hard backside hit to prevent the LB from getting close. This helped the RB gain 19 on the reversal of field. Good effort on a broken play. His first opportunity to pass block was with 2:45 in the 3rd QTR. It was a play action call so Haynos first appeared to be clearing a lane to the right side, but then showed good feet to keep the edge rusher from getting to the pocket.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

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The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: John Carlson

Date: 9/23/2006

Opponent: Michigan State

Overall Strengths:

Decent hands and can gain yardage after the catch due to a decent amount of speed and quickness. His blocking is pretty sound. At best, a role player at the next level.

Overall Weaknesses:

A straight-line runner without special athleticism.

Separation

Most of Carlson's routes were against zone coverage.

Routes

His routes were crossing patterns, turnarounds, drag routes, or hitches. None required explosive breaks to gain separation.

Receiving

Carlson's first catch was a short hitch in tight coverage and he was immediately brought down by two defenders. He did a good job catching the hard pass. His second grab was the seam pass off play action on 4th and 1 with 8:13 left in the half. Carlson juggled the ball slightly despite being wide open. He did make the catch close to his body for a 27-yard gain. He caught a 62-yard seam route for a score, outrunning the secondary for 52 yards. Carlson showed excellent concentration on a catch of a tipped pass intended for the RB several yards in front of him. He caught the ball facing the QB with his hands first, but bracing it against his chest. The trajectory of the ball and it's wobbly nature made this a difficult catch.

Elusiveness

He's not going to make defenders miss in the open field.

Ball Handling

Good job keeping the ball close to his body and covering it with both hands as the pursuit got close to him.

Balance

A form tackle will bring him down most of the time.

Blocking

Carlson did a very good job standing up the edge rusher on a long 3rd down pass attempt. He came in motion prior to the snap, but delivered a good blow the DE and stuck with him. On a 1st and 10 with under 2 minutes in the half, Carlson blocked the edge rusher on the left side, but allowed the defender to practically bull-rush him into the QB. His leverage was not sound on the block. The TE looked like he pushed the edge rusher off the ball on his first block of the 2nd half, but the ball carrier tried to take the run up the middle and the DE slipped the block to make the tackle. Good pass blocking and hand fighting on a screen pass where the QB had rolled behind his blocking before delivering the ball across field. Good awareness at the end of the 3rd QTR to allow the DE to take himself out of the play with his own momentum--Carlson was able to keep the DE at a standstill for two seconds before he ripped by the TE. Carlson then made some quick lateral steps and pushed the DE forward so the defender couldn't turn the corner towards the QB.

Vision

Power

He can lean for extra yardage and break arm tackles.

Durability

Lost for season in November with a knee injury. No surgery required for the knee, but couldn't play.

Character

No known issues.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

82

Can physically break jam [2pts]:

Yes

Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:

Yes

Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:

Yes

Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:

No

Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:

No

Runs precise routes [5pts]:

No

Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:

Yes

Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:

Yes

Awareness of sideline [2pts]:

Yes

Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:

Yes

Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:

Yes

Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:

Yes

Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:

N/A

Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:

N/A

Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:

N/A

Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:

Yes

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Yes

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Yes

Avoids direct shots [1pt]:

Yes

Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:

No

Effective lateral movements [1pt]:

No

Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:

N/A

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

N/A

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

N/A

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Yes

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:

No

Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:

Yes

Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:

N/A

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:

No

Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Yes

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

N/A

Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:

Yes

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:

N/A

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

Yes

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

Yes

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

Yes

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Yes

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: John Carlson

Date: 9/1/2007

Opponent: Georgia Tech

Overall Strengths:

Carlson is a sound run blocker at his position. He will likely make an NFL team because he is effective as a blocker on the line of scrimmage. He can drive a bigger man off the ball or wall him off on run plays. He's also just quick enough to be a decent lead blocker on some motion plays or runs where he is coming out of the backfield like an H-back. As a receiver, Carlson has soft hands and can snatch the football. He demonstrates sound awareness of where he is on the field as a receiver and can find the soft spots in the zone. He has an excellent shot to be a 2nd tight end and depending on the offensive system and whether he can improve his athleticism, Carlson has the chance to start for a team after a few seasons. He's definitely more fluid than Jeff King, the VaTech TE who came out two years ago and is now starting for the Carolina Panthers.

Overall Weaknesses:

Carlson doesn't have elite speed at the position and his routes need refinement in order for him to be a threat in man coverage. He is at best an average runner after the catch in terms of power, acceleration, elusiveness, and long speed. He is multidimensional as a TE, but at this stage his blocking will be valued higher than his receiving.

Separation

His acceleration does not appear extraordinary. His game as a receiver is more about exploiting zone coverage. Although he was split wide or placed in the slot, the placement was designed for Carlson to serve as a decoy or blocker on screens or draws. Georgia Tech bracketed Carlson with an LB in the middle and a safety over top. The Notre Dame offensive line had problems with Tech's front seven who blitzed frequently, so there wasn't a lot of time for Carlson to run deeper routes, either.

Routes

He needs to learn to run his routes with greater economy of movement prior to making his break. He telegraphs his breaks with unnecessary movement. If he were a quick wide receiver these movements might work for him occasionally, but not for someone 6-6 and 250 who appears to be of average speed.

Receiving

He caught his first pass with his hands while facing the QB on a crossing route. His next catch came on the next play on a come back at the sideline. He reached over his head to snatch the football and then adeptly dove under the oncoming DB to get across the first down marker. Good awareness of the situation and field position. His final catch of the day was on a busted play where he caught the ball facing the QB on an intermediate come back 12 yards downfield. They also kept Carlson in to block after ND's QBs were sacked five times in the first three quarters.

Elusiveness

Nice job diving under a tackler on his second reception with 7:00 in the 3rd QTR. He is not someone that will fake out a defender with fancy footwork, but he has some fluid athleticism in tight spaces.

Ball Handling

He demonstrates sound ball protection skills. He really didn't have many opportunities to run the ball further than 3-4 yards after the catch. He did get hold onto the ball when hit and there was one play where he fell yard after getting his legs taken out from under him and he still held onto the football.

Balance

Carlson tried to separate from the DB after catching a crossing route, but the safety took out Carlson's legs and he couldn't maintain his balance.

Blocking

On the first play of the game, Carlson was split away from the line in the spread formation. He did a good job of shielding the outside defender on a QB run to the left side of the formation for a 7-yard gain. Carlson did take a good angle to the defender, but he stayed with his man and got in the way well enough for the QB to run by them untouched. He is capable of getting his pads low and into the defensive end or linebacker and driving the man away from the LOS as he did on a 1st and 10 run on the second possession of the 1st QTR. With 6:38 in the 1st QTR, Carlson did a good job getting his hands in to the body of #90 on a run to his side. The TE was able to drive the DE back to the inside of the formation as the QB gained 5 yards. On the next play, he showed the quickness to get to the outside and get his body on a DB coming free. To open the 2nd QTR Carlson was used as a lead blocker coming in motion. He took on the DB on the edge, took him out of the play and continue to initiate contact after the whistle was blown. Carlson is also an aggressive blocker in the open field on flares to the RB or screens to WRs.

Vision

Power

Carlson is big enough that he can run over a 2nd or 3rd level defender if he gets his pads lower and delivers the blow first. He did not have an opportunity to do this on the three receptions he caught today.

Durability

No known issues.

Character

No known issues.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

88

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Kellen Davis

Date: 12/28/2007

Opponent: Boston College

Overall Strengths:

If there is a TE who can do everything you need from the position in this draft, Davis is it. He has enough speed to compete with LB's and the size to work effectively at the LOS. He has excellent hands and body control as a receiver. He runs good routes and can break the jam at the LOS. He has a chance to develop into a complete player in the NFL and one of the top players in this class.

Overall Weaknesses:

He has speed and body control, but he lacks the agility to make sudden movements in the open field. He will get pushed around a bit at the LOS until he gains a bit more muscle. He's fast, but not elite NFL TE fast.

Separation

Regardless of whether I see him face press coverage, I just watched him do a push-pull and slip to the outside against BC's left tackle on 3rd and 9 with 12:34 and get a half step away from the QB on the play. Playing DE is good training for defeating the jam at the LOS as a TE. Davis was interfered with on a 1st down seam route with 12:19 in the 1st QTR. The LB grabbed him from behind as Davis got a step on him with the ball in the air. He was able to get around the corner on a TE around (who runs this play unless the TE has enough acceleration to take a corner?) for 5 yards. He outran the angle of an LB to get to the corner as well. Davis did a good job of getting 20 yards downfield on a corner route from the TE spot--clean release and good burst of speed. But the ball was intercepted. He showed a nice burst of speed down the right sideline on the short out for 13 yards with 4:50 in the game

Routes

His first catch was an 18-yard touchdown on a seam route where he got a clean release. Good job on 3rd and 4 to run the out route from the slot and get behind the first down marker. Excellent stutter and go route down the middle of the endzone for the 2-point conversion with 6:04 in the game. He forced the LB to bite and then ran past him to catch the ball near the endline.

Receiving

The impressive part about Davis' seam route touchdown was the way he turned his body in the air to adjust to the ball and catch it with his hands at helmet level while falling backwards to the ground. He still caught the ball over his inside shoulder, but by the time he had possession he was facing the QB. Defender #44 got his hand on the football as Davis falling backwards with the ball in his hands, but the TE's hands were strong enough to maintain possession. The actual hit by the defender was also hard enough to Davis that it could have knocked the ball loose but the TE demonstrated excellent concentration. Davis caught a 4-yard out route for a first down. The ball was thrown a bit high and Davis had to turn, jump, and catch the ball with his arms extended above his head. As he caught the ball, the LB leveled him with a perfect form tackle at the sideline and Davis maintained possession and kept his feet inbounds. In fact, he tapped his second foot on the ground after the LB hit him. Very good awareness and it's this play right here that speaks a lot to the small details that a pro-level player needs to be able to make--route depth, awareness of the sideline, concentration, strong hands, and the ability to function despite hard contact. Davis ran a 4th and 7 draft route with 9:35 in the 1st QTR, but the ball was thrown too far to the outside of Davis and the DB in zone jumped the route to hit the ball as Davis was about to get possession. This was more a bad throw than a drop, but I credited it as a dropped after contact. Davis only gained 4 yards on a 3rd and 10 with 12:50 in the half, but the ball was thrown high and in the path of the LB who was coming over the top of Davis' back to hit the ball. Davis still held onto the football despite the hit. Davis ran a clean corner route but the DB jumped the route perfectly to intercept the ball. Excellent body control to go up an catch the ball with his hands at helmet level while in mid-leap and then turn his body away from the defense as he was landing and still get both feet inbounds even after getting pushed. He caught the ball over two defenders in the area. He caught a quick out at the LOS with 4:50 in the 4th QTR and gain 13 yards on the play down the right sideline.

Easiness

Good job carrying the ball under his sideline arm during the TE-around with 11:15 in the 1st QTR. He did the same with 4:50 in the 4th QTR.

Ball Handling

Balance

Blocking

Davis was matched with the LCB on a 2nd and 5 run with 12:12 in the 1st QTR. He did a good job getting off the line quickly to lock onto the CB and drive him back 3 yards before the CB realized the RB had broken through the line and began to release from the TE by running backwards. But by this point, the CB was well out of the play. He completely bullied the CB on a run play with 6:19 in the 1st QTR. He pushed the CB backwards by 5-6 yards. He came in motion and with 5:00 in the 1st QTR and blocked down on the LB off the edge to seal the corner for the RB. He did a good job getting his hands into the chest of the LB and turning him away from the RB. He probably got away with a hold as the LB tried to pursue and Davis stayed with the block, but because his hands were in the middle of the player's chest the officials rarely call this form of blocking a hold. Davis was used as a pulling lead blocker on a run with 8:00 in the half, but he didn't spot his man quickly enough and missed the block. Good pass block on the DE with 4:50 in the 3rd QTR. He got into the pads of the opponent and steered him to the outside.

Vision

Good patience to follow his blocks on a TE-around with 11:15 in the 1st QTR.

Power

Durability

Character

Davis plays part-time as a pass rushing DE. He had 12 tackles and 2 sacks coming into this game, nearly getting a backside hit on Matt Ryan on 3rd and 9 with 12:33 in the 1st QTR after slipping his block with an outside rush--excellent quickness.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

85

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Martellus Bennett

Date: 9/20/2007

Opponent: Miami

Overall Strengths:

Bennett is a very aggressive run blocker who can handle a defensive end straight up. This may not be the case in the pros right away, but he does demonstrate good hand placement, leverage and tenacity to drive a man off the ball consistently. He catches the ball well with his hands extended from his body. He knows how to adjust his body to get to the football. He is powerful after the catch and has decent straight-line speed. He's a former basketball player with the physical aggressiveness to develop into a strong starter at the TE position. His ability to block and catch the football makes him a coveted prospect, he has a chance to develop into a Gates or Gonzalez like player but I'm not sure he has the speed and quickness to match them.

Overall Weaknesses:

He has to learn to defeat press coverage. He didn't demonstrate the ability to catch the ball in tight coverage in this game and did not make smart decisions protecting the football when he ran with it.

Separation

Good clean release on a 3rd and 4 from a short yardage formation. He avoided two defenders to get the clean release, but the QB couldn't find him. They lined Bennett wide on 3rd and 7 with 3:50 in the half. The Miami DB played press coverage and got a good jam on Bennett. He did not position his body well enough on the route after the jam and the DB ran through the TE to force a tipped pass and interception on the play.

Routes

He does a pretty decent job of breaking off his routes with a fair degree of sharpness. He ran both a short and out and short in route where he demonstrated the ability to make a pretty sharp break for a man his size. Bennett's 2nd catch came with 10:15 in the 4th QTR. He motioned across the formation, blocked the DE then released on a drag route to the left side.

Receiving

Bennett's first catch was out of the slot as a part of 3 WRs on the strong side of the formation. He ran a short in-route, caught the ball 2-yards past the LOS on 3rd and 6 and dragged two Miami defenders 3 more yards with :13 in the 1st QTR. The QB rushed his second pass under pressure and the ball was intended for Bennett but thrown too wide of the TE. Bennett caught his second pass on a drag route to the left. He caught the ball while running to the left and angling his upper body back to the QB, catching the ball with his hands at helmet level. Bennett's TD came with :05 in the game when the contest was already out of reach. The QB scrambled to buy time as Bennett ran down the seam and sat in the end zone. The throw was a 33-yard pass (about 45 in the air) and Bennett leaped to the highest point to catch the ball with his hands and keep his feet inbounds to score the TD. Good body adjustment, awareness of the end line, and hands.

Eisiveness

Ball Handling

Bennett carried the ball under his right arm regardless of where he was running. He actually switched the ball to his right arm on a 1st and 10 catch with 10:15 in the game when he was turning the corner to the left sideline. A DB literally hit his ball carrying arm on the play. He had enough strength and technique to maintain possession.

Balance

Blocking

He was tenacious with his block on the backside of a running play against DE Calais Campbell. He did hook the DE a bit towards the end of the block, but in the beginning he was able to turn the DE's back to the sideline. He demonstrated the same tenacity on the right side two plays later. This time he didn't give ground or allow the DE to get any control until the play was over and Bennett was still fighting hard. He made a very key block on a run to the left corner on 4th and 1 to open the 2nd QTR. He engaged the LB and drove him toward the line as the QB ran past for a 1st down on the option. He pancaked an LB on 2nd and 5 with 8:40 in the 3rd QTR and when the LB got back up, Bennett continued to harass the LB until the whistle blew

Vision

Power

Bennett is a big, powerful runner after the catch with enough mobility that he can break some tackles in the open field. He dragged a DE and LB for 3 yards on a 3rd and 6 reception with :13 in the 1st QTR. A DB bounced right off Bennett on a catch an run for a first down with 10:15 in the game. This is not a player a DB will bring down with a hit above the knees.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

85

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
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- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

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Category Scores

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Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Martin Rucker

Date: 10/6/2007

Opponent: Nebraska

Overall Strengths:

Rucker has excellent hands and the ability to gain yardage after the catch. He runs hard and has the ability to plant and cut in the open field, rare for a college tight end. He adjusts well to his QB under pressure and shows awareness of how to get open in zone coverage when a play breaks down. He demonstrates good leverage as a run blocker on DBs and LBs. Rucker should become a viable receiving option for an NFL team along the lines of a Mercedes Lewis or Desmond Clark with better blocking skills and more power as a runner. In the right system and with additional work, he could become a productive receiver and frequent option for a pro QB.

Overall Weaknesses:

He doesn't play a lot as a part of the offensive line and will need to work on pass protection techniques and continue to improve upon his solid, run blocking. He is a good athlete and has the speed to challenge a defense downfield, but not the breakaway speed of a WR after the catch.

Separation

Rucker's first catch came out of the slot formation where he ran a 5-yard hitch into the open area of zone coverage. Rucker was often split wide or in the slot in the spread offense. He only lines up as a TE in short yardage or goal line situations. On the first drive, he did line up as the TE on a 1st and 10 with 11:55. He got a clean release but he was bumped 5 yards downfield and there were two LBs playing zone in the middle of the field. Rucker saw his QB roll and ran towards the right sideline, getting good depth behind the LBs in zone. Rucker drew double coverage by the Nebraska defense when he was operating out of the slot at the 1-yard line with 11:05 in the 1st QTR. Rucker had a size advantage on a post route in the endzone against a DB, but the QB overthrew the pass--too much air under the ball. Rucker did a good job getting even with the DB as the ball was in the air. His acceleration isn't great, but it's better than average for a tight end and he can turn the corner on an LB in space to get downfield.

Routes

Rucker did a good job adjusting to his QB on a 1st down with 11:58 in the 1st QTR. He ran another 10 yards downfield and towards the sideline so he could get behind the LBs in zone and the QB hit him for a completion at the 1 yard line. Most of his routes were crosses, screens, and short routes in zone coverage. He didn't have to demonstrate superior route skills in this game against tight coverage where getting in and out of breaks were required for him to get open. His time was good on short routes and out of respect for his long-striding speed and height, DBs and LBs played 5-9 yards off him at the LOS to keep him in front of them so the QB couldn't use his height as an advantage to get deep on them in coverage.

Receiving

His second catch was a on 3rd down on the opening drive. He ran a 5-yard out from the slot and caught a ball thrown very low and behind him for the first down. Rucker's 3rd catch was on a very good adjustment to zone coverage and his QB rolling to the right to elude backside pressure. He caught the ball with his arms extended over his head while making a good adjustment with his body on the pass thrown behind him. He was nearly able to score by turning towards the goaline and stretching his body as he was falling. It looked a Lynn Swann highlight in terms of the reception. A very athletic play. He had another smash screen with 13:38 in the game where he had to catch the ball of the carpet in front of a safety and a and LB--good concentration and ability to get low. He gained 10 yards on the run after the catch.

Elusiveness

Rucker demonstrated the ability to plant and cut as a runner downfield and make a DB miss on a smash screen with :10 in the 3rd QTR. He dipped to the inside, then cut back outside to make the DB completely miss who had the direct angle on Rucker before the cut. Rucker displayed a nice lower body wiggle to set up the LB on a fake field goal, shovel pass reception and run for a score.

Ball Handling

He carries the ball in either arm has as a runner and demonstrates good protection of the football as a runner.

Balance

Rucker showed very good balance on his second grab, a low and away throw on a 5-yard out where he was hit as he was pulling the ball into his body and rising up to run. He still managed to bring his body upright and power out of the tackle before diving forward for another 5 yards. He gained 10 yards on another smash screen to open the 4th QTR where he ran out of an ankle tackle to get another 8 yards on the play.

Blocking

On a 1st and 10 with 13:50, Rucker lined up in the slot on the left side of the spread formation with a receiver in the QB position. The WR took the snap and ran around left end with Rucker getting into the body of the LB and turning him into the LOS where Rucker knocked him to the ground using his height and weight as leverage. Rucker motioned across the formation on a 1st and goal from the 1 as a run blocker on a QB keeper. He overran his assignment on the OLB, who cut inside at the last minute. Good job blocking downfield and standing up his man on a designed run out of the spread near the goal line with 5:38 in the half. Good job sustaining is block on a DB downfield on a reverse for a huge gain with 12:07 in the 3rd QTR. Rucker was a good 25 yards downfield sustaining this block as the WR eventually passed him. Good job shielding off the LB in the slot to create a lane for his QB to score with 11:08 in th 3rd QTR on a keeper from a few yards out.

Vision

He played QB out of a short-yardage, double-diamond formation (two guards and a center in the middle and two tackles split wide with the receivers) and ran for a first down with good patience in the middle of the field to follow his blockers. He showed excellent vision and patience on a smash screen with :10 in the 3rd QTR. He followed the wall forming to the outside and cut it to the inside hash for a first down and more.

Power

He is a mismatch against DBs due to his size, but also broke the tackle of an LB in space and nearly maintained his balance for a much bigger gain. On his long gain off a smash screen to end the 3rd QTR, Rucker stiffarmed a DB in the openfield and ran through a tackler, knocking him down, before he fell over. He ran very hard after this catch for an 18-yard gain.

Durability

He broke his fibula in high school as a senior and tore his labrum as a junior.

Character

Rucker was told he had a 5th round draft status prior to the season. He spent the summer studying Jeremy Shockey, among others, to learn more about his position.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

78

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Martin Rucker

Date: 12/1/2007

Opponent: Oklahoma

Overall Strengths:

Rucker is a good receiver who adjusts to the QB and catches the football with his hands. He has adequate quickness to gain yardage after the catch and make smaller men miss in the open field. He also has the strength to drag smaller players for extra yardage. He has good body control and can adjust to the ball in the air. His height makes him a nice weapon out of the slot, split wide, or in the red area.

Overall Weaknesses:

He's a bit of an overrated prospect for several reasons. He plays in a spread offense with extremely advantageous match ups. He doesn't show the same power against linebackers after the catch. His speed is average for a TE, at best. He is a much better blocker against DBs than he is against LBs and DL's. He doesn't generate the same power against the 1st and 2nd level defenders. He is unproven getting a good release from the LOS as a true TE. Because he's a slower 'tweener WR/TE, his prospects aren't as great as some consider. He could develop into a good starting TE if he improves his blocking and releases from the LOS, but he won't be an instant impact player in a traditional NFL offense.

Separation

Rucker has decent speed for a tight end. He was able to gain 25 yards on a smash screen. The play was extremely well-blocked with a lineman kicking out to seal the inside of the lane and the WR holding down the lane at the sideline. Rucker could not outrun the safety in pursuit to get the corner, but he was fast enough to get all the yards the blocking could provide.

Routes

Rucker's first catch was a 17-yard reception off a crossing route. When the TE realized no one was covering him in the middle zone as he broke across field, he did a very good job of increasing his depth on the route. He ran a decent route that started inside and then went back to the outside from his slot position with 3:31 in the 1st QTR. He ran routes one would see more often from a slot receiver than a TE--crosses, smash screens, and short hitches. He did not have to face any opposition on his releases from the line of scrimmage.

Receiving

His first opportunity was a swing pass from the slot, but the ball was thrown low and behind the TE, landing incomplete. He caught his first pass on a crossing route with his hands. Rucker nearly held onto a low throw on an out from the slot position with 3:31 in the 1st QTR. He had tight coverage on the play and as he was dropping to his knees to catch the ball thrown low and away, the DB from the outside was able to knock the ball from Rucker's hands. Rucker was overthrown on a 2nd and 10 with 14:04 in the half after scrambling around and still under pressure. He caught a 7-yard out with 2:00 in the half with his hands and gained another 6 yards, dragging three defenders in the process. Rucker snuck into the right corner and was wide open off the double reverse pass for the 2-point conversion which he caught with his hands at a standstill in the end zone. His first catch in the 2nd half was a crossing route from the slot moving right to left. He caught the ball with his hands and gained an extra 7 yards after the reception for a 15-yard gain and a 1st down. He nearly dropped the ball on a reception off a crossing route with 3:32 in the game, but managed to hold on after the DB from over top hit him where he tucked the ball. Good job adjusting his crossing route with 3:08 in the 4th QTR to get open for his scrambling QB. He gained 7 yards on the play.

Easiness

A nice stop-start move at the sideline after catching a crossing route to make the DB over pursue. He ran past the DB for the first down and another 11 yards.

Ball Handling

Nice job keeping the ball tucked under his right arm on his reception and run for 17 yards with 5:34 in the 1st QTR. He carried the ball with his right arm on a crossing route towards the left sideline.

Balance

Good balance as he carried three defenders downfield on his catch with 2:00 in the half.

Blocking

On 2nd and 10, Rucker was split wide right to serve as the lead block for a WR screen. Rucker got his body on the DB, but could not maintain position and the DB got around Rucker to tackle the WR in the backfield for an 11-yard loss. On the next series, Rucker was split wide to the left and had to make the same block on the same man on the same play call. This time he got into the DB's chest and drove him from the numbers to the sideline--pancaking him in the process. Very good job. Rucker was one of two blockers on a WR screen to the right side with 6:22 in the 1st QTR. The TE began the play double-teaming the DB, but saw the LB coming from the inside and peeled off the DB to put a helmet on the LB. Good awareness and technique on the play.

Vision

Good job spotting the lane to the left flat on a smash screen that he took 25 yards for a 23-yard gain.

Power

Rucker used his left arm to reach across his body to maintain his distance from the DB on his right side after the TE put a stop-start move that allowed the receiver to cut past him. Rucker gained 6 yards after catching a 7-yard pass with 2:00 in the half by dragging two, then three, players with his size advantage. He was actually face masked at the end of the play. Rucker once again demonstrated his power against DBs on a crossing route with 2:25 in the 3rd QTR. He dragged the DB another 5 yards to gain 15 on the play. The real question here is whether he'll be able to do this against linebackers. In this offense, Rucker is put in the slot and draws a DB as his coverage rather than a fast LB. Will he show the same power 1 on 1 with an LB. Thus far he's either faced DBs or an undersized LB and has overpowered them. In fact, he became very tentative on a turn around that he took for 7 yards but didn't get the first down because he did aggressively finish the run when he had to take on two LBs in the open field. He tip-toe's and doesn't lower his shoulders to deliver a hit. It's why he can drag a DB for extra yardage, but not break the tackle.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

88

Can physically break jam [2pts]:

Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:

Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:

Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:

Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:

Runs precise routes [5pts]:

Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:

Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:

Awareness of sideline [2pts]:

Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:

Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:

Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:

Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:

Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:

Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:

Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:

Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

Avoids direct shots [1pt]:

Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:

Effective lateral movements [1pt]:

Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:

Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:

Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:

Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:

Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:

Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:

Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:

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

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:

Missed Target:

Drops:

Juggles:

Dropped After Contact:

Rec:

Rec After Contact:

Difficult Rec:

Rec Yards:

Yards After Catch:

Yards per Catch:

Rec Tds:

Yards per Td:

Rush Att:

Rush Yds:

Rush Tds:

Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:

Routes Score:

Receiving Score:

Elusiveness Score:

BHandling Score:

Balance Score:

Blocking Score:

Vision Score:

Power Score:

Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Mike Peterson

Date: 12/8/2007

Opponent: Grand Valley State

Overall Strengths:

Peterson is a very athletic tight end with good after the catch skills as a runner. He has an impressive burst for his size and definitely has the body to line up on the line of scrimmage but also the speed to be used effectively in the slot. He made good blocks on linemen and linebackers when lined up on the line of scrimmage.

Overall Weaknesses:

I only saw him in one situation where he had to get a release against a defender jamming him at the line of scrimmage although he did a good job and also show this ability to not far down the field on other routes. He doesn't have elite speed and he often body catches balls. He did not have any situation where he had to use his athleticism to catch a ball or ran any routes where the ball was going to be delivered in tight coverage or where he had to catch it over his shoulder. So the jury is still out on whether he can make the tough catches that are routine in the NFL. If so, he can be a productive starter. If not, he still has a shot to be a solid role player with occasional receiving productivity.

Separation

Peterson was met off the line on a 3rd and 8 with 12:33 in the opening quarter by two defenders trying to jam him. Peterson was able to break the jam and get open on a corner route for a reception. Good burst off the line of scrimmage by the TE on 3rd and 12 with 2:51 in the 1st QTR. He got into the cushion of the LB very quickly and was wide open on his break at the first down marker. His burst is surprising for his size. He outran two tackles on this play and got an extra 19 yards due to his speed on the play. On his circle route with :35 in the half, Peterson has his jersey pulled, but used his hands well to knock the LB's hand away while on the run. Good job on a seam route getting inside release on the LB and using his outside arm to defeat the jam on the run.

Routes

Nice circle route across the middle of the field after releasing from the backfield with :35 in the quarter. He did a good job to present a good target and stay underneath the 2nd level of the defense but ahead of the line. Peterson got good depth on a crossing route to open the 3rd QTR with 13:04. He came off the line untouched and had a half yard step on the LB covering him, but the ball was overthrown.

Receiving

Peterson caught the ball 18 yards downfield on a 3rd and 8 with 12:37 in the opening QTR. He was facing the QB and caught the ball with his hands as a DB was racing head-on to hit him. He maintained possession, but had it stripped trying to gain extra yards. With 4:00 in the 1st QTR, the Bearcats tried a TE screen to Peterson, but the defense got great penetration into the backfield and gang tackled him for a loss. On this pass he let the ball get into his body rather than catch it with his hands. His third catch was also body caught. His fourth catch was a circle route and he caught the ball with his hands close to his body for a 5-yard gain with :35 in the half.

Elusiveness

Ball Handling

The safety got his hand in the crease between Peterson's elbow and the ball and yanked it out as Peterson was fighting for more yardage. He did a better job on his 3rd catch downfield with 2:51 in the 1st QTR to carry the ball with both arms for extra yardage while in traffic.

Balance

Good balance one on one against tacklers. It seems to take multiple players to pull him down, but I haven't seen anyone hit him in the legs yet. He took a short comeback in the middle of the defense and gained another 5 yards with the secondary gangtackling him.

Blocking

He has shown some good skills as a lead blocker for the RB on a few running plays in the 1st and 2nd quarter. He routinely got his hands into the chest of the defenders and drove them backwards. He missed a block on a penetrating safety on the RB's 8-yard TD in the 3rd QTR. The RB got a good jump on the snap.

Vision

Power

Peterson was hit on his first reception and he put his free arm into the chest of the safety to spin him around and drive forward for a few extra yards, but the safety had his right hand on the ball and stripped it. He does not go down easily--it generally takes more than one player to take him down. He ran through two tackles on his 3rd catch at the 43 yard line on 3rd and 12 with 2:50 in the 1st QTR and the stiff armed the DB at the 50 and finally chased down at the 38.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

91

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
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Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
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Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
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Rush Tds:
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Separation Score:
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Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Mike Peterson

Date: 12/15/2007

Opponent: Valdosta State

Overall Strengths:

Big, fast, receiver with good hands. Peterson is an adequate blocker as a lead blocker and has a knack for releasing to routes after establishing contact. He runs a bit like a fullback after the catch. This is a player who has a chance develop into an H-back early in his career with greater potential to be an every down tight end.

Overall Weaknesses:

He needs more work on his run blocking as far as sustaining blocks and technique.

Separation

Excellent job shoving aside the OLB to release into a drag route after setting up the play action with a block with 5:20 in the 1st QTR. Once again, very good job blocking the DE on a play fake from the 3 yard line to the RB then releasing the DE by throwing him aside to get into the flat for a score. He has reportedly run a 4.5-40 for NFL scouts prior to the combine. He definitely shows the ability to get downfield and is often split to the outside.

Routes

NW Missouri State likes to employ two strategies with Peterson. One is to split him in the slot or outside and the other is for him to run plays where he sets up the route by beginning the play as a blocker. He is good at engaging as a blocker then slipping the block on short screens or drag routes.

Receiving

His first catch was off a drag route with 5:20 in the 1st QTR. He turned back to face the QB and caught the ball with his hands first before turning up field for another 3 yards. He got a first down on a drag route for 6 yards with :40 in the half. Peterson got behind the secondary on a 1st and 10 corner route with :30 in the half. He turned back to the QB while continuing to run down the sideline before catching the bal because he was so open. He consistently caught the ball with his hands regardless of the distance of the throw.

Elasticity

Ball Handling

Nice awareness to pick up a fumble in the open field on 3rd down with 10:07 in the 3rd QTR.

Balance

Good balance on his 6-yard reception to take a hit to one leg and maintain his footing well enough to lean forward for another 2-yards on his first reception.

Blocking

Peterson is a physical blocker with good technique. Of course, he is facing some pretty undersized players at this level of college football, so it would be good to see him against competition more relevant to his size and athleticism. Peterson did a good job leading the way on a 4th down block with 10:00 in the 3rd QTR for the RB to get the first down. He was able to turn his defender on the corner on a short run with 3:30 in the 3rd QTR, but couldn't sustain the block.

Vision

Power

He dragged a couple of tacklers a few extra yards on his 32-yard gain with :24 in the half. He was a tailback in high school.

Durability

Character

Was a junior college baseball player who had a shoulder injury. He left school and worked with his father on the docks before going back to school. Is 25 years of age.

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

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Overall Score:

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Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Peyton Hillis

Date: 1/1/2008

Opponent: Missouri

Overall Strengths:

Hillis is a versatile player who could be a FB, TE, or H-back. He's not as fluid a player as Jason Witten or Chris Cooley, but he can catch the football and take a hit doing it. He has enough speed and quickness to get 10-15 yards downfield and make plays. He's a pretty good blocker and runs with balance and toughness. Hillis could produce surprisingly good numbers in the right system due to his ability to run, catch, and block.

Overall Weaknesses:

I doubt Hillis will be a consistent producer in the NFL if he has to line up as a TE not split from the LOS. He looks like he has maximized his size potential and he's not as powerful or elusive as Brian Leonard, so I think his best position will remain at FB. If he's a TE, it will be in a capacity where he comes in as an extra receiver.

Separation

Good separation on the corner route against the LB with 12:12 in the game. He got more than a step on the LB after his break.

Routes

He has pretty good quickness in and out of his breaks for a FB/TE prospect. Good depth on a 3rd and 6 in route beneath the zone. He was close enough to the marker to simply turn his body upfield for the 1st down. Good circle route out of the backfield for a 4-yard reception with :55 in the half. He did a good job continuing the route when he found himself near the official.

Receiving

He caught a throwback split wide to the right and tried to deliver a pass downfield to Monk, but he was hit in the legs while in the act of throwing and the ball landed short. His second catch was a short swing pass that he caught over his inside shoulder with both hands and turned up field for 4 yards and the first down. Good catch on an in route and using his body to shield the ball from the zone defenders over top. He caught the circle route with his hand near his body with :55 in the half for 4 yards. Hillis was lined up in the slot on 2nd and 15 with 11:14 in the 3rd QTR and ran a short crossing route when the covering DB blitzed. The QB overthrew the pass and Hillis was only able to get his outside hand on the ball as he dove for the pass. He was open on a 14-yard corner route that he caught over his inside shoulder with his hands and turned up field for 20 yard before he fumbled the ball after a hard shot head-on by the DB. Excellent concentration on a 2d and 11 wheel route coming in motion out of the backfield where he caught the ball over his inside shoulder 12 yards downfield and was hit with a forearm shiver by the safety over top. He still held onto the ball.

Elusiveness

Ball Handling

Excellent job switching the football to the sideline arm as he saw the inside LB coming across the middle for the hit on his 12-yard gain off the in route with 11:38 in the half.

Balance

He spun out of a hit in the backfield with 5:25 in the game, but was triple-teamed after breaking this first tackle.

Blocking

Nice kick out block after going in motion to help lead the way for Jones to get the edge on a swing pass to start the first offensive series of the game. From the I-formation with 14:07 in the 1st QTR he got very low and took out the LB on the right side, putting him on the ground. He made a fine, stand up block on the OLB with 5:15 in the 1st QTR to allow his RB Jones to run through the ally in front of Hillis before the LB released from Hillis tackling the RB for a 4-yard gain. Good leg drive and locking his hands into the breastbone of the LB. he made a great cut block that opened the corner for his RB on a 1st and 10 run with 13:02 in the half. He took the defender's legs out from under him. Well timed. Hillis sealed off the corner as the lead blocker on a sweep for Jones with 4:30 in the half. The RB gained 23 yards on the play after exploiting this lane created off the cut block that just moved the DB away from the lane. It was just a bump to the leg, but it was enough.

Vision

Good job dipping to the outside of the line for a 13-yard gain on 4th and 1 with 5:40 in the game.

Power

Hillis powered forward on a FB dive for 4 yards and continued to lean forward after a hard shot to his thighs. He did the same thing for a first down with 5:30 in the 3rd QTR up the middle.

Durability

Character

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

83

- Can physically break jam [2pts]:
- Can use elusiveness to break jam [2pts]:
- Uses body to shield defender from the ball [3pts]:
- Creates separation with burst out of breaks [5pts]:
- Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes [2pts]:
- Runs precise routes [5pts]:
- Finds opening in zone coverage [5pts]:
- Adjusts to QB when play breaks down [3pts]:
- Awareness of sideline [2pts]:
- Catches ball with hands first [5pts]:
- Adjusts to the ball in the air [2pts]:
- Catches ball well with back to the line of scrimmage [2pts]:
- Catches ball in tight coverage [5pts]:
- Catches ball in high traffic areas [3pts]:
- Consistently holds onto the ball when hit [4pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to make difficult catch [1pt]:
- Makes receptions on catchable balls consistently [5pts]:
- Effective lower body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
- Avoids direct shots [1pt]:
- Effective stop-start movements [1pt]:
- Effective lateral movements [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ability to carry ball with either hand [1pt]:
- Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
- Maintains control of ball when hit [5pts]:
- Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:
- High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
- Maintains balance when hit from an indirect angle [2pts]:
- Demonstrates effort with assignments [2pts]:
- Demonstrates willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [2pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to get lower than defender and drive forward [3pts]:
- Demonstrates ability to move laterally and shield defender from target [2pts]:
- Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [1pt]:
- Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pts]:
- Leg power and drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
- Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
- Good body lean/Finishes runs [1pts]:
- Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [2pts]:
- Missed fewer than 10% of games [1pt]:
- Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
- No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
- No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career [5pts]:

Game Stats

Target:
Missed Target:
Drops:
Juggles:
Dropped After Contact:
Rec:
Rec After Contact:
Difficult Rec:
Rec Yards:
Yards After Catch:
Yards per Catch:
Rec Tds:
Yards per Td:
Rush Att:
Rush Yds:
Rush Tds:
Fumbles:

Category Scores

Separation Score:
Routes Score:
Receiving Score:
Elusiveness Score:
BHandling Score:
Balance Score:
Blocking Score:
Vision Score:
Power Score:
Durability Score:

The Gut Check's TE Scouting Analysis

Name: Robbie Agnone

Date: 12/8/2007

Opponent: S. Illinois

Overall Strengths:

Agnone is a valuable receiver with good hands and the ability to stretch the field. He has sound skills as a run blocker and pass blocker. He runs a variety of routes very well outside and inside the hash marks.

Overall Weaknesses:

He needs to develop more consistency in tight coverage. He is not a fluid runner after the catch. He has good straight line speed, but he's not a dynamic runner.

Separation

Excellent job on the touchdown to set up the playfake by blocking the LB and sustaining it for a 3-count before releasing into the flat. This was just as important as the playfake by the QB. Agnone routinely lined up in the slot in 4 WR sets. On 1st and 20 with 9:05 in the 3rd QTR he showed enough speed to get into the 3rd level of the defense on a seam route which he caught for a 47-yard gain. He did a nice job using his hands to create more space as he ran past the trailing LB

Routes

Agnone did a nice job staying alive for Flacco on a 3rd QTR pass by trailing along the end line as the QB was under pressure and delivered a ball that nearly got to the TE, but the DB made a diving play to tip the ball before it arrived. Very nice job getting downfield and open in the 4th QTR on a deep in

Receiving

Agnone was wide open in the left flat after a terrific playfake by the QB. He turned his upper body back to the QB and caught the ball with his hands before running into the endzone untouched from 10 yards out. They executed the same play with 6:55 in the half and it worked again for a gain of 6 yards. He dropped a deep in with 9:30 in the game. The ball hit him in the hands, but the safety coming across, yanked his arms to separate the ball as the TE tried to bring it in. He did catch a seam pass for a 15-yard gain that was rocketed to him between two defenders. Good concentration.

Elasticity

Ball Handling

Good job carrying the ball with his left arm and maintaining good protection.

Balance

Blocking

Agnone does a good job getting his hands into the body of his opponent and driving him off the ball. He did this from the 2-TE set with 10:00 in the half to create a huge gap for his RB, although the back didn't run through it. He effectively walled off the LB on a 3rd and 2 play with 7:32 that prevented the backside pressure from getting to this QB on a touchdown pass.

Vision

Power

Durability

Character

Agnone is also a transfer from the university of Pittsburgh.

Glossary Of Scouting Criteria

Accuracy

Accuracy is a simple concept: Is the ball placed where it needs to be on a particular type of throw. The key is the type of throw. Is the player on the move while throwing? How much distance does the throw cover? Does he place the ball in a position for the receiver to have the best chance to catch the ball while minimizing the risk of the defender making a play? NFL defenses have the time and players to more effectively game plan for a quarterback try to force him into throws that are of greater difficulty for him to complete with a high degree of accuracy.

High completion percentage—at least 60%: This is the magic number for a quarterback to be considered accurate from a statistical perspective. College statistics often reflect the lower quality of competition in comparison to the pros, and a quarterback that doesn't have starter talent on the professional level often accumulates great numbers in a pass-friendly system. Texas Tech has been an example of such a system. Nonetheless, a player deserves credit for being able to complete this high a percentage of passes and many of these quarterbacks play in pro style offenses and have elite talent. **Point Value: QB (4).**

Accurate ball placement on deep routes: When a ball is thrown a distance of 35 yards or greater, and:

1. The throw is placed either to lead the receiver to catch the ball in stride.
2. Intentionally thrown behind the receiver when the DB has good position in front of the player.
3. The pass is thrown to a spot where only the receiver can make a positive play.

Peyton Manning and Brett Favre throw the deep routes with accuracy. Favre makes riskier decisions, but both signal callers had outstanding success in the deep passing game. Yet the deep throws are the riskier plays in the passing game and aren't attempted as often as other plays. **Point Value (2).**

Accurate ball placement on intermediate routes: When a ball is thrown a distance between 15-30 yards, and:

1. The throw is placed either to lead the receiver to catch the ball in stride.
2. Intentionally thrown behind the receiver when the DB has good position in front of the player.
3. The pass is thrown to a spot where only the receiver can make a positive play.

Kurt Warner, Trent Green, and Marc Bulger possess excellent timing and accuracy with intermediate routes. All three played in pro systems that relied on this skill. This area of the field is where a pro quarterback has to be accurate in order to move his offensive down the field consistently. **Point Value (5)**

Accurate ball placement on short routes: When a ball is thrown a distance of under 15 yards, and:

1. The throw is placed either to lead the receiver to catch the ball in stride.
2. Intentionally thrown behind the receiver when the DB has good position in front of the player.
3. The pass is thrown to a spot where only the receiver can make a positive play.

Some of the more difficult passes for a quarterback to throw are short routes because of the touch, placement, and quick delivery necessary to execute the throw. Most NFL starting quarterbacks have an accurate short game. **Point Value: (5)**

Displays accuracy with throws rolling to the left or right: A quarterback that can throw on the run—either on a designed roll out or breaking the pocket while under pressure—presents multi-dimensional threat to a defense. Most quarterbacks can throw a decent pass of reasonable distance (20-35 yards) with accuracy when rolling to the side of their throwing arm. Fewer quarterbacks are this accurate with throws off a roll to the side opposite of their throwing arm. Defenses generally try to force a quarterback to his weak side when pressuring the pocket. Steve McNair does a very good job throwing the ball on the run, especially to the opposite side of this throwing arm. **Point Value: QB (2)**

Arm Strength

Arm strength has many meanings for a quarterback. The first thing people think of is how far can the quarterback throw the ball. A quarterback with an adequate arm strength in the NFL can throw the ball at least a distance of 40 yards. The next factor that is at least equally important is how hard a quarterback can throw the ball. Several spots on the playing field require a hard throw for a completed pass. For instance, many red zone passing plays require the quarterback to throw the ball hard and into a tight space because there is less room for the offense to operate. Most of the great quarterbacks of the modern era had great arm strength: Dan Marino and John Elway are two examples. In contrast, Joe Montana had adequate arm strength, but he could still make all the requisite throws.

Demonstrates velocity on deep routes: When a quarterback can throw the ball 40 yards downfield with a lot of speed and little arc, he has good velocity on this throws. A ball that hangs too long when in the air gives the defensive backs in coverage enough time to adjust to the open receiver and break up a certain reception. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Demonstrates distance on deep routes (more than 40 yards): There are a few reasons 40 yards is the magic number for distance. First, most safeties play between 15-20 yards off the ball when in standard coverage. A 40-yard pass adequately stretches the defensive formation and helps create a cushion for the offense to execute run plays and shorter passes. A completed 40-yard pass also radically changes field position for an offense regardless of where they were on the field. Plus, the optimal timing and distance where a receiver can get separation and throw doesn't hold up their stride is around the 40-yard mark. Finally, the quarterback generally has a little less than 3 seconds before the pocket breaks down. If the average NFL receiver runs forty yards downfield in 4.4-4.5 seconds, the quarterback has about half that time to release the ball. A throw requiring greater distance often requires more time in the pocket, which is consistently difficult to obtain. **Point Value: QB (1).**

Demonstrates velocity on intermediate routes: Many NFL throws require a high level of velocity so the quarterback can release the ball last minute and prevent the defensive back from having a chance to make a play on the ball as it hangs in the air. A quarterback with good arm strength makes it more difficult for a defense because he has fewer discernable weaknesses as a passer for them to exploit in a game. **Point Value: QB (5).**

Balance

Balance is a core factor in effective ball carrying. It is the combination of good foot and body placement, agility, and awareness of one's physical space. A player with good balance can adjust to the force of a hard blow and not fall over. Football players are trained to maintain their balance when facing most head-on collisions with a defender, but special players have the rare ability to keep their balance when the direction of the blow or placement of the blow to the body is difficult to prepare for the collision, or react to its force. Although an extreme example, Barry Sanders frequently demonstrated throughout his career that a low pad level, uncanny anticipation of defensive angles, and great balance could defeat the backfield penetration of a player with a significant height-weight advantage. Despite Sanders' examples

of performing this to the extreme, not falling down when hit is still the basic expectation. As a receiver, Herman Moore possessed great balance in and out of routes adjusting to the ball, and as a ball carrier after the catch.

Demonstrates the ability to maintain balance when hit head-on: It doesn't matter whether the player caught his fall with his free hand and staggered forward for a few more yards or the opposing defender slid off him like a bug hitting a car's windshield on a stretch of highway, when a runner keeps his footing after receiving a head-on hit to the chest, waist, or legs he has effectively demonstrated this level of balance. These are the types of one-on-one battles a runner is expected to win if matched up with a player of comparable size. **Point Value: RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates the ability to maintain balance when hit from an indirect angle: The same concepts of balance apply in this situation as they do with a head-on collision. The difference is the defensive player's angle to the ball carrier. When a player can maintain his footing when hit from behind or the side, he is demonstrating this high level of balance. Barry Sanders and Terrell Owens have shown this skill with the ball in their hands. **Point Value: RB (7), WR (2), and TE (2).**

Demonstrates high performance in adverse conditions: When a ball carrier can run in wet, muddy, or icy field conditions and maintain his balance as if he were in good conditions, he earns credit for this skill. **Point Value: RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Ball Handling

The category of *Ball Handling* incorporates a number of skills ranging from the most fundamental to the highly advanced. A superb offensive skill player not only demonstrates the ability to protect the ball while the target of 11 defenders, but also can use the ball to trick the defense with misdirection plays and allow his teammates more room to execute plays. Peyton Manning is a fine example of a quarterback that takes good care of the ball and can trick a defense with his play-fakes.

Demonstrates the ability to carry the ball in either hand: The preferred technique is for the runner to carry the football with the ball in his arm that is closest to the sideline—otherwise known as “the outside arm.” The reason for this technique is to safeguard the offensive in case of a fumble, because the likelihood of the ball leaving the field of play—and the offense retaining possession—is higher when the ball is jarred loose from the ball carrier's outside arm. Sometimes a runner is better off switch the ball to the arm opposite the on-coming defender, so he meets the defensive player's blow with his side that his not carrying the ball. A runner that shows the ability to switch the ball to the appropriate hand as he is running earns credit for this skill. **Point Values: RB (3), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges: One of the more fundamental parts of being a running back is the expectation of consistently handling the variety of hand offs, pitches, or toss plays between himself and the quarterback. A high percentage of turnovers begin with the RB having difficulty establishing control of the ball during the exchange. **Point Value: RB (3).**

Consistently effective with hand offs: See above, but apply this more toward the quarterback's ability to get the ball accurately and consistently into the back's hands. **Point Value: QB (1).**

Handles center exchange effectively: Again, one of the most fundamental points to playing a position. The quarterback is expected to handle snaps that reach his hands, and to field shotgun snaps within reasonable range of his body. One muffed exchange in a game does not constitute a problem, nor does more than one in a game with poor weather conditions. But a

quarterback that has difficulty with easier snaps does not earn credit for this skill. **Point Value: QB (4).**

Demonstrates ball security while running: The ideal way to carry the football is with the ball tucked between the arm and chest with the elbow locked into the body. This technique makes it difficult for an opposing defender to knock the ball away from the runner's body, regardless of the angle. While the ball does not need to be tucked against the runner's chest, the elbow needs to be tucked tight enough to the body that there is no air between the arm, the ball, and the body. If there is a gap, the player's level of ball security is inadequate for the pro level. Giants RB Tiki Barber had a huge deficiency with ball security throughout much of his career, but he has recently learned the ideal technique. Barber has now become one of the most reliable ball carriers in football for the past two seasons. **Point Value: RB (3), WR (3), TE (3), and QB (1).**

Maintains control of the ball when hit: This skill has a lot to do with both a player's ball carrying technique, and comfort level with physical contact. Short of a perfectly placed hit to the ball, the runner should be able to maintain possession of the ball from the time he receives it until the whistle blows. Marshall Faulk had a great track record for maintaining control of the ball in these situations while in the prime of his career. Quarterbacks have a lower point value, because they are more often subject to plays to his blindside while in the act of throwing the football—the expectation to maintain control from this type of hit is lower. **Point Value: RB (7), WR (5), TE (5), and QB (3).**

Maintains control of the ball in adverse weather conditions: Most players experience some difficulty maintaining possession of the ball under duress when playing in harsh weather, but the ones that can avoid this type of negative play are a cut above. Quarterbacks have a higher point value for this area because they handle the ball on every play and the team has a higher expectation for them to maintain control of the ball regardless of the weather. **Point Value: RB (1), WR (1), TE (1), and QB (3).**

Effective demonstration of play fakes: Many quarterbacks execute play fakes in their offense, but the ability to set up the fake and sell it to a defense is the result of consistent attention to detail and practice. An effective play fake forces the defense to consider the ball has been handed to another player. A quarterback accomplishes this task when he maintains the same body language with the play fake as he does handing off the ball. This means he has to cultivate the type of body language on his hand offs that sets up his play action game. Selling the play action pass requires the signal caller to follow through on all the small motions of the hand off and then hiding the ball from the defense's line of site to cultivate the illusion. He can accomplish this feat by turning his back to the defense with the ball in his chest, or hiding the ball behind his back as he finishes the appearance of an exchange with the runner. If the quarterback simply lowers the ball, but doesn't turn or lower his body in the way he would actually hand the ball to the runner, he is not providing an effective play fake. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Blocking

Skill players block for the run and pass on a limited basis, but if the play is to have a high level of success, their assignments are as important to execute as those of their teammates on the offensive line. A skill player's attitude towards blocking can also speak a lot to the way they approach the game overall:

1. Comfort level of with hitting
2. Courage
3. Teamwork
4. Understanding of the offense

Blocking is generally the one of the key skills where top prospects need the most refinement before they make the transition from college start to NFL starter. A good blocker sees the field much earlier than his peers with a similar level of talent in other facets of their game. Edgerrin James is a consummate pass blocker as a running back that makes excellent diagnosis of assignments and is regarded as an aggressive, physical hitter on blitz pick-ups. Hines Ward is a receiver that understands how his blocks can turn 15 or 20-yard runs into 50 or 60-yard touchdowns. He also searches out ways to attack the defense after he has successfully completed his first assignment on the play.

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments: Diagnosing the correct assignment occurs most often with backs and tight ends in the passing game where they face blitzes from multiple players from one side, delayed blitzes, or twists and stunts. The back should try to block the pass rush from the inside first and work his way to the perimeter, rather than react immediately to the rusher coming off the edge. Receivers rarely have to stay in to block on a pass play and are not graded on this skill because most blocking assignment are direction in front of them at the line of scrimmage. **Point Value: RB (1).**

Demonstrates effort with assignments: As mentioned before, college prospects generally need a lot of work with their blocking techniques upon entering the pros. If the back, receiver, or tight end demonstrates they are attempting the correct technique or they make the effort to physically attack their block, the player is awarded credit. Players that flop at the feet of a pass rusher or demonstrate a clear lack of effort to sustain a block on plays coming to their side of the field are not giving the desired effort. **Point Values: RB (3), WR (2), and TE (2).**

Demonstrates the willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays: This willingness illustrates not only a high level of football awareness and the desire to hit, but also unselfishness towards making that extra effort for the overall success of the team. Quarterbacks are generally asked to shield the defender from the play by flopping at the feet of their assignment—mainly to protect their offensive leader from injury. This is not usually the case with the other skill positions—especially receivers that are expected to open up the secondary for their teammates. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (2), and TE (2).**

Demonstrates the ability to get lower than the defender and drive forward: The tight end is the extension of the offensive line, and is counted on to deliver quality blocking on running plays. The ability to use good blocking technique and physically control his opponent on running plays or passing plays is a sign that the tight end has potential to be an every down threat, and not just a situational player. **Point Value: TE (3).**

Demonstrates the ability to move laterally and shield the defender from the target: A receiving threat at the tight end position can be effective on many plays if he just shows good feet and the skill of getting in the way of his opponent's path to the ball. **Point Value (2).**

Character

The category is not graded into the total, but more of an indicator of well-known positives or negatives about a player on and off the field. I am more interested in game film study than private investigation, so I don't do extensive hunting for off field information. This category places equal weight towards performance factors on the field.

