

The Rookie Scouting Portfolio Running Back Scouting Checklist

Name: DeMarco Murray **School:** Oklahoma **Opponent:** Oklahoma State **Surface:** Grass
Height: 5-11 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 47-41 **Climate:** Night
Weight: 213 **Date:** 11/27/2010 **Location:** Oklahoma State **Temperature:** Temperate

Overall Score:

91

Category Scores

Balance Score :	6	Power Score :	16
BHandling Score :	11	Vision Score:	18
Blocking Score :	5	Speed Score :	13
Durability Score :	2	Elusiveness Score :	13

Receiving and Routes Score : 7

Game Stats

Attempts:	20	Rec Yds:	41
Rush Yds:	80	Rec Tds:	0
1st Downs:	9	Fumbles:	0
Rush Tds:	0	Broken Tackles:	5
Target:	8	BLKs Assigned:	4
Rec:	6	BLKs Made:	4

Power

Leg Power, drives through arm tackles - 3pts: Yes

Effective stiff arm - 1pt: No

Initiates contact and punishes defenders - 1pt: Yes

Runs behind pads/Good pad level - 5 pts: Yes

Second effort runner/Keeps legs moving - 7pts: Yes

Elusiveness

Lower body jukes - 1pt: Yes

Upper body jukes - 1pt: Yes

Avoids direct shots - 7pts: Yes

Can string moves together in space - 1pt: Yes

Can make sharp lateral cuts - 3pts: Yes

Balance

Maintains footing when making cuts - 3pts: Yes

Maintains balance when hit head-on - 3pts: Yes

Balance when hit from an indirect angle -2pts: No

Ball Handling

Carries ball with correct arm - 1pt: Yes

Demonstrates ball security - 3pts: Yes

Maintains control of ball when hit - 7pts: Yes

Speed

Effective short area burst - 7pts: Yes

Separates from 1st ,2nd level defenders - 3pts: Yes

Separates from defensive backs - 1pt: Yes

Speed to turn the corner on outside runs - 2pts: Yes

Vision

Good decisions - 7pts: Yes

Patience - 7pts: Yes

Good line reads ,anticipates defense - 3pts: Yes

Good angles in the open field - 1pt: Yes

Receiving

Catches ball with proper hands technique--2pts: Yes

Can make difficult catch--1pt: No

Catches ball w/back to the quarterback--1pt: Yes

Used in the intermediate/deep passing game--1pt: Yes

A consistent target in the passing game--1pt: Yes

Consistent receptions on catchable passes--2pts Yes

Blocking

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments - 2pts: Yes

Effective cut blocking technique - 1pt: No

Good hand placement on stand up blocks - 1pt: Yes

Can deliver a punch on stand up blocks - 1pt: Yes

Mirrors/moves feet on stand up blocks - 1pt: Yes

Durability

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play thus far in college career--2pts: No

Without chronic injuries throughout college career (Two or more injuries to same body part)--2pts: Yes

Without injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career--2pts: No

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: DeMarco Murray

Date: 11/27/2010

Opponent: Oklahoma State

Overall Strengths:

I'm extremely impressed with the maturity that DeMarco Murray has acquired as a runner. He has the cuts, change of direction and speed to make defenders miss and generate huge gains, but when called for he runs the ball with the pad level, no-nonsense decisiveness and smarts of a back that has a fraction of his athleticism. The most impressive aspect of what I just described is that he generally knows when to turn on the flash and when to be the punisher. He's not the power runner that Mark Ingram is, but he might be just as versatile because he's more elusive and probably faster while still decent as a blocker and pass receiver. Yet, he still frequently earns yards after contact because of how well he runs behind his pads. He's not the blocker that Ingram is, but he's every bit of the receiver if not better. Murray has a gliding style, but he's also physical. Robert Smith might be an apt comparison but he also moves a little like Darren McFadden but with better technique. Matt Forte might be the best comparison.

Overall Weaknesses:

His cut blocks need more work - they tend to be too low. He's missed a ton of games due to four injuries, but its very possible they all were related to each other because of overcompensation of one area of the body as the other body part was healing. He has a bit of a strange running style with his pad level where it seems like he's a bit stiff in the hips like Darren McFadden, but he generates more power and keeps his pads low when making contact. If he can stay healthy, he's a great all around prospect as a runner, receiver out of the backfield, budding pass protector and kick return specialist.

Power:

Good job lowering his shoulder and getting yards after contact against a linebacker in the flat that came from the inside and only got one shoulder on Murray. The collision knocked the linebacker to the ground and forced the defender to wrap Murray's leg to keep him from getting the first down and maybe much more with 10:08 in the first quarter. On 2nd and 1 two plays later, he did an excellent job getting low and small in the crease on a 2nd and 1, easily getting past the marker before hit head-on by the linebacker. He continued to churn his legs to attempt to get more yards before he was piled on. Two plays later he once again churned his legs on a 1st and 5 run into the linebacker for a yard. Once again, Murray lowered a shoulder into a linebacker and ran through his initial hit to gain five yards before the same defender on the ground grasping his angle could bring him to the ground with 5:58 in the first quarter. Murray was initially stopped behind the line of scrimmage off left guard on a two-TE, I-formation run on 3rd and 1 with 12:05 in the game, but he kept his legs moving and pulled the defender wrapping him across the line and to the first down marker. Nice, determined running in short yardage. He ran through two arm tackles off left tackle from the I formation for a five-yard gain with 11:00 in the game.

Ball Handling:

He carried the swing pass in the left flat with his inside arm because the cornerback coming from the inside broke down at his outside shoulder. A moment later when the linebacker came from the inside, Murray had the presence of mind to lower his outside shoulder into the linebacker and knock him to the ground while protecting the football. Excellent job switching the ball on a 3rd and 1 run off left tackle for an eight-yard gain and a first down to begin the second quarter. He switched the ball from his right hand to his left as he got the edge and just before the linebacker came from the inside to deliver a hit. He then used the free arm to shrug off the contact.

Eisiveness:

Nice dip inside the cornerback that broke down too soon in the flat on a swing pass for nine yards. He doesn't appear to be running very fast but he was very fluid and quick to make this move at the last moment. He set up the move with a shoulder shake. Nice job stringing these two moves together with a very compact controlled gait. Excellent dip inside the safety at full speed on an 18-yard run. He made the safety whiff on the play with an over the top angle. He actually made three nice cuts on this play and the dip inside was the most dramatic cut. Murray caught a middle screen at the line of scrimmage in the middle of the field on 1st and 10 with 9:46 in the game, gaining 11 yards on an excellent adjustment to get behind his blockers for the yardage after the catch. The right defensive tackle ran a twist on the play and once the center let him past, he realized the play was a screen. He turned downfield and pursued Murray in the middle of the field as the RB made the catch. Murray knew that his two linemen were ahead of him to his right but saw the DT flash towards him as he made the catch. Murray exhibited good concentration to catch the ball and even better awareness to turn away from the defender and towards the opposite has of his blockers, making the DT dive for air, and then worked his way up the field. He his acceleration and pad level was good enough that he split two defenders, ducking under a linebacker to get 11 yards after the catch for a first down when it appeared at least twice that he was going to be dropped for a minimal gain. On a 2nd and 19 spread formation run to right guard against a three-man front with 9:00 in the half, Murray did an excellent job hurdling a linebacker diving for his feet for an extra four yards on the play. Murray took the 3rd and 1 hand off from an I-formation, two-TE set and headed off right tackle and dipped inside the linebacker with a clean shot at the line of scrimmage for a four-yard gain and the first down with 3:03 in the 3rd quarter. The impressive part of this play was that Murray made a jump cut up field to get to the hole, saw the linebacker shooting untouched towards him and made a cut that looked physiologically impossible. Murray was already leaning heavily to his left as he was making his turn up the middle from his first cut and somehow managed to extend that left leg to his left and far away from his body as his right leg was still trailing behind. Most of his weight had been on that left leg a split second before he made a quick move to extend it again with his right leg only doing a little to stabilize him. The move helped Murray completely avoid the linebacker's hit as he leaped over the first down marker for a few extra yards. Not a pretty cut but a very heady and difficult move to adjust his body for the first down. Murray's final catch came on a circle route where he started the play flanking the quarterback's right side and released wide before dipping over the middle to make the catch two yards behind the line of scrimmage on a 3rd and 5 with 2:11 in the third quarter. Murray took the ball up the middle made a stutter move and a cut back to the inside of his lineman a few yards downfield and then a juke move to make the corner miss before he pushed the pile on two defensive backs for the final yard. Nice job stringing moves together to get most of the yardage for the first down on this pivotal third quarter play.

