

# 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 Stat**

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 Score**

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:** Steve Smith

**Date:** 1/4/2006

**Opponent:** Texas

## Overall Strengths

I think Steve Smith is a huge reason why Mike Williams, Jarrett, and Leinart looked so good at USC. This is a player that does the subtle things to make a play work. He adjusts to the ball in the air, has savvy skills as a route runner, and is tough as nails in traffic as a receiver. He also has much more speed than given credit. Every year, there was a receiver that was billed as the big-play threat on this team but it wasn't Smith. But with Smith got the chance to be the primary guy, he was excellent. He may not have the great height/weight measurables, but he simply plays the position and the game the way it is supposed to be played. He has the leaping ability, speed, and quickness to become a top-notch receiver in the NFL. He won't be billed as such in the draft, but he's going to be a bargain even in the 2nd round.

## Overall Weaknesses

He doesn't have great height or power as a runner.

## Separation

Has the burst and precision on routes to get open.

## Routes

Did a nice job working with Leinart to make the right pre-snap adjustment before catching a pass off a short slant. Ran a great double move route on Griffin and got 3 yards separation from him, but the ball hung in the air and the safety Huff was able to cut in front and intercept it. Although it was a bad throw, it was a great route because Griffin was playing 10 yards off Smith and to still beat the CB deep says a lot about his route precision.

## Receiving

Made a tough catch in tight coverage on a designed rollout. The ball was placed near the receiver's arm closest to the DB, and under thrown. Smith had to come back to the ball and essentially catch the ball with one hand without trapping it on the ground.

## Elusiveness

## Ball Handling

## Balance

Not difficult to tackle one on one for a defender with good technique.

## Blocking

Makes the effort and displays savvy with angles or running a defender out of the play.

## Vision

Smith does a good job veering away from pursuit in the open field.

## Power

None to speak of here.

## Durability

Chronic ankle problems that cost him games over the years.

## Character

Recovered a fumble in the 4th QTR after Lendale White lost the ball on a run with 2:15 left.

# The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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- 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]:
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**Category Score**

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 Power Score:   
 Durability Score:

# The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

**Name:** Steve Smith

**Date:** 10/14/2005

**Opponent:** Notre Dame

**Overall Strengths**

I think Steve Smith is a huge reason why Mike Williams, Jarrett, and Leinart looked so good at USC. This is a player that does the subtle things to make a play work. He adjusts to the ball in the air, has savvy skills as a route runner, and is tough as nails in traffic as a receiver. He also has much more speed than given credit. Every year, there was a receiver that was billed as the big-play threat on this team but it wasn't Smith. But with Smith got the chance to be the primary guy, he was excellent. He may not have the great height/weight measurables, but he simply plays the position and the game the way it is supposed to be played. He has the leaping ability, speed, and quickness to become a top-notch receiver in the NFL. He won't be billed as such in the draft, but he's going to be a bargain even in the 2nd round.

**Overall Weaknesses**

He doesn't have great height or power as a runner.

**Separation**

Has the speed to get separation and he runs routes with the type of precision to enhance this skill even more. The problem is he plays for a quarterback that cannot throw the ball more than 20-30 yards downfield with the necessary velocity to lead him. I'd be willing to bet Smith had more big plays as a freshman under Carson Palmer. I know that 40 yard plays are big plays, but when an NFL quality arm could have net Smith the type of receptions that take him to the end zone without anyone catching him as he runs 20-30 yards downfield untouched, you understand the difference. Instead of 3 receptions for 78 yards in the third quarter, a strong arm would have given Smith a stat line of 3 receptions for 148 yards and 2 TDs.

**Routes**

Runs very nice routes. On the ball he dropped he set up the DB in coverage with a move to the outside and then quickly turned back inside. He was wide open. Got very open on a 3rd down and 10 play to catch a 12 yard pass--made sure he got the right amount of depth on his route.

**Receiving**

Smith has good hands technique and concentration. He adjusts well to the football and can take a hit in the act of making the catch. He is an extremely impressive receiver that is a good match up with any route.

**Elusiveness**

Smith has a quick first step and can string moves together in the openfield. He doesn't make sharp cuts, but he can make a good first move to elude a player.

**Ball Handling**

Carries the ball with sound technique.

**Balance**

Smith isn't difficult to knock down.

**Blocking**

Good effort. He will deliver a hit, but most of the time sustains his effort after shielding a DB or attempts to run the DB away from the play.

**Vision**

Sees the seam very well as a runner and effectively runs away from defenders in the open field.

**Power**

Not very powerful and DBs can bring him down without help.

**Durability**

Chronic ankle problems that cost him games over the years.

**Character**

None

# The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

**Name:** Steve Smith

**Date:** 11/18/2006

**Opponent:** California

**Overall Strengths**

Smith made some tough catches in traffic tonight and demonstrated his skills as a route runner, possession receiver, and big play threat. He is a conscientious blocker downfield in the running game and makes the effort to find a defender in the open field on pass receptions. Smith sets up his routes with good movement, change of speed, and sharp cuts. He generally catches the ball with his hands and makes tough plays in traffic.

**Overall Weaknesses**

Smith isn't extraordinarily fast or big. He dropped some balls tonight that he should have caught. He needs to continue to learn to break the jam.

**Separation**

Excellent separation on the 15-yard hitch to start the game. He burst past the initial defender on the line in the short zone. Smith was in the slot on a 2nd and 7 play with 8-9 minutes left in the half when he made an excellent move to slip the DB's attempt to jam him at the LOS. Smith cut just a bit to the inside and slipped the contact, forcing the DB way out of position as he ran a deep out and caught the ball for a gain of 26 yards. He mad made a good jog move to set up his CB on the fade with 6:05 in the half.

**Routes**

A very well-run hitch on the first USC possession. His break was very clean and didn't give the deep zone defender the time to recover. Nice job faking the intention to block after going in motion on a goal line set and then running out to the flat. Smith missed a pass because he didn't turn around on time on a 3rd down pass where he was releasing to the flat as he motioned across the line of scrimmage.

**Receiving**

His first catch was a 15-yard hitch which he caught with his hands first and facing the QB. Smith dropped a crossing route that was thrown hard to his feet as the QB was getting hit. Smith just missed a diving attempt in the endzone on a fade route. The ball bounced off one hand. Smith caught a WR screen with his hands, but didn't get yardage because the DBs read the play and got into the backfield as Smith caught the ball. Smith let a ball bounce off his chest while running a crossing route in traffic. He left his feet as a defender was submarining his feet from over the top and lost his concentration. Smith caught a 20-yard square-in on 3rd and 15 in tight coverage to make the first down at the start of the 4th QTR. Smith's score was an easy td on 4th and 2 where he got behind the secondary on a blown coverage. No defender was within 5 yards of him for the 37-yard score.

**Elusiveness**

**Ball Handling**

**Balance**

**Blocking**

Smith aggressively attempted a cut block on his cover DB on the first run of the game, but missed the DB. He got a good angle on his CB with 8:05 left in the 1st where the RB ran through a lane that Smith created with his ability to shield the CB on the play. He made a decent block 15 yards downfield on a 2nd and 10 from the 11-yard line. He also made a nice block to clear the outside lane for his TE on a reception that went for a firstdown due to the blocking and run with 14:24 in the 3rd QTR. Smith sustained a block 15 yards down field in the 3rd QTR on a C.J Gable run that went for long yardage due to his ability to open a lane.

**Vision**

**Power**

**Durability**

**Character**

# The Gut Check's WR Checklist Analysis

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# The Gut Check's WR Scouting Profile

**Name:** Steve Smith      **Date:** 9/30/2006      **Opponent:** Washington State

**Overall Strengths** Terrific route runner with excellent hands and ball-catching technique. He can catch it over the shoulder, low, high, or with his body when necessary. He has enough speed to get deep and possesses the body control to gain yardage after the catch or make grabs in tight coverage. He possesses the intangible of a high football IQ--he makes the best decisions in most every critical situation as a blocker, runner, pass catcher or route runner. He knows how to draw the interference call, make the big run, or adjust his route to set up a big play. Smith should become an excellent NFL receiver within a short period of time. He simply plays in a way that makes his quarterback look better.

**Overall Weaknesses** He doesn't have ideal deep speed, but he has enough of it to be a threat in the pros. He's not extraordinarily big. He won't possess any type of physical mismatch to an NFL cornerback. His blocking could use more work. Otherwise, there are very few weaknesses in Smith's game.

