

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:

13

88

Yes

N/A

Yes

Yes

Yes

N/A

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

N/A

11

Yes

Yes

Yes

11

Yes

Yes

N/A

16

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

1

Yes

No

No

9

Yes

N/A

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

10

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Game Stats

Attempts:

16

Rush Yds:

73

1st Downs:

4

Rush Tds:

0

Target:

4

Rec:

1

Rec Yds:

21

Rec Tds:

0

Fumbles:

1

Broken Tackles:

2

BLKs Assigned:

7

BLKs Made:

4

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: