

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name:	Terrence Whitehead	School:	Oregon	Opponent:	Oklahoma	Surface:	Grass
Height:	5-10	Year:	Senior	Score:	14-17	Climate:	Sunshine
Weight:	210	Date:	12/29/2005	Location:	San Diego	Temperature:	Temperate

Overall Score:

81

Power Score :

13

Game Stats

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

Yes

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

N/A

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

Yes

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Yes

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

Yes

Balance Score :

2

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]:

No

BHandling Score :

15

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Yes

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 :

0

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

No

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

No

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

No

Vision Score:

11

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

15

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]:

Yes

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Yes

Blocking Score :

5

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Yes

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Yes

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

Yes

Receiving and Routes Score :

10

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]

Yes

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Yes

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Yes

Durability Score :

10

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [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 [7 pts]

Yes

Player: Terrence Whitehead

Date: 12/29/2005

Opponent: Oklahoma

Overall Strengths: Based on the film, Whitehead strikes me as a very smart football player and leader by example on the field. His team relies on him for big plays. Whitehead protects the ball better than most backs I have seen on film. He uses the ball-carrying technique Tiki Barber adopted two years ago, and does this with both hands. Whitehead is a tough inside runner that makes yards after contact and displays good change of direction skills in traffic. He's a clutch receiver for this team and repeatedly makes plays in the passing game when needed in 3rd and 4th down situations. Whitehead reminds me of Duce Staley--not very fast, but an instinctive and intelligent football player. He can be a solid, 3rd down back in the NFL and maybe an effective starter down the line in a pass-oriented offense.

Overall Weaknesses: Whitehead is no breakaway threat. He doesn't have long speed or speed to the outside. His change of direction is more footwork based. He doesn't use dynamic cuts to avoid pursuit. He is an inconsistent blocker and not used very much in this capacity. Whitehead is not the ideal runner for an I-back offense, though his inside skills would definitely make him effective behind a skilled offensive line.

Power: Whitehead makes yards after contact and does so in various ways. He can instinctively spin out of trouble to the open area as well as run out of arm tackles. He is a fundamentally sound runner in traffic and falls forward after getting hit. Whitehead was stood up on a first down run when he couldn't find the lane off tackle, but he still managed to roll himself forward out of the grasp of Rufus Alexander for a minimal gain. Later he broke three tackles on a run up the middle in the 2nd QTR. One LB had Whitehead in the hole, but the RB got very low and ran through the tackle using his shoulder. Then the RB slipped a second tackle by an LB while breaking through the line. Whitehead has deceptive power and does not shy away from contact. For example he was able to spin out of a DL's grasp behind the LOS on a late 4th QTR shovel pass to gain 5-yards.

Ball Handling: I really like how Whitehead protects the football. He carries the ball with either hand. On a shovel pass Whitehead could be seen carrying the ball in his right hand, and the ball was next to his chest with his elbow tucked. This is the ideal way to carry the football. The play before he made a tough run with the ball tucked tightly in his left hand.

Elusiveness: The Oregon back displays good footwork on the run. He can sidestep penetration at the line of scrimmage to get the first down. He also does a good job making the first player miss. Whitehead possesses good change of direction and his ability to sidestep tacklers in the open field makes him an elusive runner despite his pedestrian speed at the position.

Balance: Whitehead has excellent balance. He is difficult to knock down. When a top-tier DL hits you in the backfield and you spin off him, you have to possess good balance.

Speed: Whitehead maintains a smooth pace as he runs between the tackles, but doesn't have a very good burst or acceleration. He is not a breakaway threat on his own nor is he a dangerous outside runner. He is capable of getting around the corner on a well-designed play, but not with his speed alone. Once he gets outside, he does nice things in the open field.

Blocking: Whitehead isn't called to block much. He did a good job driving back the LB coming off the edge on the opening drive in the 3rd QTR. Yet soon after he was knocked on his butt when assigned to block Ingram's blitz on a pass play.

Vision: Whitehead is a patient runner that sets up his blocks and shows patience inside. He is a dangerous receiver on screens because of his ability to catch and set up openings while on the run.

Receiving and Routes: The Ducks regularly empty Whitehead out of the backfield and split him wide of the formation. His first catch came in the 3rd QTR on a curl over the middle. Whitehead caught the ball with his hands and tucked it away quickly. He also did a nice job bailing out Dixon with a catch on a swing pass from the endzone under pressure. He also caught a throwback screen on a 4th and 10 and gained 21 yards. Repeatedly, Whitehead was the target for drive-sustaining plays because of his skills in open space. He made the first man miss on a shovel pass, and that first man was a DL right on top of him. Then with 2:30 left, Whitehead caught a pass in the right flat for huge gain to put Oregon in Oklahoma territory--a major, game-changing play that was an excellent display of open field running.

Durability: No known issues.

Character: Whitehead is a clutch player they count on as a receiver when backed up in their own territory on 3rd and 4th down. Whitehead's best play of the night showcased his vision, elusiveness, burst, and power on a 3rd and 4 situation with 2:31 left in the game, and Oregon down by 3 points. After catching a swing pass to the flat, Whitehead side-stepped the first man to the left, leaving the man on his knees. He ran through the arm tackle of a DB with a

good angle at the first down marker, and burst down the sideline for 10 yards. While running down the sideline, he was 2 yards ahead of his lineman, but saw the CB had an angle on him at the sideline. He cut back inside at full speed between the LB and the lineman, breaking the tackle of the LB. At this point Whitehead had cut all the way across the field, switching the ball to the outside hand and away from pursuite, and was finally brought down at the OU 35-yard line. It was only a 30-yard gain, but he used just about every skill a good RB can use on this play in a clutch situation. In fact Whitehead made a similar clutch play against Fresno State this year.