Balance:

On 2nd and 1 from the I formation with 9:50 in the first quarter, Murray took the ball and veered outside of his lead fullback cutting the left defensive tackle, and did a fantastic job of getting lower than the already low linebacker looping into the gap. He knocked the defender to the ground about a foot shy of the first down marker and then dipped inside the hit, falling forward for a gain of four yards and the first down. This reminded me of an Edgerrin James run; because I haven't seen a college back get as low as Murray did in awhile. Excellent run after contact. Murray ran through two hits on an 8-yard gain of left tackle from the I-formation to begin the second quarter. He shed the first glancing blow of the linebacker from the inside and then lowered his shoulder through the safety's hit to get a few extra yards before he was gang-tackled. Bounced off a hit to his thigh on a 1st and 10 I-formation run off right guard for five yards with 2:32 in the third quarter. The hit came about halfway through his run.

Speed:

Murray showed excellent burst on a 3rd and 4 run from the Diamond Formation, taking the ball around left end and once he got the edge defender sealed by his blocker, he planted and burst downhill, beating a good angle from the defensive end coming from the inside about a yard behind the first down marker, and a cornerback five yards ahead over top for an 18-yard gain and a first down. Murray caught a middle screen at the line of scrimmage in the middle of the field on 1st and 10 with 9:46 in the game, gaining 11 yards on an excellent adjustment to get behind his blockers for the yardage after the catch. The right defensive tackle ran a twist on the play and once the center let him past, he realized the play was a screen. He turned downfield and pursued Murray in the middle of the field as the RB made the catch. Murray knew that his two linemen were ahead of him to his right but saw the DT flash towards him as he made the catch. Murray exhibited good concentration to catch the ball and even better awareness to turn away from the defender and towards the opposite has of his blockers, making the DT dive for air, and then worked his way up the field. He his acceleration and pad level was good enough that he split two defenders, ducking under a linebacker to get 11 yards after the catch for a first down when it appeared at least twice that he was going to be dropped for a minimal gain. His acceleration to split two defenders from a cut that took him initially backwards before restarting forward was eye-catching.

Blocking:

Murray shot a little too low on a cut block to the DT on the opening play, a short pass from the Pistol, but he still took the legs out from under the defender to prevent a hit to his quarterback. Once again, he shot a little low on a cut block of the DE, but managed to collide hard with the defender charging up field, a hit you could hear from the stands. He altered the defender's path enough for the QB to throw the ball to that side with a clear passing lane on 1st and 10 with 9:33 in the first quarter. He took on the DT twisting to the gap off RG on a 3rd and 7 pass play with 2:38 in the first quarter. Murray didn't deliver a punch as much as he leaned into the defender to meet him. He did get good hand placement and stand his ground long enough for the pass to be thrown for a 10-yard gain. Two plays later he picked up the linebacker's blitz off right end on a 3rd and 2 pass play. He delivered a decent hit and sustained his position with his hands in the defender's chest to funnel him further outside, but he initially dropped his head as he initiated the contact, which will get him beat against better pass rushes. Murray did a good job getting position on the linebacker rushing off left end but his teammate the left guard completely whiffed on the second blitzing linebacker up the middle, which resulted in a sack on 3rd and 3 with 6:24 in the third quarter. He went a little too low again on a cut block against the linebacker off the right edge on a short pass to the fullback with 3:35 in the third quarter. He made contact at the thighs but his approach was off and he slid on his knees into the defender rather than the put a shoulder into the waist/hips.

Vision:

On 2nd and 1 from the I formation with 9:50 in the first quarter, Murray took the ball and veered outside of his lead fullback cutting the left defensive tackle, and did a fantastic job of getting lower than the already low linebacker looping into the gap. He knocked the defender to the ground about a foot shy of the first down marker and then dipped inside the hit, falling forward for a gain of four yards and the first down. On 2nd and 1 two plays later, he did an excellent job getting low and small in the crease on a 2nd and 1, easily getting past the marker before hit head-on by the linebacker. He continued to churn his legs to attempt to get more yards before he was piled on. Since there wasn't much room to cut after dipping inside his pulling linemen on a 1st and 5 run two plays later, he made the mature decision to lower his shoulders into the linebacker up the middle and drive the defender a yards backwards for a gain of one, preventing a loss with 8:53 in the opening quarter. Murray was the wingback on the right in a formation called the "Diamond" - the quarterback in shotgun, one receiver split wide and two wing backs three yards behind the lineman flanking the quarterback on either side and the tailback two yards behind the quarterback and seven yards deep from center. On 3rd and 4 with 8:32 in the first quarter, Murray took the ball heading to left end behind the lead blocks of his left wing back and the tailback He showed good patience waiting for the tailback to cut block the edge defender and then cut downhill through a nice crease in the flat for an 18-yard gain, making a nifty dip in the open field to avoid the safety. If the pursuit didn't catch up to him due to this dip, Murray would have scored from 53 yards on the play. When the defense strung out the Diamond formation run off left end a few plays later, he showed patience to wait for his edge blockers and then split them with great pad level in anticipation of colliding with the linebacker on the other side of the line of scrimmage, driving the defender back for a couple of yards and a gain of three. This no-nonsense decisiveness may not always earn him big, flashy gains that he's capable of getting with his athleticism but he punishes defenders and makes mature decisions that keep his team in good situations. Excellent adjustment on a spread formation run to cut outside the right defensive end collapsing the corner and then lowering his shoulder into the linebacker for a five-yard gain. This was a very quick reaction to make this move within a step of receiving the ball from the spread with 6:00 in the first quarter. Murray caught a middle screen at the line of scrimmage in the middle of the field on 1st and 10 with 9:46 in the game, gaining 11 yards on an excellent adjustment to get behind his blockers for the yardage after the catch. The right defensive tackle ran a twist on the play and once the center let him past, he realized the play was a screen. He turned downfield and pursued Murray in the middle of the field as the RB made the catch. Murray knew that his two linemen were ahead of him to his right but saw the DT flash towards him as he made the catch. Murray exhibited good concentration to catch the ball and even better awareness to turn away from the defender and towards the opposite has of his blockers, making the DT dive for air, and then worked his way up the field. He his

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: DeMarco Murray

Date: 11/27/2010

Opponent: Oklahoma State

acceleration and pad level was good enough that he split two defenders, ducking under a linebacker to get 11 yards after the catch for a first down when it appeared at least twice that he was going to be dropped for a minimal gain. His second to last catch was a swing screen to the right flat where he made a nice stop start move to avoid a defender in the backfield and take it up the flat for a four-yard gain with 3:50 in the third quarter. Good open field vision to elude the defender behind the line of scrimmage to turn a three-yard loss into a four-yard gain. Murray took the 3rd and 1 hand off from an I-formation, two-TE set and headed off right tackle and dipped inside the linebacker with a clean shot at the line of scrimmage for a four-yard gain and the first down.

Receiving:

Murray dropped his first target, a short drag route to the flat off play action from a single back set on the second offensive play of the game. He initially caught the ball at his back shoulder but the linebacker in the flat wrapped Murray and ripped the ball loose with 14:40 in the first quarter. On 3rd and 10 with 14:24 in the first quarter, Murray made a nice catch of a screen pass to the right flat, using his hands to snare the ball, and he showed some patience to wait for his blockers to take the corner into the flat. But Murray didn't realize that he had a defensive end trailing him before he even caught the ball. He was dragged down by the lineman for only a gain of a yard, forcing a punt. His next catch was 1st and 10 swing pass in the left flat that he caught with his hands and tucked about four yards behind the line of scrimmage, turning up field and dipping inside the cornerback that broke down too early before lowering his shoulder into the linebacker, running through the hit but getting dragged down at the ankles when the defender held on - a gain of nine yards with 10:08 in the first quarter. Murray was targeted on a 10-yard out as the slot receiver on 2nd and 7 with 2:41 in the first quarter, but the pass sailed out of bounds because the quarterback was under pressure and on the run to his left. Murray caught a middle screen at the line of scrimmage in the middle of the field on 1st and 10 with 9:46 in the game, gaining 11 yards on an excellent adjustment to get behind his blockers for the yardage after the catch. Murray caught a 2nd and 3 crossing route breaking behind the first down marker against linebackers dropping deep during the two-minute drill with 0:38 in the half. He tried to make a juke move past the corner in the flat to get outside, but the corner knew Murray was trying to get to the sideline and waited for his break outside before shooting for the runner's legs - a seven-yard gain. His second to last catch was a swing screen to the right flat where he made a nice stop start move to avoid a defender in the backfield and take it up the flat for a four-yard gain with 3:50 in the third quarter. Murray's final catch came on a circle route where he started the play flanking the quarterback's right side and released wide before dipping over the middle to make the catch two yards behind the line of scrimmage on a 3rd and 5 with 2:11 in the third quarter. Murray took the ball up the middle made a stutter move and a cut back to the inside of his lineman a few yards downfield and then a juke move to make the corner miss before he pushed the pile on two defensive backs for the final yard.

