

# The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

**Name:**  **School:**  **Opponent:**  **Surface:**   
**Height:**  **Year:**  **Score:**  **Climate:**   
**Weight:**  **Date:**  **Location:**  **Temperature:**

**Overall Score:**

**84**

**Accuracy Score:**

20

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

Yes

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

Yes

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Yes

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Yes

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

N/A

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

N/A

**Arm Strength Score:**

1

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

No

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

Yes

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

No

**Delivery Score:**

11

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

N/A

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

Yes

Quick Release [4pts]:

No

Compact delivery [4pts]:

Yes

**Decisions Score:**

14

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

Yes

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

Yes

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

Yes

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Yes

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

Yes

**BHandling Score:**

9

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]

No

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Yes

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Yes

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

N/A

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

No

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]:

Yes

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 [1pts]:

Yes

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

N/A

**Durability Score:**

10

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

Yes

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

N/A

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

Yes

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Yes

**Game Stats**

**PAtt:**   
**Comp:**   
**Pyds:**   
**PTds:**   
**Ints:**   
**Dropped:**   
**Sacked:**   
**Deflections:**   
**Fumbles:**   
**RAtt:**   
**RYds:**   
**RTds:**

**Player:** Matt Leinart

**Date:** 9/3/2005

**Opponent:** Hawaii

**Overall Strengths:** Leinart makes good decisions and plays well within an offense filled with top-notch players at the skill positions around him. His experience in the offense helps him make pre-snap changes to a better play. He displays a fairly well-developed mental approach to the game. He regularly utilizes pump fakes, looks off defenders, and takes drops from the opposite side he intends to throw as a way of confusing defenses. Leinart is a poised player that has experience on a big stage. He has a chance to succeed as a starter in the right NFL system--one that emphasizes the short passing game and has a very strong line.

**Overall Weaknesses:** I'm not impressed with his arm strength or overall accuracy. The USC offense plays very well to Leinart's strengths and minimizes his opportunities to expose the weaknesses of his game. Leinart does not get a lot of velocity on his throws. While he appears accurate on intermediate routes, the plays are designed for Leinart to face minimal coverage on these throws. Two of Leinart's three scores were passes thrown with virtually no coverage, and none over the top of the receiver. The INT was a poorly-thrown fade route. I am also initially skeptical of Leinart's ability to sense pressure or show enough mobility in the pocket to avoid a good pass rush. I need to see more of Leinart against stiffer competition. He looks better than he may be as a QB because he is playing with top-tier talent in Bush, Smith, Jarrett, and White.

**Accuracy:** Leinart's first six passes were all throws where the receiver was facing the quarterback and no more than 8 yards past the line of scrimmage. It's difficult to believe that this is not by design to benefit Leinart. Is Leinart's arm strength lacking? Does he need some confidence? Is his accuracy lacking early and he needs to get into a rhythm? His first touchdown pass was out of a formation that first showed run. The motion from the WR in the backfield to the sideline disguised the mismatch with the slot receiver. Leinart's slot receiver was wide open from the blown coverage 20 yards downfield in the redzone. Leinart simply had to toss the ball 20 yards to a receiver without a defender around him in a 10-yard radius. Leinart threw a 40-yard pass with 3:00 left in the 3rd QTR. He did a great job looking off the receiver and pump-faking before throwing to Steve Smith on the same slant and go pattern that he threw to Smith for a TD just minutes before. He does put a lot of air under the ball, so the lack of velocity is a concern--especially when safeties aren't cheating at the line of scrimmage.

**Arm Strength:** Leinart's first 5 passes were for five yards or less. The first was a three step drop and throw to the WR that remained at the LOS. The second was a short dump off to an RB, and the third was similar to the first play but intended for Bush who was split out. The fourth was a middle screen to Bush and the fifth exactly like the first. The strategy seems to be to get the ball quickly to the skill players and let them make the plays. Leinart's first pass of over five yards was an 8-yard curl to a receiver. To open the 3rd QTR, Leinart threw a ball to Bush split out wide and only 3-5 yards off the line of scrimmage. If Leinart threw the ball with more zip, Bush might have turned this into a touchdown. Leinart actually didn't put enough on the ball and Bush had to reach behind his body to catch it near his hip. This slowed Bush down, and turned a potential 50-60 yard score into a 10-12 yard reception. Later, Leinart threw an INT in the endzone on a fade intended for Jarrett. While the DB clearly pushed Jarrett away, the pass was too low in the first place. If it were thrown high enough to take advantage of Jarrett's size, the result would have been an incompleteness or a TD, because Jarrett had at least a 5" height advantage. Leinart's 66-yard TD throw was a 25-30 yard throw lofted to Steve Smith who put a great move on his man in order to be open by 5 yards once he caught the ball. Leinart's part on this play was his pre-snap adjustment to change the call at the LOS.

**Delivery:** He throws nice intermediate passes when he can put air under the ball. When Leinart can throw these types of passes for the route, his passes are perfect, catchable spirals. He mis-timed a streak with his receiver and overthrew the pass. If he had underthrown the ball with less air underneath, the receiver could have caught the ball with the CB on top of him rather than have to attempt to run through/past the CB to get near the ball. The pass was accurate by the timing, but the placement based on the positioning of the CB created a more difficult reception opportunity than it should have been in the first place. His release does not appear very quick, but his delivery is compact.

**Decisions:** He did a nice job on a curl to the outside receiver in the 2nd QTR where he looked right while making a quick pump fake and then threw to the left. The receiver was able to catch, turn, and run for a first down. Leinart is pretty good at looking off defenders. With 9:42 left in the 3rd QTR, Leinart dropped back looking to his left, then looked right and threw a deep slant to Jarrett. The WR did a nice job using his body to shield himself between the corner and the ball. The corner bounced off Jarrett, who caught the ball in stride, and Jarrett scored.

**Ball Handling:** On his next drive in the 2nd QTR, Leinart opened up with a playfake with the intent to go deep. He did a nice job lowering his upper body to act out the handoff, but did not turn his back to the line. The RB did not sell the play fake either. As a result, the Hawaii defense did not bite. Leinart actually fumbled the ball when he was hit. He doesn't have good ball security in the pocket. He holds the ball too low.

**Pocket Presence:** He did not appear too mobile in the pocket, but he had only one play where he was under pressure. On the one play he did step up in time to avoid the rush from the backside, he lost the ball.

**Scrambling Ability:** Did not have to break the pocket in this game.

**Durability:** Leinart has a tall, decent-sized frame for a QB.

**Character:** He chose to stay at school to hone his skills before going to the pros. His draft rating would have fallen if he came out after arm surgery. His only class needed to graduate is a ballroom dance course.