

# 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:** Hakeem Nicks

**Date:** 12/27/2008

**Opponent:** West Virginia

**Overall Strengths**

Nicks has nice size and power as a runner. He uses a stiff arm very well and will gain yards after contact versus DBs. This is a huge positive for the pro game because it makes him dangerous both inside and outside the hash. He's a physical blocker and aggressive in the run game which should endear him to more physical offensive teams and when you combine this with his decent burst, he can be effective downfield in the play action game. Nicks also has good moves in the open field to make defenders miss and he's quick enough to avoid the first hit. He has excellent hands and concentration to catch tipped balls and passes thrown away from his body. He actually has a knack for concentrating on difficult catches. I also like that he uses his head and eyes and shoulders to set up breaks by fooling defenders to look back for the throw at the wrong time or to anticipate a different route. If there's a receiver in this class that I think has the total game to be a quality starter for a team sooner than later, Nicks is one of them.

**Overall Weaknesses**

Nicks has decent speed, but he's not a true vertical threat, but there are several NFL receivers with his speed-size-quickness combo that are effective anywhere on the field in the right offense. Dwayne Bowe and Anquan Boldin come to mind as examples. He has enough acceleration to get open downfield on a well-run route that fools the defender, especially if run in conjunction with a play fake. Nicks does need to protect the ball better as a runner, but this is common for many players who handle the ball and transition to the pro game. This is something he'll either fix in training camp or he'll get embarrassed once or twice in game before he addresses it. The most important skill Nicks needs to refine is how to use his hands and feet in conjunction with each other to elude or overpower press coverage. He has enough size to do this well, but right now he's taking advantage of corners when they play off him. Because Nicks is strong enough to beat the jam I think coaches in college football are more reluctant to test him regularly, but the on time it was apparent they did so in this game, Nicks couldn't defeat the jam.

**Separation**

Nicks got inside the CB on a deep post on a play action pass with 7:29 in the 1st QTR. He was even with the defender and if the pass weren't underthrown, he would have had an easy catch. But it was underthrown and a highlight reel-crazy play ensued that I'll describe under the Receiving Notes section. Although he showed some acceleration after the catch on a 66-yard score, he would have been caught from behind by the second defender if not for his stiff arm. He's fast enough to get down field on play action passes, but he's not a true vertical threat. He had some difficulty beating the jam early in the first quarter, but I didn't see anyone jam him for the rest of the half. He tried to use his hands to fight off the contact, but he wound up carrying the DB downfield. He was not the primary receiver on this play which was a screen pass.

**Routes**

He set up his break to the inside on a deep post by using his shoulders and footwork to make a slight dip to the outside before breaking inside on his 73-yard touchdown reception. Good job driving the defender back with his initial bust into his route on a 9-yard curl with 1:12 in the 1st QTR. He needs to do a better job of sinking his hips and minimizing his steps prior to his break. Good job coming back to the ball after making his break on a short curl underneath the shallow zone with 11:57 in the half on 2nd and 14. He anticipated the DB breaking on the pass and his steps toward the ball to attack the pass prevented an interception. Nicks got wide open on a corner route for a 25-yard score with 10:38 in the half. His route began in the slot and he looked inside to the QB before turning quickly to the outside. This look in, gave the CB the impression that the route was a slant and the DB bit too soon. The entire route was sold with Nicks' turn of the head and his eyes. The DB actually slipped trying to adjust back to Nick's break to the outside and he was wide open for the score.

**Receiving**

Nicks had a step on his CB with a DB also trailing on a deep post off play action with 7:29 in the 1st QTR. He tracked the ball by looking over his right shoulder. Just as the ball arrived, the CB cut under the pass that was slightly underthrown and tipped the ball. Nicks reached back and snatched the pass away from the CB, juggled it, and then secured the ball at the 20 yard line (53 yards from where the ball was released). He scored after dragging a defender for the final 10 yards on the play. Nicks caught a sideline pattern 30 yards down field on an option play with 5:02 in the 1st QTR. He was wide open due to the deception of the play: a WR throwing the ball off an end around. He turned back to the ball with his inside shoulder to catch the pass on the run with his hands at chest level. He then ran down the sideline for the score. He caught the 9-yard curl with his hands and chest level on 1st and 10 with 1:11 in the 1st QTR. He turned to the outside, but didn't gain anything more than the nine yards on the catch. Nicks caught a five-yard curl in zone coverage and turned it upfield for a nine-yard gain with 11:57 in the half. He caught the ball with his hands just as the DB over top was trying to defend the route. Nicks had an easy catch on a 25-yard corner route for a score on 3rd and 11 with 10:38 in the half. He turned his outside shoulder back to the QB and cradled the ball with his hands in stride to the pylon. Nicks made an incredible catch on a 3rd and 7 crossing route from right to left with 6:50 in the 3rd QTR. The ball was thrown behind Nicks and as he was turning back to the ball he got one hand on it, but was unable to gain total control over the pass. The ball went behind his left leg and between his legs as he was turning up field. As the CB trailed him, Nicks switch the ball from his left hand to his right and finally got control of the ball. All of this happened with Nicks on the run. He actually lost four yards trying to gain control of the ball. But when Nicks got control he ran up the left flat for a and eight-yard gain and a first down. Two plays later, he snatched a crossing route at the right hash by catching the ball over his head 12 yards downfield with 5:37 in the 3rd QTR. He caught a slant past the LOS between two defenders in tight coverage for a first down with 5:51 in the game. Good concentration to hold onto the ball in traffic and maintain control after the hit.