Durability:

Murray took shot to the left knees on a run off left tackle that bent it back and forced him to the ground on a 1st and 10 run with 10:25 in the game. He walked off the field but did not return. He did come back the next week to play. In 2007, he had a dislocated kneecap that forced him to miss three games, including a bowl game. In 2008, he tore his hamstring and missed the Big 12 Championship and BCS National Championship. This required surgery and carried over to his 2009 season where he strained the other hamstring and sprained and ankle, starting only 5 games. He is in the top-20 overall among college players in all-purpose yards but he missed close to 20 games in his career.

The Rookie Scouting Portfolio Running Back Scouting Checklist

Name: DeMarco Murray **School:** Oklahoma **Opponent:** Nebraska **Surface:** Field Turf
Height: 5-11 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 23-20 **Climate:** Dome
Weight: 213 **Date:** 12/4/2010 **Location:** Cowboys Stadium **Temperature:** Temperate

Overall Score:

89

Category Scores

Balance Score :	6	Power Score :	17
BHandling Score :	10	Vision Score:	18
Blocking Score :	5	Speed Score :	13
Durability Score :	2	Elusiveness Score :	12
Receiving and Routes Score :		6	

Game Stats

Attempts:	17	Rec Yds:	60
Rush Yds:	68	Rec Tds:	0
1st Downs:	6	Fumbles:	0
Rush Tds:	0	Broken Tackles:	2
Target:	7	BLKs Assigned:	3
Rec:	5	BLKs Made:	3

Power

Leg Power, drives through arm tackles - 3pts:	Yes
Effective stiff arm - 1pt:	Yes
Initiates contact and punishes defenders - 1pt:	Yes
Runs behind pads/Good pad level - 5 pts:	Yes
Second effort runner/Keeps legs moving - 7pts:	Yes

Elusiveness

Lower body jukes - 1pt:	Yes
Upper body jukes - 1pt:	No
Avoids direct shots - 7pts:	Yes
Can string moves together in space - 1pt:	Yes
Can make sharp lateral cuts - 3pts:	Yes

Balance

Maintains footing when making cuts - 3pts:	Yes
Maintains balance when hit head-on - 3pts:	Yes
Balance when hit from an indirect angle -2pts:	No

Ball Handling

Carries ball with correct arm - 1pt:	No
Demonstrates ball security - 3pts:	Yes
Maintains control of ball when hit - 7pts:	Yes

Speed

Effective short area burst - 7pts:	Yes
Separates from 1st ,2nd level defenders - 3pts:	Yes
Separates from defensive backs - 1pt:	Yes
Speed to turn the corner on outside runs - 2pts:	Yes

Vision

Good decisions - 7pts:	Yes
Patience - 7pts:	Yes
Good line reads ,anticipates defense - 3pts:	Yes
Good angles in the open field - 1pt:	Yes

Receiving

Catches ball with proper hands technique--2pts:	Yes
Can make difficult catch--1pt:	No
Catches ball w/back to the quarterback--1pt:	Yes
Used in the intermediate/deep passing game--1pt:	No
A consistent target in the passing game--1pt:	Yes
Consistent receptions on catchable passes--2pts	Yes

Blocking

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments - 2pts:	Yes
Effective cut blocking technique - 1pt:	No
Good hand placement on stand up blocks - 1pt:	Yes
Can deliver a punch on stand up blocks - 1pt:	Yes
Mirrors/moves feet on stand up blocks - 1pt:	Yes

Durability

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play thus far in college career--2pts:	No
Without chronic injuries throughout college career (Two or more injuries to same body part)--2pts:	Yes
Without injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation during college career--2pts:	No

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: DeMarco Murray

Date: 12/4/2010

Opponent: Nebraska

Overall Strengths:

Murray has all the tools to be a starting NFL runner. He has the burst and speed to get the corner or hit a hole and wreak havoc in the second and third level of a defense. He can string together moves in the open field, but he has learned how to judge when to attempt a cutback and when to lower the pads and push the defense backwards. His pad level is often very good and it routinely helps him get yards after contact. He's a highly versatile player that pass protects and catches the ball like an NFL third down back. He rarely misses assignments and he delivers a good pop as a stand up blocker. OU trusts Murray as a receiver enough to split him wide and throw him the ball on routes longer than 10 yards and he usually catches the football without a problem. If he can stay healthy, Murray can be a Tiki Barber like player with more power.

Overall Weaknesses:

Murray's injuries cost him a significant portion of his college career. Just looking at the list it appears that the dislocated kneecap as a sophomore might have spawned a list of compensatory injuries in successive seasons until he finally had a clean bill of health as a senior, but it won't stop teams from being wary of him. On the field, Murray sometimes forgets to use good ball protection skills after the catch when he's running downfield. He sometimes cuts too low when he tries to cut block. Depending on where he weighs in before the draft, teams might consider him more of a change of pace option (although doubtful).

Power:

From the Diamond formation - a three-back look with a QB in the Pistol (two flanking the QB and one behind) - Murray took a run off left tackle and reversed his field to a huge opening off right guard when the blocking got strung out. The cutback was sharp and when a corner came over to hit him, Murray ran him over with a lowered shoulder for another two yards. Murray finished a run off right end by lowering his shoulder into the defensive back and driving him backwards at the sideline for another three yards for a first down and a gain of 12. Murray began the second half with a five-yard flat route, catching the ball at his back shoulder close to his body with a defender trailing him close. He turned up field for another five yards and a first down. Good acceleration, but an even better stiff arm with his left arm to knock the defender away from his body as he turned up the sideline. On a 1st and 10 run up the middle with his line slanting right from a single back set, Murray pressed the hole and burst up the middle, lowering his pads into the back shoulder of the DT emerging from his block, knocking the defender to his knees and plowing past him for a five-yard gain with 11:53 in the third quarter. Such was the case with a seven-yard gain off right guard with 7:14 left, Murray routinely gained yards after contact because he consistently lowered his pads into a defender as he got down hill and this pushed his opponents back at least a yard and often 3-4.

Ball Handling:

Good job carrying a swing pass under his left arm on a run up the sideline for 17 yards with 10:15 in the first quarter, but he switched the ball to his right arm after clearing the first linebacker in the flat and then tried to set up the safety coming from the inside with a stutter move. Not sure why he switched the ball to his outside arm here. On his 1st and 10 reception on a flat route with 12:09 in the third quarter, Murray did a good job carrying the football on his right (sideline) hand, but he palmed the ball away from his body. Murray carried a flat pass 17 yards down the left flat under his right arm in the early fourth quarter. He needs to be more mindful of how he protects the football. He does a better job of carrying the ball in his left arm when he's given a hand off to that side, such a five-yard gain around left end with 10:00 left.

Elusiveness:

Murray shows strong lateral cutting ability. Although he only gained two yards on a spread formation play off right tackle, his cut behind the pulling left guard was very sudden and it got him to the line of scrimmage at right end quick enough to lower his shoulder into the unblocked safety and drive forward for the positive yards with 11:12 in the first quarter. Murray tried to use a stutter step to set up the safety coming from the inside but the defender didn't bite on this 17-yard gain on a 3rd and 3 swing pass with 10:15 in the first quarter.

Balance:

Murray is tough to bring down right away when running downhill.

Speed:

Murray shows strong lateral cutting ability. Although he only gained two yards on a spread formation play off right tackle, his cut behind the pulling left guard was very sudden and it got him to the line of scrimmage at right end quick enough to lower his shoulder into the unblocked safety and drive forward for the positive yards with 11:12 in the first quarter. Good acceleration. Another demonstration of acceleration past the linebacker in the flat on a 3rd and 3 swing pass to gain 17 yards on the play with 10:15 in the first quarter. Good burst off RG for a seven-yard gain on 1st and 10 with 12:00 in the half. Then another nice burst around right end on a pitch play, gaining 12 yards with 11:28 in the half.

Blocking:

Good punch on the DT off a play action fake into the line. He delivered enough of a hit with good hand placement that it pushed the defender back just enough to prevent penetration into the QB's passing lane with 3:23 in the half. Murray picked up a 3rd and 7 blitz assignment up the middle, but Nebraska blitzed two defenders off that side. Murray chose the most inside defender and made a nice punch and placement of his hands. However, the other defender got enough pressure on the QB to help force a sack and a fourth down. Good job lowering his shoulders and delivering a punch on a DE during a double-team with the LT on a 2nd and 5 pass play with 9:37 left.

