

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]:

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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]:

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Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

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Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:

Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

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Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:

Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:

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Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]:

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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]:

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Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

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The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Ray Rice **Date:** 10/18/2007 **Opponent:** South Florida

Overall Strengths:

Ray Rice is a workhorse back who will punish defenses at the end of runs. He had 36 carries in a game five days prior to this match up where he wound up with 39. He has a very good burst that allows him to get big gains up the middle as well as take the corner and he understands how to time this burst in traffic to knife through a defense. The biggest strength is his power generated by his low center of gravity. He knows how to lower the shoulder pads, helmet or use the stiff arm to initiate the contact and punish defenders. He also gets very low in the hole and in this respect, reminds me a bit of Edgerrin James although Rice--who one day might-- doesn't yet do this as effectively. He is also a good pass blocker who spots the blitz and can stone him. He's not the best blocking RB I've seen, but he has good enough technique that he looks like he could improve upon it to the point that he can become an excellent pass protector who can really punish someone. He is pretty good at pressing the hole and bouncing runs to the outside as well as allowing his blocks to set up before bursting through the opening. He sees downfield well enough to choose a smaller hole with more open field behind it than the bigger hole with less.

Overall Weaknesses:

Rice was only looked at once in the passing game. He needs to improve his skills with cut blocks. He lacks elite gamebreaking speed. Rice has been worked a lot in the last two seasons and people will question whether Rice can hold up in the NFL. I don't think many backs in the NFL will get 25+ carries in the game and if they do, very few hold up anyhow. So this doesn't seem like a very good point of detracton. I think Rice will be an every down back in the NFL and potentially a pro bowl player.

Power:

Rice nearly ran through the CB with a stiff arm. The DB met Rice 10 yards down field on the RB's first run of the game and the stiff arm held off the DB for another 5 yards despite getting brought down by a facemask. The play was negated on a holding call. On the next play, he gained 8 yards after running through the CB in the left flat 4 yards earlier. Good body lean and pad level to finish the run. Rice ran through an arm tackle and then carried two DBs about 4 yards during a 14-yard run on a 1st and 10 with 2:00 in the 1st QTR. Rice lowered his shoulder into a CB 4 yards downfield on his way to a gain of 8 at the end of the 1st QTR. Rice ran extremely low through a hole off LG and C with :20 in the 1st QTR and got through the line before running through the hit of a safety 4 yards past the LOS and then pushing two DBs backwards for a 13-yard gain. He had to be brought down with a blatant facemask. He's easier to bring down when forced to run east-west behind the LOS. On his 11-yard run with 5:15 in the half, Rice knocked the DE on the left corner to the ground with a stiff arm. He did try to stiff arm the DE on the right corner on the next play, but the defense was too far into the backfield for him to have the advantage and he was knocked down for a loss. He gained 33 yards and ran out of two arm tackles--one by the DT and one by the LB within 5 yards of the LOS with 8:25 in the 3rd QTR. He gained 5 yards on the next play against 8 in the box again, dragging a defender for two yards. Excellent leg drive on a 5-yard rush with 4:55 in the game. He gained three extra yards on the play with this effort.

Ball Handling:

Good job keeping the ball under sideline arm on his run to the left corner on the first offensive play of the game. He covered the ball with both hands on a few runs up the middle as he was finishing the play against multiple defenders. He routinely carries the ball under the sideline arm regardless of which direction he is going. Rice fumble the ball on his 35th carry after an LB stuck his helmet directly into the ball. No one would have held onto the football in this situation.

Elusiveness:

Rice is a downhill runner, but he has a good wiggle with his style. He has good head and shoulder movement and runs with a slippery style. His change of direction is quick and he has the ability to get in and out of smaller spaces with a burst. His lateral movement isn't exceedingly quick and he can get caught in the backfield with good penetration. He generally gets minimal gains when this happens because of his good body lean and power.

Balance:

Excellent balance to make a cut in the hole on his second run of the game and then run over a CB in the left flat and gain another 5 yards. Rice is a short, but wide-bodied runner who is very muscular from shoulders to knees. He knows how to run with short, choppy steps in traffic. Good job turning sideways to run out of a DT's tackle in the hole on a delay against 8 in the box that went 14 yards for a first down with 8:40 in the 3rd QTR.