**Elusiveness**

Good job spinning to the inside of the DB who tried to jump the route on a five-yard curl so he could gain another four yards after the catch with 11:55 in the half. On his five-yard curl, he didn't keep the ball close to his body making the ball prone for a strip. After he finally gained control of the crossing route with 6:53 in the 3rd QTR he turned up the left flat and made a great pair of moves to get to the first down marker despite the DB blocking his path. He set up the defender with a shoulder shake and then spun to the inside, making the DB miss badly. He spun past the first down marker and into the head-on collision with a second DB, but he nearly spun away from that hit and needed to be gang-tackled by two additional defenders after the first DB hitting him head-on was holding on tight, but couldn't get the job done by himself.

**Ball**

Nicks held the ball too far from his body as he celebrated his 53-yard post catch off a deflection with 7:29 in the 1st QTR. He did managed to hang onto the ball with his large hands while dragging the defender to the end zone. Good job carrying the ball under his right arm down the right sideline after catching a 36-yard pass for a 66-yard score with 4:57 in the 1st QTR. He also held the ball away from the defender as he stiff-armed the defender down the sideline. He carried the ball with his left hand on gain after catching acrossing route by turning up the left sideline for eight yards with 6:51 in the 3rd QTR. He once again held the ball like a loaf of bread in that hand as he did a shoulder shake to set up the spin move to the inside. He needs to be more consistent with ball protection.

**Balance**

He rarely goes down with initial contact, he'll fight for extra yards and often needs to be gang tackled in the secondary. This happened on a five-yard curl that he took for a nine-yard gain with 11:55 in the 1st QTR. He was wrapped by the second defender attempting to tackle him and he was fighting to move forward before he had two more players jump on him to finally bring Nicks down.

**Blocking**

Good job coming from his position split wide left and running to the safety approaching the box near left end at the LOS. He hit the safety and pushed him off the LOS, turning him away from the pile where the RB was running up the left hash - good hustle to get there. On the next play, he locked onto the CB and turned him away from the LOS using his hands very well and overpowering the smaller CB. On 3rd and 2 of the same series, Nicks locked onto the same CB and drove him inside as the play design had the RB running to Nicks' edge. The initial push Nicks got was good enough for the RB to get the first down before the CB could slip the block and pursue the RB at the sideline. The play was called back on a holding penalty. He's very aggressive coming from the slot or wide into the defensive backfield to block down the safety to seal the corner. He did this on a 2nd and 6 run for seven yards with 7:55 in the 1st QTR. He aggressively shielded his CB on a 12-yard run on 3rd and 7 for a first down from the UNC one yard line with 1:53 in the 3rd QTR. Another strong effort as a blocker on a run with 8:45 in the game. He got a good push on the CB and drove him away from the play.

**Vision**

**Power**

Nicks' size allows him to drag smaller defenders for extra yardage. He caught a 53-yard post off a deflection and was wrapped at the waist at the 10 yard line. He was able to keep his legs moving while twisting and turning to get to the end zone. He extended the ball over the plane before he was brought down on the play. Good balance to run out of an ankle tackle down the sideline and then use his inside arm to stiff arm the second defender and knock the opponent to the ground on a 66-yard reception for his second score with 4:58 in the 1st QTR. He tried to turn outside and stiff arm the CB after catching a nine-yard curl, but his missed the defender with the stiff arm and was brought down by the ankles for no gain. He ran out of an ankle tackle and then stiff armed a safety at the 10 yard line on a 2nd and 8 reception on a cross that resulted in a 21-yard gain.

**Durability**

He got run up the leg on a block in the 3rd QTR with 2:00 left, but he shook off the nick and continued to play.

**Character**

Difficult childhood. Has two brothers in prison. Moved around some. There will be some concerns about his pro day performance where he didn't run the 40 and he gained 14 pounds a month after the combine. It's quite plausible Nicks gained that much weight by not adjusting his diet after injuring his hamstring in the 40-yard dash at the combine if he had to cease training to let it heal. It's very plausible for a younger man to gain and lose that much weight. The concern will come if he's not in shape by the time he reports to a training camp.