**Separation** Smith had a yard on his coverage on a deep, skinny post with 1:54 left in the 1st QTR, but the QB hit the back of the defender with the throw. If the thro were accurate, Smith would have had at least a 30-yard gain, if not a potential score. He is not a burner, but his quickness makes him effective on both short and long routes. Smith is very good at creating separation with his routes and moves in the short and intermediate passing game. Smith shows better than average acceleration after the catch. He seems to run away from the second and third level of the defense on short pass receptions. He tends to gain more yardage than one would anticipate for the design of the play.

**Routes** Smith ran a good hook route on 3rd down to open USC's first offensive series, but the ball was thrown too far to his right. Smith did an excellent job adjusting his route on the skinny post in the 1st QTR. Although he released from the line after motioning towards the LOS, he wisely veered away from the LB dropping in coverage and then cut slightly back towards the middle of the field. These movements nicely set up his route. Smith really squares off his routes. On a 3rd and 7, Smith had a CB in zone coverage that played tight against the LOS. Smith ate up the CBs space then took a hard angle inside to create good separation. Smith's go-route in the 3rd QTR deep inside their own territory was an excellent route off the line of scrimmage and it helped him get good separation. Excellent square-out on a 4th and 10 situation. He was lined up against an LB in the slot. Smith followed up this catch with a 1st down reception where he got open for the QB on a scramble drill moving to the left side of the field. A very crisp route on the second TD pass. He had a very good burst out of his break.

**Receiving** Smith dropped his first pass and ball thrown wide on 3rd down hook route where the WR had to dive for the ball. Despite the difficult attempt, the WR allowed the ball to bounce off his hands and the reception was well within his skill set. Smith has excellent hands and concentration. His first catch was a skinny post 30 yards down field after going in motion towards the line of scrimmage. He caught the ball over his shoulder in stride just before he took a hard hit from the safety over the middle. The impressive thing about his concentration was the fact he caught the ball over the shoulder in which the safety was charging in full view. I have watched several receivers drop the football when faced with this proposition, but Smith held on to the ball with no hesitation--an excellent sign of a player with the skills to become a very good possession receiver at the next level. This is an extremely difficult catch that NFL teams expect a receiver to make. Smith got a first down on a short hitch where he put a move on the DB and got to the sideline. He caught this ball with his hands. Smith had a 49-yard reception where he turned his upper body to face the QB while running a deep cross and cradling the ball into his body. Smith's 21-yard reception off a short slant was cradled into his body. Smith's go-route in the 3rd QTR was a good display of body control to leap into the air over the top of the CB and nearly make the reception. The ball hit the back of the CB before Smith could get his hands near the ball. The CB was called for pass interference because he wasn't looking for the ball and was close to running through the WR. Smith doesn't appear to have great leaping ability, but he does have good

**Elusiveness** Smith is a very quick receiver that can make the first man miss with or without the ball in his hands. He made a nice cut to elude a diving tackler going in for the kill shot after he caught a crossing route with 6:50 left in the game.

**Ball Handling** Maintains good control of the ball as a runner after the catch. He carries the ball in his outside arm whenever he has the chance.

**Balance** Great balance on a 4th and two swing pass off motion to the opposite side of the field. He caught the pass in the flat and the DB took his legs out from under him on a hit nearly 3 yards behind the first down marker, but Smith managed to keep his balance just enough to fully lay out and get the football over the first down marker as he was falling out of bounds. He did a great job of using his free hand to prop himself up just a split second longer so he could get the other arm over the marker before his knees hit the ground.

**Blocking** Smith showed the ability to stick to his man in the run game and open up a pitch out for a 48-yard gain in the 3rd QTR--the play after he drew the interference call. Smith appeared to be holding the CB, but got away with it. The aggressiveness and effort to sustain the block were good.

**Vision** Smith gained 21 on a 3rd down reception off a short slant because he found the opening in the zone and then knew where to angle away from the secondary while running up field. Smith got a first down with 6:50 left in the game on crisply run, crossing route. He took a good angle away from his coverage after catching the ball and then anticipated a DB shooting for him from over top. He made a quick cut and the DB missed him completely.

**Power**

**Durability** Had a broken leg two years ago. Chronic ankle problems that cost him games over the years.

**Character** Steve Smith has very strong football awareness. He consistently made his quarterbacks look good throughout his career at USC because he makes good plays in necessary situations. He reacts very well to game situations.