Speed:

Rice is facing a very fast defense. A defense that had not allowed 100 yards to a rusher since Rice in 2006. This included games against Auburn, UCF, and West Virginia. Rice showed very good speed to the left corner on his first run of the game. He gained 10 yards before he even encountered a defender and gained 15 yards total, but the play was called back on a hold. Rice gained 11 yards against 9-men in the box on a run to the left corner out of the shotgun formation. He was able to beat the CB to the first down marker on the play. Excellent acceleration around the corner to be a well-regarded, speedy CB's angle. I'm very impressed with his burst through small spaces on runs up the middle of the defense in the 1st QTR. Rice got around the left corner with 5:15 in the half and beat the DB to the first down marker on an 11-yard gain. Impressive burst off the pulling RG out of a single back set with 13:24 in the 3rd QTR. He gained 4 on the play. He gained 33 yards on a run where a back with elite speed might have scored, but he was run down by the MLB. He could not beat the angle. At the same time, he also carried the ball two times before and ran out of tackles and this was nearly his 60th carry in 5 days. Does this matter? Not sure, but he nearly broke it for a score. The LB's tackle was a diving attempt.

Blocking:

Nice job heading off a blitzing LB on a 2nd and 8 pass play with 5:42 in the 1st QTR. Although the LB was able to tip the ball, Rice did engage the LB and keep him from gaining ground. He could have done a better job to chip the blitzing LB on 2nd and 10 pass play with 3:46 in the 1st QTR. The LB ran a delayed blitz up the middle and Rice only got a hand on the arm of the LB before he released to the middle of the field from his position as blocker. Much better job chipping the LDE on and 3rd and 3 pass play that was complete for a 1st down. Nice job picking up the blitz with :35 in the half. He took on the MLB who came on a delayed blitz and hit the player square in the chest and stopping his momentum. He made a pretty good cut block on the blitzing LB up the middle with :15 in the half. He went a little too low because the LB went flying over Rice after the hit, but it did allow the QB time to throw a very accurate pass to the corner of the endzone that the WR dropped. On the next play, he did well to move across the formation to find the OLB and hit him.

Vision:

Rice's first run of the game was supposed to go up the middle, but he saw open space to the left flat and bent the run around the left corner for a first down, but the play was called back on a hold. He also bounced an off tackle play outside after getting through the hole on the next play. Very good vision against 8 in the box on 2nd and 10 with 3:42 in the 1st QTR. He took the ball and went off LG, but make a quick cut in the hole towards the middle and gained nearly 7 yards on the play. Good patience to try to run off guard but bounce the play to the left side on an 8-yard effort with less than :30 in the 1st QTR. On 1st and 10 with 5:19 in the half Rice got the 1st down on a run where he pressed the hole towards the middle and waited for the RG to pull to LG. Once Rice got on the G's hip he bounced the run to the left corner and gained 11 yards. Excellent job on a shotgun delay handoff with :25 in the half to choose the second, smaller hole past the LOS. This got him 11-yards untouched before he lowered his shoulder into the safety and split a second DB for a 15-yard gain. He's very much a one-cut runner who doesn't do much dancing. He'll drive his legs to get maximum yardage in situations where there is no open lane, such as a 1st and 5 with 5:15 in the 3rd QTR. He could have easily lost yardage if he tried to make something bigger that wasn't there.

Receiving:

Rice fell down before he could set up to receive a screen pass to the left flat.

Durability:

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The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Ray Rice **Date:** 11/9/2006 **Opponent:** Louisville

Overall Strengths:

Rice is a workhorse back. He runs with good pad level, gets north-south quickly, and runs with very good vision between the tackles. He can make cuts in the hole, make the first man miss with a lateral move, and initiate contact at the end of runs. One of the best things about him as a runner is his ability to gain yardage after contact and his decisiveness at the LOS. He faced 8-10 defenders in the box all night long and just got better as the game went along. He has a very low center of gravity and thick legs. He protects the ball very well as a runner. This is a back who should have an opportunity to start for an NFL team by his second season and be a fixture in an offense.

Overall Weaknesses:

Rice needs to work on his 3rd down skills of blocking and receiving to become a reliable, every down player. If he can become a strong receiver, he has a shot to have an excellent NFL career.

Power:

Rice ran through a tackler who came from the backside to making a diving attempt for his waist as Rice entered the hole on the toss sweep with 13:56 in the 1st QTR. He hit the safety head on in the hole with 12:58 in the 1st QTR and drove him backwards for an extra yard on the play. Good pad level on the run. Although hit in the chest at the LOS by an LB with 12:10 in the half, Rice twisted out of the contact and drove his legs forward for 2 yards. Rice exploited a hole off LG and split two defenders by lowering his shoulders and getting low as he knifed through the lane. You could see him carry a defender an extra yard after the contact. Rice had to cut away from an LB shooting through his gap and ride the back of his blocker, but maintained his leg drive and got 5 yards on and 3rd and 3 with :41 in the half. He gained another 4 yards driving his legs behind his blockers at the LOS against 9 men in the box with 5:52 in the 3rd QTR. This is a very sound, yards after contact runner. He got very low pad level on a 1st and 10 run off LG and hit the safety, then churned forward for another two yards as the LB hit him with 2:19 in the 3rd QTR. Rice sent the DB to the ground with a forearm shiver to end his 16-yard gain with 11:29 in the game. He gained three yards after contact on a 7-yard run with 10:54 in the game on a run off RG and C. Good body lean and leg drive. The LB was literally hitting his fists to the turf after he got run over by Rice during his tackle. On 2nd and 6 he took a sweep to the right side against 9 men in the box and burst through a well-blocked opening off RT before lowering his shoulders into the pile that was driving back the MLB and generated a push of 4 extra yards after contact.