High effort player regardless of situation: Players that show determination, persistence, and a belief in their talent despite the situation turn out to be desirable leaders. Sometimes this can be evident when a player's team decides to discount his ability to be a quality starter and leader despite initial success and limited opportunity (Drew Brees). Other times the adversity that shows the player's character comes from the team falling behind in a contest and the player leading his team to a come from behind win with his inspiring play. **Point Values: QB (2), RB (2), WR (2), and TE (2).**

Maintains poise and/or demonstrates a high level of performance in pressure situations: The best teams find players that are confident enough to play with poise and produce when the game is on the line. There are stars and role players that possess these traits. Robert Horry has numerous championship rings as a basketball player and though he was never the primary or even secondary offensive weapon on an NBA team, his ability to repeatedly deliver big baskets in high stakes situations earned him the moniker *Big Shot Bob*. WR Ricky Proehl has never been a star, but his play as a Ram and Panther have propelled both teams to Super Bowl appearances. This point also has to do with players not losing their cool and making mental or emotional mistakes in pressure situations. A player that cuts into the middle of the field in a two minute drill when they had a clear opportunity for a first down, run out of bounds, and stop the clock did not maintain his poise as much as a player that loses his cool, and commits a personal foul after a key play. **Point Values: QB (2), RB (2), WR (2), and TE (2).**

Demonstrates willingness to sacrifice for the welfare of the team: This can be a player laying his body on the line to absorb a big hit, play with a risky injury in a big game to make a big contribution, or even volunteering to play a different role than desired to make his team better. Ronnie Brown and Cadillac Williams could have been starters at different universities, but neither transferred schools. Instead they brought the team together with their ability to work as teammates and led Auburn to an undefeated season in 2004. **Point Values: QB (1), RB (1), WR (1), and TE (2).**

Clean public record throughout college career: A player that has made the news for being arrested, subject to team disciplinary action, or poorly representing himself or his school in the media is a player with future potential issues based on this track record. These problems if they recur, can potentially cost an NFL franchise money, team chemistry, wins, and a good relationship with their community. **Point Values (if scored as "no."): QB (-5), RB (-5), WR (-5), and TE (-5).**

Decisions

This is one of the key areas where a quarterback entering the NFL has the most to learn before he becomes an effective starter. The speed of the game is significantly faster. Offensive systems in the NFL are far more complex due to the greater volume of plays and the fact defenses do a lot more to confuse a quarterback than in the college game. One can understand why learning how to make the right decision with split-second timing may be a time-consuming process, but one of ultimately great importance for long term success. Some NFL quarterbacks learn enough to limit their mistakes and allow their enormous physical talents to outweigh their occasional recklessness (Favre and Elway). Others learn to consistently make the best decision for the situation (Montana and Brady). Good decision-making has a lot to do with awareness of quarter, down, and distance situations, and reading defensive tendencies prior to the snap and while he is dropping back into the pocket.

Avoids throwing into double coverage: The quarterback has an understanding of the defense to identify where there will be single coverage, and choose the best option on the play. When the quarterback is under pressure, he doesn't try to force the ball into double coverage when the situation doesn't dictate an attempt out of desperation. **Point Value: QB (5).**

Looks off defenders in coverage: A skilled passer can manipulate the defense to react to where he is looking downfield. A savvy quarterback can spot a cornerback looking into the backfield and then provide the defender a false impression of what he intends to do with the route. Even more often, he'll look off the safety to create an opening for his primary receiver. **Point Value: QB (3).**

Effective use of pump fakes: In the same vein as looking off a safety, the ability to fake the motion of throwing in a particular direction forces the defense to react in the direction of the

fake. The pump fake provides the quarterback more time to look downfield or it creates more space for his receivers to operate in the coverage. A good pump fake doesn't always require a full follow through. In fact, some of the better fakes occur with both hands on the ball. Rich Gannon developed a quality set of pump fakes as his career progressed. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Spreads the ball around to receivers: A quarterback that reads the defense and avoids locking onto the primary receiver with every play is already on his way towards becoming a quality NFL quarterback. Staring at the receiver as he runs his route before throwing the ball invites multiple defenders to make a break on the route and intercept the ball. On the other hand, a quarterback that will rely on all his receiving options, and avoid being predictable in the situations where he throws a specific receiver's way, is much more challenging to a defense. When a quarterback ends the game with at least five receivers with multiple receptions, that player has demonstrated the skill of spreading the ball around to his offensive skill players. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Makes effective adjustments at the line of scrimmage: An effective adjustment before the snap of the ball occurs when the quarterback spots the intentions of the defense and changes the play to exploit its weakness. This can involve changing a run to a pass, a pass to a run, the offense's formation, or a particular route of a receiver. These adjustments often create game-changing plays and keep the defense guessing as to what will happen next. Peyton Manning may be the best at pre-snap adjustments in today's NFL. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Delivery

The delivery is how the quarterback throws the ball beginning with his set up, including the placement and speed of his release point, and ending with the quality of the throw. A quarterback should be able to throw a catchable football with a quick release and from a variety of angles without a long, awkward delivery.

Capable of delivering the football effectively from a variety of release points: The traditionally acceptable release point is almost directly over the head, but closer to the ear of the quarterback's throwing arm. For a quarterback of average height, this allows the ball to start its trajectory at a high enough point to travel over the line of scrimmage. Still, there are common situations where a quarterback must be able to release the ball at a ¾ delivery, side arm, or in some other way in order to get the ball around opposing players and to the open receiver. Brett Favre has demonstrated his effectiveness throwing from a variety of release points and this enhances his ability to make plays under pressure inside the pocket or on the move. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.): A well-thrown spiral travels with better aerodynamics and is easier for a receiver to catch without fighting it. Throwing the ball with the necessary velocity and arc for the situation also makes the receiver's job easier. A ball thrown the wrong way in the wrong situation can not only result in a missed opportunity but also generate a turnover. Joe Montana didn't have a gun for an arm, but consistently threw a football that was one of the easiest for receivers to catch. He knew when to throw the ball softly, when to put a lot of arc under a pass, and when to throw the football into a narrow area with zip. **Point Value: QB (5).**

Quick release: A quarterback that can get the ball out of his hands quickly has a great advantage over the defense because he can wait until the last possible moment to throw the football. This allows the quarterback to keep the defense guessing and they don't have the opportunity to react to in time to defend the throw. A quick release also allows the quarterback to stand in the pocket for a longer period of time, or throw routes that require a last minute pass in order to avoid tipping off the defense. Dan Marino had one of the more idea deliveries of a football among pro quarterbacks. The Dolphins quarterback had one of the

quickest releases in history and despite his lack of mobility was one of the toughest quarterbacks for defenses to sack. **Point Value: QB (4).**

Compact delivery: When a quarterback can throw the ball without a significant wind up, he protects the ball from pressure in the pocket and has more time to scan the field before committing to a receiver. The other part of the equation that made Marino tough to defend was his compact delivery. **Point Value: QB (4)**

Durability

The category for durability is designed to measure the player's ability to play with pain, overcome injury, and determine if he has any chronic issues that may prevent him from reaching his full potential as a pro. Some injuries are more a test of the player's work ethic than they are career-threatening occurrence. Others test both their recuperative powers and character. More players slide in the draft due to injury history than most any other factor about them.

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play thus far in college career: If the player has missed more than 10% of his chances to play because of injury then it speaks to either the severity of the injury, or possibly a low pain threshold in comparison to his peers. **Point Value: QB (1), RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates ability to perform at a high level while playing with an injury: Several players will suit up with injuries, but not all demonstrate a level of performance that makes them more than a decoy in the offensive scheme. Hines Ward demonstrated his ability to be a playmaker as a senior at the University of Georgia when he starred at quarterback in the Peach Bowl versus Virginia while playing with his jaw wired shut. **Point Value: QB (1), RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Without chronic injuries throughout college career: A chronic injury is when a player has an injury more than once to the same body part while in school. While the injury could be minor and have little effect on the player as a pro, it is something worth checking out because as the player ages, these small chronic injuries can take longer to heal. Marc Bulger was a quarterback evaluated as a first day talent, but his durability was a concern. Bulger's career has reflected this evaluation: a pro bowl talent, but has missed a significant number of games already. **Point Value: QB (1), RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Without injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career: These injuries are the most serious issues because they often cause the player to lose some amount of speed, athleticism, or strength for at least a short-term period, if not the remainder of his playing career. Second year runner Frank Gore had first round talent, but major injuries led talent evaluators to question whether he'd ever approach the same level of productivity in the pros as he demonstrated at full health and as a prep star and collegian. **Point Value: QB (7), RB (7), WR (7), and TE (7).**

Elusiveness

Elusiveness is the skill of avoiding contact. If a runner demonstrates he can use his ability to change direction, or drive the opposing defender off balance to either, avoid a hit or the full impact of a hit, and still manage to make forward progress, he possesses an adequate amount of elusiveness to his running style. There are several techniques ball carriers use to avoid hits. Some runners have all the techniques in their arsenal and can keep defenders off balance with an endless variety of moves, while others may only have a few effective moves in certain situations.

Displays effective lower body jukes without coming to a complete stop: These are the skills of using moves while on the run that fool the pursuing defender. These moves include the stutter-step; spin moves, or *giving and taking away a leg* (when the runner creates the illusion to the defender that the tackler has a good angle on the grabbing the runner's leg but is just being set up to miss if he shoots for it). Barry Sanders and Marshall Faulk used these moves to perfection. **Point Values: RB (3), WR (2), and TE (1).**

Displays effective upper body jukes without coming to a complete stop: Head fakes, shoulder fakes, and dips are the most common upper body moves runners use to lure the defender into breaking down too early in one-on-one situations in the open field. Sayers and Chuck Foreman used a lot of upper body movement to throw off an opposing defender. Since receivers spend more time in the open field, upper body moves generally have greater value to their overall game. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (2), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates the ability to avoid direct shots: This category is less about moves and more about a runner's tendency to avoid the full force of a big hit. Most feature backs with higher than average longevity either aggressively deliver blows to the defense or understand how to avoid receiving them on a consistent basis. Corey Dillon and Curtis Martin are backs that never seemed to take big hits throughout their careers. **Point Values: RB (7), WR (2), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates effective start-stop movements: The ability to come to a full stop and change direction is a start-stop movement. The best start-stop moves require few steps, if any, to come to a full stop, which makes the move more sudden and difficult for a defender to adjust while in pursuit. Sanders, Emmitt Smith, and Ladainian Tomlinson all displayed terrific start-stop moves as runners. **Point Values: RB (2), WR (2), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates effective lateral movement: Lateral movement is otherwise known as making cuts—sharp changes of direction to the left or right while still in stride or not losing much speed. There are several kinds of cuts. Backs like Barry Sanders, Jamal Anderson, and Priest Holmes made jump cuts where they appear to be able to plant both feet and hop away from on-coming defenders as they take off in a different direction. Most backs are able to plant one foot and change direction while on the run with some degree of effectiveness. A back with good cutting ability can plant and side step a defender that has telegraphed his angle. A back with even better lateral movement can cut across the backfield to take advantage of a lane opening up on the opposite side of the formation in which the play was intended to go. Some of the best backs of all time were able to make dramatic cuts with minimal steps and without slowing down. Gale Sayers could cut at a 75-80 degree angle at full speed on a mud-caked field. **Point Values: RB (3), WR (2), and TE (1).**

Pocket Presence

Pocket presence takes the qualities one often finds in a good leader: courage, intuition, and wisdom. The general public often mistakes the concept of a mobile quarterback as a player with running back skills. There is no argument that a signal caller with this level of running ability can wreak havoc on a defense. But if that player cannot adjust his position in the pocket while keeping his eyes downfield and maintain a position where he can release the football without having to reset his feet, then he becomes more of a liability. First and foremost, a quarterback has to sense the pressure and possess a good internal clock about the time he has to scan the field before making a decision. His decision should be dictated by his desire to make the best play for his team in the context of the game.

Moves effectively in the pocket to buy time: A quarterback with good pocket presence side-steps pressure while keeping his eyes downfield. He doesn't sacrifice his stance to the degree that he cannot make a quick, accurate throw. Less experienced quarterbacks can drop their head and attempt dramatic, elusive moves to avoid pressure, but they wind up committing to running the football because they lose their bead on the receivers. A

quarterback with good mobility and pocket presence understands when to roll out and when to make a slight adjustment with either the upper body or legs to elude the rush. I'd argue that Tom Brady is much better at eluding pressure in the pocket with a completed pass as the end result than Michael Vick, the most elusive quarterback in football. Both have outstanding win-loss records, but Brady is more dangerous because he can distribute the ball for a big play under intense pressure. Vick's plays under pressure more often have an all-or-nothing result. **Point Value: QB (7).**

Willing to take a hit and deliver the ball at the last second: A quarterback has to exhibit the patience to deliver the ball at the right time for some plays to be successful. A quarterback that will stand in the pocket and deliver a throw at the last second while knowing a defender is bearing down on him is often rewarded with a completion to a receiver breaking free from single coverage for a big play. This is how the quarterback exhibits his comfort level with physical play and where he can lead by example. Steve McNair, a quarterback with excellent mobility throughout his career, has regularly exhibited the courage to take the last-second hit to complete a long touchdown pass. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Senses pass rush: A quarterback should have an internalized mechanism that tells him when the pocket is about to break down and dictate when to take evasive action. This is much like a running back's vision—some players are more instinctive than others—but the difference is the quarterback may have to use more than his sight to feel the pressure. John Elway and Fran Tarkenton were great at sensing the rush. Elway reportedly could hear the blindside pursuit as well as use his peripheral vision to see the progression of the shadows to gauge when to break the pocket. If you watch his highlights, he often eluded backside pressure that would have resulted in a sack or fumble with most quarterbacks. **Point Value: QB (3).**

Willing to throw the ball away to avoid sacks: This is one thing most quarterbacks have to learn when they enter the NFL. The competitive fire to make a play often takes over, and they attempt to keep the play alive—often to the detriment of a sack or turnover. In most down and distance situations, throwing the ball away is a preferred alternative for a pro quarterback under pressure. Peyton Manning is one of the more patient signal callers in the NFL. While one of the most aggressive downfield throwers in football today, he is among the best at knowing when to throw the ball out of bounds. His throws are often in a safe range of a receiver to make the catch with giving the defense a chance to make the play. Manning understands how to keep his team in the game with minimal risk. **Point Value: QB (2).**

Power

Simply put, *Power* is a football player's ability to move forward when a defender presents himself as a physical obstacle attempting to stop his progress. The variety of methods a player can use to address this obstacle and how effectively he can overcome what impedes him determines the player's overall score within this category. Walter Payton's style of play epitomized the techniques of a power runner. The fact Payton was not a big back illustrates the point that power often has as much to do with aggression, leverage, and determination as it does size and momentum.

Displays leg power to drive through arm tackles: To get a positive score, the ball carrier must consistently demonstrate the ability to run through, or pull away from a defender's attempt to grab the runner's body. The defender may be of any size, and an attempted arm tackle is to grab any part of the ball carrier's body to bring him down. If the runner cannot make forward progress by running past the attempt when grabbed, he does not receive credit. If the player trips from an attempted arm tackle to the legs but the defender could only manage to hit the leg, ankle, or foot but not hold on through the tackle, then the player still receives credit. A demonstration of consistency is for the runner to exhibit this skill on at least 75% of the chances a defender has to arm tackle him in a game. Walter Payton is the best example of a runner that uses this technique as well as the stiff-arm, and initiating contact. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Displays effective stiff-arm: To receive a positive score, the ball carrier must be able to extend his arm and make contact with the defender. At this point, he must either maintain his space from the tackler and keep the defensive player away from his body, or knock the player backwards. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates ability to initiate contact, run behind pads, and punish defenders: These are the techniques an aggressive runner uses when they anticipate contact. Ball carriers lower their heads or shoulder into a hit, or initiate the hit with a forearm adequately demonstrates this tendency. Effective use of these techniques not only makes the runner more difficult to tackle, but the ball carrier takes less punishment than he delivers—wearing down the defense's will and stamina. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates good body-lean when finishing runs: It is a fundamental point of coaching for a runner to fall forward for extra yardage as a defender makes the tackle. In addition, a low pad level with the shoulders leaning forward and the knees bent gives the ball carrier a leverage advantage in a collision with another player. The advantage often translates into extra yardage after contact. Edgerrin James may be the best active runner in the game when it comes to his ability to stay low, and gain extra yardage upon contact with a defensive player. **Point Values: RB (3), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner: Often known as a runner that "dies hard," this is a ball carrier that succeeds moving forward after a hit or an attempted tackle. The amount of yardage gained isn't part of the criteria—as long as the initial hit does not permanently halt the player's forward progress. Several backs are known for their ability to gain yards after contact. Clinton Portis and Corey Dillon have been known for this skill though their style of play is often a study in contrast because Dillon is far more physical a player than Portis. Still, Portis is a productive back in a power offense. **Point Values: RB (7), WR (2), and TE (2).**

Receiving

There are many possible things to lump under the category of receiving. For the sake of establishing clear, criteria, the checklist format considers receiving:

1. The act of catching the football
2. The adjustments a player must make with the ball in the air
3. How consistently the player makes a reception in lieu of their immediate environment

Wide receivers and tight ends generally run more intricate routes and encounter more complex coverage than runners, so their checklists split out routes from receiving skills. Runners on the other hand, simply have a more generic route-running category grouped with their overall skill as a receiver.

A consistent target in the passing game: This point only applies to runners. If the back is targeted on average 3-4 times per game, he is a player coaches want to use as a weapon in the passing game. Brian Westbrook epitomizes a back that is seen as major part of his team's passing attack. **Point Value: RB (3).**

Runs precise routes: This only applies to the RB checklist because the variety of routes for backs to run in most passing games consist of swing passes, passes to the flat, screen plays, circling out of the backfield over the middle, and the occasional wheel route deep. Most of the routes require the back to run to a general area, sit down in a zone of space, and wait for the throw. **Point Value: RB (1).**

Catches the ball with hands first/Consistently catches ball with hands without juggling: A good receiver understands the best way to bring in a pass with optimal control

over the ball is to catch the ball with one's hands first, and arms extended away from the body. A receiver that uses his hands first, has a greater chance to make a successful second effort on a ball he can't initially control. In contrast, a player that catches the ball with his body has to deal with a more violent ricochet if he doesn't gain initial control. In addition, a receiver that catches the ball with his hands naturally establishes a wide area for the quarterback to throw a catch-able pass. The basic technique of catching a football is to have one's thumbs up when catching a ball at least chest-high, and thumb's down with passes thrown lower. Although some backs are a major part of the passing game with some NFL team's the type of throws made to the backs don't place optimal expectations on hands technique because they are seen as long hand offs. Torrey Holt has excellent catching technique. **Point values: RB (1), WR (5), and TE (1).**

Demonstrates the ability to make the difficult catch: There are a number of ways to define a difficult catch. Tight coverage where the defender(s) have the advantage, passes that require an acrobatic effort, or receptions that require excellent skills at tracking the ball in the air such as over the shoulder grabs up the center of the field and the ball thrown directly over the receiver's head. Think Brandon Lloyd or Randy Moss when imagining these catches. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Catches ball well with his back to the quarterback/line of scrimmage: Several routes are designed so the receiver can catch the ball while heading up field to gain maximum yardage. A receiver that can turn back from the waist while on the run or catch the ball over his shoulder can maximize the space between himself and the coverage on a well-thrown ball. Torrey Holt and Isaac Bruce made these types of routes into an art form in the Rams offense. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Consistently makes receptions on catch-able balls: This is the primary job of a receiver. The definition of a catch-able ball is anything not defined as a difficult catch. Certainly the ball is catch-able even when the reception is difficult to make, but a good way to re-phrase this point is to say *does the receiver make the easy catches*. Marvin Harrison is a model of consistency. **Point Values: RB (3), WR (7), and TE (7).**

Adjusts to the ball in the air: The receiver can leap, extend his arms, or turn his body to create the best opportunity to catch a ball. Backs are rarely required to run routes where they have to make these types of adjustments to the ball. Randy Moss and Chad Johnson make this look easy. **Point Values: WR (2) and TE (2).**

Catches the ball in tight coverage: The receiver can make a reception when a defender is close enough to disrupt the pass with his body, shield the throw from the receiver's line of sight, or to jar the ball loose with a blow to the receiver. Larry Fitzgerald and Keyshawn Johnson are receivers that have been well known to present themselves as big targets in tight coverage and shield the ball from their competition. **Point Values: WR (5) and TE (5).**

Catches the ball in high traffic areas: This is a case where the receiver can be wide open but is catching the ball in a space where linebackers and defensive backs are within range to hit him with a running start shortly after he makes contact with the ball. This is the ultimate display of courage and concentration for a receiver. Michael Irvin made a living on these throws throughout his career. **Point Values: WR (3) and TE (3).**

Consistently holds onto the ball when hit: It may seem logical that this point could be grouped with the point above, but there are numerous situations where a receiver is in no danger of absorbing a hard hit but still fails to maintain control of the ball after the defender makes contact. Once again, this point illustrates the player's concentration and comfort level with physical play. Hines Ward and Larry Fitzgerald fit the mold here. **Point Values: WR (4) and TE (4).**

Routes

If the concept of gaining separation is about *how* to run and turn in order to get open, route running is more about the awareness of *where and when* to run and turn. Running effective pass patterns takes precision and timing. It also takes awareness of how the defense and offense are reacting to each other before the snap. A great route runner with awareness of the game (Steve Largent, Cris Carter, and Art Monk) can have a very long career at the receiver position because he relies less on speed than his peers to get the job done.

Runs precise routes: A precise route requires timing and good footwork because the pass patterns are often designed to be in sync with the quarterback's drop. If the receiver does not get to the desired spot in time, the quarterback has to hesitate and the result can be a misfired throw or a sack. In addition to timing, a good route covers the required distance to gain the intended yardage. A coach calls plays that match the game situation in terms of down and distance, and the pass routes have a lot to do with the choice. When the intended distance of the route is run within the expected amount of time, the receiver is most likely catching a well-thrown pass thrown at the precise moment when the quarterback finishes his drop. Isaac Bruce is a terrific route runner that makes the more challenging intermediate routes look easy. **Point Values: WR (7) and TE (7).**

Finds the opening in zone coverage: Sometimes getting to the open area isn't as much about creating the space with precision and timing, but with an understanding of where the natural opening occur within a defensive formation against a specific offensive play. This is what it means to find the "soft spot" in zone coverage—a coverage type where the specific defenses cover an area as opposed to a specific offensive player. Tight ends are frequently asked to find the soft spot and *sit*—in other words, face the quarterback and provide a big, easy target for him. **Point Values: WR (5) and TE (5).**

Adjusts to the QB when the play breaks down: Offensive football has become such a refined aspect of the sport, but there is still a fair amount of improvisation because defenses are equally prepared for what they encounter in a contest and render the original intent of the play ineffective. When this happens, receivers are coached to break off their routes. They either make their way back to the quarterback, or modify their routes to run in a direction that provides the signal caller a downfield option. Whether or not this is coached on a regular basis, a quality receiver has established a rapport with his quarterback to alter his route and make himself the best possible target for his teammate trying to make a throw under pressure. Keenan McCardell and Rod Smith continue to make a living in the NFL because among other things, they do a great job getting to the right place at the right time for their quarterback. **Point Values: WR (3) and TE (3).**

Awareness of the sideline: Most people associate a receiver's awareness of the sideline as being able to catch the ball with both feet in bounds. This is part of the equation, but not all. It also has to do with the receiver using the sideline to his advantage when running a pass route. On deep routes, a receiver that keeps enough distance between himself and the sideline is actually creating more cushion for him to back away from a defensive back in tight, inside coverage, and gaining more room to make a catch while in bounds. In contrast, a receiver may use the sideline and his body as natural barriers to prevent the defensive back from making a break on the football. **Point Values: WR (2) and TE (2).**

Scrambling

Technically speaking, scrambling is more about the ability to keep the play alive behind the line of scrimmage with the intent to complete a pass, but I'm gauging it more to skills used to gain positive yardage as a runner. Clearly John Elway and Fran Tarkenton, two quarterbacks I mentioned earlier in this category, were excellent runners and it was the same skill set they used to buy time to throw the ball. There is an entire range of running threats at the quarterback position. Michael Vick is a breakaway threat that can score from anywhere on the field. A quarterback like Jake Plummer can outside the pocket to gain first downs in long

yardage situations, but is more of a classic scrambler. Matt Hasselbeck and Ben Roethlisberger have the type of mobility to gain yards when the play breaks down, but more as a last resort.

Effectively gains yards when breaking the pocket: When the quarterback chooses to leave the pocket either on a roll out with the option to run, designed sweep, or a quarterback draw, he should demonstrate the speed, elusiveness, and/or power to gain positive yardage expected from a primary ball carrier. Jake Plummer, and a healthy Steve McNair and Daunte Culpepper possess these type of skills **Point Value: QB (2)**.

Effectively gains yards when the pocket collapses: When the quarterback is forced to run because of pressure that forces him up the middle of the field or to the perimeter, he should be able to avoid the sack and gain at least a small amount of positive yardage (2-3 yards). An example of a player that shows an adequate level of skill in this area is Tom Brady. The Patriots quarterback is not a good runner, but he can more often than not avoid the sack in these situations. **Point Value: QB (1)**.

Capable of breaking big gains as a runner: These are quarterbacks that can break runs of 20-yards or more in either of the two situations described above. Vick, and Donovan McNabb both possess big-play ability as runners. **Point Value: QB (2)**.

Separation

The key component to getting open against tight coverage is the receiver creating space between himself and the defender. The concept of *separation* from the defender in college football differs considerably from the NFL. The saying "If you're *even*, you're leavin'," describes the fact that successful plays are executed in tight spaces in the pros. If an NFL receiver has more than a step on his coverage, this is considered a grand opportunity for the quarterback to complete a pass for a big play, if not a score. Creating separation involves speed, quickness, physical play, and savvy. Hall of Fame receiver, Steve Largent had the speed of a receiver that belonged on the bench, but he was a master at gaining separation on any kind of route—short, intermediate, or long—and this made him difficult for defenses to stop.

Can physically break jam: The NFL uses a lot more press coverage than the college game. Press coverage entails the DB lining up close to the receiver and aggressively initiating contact to delay the receiver from releasing into his route. The strategy is to disrupt the timing in the offense's passing game and afford the pass rush more time to pressure the quarterback. College receivers initially have difficulty beating the jam so the timing or location of the route isn't compromised in the process. They must be able to use a variety of moves to gain a leverage advantage and quickly out-muscle their opponent from the beginning. **Point Values: WR (2) and TE (2)**.

Can use elusiveness to break jam: Footwork, head fakes, and upper body fakes can all contribute to defeating press coverage with a minimal amount of contact. A receiver that effectively varies his techniques has the most success. **Point Values: WR (2) and TE (2)**.

Uses body to shield the defender from the ball: This is one of the best ways to gain separation in tight coverage. On routes such as fades, hitches, or curls the receiver faces the quarterback and uses his back to present a natural barrier between himself and the ball. **Point Values: WR (3) and TE (3)**.

Creates separation with burst out of breaks: Exploding out of cut or break is similar to a runner's ability to accelerate through a hole. The more sudden the receiver is with his breaks, the more effectively he can gain separation on a variety of routes that require a quick turn (curls and hitches) or breaks (digs, outs, out and ups, etc.). Marvin Harrison excels in this

aspect of getting open because he keeps his hips low which allows him to more naturally accelerate in and out of his cuts. **Point Values: WR (5) and TE (5).**

Gains noticeable separation on intermediate/deep routes: Fly patterns, stutter and go routes, streaks, posts, and deep slants are patterns where the receiver creates separation with both acceleration and long speed. Some receivers can get open with “build-up speed.” These players are generally long-striders that take longer to get to top speed, but gain separation as they achieve the top end of their stride. Santana Moss and Steve Smith are receivers with both explosive, short-area acceleration and long speed. Justin McCareins has deep speed but is more of a long-strider. **Point Values: WR (2) and TE (2).**

Speed

A player can be fast in different contexts. *Speed* can be measured over a variety of distances and directions. 40 yards in a straight line is the most recognizable format that people use to measure a football player’s speed. While intermediate to long-range sprinting speed has its benefits, there are other components of being “fast,” as a football player. This includes short area burst—or acceleration—and non-linear speed. It is also a lot different for a player to run fast in conditions when he isn’t in several pounds of pads, hasn’t been hit dozens of times for 45-50 minutes, and his stamina level is less than optimal. Throw in the fact the player running at the combine isn’t being asked to think and react to outside stimuli such as a called play, or opposing defenders trying to take his head off, and there’s a good reason to wonder whether *functional speed* is overlooked in the evaluation process. A football player that can’t make good decisions instinctively is no longer as fast as a player that can react rather than think. This is why players such as Mike Anderson, Michael Irvin, and Priest Holmes have made several big plays throughout their careers but lacked the impressive stopwatch speed at their respective positions.

Demonstrates effective short area burst/Gains separation with burst out of breaks: A ball carrier or receiver that can accelerate to full speed within a short distance and that full speed is fast enough to separate from those still attempting to accelerate in pursuit has an effective short area burst. A player with good acceleration is more likely to gain significant, positive yardage than a player with better long-range speed that needs a bit more distance to achieve the same or better rate. Emmitt Smith was a perfect example of a player that lacked elite stopwatch speed, but possessed great acceleration. **Point Values: RB (7), WR (5), and TE (5).**

Demonstrates the ability to separate from the 1st and 2nd wave of defenders/Gains noticeable separation on intermediate and deep routes: When a ball carrier or receiver can create a tangible space between himself and a pursuing defender during a run or pass route in tight coverage of at least 15-20 yards in length and the defender cannot make a play, this runner or receiver has adequate intermediate to long-range, football speed. The specified distance of 15-20 yards is generally the maximum space between the linebackers and defensive backs and the line of scrimmage. If a player can pull away from players when they get into this area of the field, they have enough long- range speed to be considered a breakaway threat in a football game. Running back Stephen Davis was rarely a threat to break a run of over 15-20 yards, but was still a quality starter for many years, which supports the point that short area burst is in many cases a more important factor. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (2), and TE (2).**

Demonstrates the ability to turn the corner on designed plays to the outside: Running plays to the edge of a defense require a combination of both acceleration and maintaining an adequate level of speed as the player is changing direction on the move. Edgerrin James is no longer a back that can separate from the 1st and 2nd wave of defenders on a consistent basis, but he still has the ability to get to the perimeter of the defense and gain positive yardage. **Point Value: RB (3).**

Vision

Two of the most important factors that separate a talented runner from a talented athlete are the level of comfort he has with physical contact (his heart), and his ability to anticipate and exploit the best places to run with the football (*Vision*). Locating the best place to run requires a runner to vary his rate of speed, set up the blocks in front of him, and move in one direction to exploit daylight in another. Vision requires a high level of intuition and backs or receivers with great vision and strong fundamentals as a runner exhibit a style that is akin to a great improviser in music or the spoken word—instinctive, on the edge, but in control of the moment. Vision is the common denominator among great runners. Gale Sayers, Jim Brown, and Marshall Faulk all had great vision and each had a running style vastly different from each other.

Makes good decisions where to run: This sounds like a very general thing to use as criteria to judge a back, but the concept is that simple. If the play is designed to go up the middle on regular down and distance play, but there is a huge opening off tackle, does the runner attempt to get outside or just ram it into the pile? A good runner often spots the potential hole before the snap, but still makes the adjustment if he sees something better that is within his reach. **Point Value: RB (7).**

Displays patience in traffic (sets up blocks): Although a runner sometimes has to create openings with a physical style in short-yardage situations, a quality ball carrier is capable of waiting for his blockers to reach their assignments before he runs through the opening. The Kansas City Chiefs explain this concept as effectively running through the layers of the defense—something Priest Holmes has been great at doing as a runner. A patient runner will hesitate in his movement to allow a player in front of him to pass or make a play, but is decisive in his actions. A tentative runner will hesitate, but is merely looking for an opening rather than setting it up. An RB has a greater point value for his area than receivers because the nature of his job is to run in traffic with greater frequency. **Point Values: RB (3), WR (1), and TE (1).**

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field: A runner with good instincts and peripheral vision has the ability to alter the direction of his run just enough to prevent a defender in pursuit from catching up to him. The timing and direction of this decision is what makes this open field technique an effective way to make a big play despite the fact the defensive player has exhibited enough recovery speed to get within distance of making a tackle. Gale Sayers was masterful at this type of running. Receivers have a higher point value for his area than backs because they more frequently get the ball in the open field. **Point Values: RB (1), WR (2), and TE (1).**

Draft Value Charts For Dynasty League Rookie Drafts

The values assigned to each pick create a direct relationship between the higher picks and the corresponding point value. If you plot the numbers on a graph it's a classic relationship that you'd see in a math class. This is modeled after the values of a draft chart used in NFL war rooms.

This chart could also help you with re-draft leagues where you can trade picks. For instance, if someone offers you their second and third round picks from the their position in exchange for your 10th pick in the first round, you can see if the values are close enough to consider the deal. For instance in a 14-team league here's how a trade would appear on a draft value chart between the owner offering his 2nd and 3rd round picks from the 4th spot for the owner's 1st round pick from the 10th spot.

Picks 2.04 (201 pts) + 3.04 (101 pts) = 302 pts
 Pick 1.10 = 329 pts

The values are close enough that they should consider the trade. One could even negotiate a 5th round pick and claim that makes the deal less lopsided in their favor and according to the chart they'd be right. Of course if the value is within 20-40 points with picks this high in the draft, one may not want to make a 5th round pick the deal breaker.

Dynasty Rookie Draft Value Chart for an 8 Team League

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4	
1.01	956	2.01	130	3.01	68	4.01	36
1.02	690	2.02	122	3.02	64	4.02	34
1.03	562	2.03	116	3.03	60	4.03	32
1.04	434	2.04	108	3.04	56	4.04	30
1.05	306	2.05	100	3.05	52	4.05	28
1.06	242	2.06	92	3.06	48	4.06	26
1.07	178	2.07	84	3.07	44	4.07	24
1.08	146	2.08	76	3.08	40	4.08	22
3514		828		432		232	
Round 5		Round 6		Round 7		Round 8	
5.01	20	6.01	14	7.01	8	8.01	2
5.02	19	6.02	13	7.02	7	8.02	2
5.03	19	6.03	13	7.03	7	8.03	2
5.04	18	6.04	12	7.04	6	8.04	2
5.05	17	6.05	11	7.05	5	8.05	2
5.06	17	6.06	10	7.06	4	8.06	1
5.07	16	6.07	10	7.07	4	8.07	1
5.08	15	6.08	9	7.08	3	8.08	1
141		92		44		13	

Dynasty Rookie Draft Value Chart for a 10 Team League

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4	
1.01	1028	2.01	164	3.01	84	4.01	44
1.02	772	2.02	156	3.02	80	4.02	42
1.03	644	2.03	148	3.03	76	4.03	40
1.04	516	2.04	140	3.04	72	4.04	38
1.05	388	2.05	132	3.05	68	4.05	36
1.06	324	2.06	124	3.06	64	4.06	34
1.07	260	2.07	116	3.07	60	4.07	32
1.08	228	2.08	108	3.08	56	4.08	30
1.09	196	2.09	100	3.09	52	4.09	28
1.10'	180	2.10'	92	3.10'	48	4.10.	26
4536		1280		660		350	
Round 5		Round 6		Round 7		Round 8	
5.01	24	6.01	15	7.01	9	8.01	2
5.02	23	6.02	14	7.02	9	8.02	2
5.03	22	6.03	14	7.03	8	8.03	2
5.04	21	6.04	13	7.04	7	8.04	2
5.05	20	6.05	13	7.05	7	8.05	2
5.06	19	6.06	12	7.06	6	8.06	2
5.07	18	6.07	12	7.07	5	8.07	1
5.08	17	6.08	11	7.08	4	8.08	1
5.09	17	6.09	10	7.09	4	8.09	1
5.10.	16	6.10.	10	7.10.	3	8.10.	1
197		124		62		16	

Dynasty Rookie Draft Value Chart for a 12 Team League

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4	
1.01	1116	2.01	204	3.01	98	4.01	50
1.02	860	2.02	196	3.02	94	4.02	48
1.03	732	2.03	188	3.03	90	4.03	46
1.04	604	2.04	180	3.04	86	4.04	44
1.05	476	2.05	172	3.05	82	4.05	42
1.06	412	2.06	164	3.06	78	4.06	40
1.07	348	2.07	156	3.07	74	4.07	38
1.08	316	2.08	148	3.08	70	4.08	36
1.09	284	2.09	140	3.09	66	4.09	34
1.10'	252	2.10'	132	3.10'	62	4.10.	32
1.11	236	2.11	124	3.11	58	4.11	30
1.12	220	2.12	106	3.12	54	4.12	28
5856		1910		912		468	
Round 5		Round 6		Round 7		Round 8	
5.01	26	6.01	17	7.01	10	8.01	2
5.02	25	6.02	19	7.02	9	8.02	2
5.03	24	6.03	19	7.03	9	8.03	2
5.04	23	6.04	15	7.04	8	8.04	2
5.05	22	6.05	15	7.05	7	8.05	2
5.06	21	6.06	14	7.06	7	8.06	2
5.07	20	6.07	14	7.07	6	8.07	2
5.08	19	6.08	13	7.08	5	8.08	1
5.09	19	6.09	12	7.09	5	8.09	1
5.10.	18	6.10.	12	7.10.	4	8.10.	1
5.11	18	6.11	11	7.11	4	8.11	1
5.12	18	6.12	11	7.12	3	8.12	1
253		172		77		19	

Dynasty Rookie Draft Value Chart for a 14 Team League

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4	
1.01	841	2.01	233	3.01	113	4.01	57
1.02	713	2.02	217	3.02	109	4.02	55
1.03	649	2.03	209	3.03	105	4.03	53
1.04	585	2.04	201	3.04	101	4.04	51
1.05	521	2.05	193	3.05	97	4.05	49
1.06	457	2.06	185	3.06	93	4.06	47
1.07	425	2.07	177	3.07	89	4.07	45
1.08	393	2.08	169	3.08	85	4.08	43
1.09	361	2.09	161	3.09	81	4.09	41
1.10'	329	2.10'	153	3.10'	77	4.10.	39
1.11	297	2.11	145	3.11	73	4.11	37
1.12	281	2.12	137	3.12	69	4.12	35
1.13	265	2.13	129	3.13	65	4.13	33
1.14	249	2.14	121	3.14	61	4.14	31
6366		2430		1218		616	
Round 5		Round 6		Round 7		Round 8	
5.01	29	6.01	19	7.01	11	8.01	2
5.02	28	6.02	18	7.02	10	8.02	2
5.03	27	6.03	18	7.03	10	8.03	2
5.04	26	6.04	17	7.04	9	8.04	2
5.05	25	6.05	17	7.05	8	8.05	2
5.06	24	6.06	16	7.06	8	8.06	2
5.07	23	6.07	16	7.07	7	8.07	2
5.08	22	6.08	15	7.08	6	8.08	1
5.09	22	6.09	14	7.09	6	8.09	1
5.10.	21	6.10.	14	7.10.	5	8.10.	1
5.11	21	6.11	13	7.11	5	8.11	1
5.12	21	6.12	13	7.12	4	8.12	1
5.13	20	6.13	12	7.13	4	8.13	1
5.14	20	6.14	12	7.14	3	8.14	1
329		214		96		21	

Team Needs—By D.J. Nestrick

As the 2008 NFL Draft approaches and free agency winds down, it is time to take a look at what each team needs to be a contender in the upcoming season. While fantasy players are most interested in the skill positions, the offensive line and team defense have a huge effect on the fantasy success of our favorite players. Look at the struggles of Larry Johnson versus the success of Derek Anderson last season. This information will continue to evolve as the remaining free agents are signed, health statuses are updated, and any potential trades materialize.

AFC East

Buffalo Bills

Team Needs: WR, CB, FS, TE

The Bills were a surprisingly competitive team in 2007 and another year of experience will fix some of their problems. A complementary receiver to pair up with Lee Evans is at the top of the list. I would think a bigger receiver or a tight end with the speed to be effective in the slot would help take pressure off Evans and Edwards. After that, a poor secondary could use an infusion of talent. A play-making tight end would be a nice bonus. The team feels comfortable with its stable of young quarterbacks.

Miami Dolphins

Team Needs: WR, OT, QB, LB, DE

Miami's list is much longer than the positions above, but they won't get everything in one draft. The additions of Ernest Wilford and Tab Perry aren't enough to make any Dolphins quarterback look good. There is a gaping hole at right tackle that needs to be filled and it would be surprising if the team would stand pat with its current quarterbacks. Jon Beck has the skills to be a quality starter, but the new coaching regime may decide he's the best match for their system or feel they need more depth at the position.

New England Patriots

Team Needs: LB, CB

The Patriots are in good shape after their Super Bowl run. The losses of Asante Samuel and Rosevelt Colvin will need to be addressed. Otherwise, New England has the luxury of drafting the best talent available to backup some of their aging veterans. There are some quality corners in this draft and it would be a shock if they don't go after a cover specialist within the first two rounds.

New York Jets

Team Needs: CB, LB, OT, and RB

A starting caliber cornerback will be a priority but it may not come on Day One. With Jonathan Vilma gone and an unimpressive linebacking corps remaining, the Jets have a serious need in the center of their defense. The signing of Alan Faneca and Damian Woody helped to solidify the offensive line. This year's draft has a number of good options at tackle to help finish the rebuilding process. RB Thomas Jones is a 2-3 year option at best and the wealth of runners available in this draft might make it appealing for them to draft a long-term replacement as the rebuilding project at offensive line continues.

AFC North

Baltimore Ravens

Team Needs: OT, CB, and WR

The Ravens are unlikely to draft the quality quarterback most fans would like to see. Troy Smith did enough at the end of last year to convince the team he could be the answer behind center. Even if Jonathon Ogden sticks around for another year, a good, young tackle is sorely needed. The Ravens' cornerbacks are both on the wrong side of thirty, as is their best receiver. Additionally, Mark Clayton's progress hit a speed bump, Demetrius Williams is still a depth chart project and the Ravens let Devard Darling move onto Kansas City.

Cincinnati Bengals

Team Needs: DT, LB, FS, and TE

Excluding off the field troubles, the offense is fine. The Cincinnati defense needs some help up front and in the secondary after the loss of Madiou Williams. Expect the Bengals to spend the majority of their draft picks attempting to add talent to a poor defensive unit. If the Colts do not match Ben Utecht's offer sheet, the Bengals have made a solid upgrade at tight end.

Cleveland Browns

Team Needs: CB, LB, and RB

The Browns already had a shaky secondary and then traded their best cornerback during the off-season. A couple of quality corners are necessary, as is an understudy for aging Willie McGinest. Jerome Harrison has versatility, but if they want an heir-apparent closer in dimension to Jamal Lewis, this class is the one to pursue that player.

Pittsburgh Steelers

Team Needs: OG, OT, WR, and FS

The Steelers biggest off-season move was not getting Alan Faneca resigned. This leaves a huge hole in a line that has some shaky tackles at each end. Expect the Steelers to take advantage of the depth at tackle in this draft. Ben Roethlisberger has requested a big receiver and, Super Bowl guarantees aside, Anthony Smith is not a starting caliber safety.

AFC South

Houston Texans

Team Needs: CB, OT, DE, and RB

The Texans could use some depth and additional talent at almost every position, but filling their top three needs would be a huge step in the right direction. If Dunta Robinson is available for the start of the season, the signing of Jacques Reeves is sufficient. That may be optimistic though. A solid left tackle will keep Matt Schaub a lot healthier and another pass rusher will make Mario Williams even better. Chris Brown could be the answer at RB for another 2-3 seasons, but expect Gary Kubiak to follow in his mentor's footsteps and continue to draft a late round prospect with viable potential.

Indianapolis Colts

Team Needs: OG, WR, DE, and RB

The Colts were able to hold onto Ryan Lilja, but it looks like fellow guard Jake Scott may be heading elsewhere, leaving a gap in the dominant Indianapolis offensive line. The receiver and defensive end concerns are based on age and injuries. Marvin Harrison was extremely limited last year and Dwight Freeney is coming back from injury. Although Joseph Addai is a terrific player, there's not much depth behind him and the flirtation with Warrick Dunn might signal they'll pull the trigger on an RB in April.

Jacksonville Jaguars

Team Needs: WR, DE, SS

The Jaguar receivers last year were all from the same mold: underachievers. Jerry Porter and Troy Williamson could be more of the same. The Jaguars have little at the defensive end position since their current injury prone guys are only getting older. A safety would fill a big hole in the secondary.

Tennessee Titans

Team Needs: WR, RB

The Titans get back OC Mike Heimerdinger who helped the Titans offense generate an MVP quarterback with a 5-WR sets. Spreading the field should give Vince Young opportunities to exploit more lanes as a runner. WR Justin McCareins was signed as a player familiar with 'Dinger's attack from their days in Tennessee and New York, but a lot more depth is needed. A true #1 wide out would be a huge help to Vince Young. With Chris Brown leaving, some competition is necessary for the backfield. I was puzzled by the Titans recent acquisitions of Lendale White and Chris Henry. In this draft they could get a player who not only has both of these players' skill sets and but also does it better.

AFC West

Denver Broncos

Team Needs: DT, LB, OT, and WR

The Broncos could also use depth at defensive end and all along the offensive line. Considering their difficulties in stopping the run last season, some talent also needs to be added to the defensive front. Matt Lepsis' retirement has highlighted the need for a serious upgrade at offensive tackle. Brandon Marshall's arm injury and Javon Walker's departure could create a need for Denver to go after another promising prospect at the position. Would you be surprised if Jay Cutler is lobbying for former teammate Earl Bennett? I wouldn't...

Kansas City Chiefs

Team Needs: OT, OG, DT, CB, and WR

For a team with as many needs as Kansas City, they have been awfully quiet in free agency. Retirements have decimated a once proud offensive line and finding two or three starters is a priority. A run-stuffing defensive tackle and a replacement for Ty Law are also high on the list. Despite Dwayne Bowe's strong rookie season, another receiver is desperately needed. Devard Darling could surprise because he has shown flashes in Baltimore, but never put it all together and he's not a guy they are opening expecting big things from.

Oakland Raiders

Team Needs: DT, DE, and WR

Oakland has been its usual busy self this off-season. With Warren Sapp retiring, another defensive tackle is needed as well as an edge rusher to complement Derrick Burgess. The signing of Javon Walker is risky at best. If he is not healthy Week One, the Raiders may be starting Ronald Curry and Drew Carter out wide. Will they continue to stockpile raw and fast late-round prospects? If so, expect Dexter Jackson to get some love from the East Bay...

San Diego Chargers

Team Needs: OT, RB

The Chargers are a team with few true needs. They could use an infusion of talent on the offensive line, particularly outside. Guard Mike Goff is getting up there in years, too. The loss of Michael Turner leaves the team to choose between finding a replacement and going with the diminutive Darren Sproles as their backup running back.

NFC East

Dallas Cowboys

Team Needs: CB, WR, and RB

The Cowboys need a cornerback to pair up with Terence Newman after the off-season loss of Jacques Reeves. Starters Terrell Owens and Terry Glenn are both in their mid-thirties and Patrick Crayton and Sam Hurd are productive in their roles, but unproven. Marion Barber III has never been trusted with the fulltime starting position. Although I believe Barber will be just fine, Jerry Jones would love another high-octane offensive player to put butts in the seats and make the offense Patriot-like and a player such as Felix Jones or Darren McFadden will supply the special teams and/or offensive situational threat he desires.

New York Giants

Team Needs: FS, LB, OL, and TE

The Super Bowl champs lost Gibril Wilson to the Raiders while Kawika Mitchell headed across state to Buffalo. Replacement Sammy Knight isn't the caliber of player Wilson was last season. Some depth along the offensive line is next on the list. Kevin Boss

looked pretty good in Jeremy Shockey's place, but if the whispers about Shockey's fit with the team are true, they may seek a replacement.

Philadelphia Eagles

Team Needs: WR, OT, LB, RB

Donovan McNabb has begged for more weapons and a franchise receiver should be in the cards. LT Winston Justice looked out of his element many times last season. An upgrade could extend McNabb's career. The Eagles only have a single linebacker locked into a starting job. Tony Hunt didn't show much as a rookie, Correll Buckhalter is no longer a promising young prospect as much as he's an injury-riddled veteran who is good when he's healthy, but not healthy enough.

Washington Redskins

Team Needs: WR, DE, FS, QB

The Redskins biggest need throughout their team is youth, particularly for an aging and injury-prone offensive line. A big receiver would be welcome, as would another pass rusher to free up Andre Carter. After the loss of Sean Taylor, a new free safety will have big shoes to fill. Jim Zorn was a QB and a QB coach and coaches with these backgrounds like to have depth at the position (just think Jon Gruden).

NFC North

Chicago Bears

Team Needs: OT, QB, WR, and RB

While Cedric Benson gets a lot of flack for the Bears' lack of an effective running game, the offensive line is an accessory. At least one new tackle is needed. Rex Grossman and Kyle Orton may be fighting for the starting spot, but neither has made convincing cases in the past. At receiver, resigning other teams' castoffs won't make the quarterbacking job any easier. There are rumors that Benson's injury could be a long-term issue and despite the deficiencies with the line, he has shown little as a top pick a few years ago.

Detroit Lions

Team Needs: RB, LB, and TE

Tatum Bell spent most of last season inactive, yet is the best back currently on the roster. Adding a couple linebackers will help strengthen a very weak unit. The Lions, like most

teams, could use some depth along both lines. Detroit also says they will make the tight end a more important position in their new offensive system.

Green Bay Packers

Team Needs: QB, CB, and TE

Brett Favre's retirement finally gives Aaron Rodgers his opportunity. Whether the team believes in him or not, they will add another couple quarterbacks to the mix. Cornerbacks Charles Woodson and Al Harris are both on the downside of their careers and some youth is needed. With Green Bay's relatively small number of needs, a young offensive tackle may be in the cards. Donald Lee was a good option at TE and they let longtime starter Bubba Franks move on to the Jets. This may be an indication that Green Bay is happy with their depth at the position or it could mean they knew Franks would be too expensive to retain as a backup.

Minnesota Vikings

Team Needs: TE, DE, and QB

Tarvaris Jackson's struggles last season highlight the need for a pass-catching tight end as a safety valve. Former first round pick Kenechi Udeze has been diagnosed with leukemia, making defensive end a priority once again. Although Jackson showed improvement in his second year and Brad Childress is adamant to tie his career in Minny to the Arkansas State alum, the jury is still out on his future as a starter. Childress should still have enough sense to pick a prospect in the mid-rounds for depth.

NFC South

Atlanta Falcons

Team Needs: OT, QB, CB, TE, and DT

Atlanta has more needs than draft picks. One, if not two, offensive tackles are required to protect whatever young signal caller they draft. With the impending trade of DeAngelo Hall, a starting caliber cornerback is now on the list as is an upgrade to the defensive line. The team also has to find a replacement for Alge Crumpler as a pass receiving option from the position.

Carolina Panthers

Team Needs: DE, DT, FS, RB, and QB

Carolina's aging and ineffective defensive line is in the middle of a complete makeover, while free safety needs a major addition of talent. Depth at quarterback and running back will be found in the middle rounds.

New Orleans Saints

Team Needs: FS, C, and TE

Signing Randall Gay helped shore up the corners; now it is time to fix the safety position. Losing center Jeff Faine could really hurt an already struggling run game. The Saints would benefit from a franchise tight end has the combination of skills occupied by several players currently on their depth chart.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Team Needs: WR, OT, CB,

The veteran duo of Joey Galloway and Ike Hilliard won't be around much longer, nor will cornerback Ronde Barber. Youth is needed at both of these positions. An injury to Luke Petitgout last year exposed Tampa Bay's lack of offensive line depth.

NFC West

Arizona Cardinals

Team Needs: CB, LB, OG, and RB

Pass defense was poor in the desert last year and shifting Antrel Rolle from corner to free safety fills one hole while opening another. Some young talent at linebacker wouldn't be out of place either. The Cardinals did not manage to get any help on their offensive line during the off-season. Edgerrin James still has gas in the tank, but J.J. Arrington and Marcel Shipp are not the future at this position.

San Francisco 49ers

Team Needs: OT, OG, and WR

The 49ers have been busy during free agency, adding some significant talent. If they can bolster their offensive line during the draft, it will make Mike Martz' offense run a lot smoother. Mike Martz and company will be lobbying for another receiver for his vertical attack.

Seattle Seahawks

Team Needs: WR, TE

Since D.J. Hackett is now in Carolina, the team needs at least one fresh face outside. Deion Branch has ongoing injury issues and Bobby Engram is 35 years old. A future T.O. type at WR would be a welcome addition. If the team feels Jeb Putzer can be their starter, they may instead bolster their fading offensive line.

St. Louis Rams

Team Needs: DE, OT, C, and WR

There are few areas in which the Rams don't require help. The biggest need is a pass-rushing end. The second priority is offensive line help. Injuries, inconsistency, and lack of talent plague almost every position up front. With Isaac Bruce gone, they'll want to add depth for future development.