

# The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Garrett Wolfe

Date: 10/5/2005

Opponent: Miami, Ohio

## Overall Strengths:

Instinctive runner with excellent explosiveness through the hole. Runs with good lean and runs the ball high and tight, like Tiki Barber has learned to do. Good vision and balance. Cannot be arm-tackled. Hits the holes hard. Unbelievably productive: Once had a 325-yard game against Eastern Michigan as a sophomore. Gives terrific effort as a blocker and not afraid to be the aggressor when necessary. Excellent body lean as a runner. Pound for pound, as good of an RB as there is in college football.

## Overall Weaknesses:

Size. He has solid dimensions for his 5-7 height, but NFL teams will initially shy away from using him as anything more than a return man or third down back. Wolfe has a style and skill set similar to Warrick Dunn. Miami, Ohio is not a top-notch college defense so his power as described in this report may be suspect. There have yet to be any runners that truly compare to Warrick Dunn, because he is the only starting RB in the NFL below 185 pounds and under 5-9. Shoulder injury will be a concern with the NFL because they may fear that it is a sign he won't hold up under the every day pounding as an RB.

## Power:

Wolfe has the slippery kind of power that makes him tough to wrap up. He runs low to the ground and with a lot of speed. Wolfe has a tendency to bounce off hits. He does not shy away from contact and will carry a tackler a yard or two. Despite his height, this is not a player you can arm tackle. He is always falls forward to finish his runs. Despite his good technique, Wolfe is not big enough to consistently bounce off LBs or DLs--a DB with good form generally tackles Wolfe on his own if he has a good angle.

## Ball Handling:

He holds the ball close to his body in the way Tiki Barber has been coached in recent years. Sometimes he lets the ball slip away from his body but you can see he's working on this technique to keep the ball tight into his chest. Most of the time, he carries it like Barber and last year, NIU only had one fumble the entire year.

## Elusiveness:

Wolfe runs with a wiggle and this works well as a downhill style runner. He can bounce a play outside with good footwork, but he doesn't make sharp cuts or a lot of stop-start movements.

## Balance:

On his 16 yard run, Wolfe actually took a face mask from a DT in pursuit and still maintained his footing. In the 4th QTR, Wolfe went airborne and slammed into the line. When no one wrapped him up as he got back to his feet and bounced outside for an 8-yard gain. He finished the run by taking on the safety, who stood Wolfe up until more help could arrive.

## Speed:

It looks like Wolfe has a terrific burst. He can hit that next gear faster than most backs I have seen this year. It is very noticeable when he gets into the second level of the defense.

## Blocking:

Not often assigned to pass block but did a great job taking on a DE by getting into his body and delivering a blow. Not sure he could accomplish this against an NFL player.

## Vision:

Likes to run up the middle and spots the openings effectively. Although he doesn't bounce runs outside very often, he does it very well and actually had a 16-yard run to being the 2nd QTR because he bounced a play to the opposite side of the field. The actual distance covered was quite longer, because the play was designed to go between the right guard and tackle, but he bounced it all the way to the left sideline. Wolfe

## Receiving and Routes:

Ran an excellent curl out of the backfield. His break was very tight and he caught the ball nicely with his hands.

## Durability:

Has a lingering shoulder injury. Is supposed to be wearing a harness to protect a once-dislocated shoulder that tends to pop out of place. Wolfe mentioned this happens as often as once a game and he pops it back in himself. Will require surgery at the end of the season.