Ball Handling:

He carried the first time with the ball under his sideline arm on a toss sweep to the left. He carried the ball under both arms throughout the first half depending on which side of the line he was running to. His scoring pitch down the left sideline was carried under the correct arm. He's a very reliable ballcarrier in terms of protecting the ball. The ball didn't go anywhere on plays where defenders were ripping at it. Especially in the 4th QTR such as the tail end of a 10-yard run with 11:50 left.

Evasiveness:

He made a very quick cut off LG after taking the ball towards RG with :52 in the half. Good burst out of his cut to find the softest spot at the line to exploit. He made a subtle dip further towards the middle while in the lane off LT during his 5-yard run with 4:43 in the 3rd QTR. He made a slashing, plant and cut at the LOS behind his pulling guard to exploit the lane for 20 yards with 1:41 in the game.

Balance:

Rice only gained a yard on a 1st and 10 run off LG with 3:49 in the 1st QTR, but he was grabbed by the side of the helmet by the LB slipping the FB's block. Rice demonstrated good core strength to spin with the hit and then bend backwards to still fall forward for a gain on the play. He lost his balance out of a lateral cut with :45 in the half, but put his free hand into the ground and gained 2 yards when he almost lost 2 yards. Against 9 men in the box, Rice gained 4 yards after spinning away from a hit at the LOS and churning his legs to lean forward for the gain with 5:06 left.

Speed:

Rice scored from 18 yards out on a misdirection pitch to the backside of the play. Rice outran the backside DE, the LB, and a DB down the sideline for the score. The play was a big reason why, but his burst was more than adequate to make the play work. Rice took a pitch to the left side and cut off tackle from the 5 yard line for the score with 4:43 in the 3rd QTR.

Blocking:

His first opportunity to block came in the 4th QTR, but there was no real effort needed because the LB was playing deep off the snap. By the time he reached Rice, the ball was being thrown. Rice whiffed on a cut block to the edge rusher off the right side because he dove for the angles rather than aimed for the thighs.

Vision:

Rice gained 6 yards on a very well-blocked toss sweep to the left side versus a 10 defenders in the box with 13:56 in the 1st QTR. He timed his burst for the pulling linemen to get a few yards downfield and then Rice hit the crease between them. Rice found a wide primary lane up the middle as he followed his FB on 1st and 10 with 13:00 in the game. The 6-man defensive front got a good push on the offensive line on either side of the hole, but Rice hit the right spot and then found a secondary crease to the left of his FB for an extra 2 yards. It was only a 3-yard gain, but he demonstrated the ability to pick and slide in the small space. Although he got hit at the LOS on a 2-yard run with 12:10 in the 2nd QTR, he followed his blockers well. The LB just got by the pulling G who didn't take the correct path to seal that hole. Nice job spotting the LB shooting through the gap he chose and sidestepping the defender to ride his blocker's back for the 1st down on 3rd and 3 with :41 in the half. With 9 defenders in the box with 12:32 in the 3rd QTR, Rice had little choice but to take the softest spot in the middle he could find and drive his legs forward. He only gained a yard on the 1st and 10 play with 12:32 in the third QTR. A very patient run on the draw with 12:00 in the game. He followed the FB off RG then pushed the FB into a block and cut to the inside while in the hole and burst for another 7 yards for the first down. On the next play, he did an excellent job decisively hitting a yard-wide crease between LG and the FB for 10 yards before cutting outside off his WR and finish the run for 16 yards. He gained 20 yards with 1:45 in the game when he followed his pulling G to the right side then cut off that lineman to the inside to exploit a lane for 20 yards before getting hit by the safety.

Receiving:

His first pass came to him on 2nd and 9 with 12:32 in the 3rd QTR. It was a quick outlet pass over the middle after the QB encountered pressure. Rice ran this route at least three times in the first half but the QB was able to hit someone else downfield. Rice caught the ball at belt level while facing the QB. He allowed the ball to get into his body rather than make the catch with his hands, but he controlled it quickly and turned for an extra yard as he was immediately wrapped up. Rice allowed a ball to bounce off his hands on a release to the middle with 12:02 in the game that could have been intercepted due to the way the ball floated back into the air off the tip.

Durability: