

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: <u>Jay Cutler</u>	School: <u>Vanderbilt</u>	Opponent: <u>Florida</u>	Surface: <u>Grass</u>
Height: <u>6-3</u>	Year: <u>Senior</u>	Score: <u>42-49 O</u>	Climate: <u>Sunshine</u>
Weight: <u>226</u>	Date: <u>11/5/2005</u>	Location: <u>Florida</u>	Temperature: <u>Temperate</u>

Overall Score:

86

Accuracy Score:

20

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

Yes

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

N/A

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Yes

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Yes

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Yes

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

Yes

Arm Strength Score:

8

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

Yes

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

Yes

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

Yes

Delivery Score:

11

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

Yes

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

Yes

Quick Release [4pts]:

Yes

Compact delivery [4pts]:

No

Decisions Score:

4

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

No

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

No

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Yes

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Yes

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

No

BHandling Score:

14

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]

N/A

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Yes

Consistently effective with hand offs [1 pt]:

Yes

Demonstrates ball security while running [1 pt]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

Yes

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

N/A

Pocket Presence Score:

14

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

Yes

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

N/A

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

Yes

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

N/A

Scrambling Ability Score:

5

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

Yes

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1 pts]:

Yes

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

Yes

Durability Score:

10

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

Yes

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

N/A

No chronic injuries [1 pt]:

Yes

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Yes

Game Stats

PAtt:	42
Comp:	28
Pyds:	361
PTds:	4
Ints:	2
Dropped:	1
Sacked:	1
Deflections:	2
Fumbles:	1
RAtt:	0
RYds:	0
RTds:	0

Player: Jay Cutler

Date: 11/5/2005

Opponent: Florida

Overall Strengths: Cutler has an elite NFL arm. He can zip the ball into tight spaces either on the run, off his back foot, or rolling out. He has terrific presence in the pocket: he anticipates the blitz and had great athletic reactions to maneuver away from trouble. He throws the ball with nice touch and can gain big yardage when he breaks the pocket. Plays with heart and is the leader of this under-manned, Vanderbilt squad. Cutler clearly has the physical tools to be an elite NFL quarterback. Whether he can continue to develop the mental side of the game is the question. I think Cutler has a good chance to be a franchise quarterback. I see why some people compare him to Brett Favre when the Packer QB was at Southern Miss. I agree that there are similarities in style, arm strength, athleticism, and recklessness. But Cutler will need to refine his game and find the right match of a coaching staff to see his talent develop.

Overall Weaknesses: Cutler can be too reckless. He will try too hard to make plays with his arm and gun the ball into tight spots, resulting in turnovers. He has a tendency to stare down his receivers, too. Sometimes he brings his throwing arm too low when delivering the ball. He is going to make his share of bone-headed plays before he evolves into a quality, NFL QB.

Accuracy: Cutler demonstrated nice touch on the 31-yard corner route he completed to Davis. He lofted the ball over the correct shoulder of his receiver. He executed a perfect touchdown throw on a fade pattern to his freshman receiver--again it was thrown over the correct shoulder and in stride. He does a nice job throwing the ball on rollouts.

Arm Strength: Cutler has a gun for an arm. He can throw the ball across the field with ease but also exhibits nice touch when necessary. He nailed the short slant on his 2nd TD. Can gun thread the ball into tight spaces.

Delivery: He has very good mechanics at this stage of his development. Cutler's footwork is naturally very good. He can deliver the ball on the run or from a traditional drop back position. His smooth feet help him when he's in trouble. For instance, Cutler's big play leading up to the second touchdown pass was a poor choice with a good result. Cutler was nearly sacked but a halfway decent throw after recovering his footing, and then quickly resetting his feet before delivering the football. He knew he made a bad decision although the throw turned out to be great (see below). It's very impressive how Cutler can throw the ball from a variety of platforms in various states of movement.

Decisions: Cutler's poor decision that turned out positive: He stumbled as he rolled to the right, regained his footing, and then lofted the ball into triple coverage. The WR somehow came down with the ball at the one. The Vanderbilt QB has a tendency of staring down his receivers. Cutler's interception wasn't his fault in this game, although he can tend to be reckless and force the ball into tight spaces.

Ball Handling: He fumbled a snap deep inside their own territory--clearly Cutler's fault. Still, Cutler plays in an offense where he takes drops consistently without a problem.

Pocket Presence: He has nice mobility in the pocket, but it can also make him a bit reckless. He brings the ball down very low before delivering it--sometimes as low as his waist.

Scrambling Ability: Cutler breaks tackles very well. He was about to be in the grasp of DE #94 but tore himself away, kept his balance, and rolled left. As he rolled left, he hit a wide-open WR for a 30-yard gain and a first down. Cutler demonstrated great improvisation, touch, and most of all ability to stay alive on the play with a DE bearing down on him. He routinely sidestepped the blitz in this game. In the 4th QTR with 2 minutes left, Cutler side-stepped a blitzing safety at the last moment and stepped up in the pocket. The backside pressure got a piece of his throw, but it was still a good effort. Later, he spun out of a great blitz as the play began to unfold--a blitz 95% of the QBs wouldn't have been able to elude. He really anticipates the blitz well and his athletic reactions are rare.

Durability: Cutler has taken a lot of punishment over the course of his career but continued to play at a high level.

Character: Cutler decided to pursue the opportunity to be QB though no team offered him a scholarship to do so. He persevered throughout his career, and his talent has helped him become one of the more highly-regarded pro prospects at his position. He is a very competitive player that can help carry a team. Sometimes he tries to do too much, but he isn't afraid to take risks and be the decision maker at the end of the game.