Vision:

Murray's first attempt was a zone read from a bunch formation from the Pistol with 14:52 in the opening quarter for a one-yard gain. He tried to press a lane open off LG and cut back to it, but the crease shut quickly and the bunch side blocking on the outside was strung out to the sideline. He simply lowered his shoulders into the available crease with a swift cutback and tried to generate a push forward, which he did. On the next play, he found a bigger cutback lane off right guard as is line slanted left, which he did a good job of pressing this hole and cutting back to gain four yards. Excellent patience to the hole on a spread formation two-TE set with a receiver motioning across the formation before the snap to give a look of a jet sweep to the left. Murray got the ball with the line slanting right and the right guard firing off the ball to the MLB. Murray pressed the hole of RG long enough to force the MLB to come off his block and shoot the crease off LG just as Murray dipped to RG and find a big crease for a five-yard gain. Excellent patience footwork from the exchange to the hole to help create open space with 10:46 in the first quarter. On 2nd and 6 with 8:17 in the first quarter, Murray only gained two yards on a play off RG, but the RG backed into him as he tried to dip in the hole. Murray maintained his pad level and slid off the bump to get into the crease and power forward. Less mature backs often pull their shoulders up and either get driven backwards or try to reverse their field. Murray remained composed. From the Diamond formation - a three-back look with a QB in the Pistol (two flanking the QB and one behind) - Murray took a run off left tackle and reversed his field to a huge opening off right guard when the blocking got strung out. The cutback was sharp and when a corner came over to hit him, Murray ran him over with a lowered shoulder for another two yards. Only once in several games did I see Murray dance at the line of scrimmage and it was on a 2nd and 5 run from the Nebraska 10 yard-line with 11:31 in the third quarter. He took a run off right tackle, encountered a defender unblocked at the edge and he opted to attempt a cutback rather than run into him at the line of scrimmage. He found no room on the cutback and was brought down for no gain by two defensive linemen in pursuit. Good six-yard gain off a sharp downhill cut off right guard with 9:15 left.

Receiving:

Murray got open on a flat route on a 3rd and 5 pass, but pressure on the quarterback forced a throw that was well past the RB, forcing a punt on the opening drive of the game. Murray's second target was a 3rd and 3 pass with 10:22 in the first quarter. He was the I-back in the Pistol with four receivers in 2x2 against a four-man defense front an LB in the middle and a second in the slot. Murray motioned to the left side where the LB was on the slot receiver. This forced both LBs to shift to the left just before the snap and the slot LB did a good job cutting off the throwing lane to the slot receiver while waiting to see if the QB would target Murray turning up the flat, which happened. Murray caught the ball at his back shoulder with the LB for yards away and coming towards him from the inside. Murray accelerated past the LB as he reached the line of scrimmage and took the ball up the left sideline for the first down and another 14 yards until he was pushed out of bounds. The QB and RB turned a broken play into a nice sideline pass for a 12-yard gain with 12:09 in the half. The QB tried to throw a sideline fade to Murray on 1st and 10 with 6:55 in the half as Murray released from the backfield, but the defensive back cut off Murray's route near the first down marker and the pass sailed overhead, incomplete. Murray began the second half with a five-yard flat route, catching the ball at his back shoulder close to his body with a defender trailing him close. He turned up field for another five yards and a first down. He made a twisting catch of a swing route on 3rd and 5 with 10:55 in the third quarter, gaining only two yards in tight coverage that pushed him out of bounds after he had to turn on the run to reach for the ball behind his back shoulder. Murray dropped one pass on the day, a 2nd and 7 flat route where the QB rifled it at him at the last second as he rolled right under pressure. The ball bounced off Murray's hands as he turned back to the pass near the right sideline, incomplete with 4:23 in the third quarter. Murray's final catch was a five-yard flat route from a single back set that he caught by turning back to the quarterback and then turning up field with no defender in the flat within 10 yards of him as he secured the ball, got downfield until he encountered three defenders and stepped out of bounds for a 17-yard gain and a first down with 11:23 left.

Durability:

Injured his knee in the fourth quarter of the OU-OSU game a week before but practiced the week leading up to this game. In 2007, he had a dislocated kneecap that forced him to miss three games, including a bowl game. In 2008, he tore his hamstring and missed the Big 12 Championship and BCS National Championship. This required surgery and carried over to his 2009 season where he strained the other hamstring and sprained an ankle, starting only 5 games. He is in the top-20 overall among college players in all-purpose yards but he missed close to 20 games in his career.