

# The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

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

**Overall Score:**

**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]:

## Game Stats

- Attempts:**
- Rush Yds:**
- 1st Downs:**
- Rush Tds:**
- Target:**
- Rec:**
- Rec Yds:**
- Rec Tds:**
- Fumbles:**
- Broken Tackles:**
- BLKs Assigned:**
- BLKs Made:**

- 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]:

**Player:** Maurice Jones-Drew

**Date:** 10/9/2005

**Opponent:** California

**Overall Strengths:** Drew is one of the best returnmen in the nation. He plays fast, and does a great job as a returnman because he doesn't make a lot of stop-start, hesitation moves. His moves are designed to keep him moving north-south. He will at least be an excellent returnman in the NFL if placed in this role. He had a 69-yard punt return in the first quarter that set up a touchdown pass from Drew Olson. On the return, Drew cut across the field and took advantage of the wall formed for him. He outran all but two players that were playing deep and over the top of Drew as he approached them. He took a second punt return in the 3rd QTR into the teeth of the coverage, split the defense and scored 80 yards later--excellent vision and footwork to navigate traffic. Excellent receiver out of the backfield. There are a lot of qualities about Drew that remind an observer of Warrick Dunn--small, but fearless.

**Overall Weaknesses:** Drew's height and weight will fuel many skeptics about his every down potential. This is a player that has a level of talent that outweighs his draft position due to the fact he isn't likely to be regarded as an every down back.

**Power:** Drew has nice power for his size. He demonstrated the ability to carry a safety larger than him for extra yardage in this game. In fact the amount of power he has is surprisingly. Some of this power comes from his big thighs and the rest off his momentum generated by a solid burst of speed. He knocked down an LB meeting him in the hole on a 12-yard run for a TD in 2nd QTR. He finished the run by lowering his head, and completely laying out the safety at the goal line. The hit actually made the safety's head snap back as he fell backwards.

**Ball Handling:** Drew switches the ball to the appropriate hand much of the time. He doesn't always do it, but makes a habit of it when he turns east-west. I have only seen Drew fumble once in two games and it was a mishandled pitch. Drew holds the ball closely to his body in traffic, and eases up slightly in the open field.

**Elusiveness:** Drew has a fine repertoire of sharp cuts, jump cuts, spins, etc. He times these moves well, and doesn't rely on them too much as a runner--especially when running between the tackles. He does not dance a lot with the ball--a decisive runner.

**Balance:** Excellent balance. Possibly the most impressive part of his running style. He runs hard and it's difficult for others to knock him off balance.

**Speed:** Drew has a solid burst of speed when he approaches an opening in the line. He has excellent open field speed and is a threat to take any pass, run, or return the distance.

**Blocking:** I'm not convinced he'll do a good job blocking in the NFL because of his size, but as a college back he's very good. Drew did a nice job picking up the blitz. He actually gets into the body of an oncoming defender and delivers a blow. At the same time, he has learned to shield off defenders that are moving with momentum that have significant size advantage. He's such a threat as a receiver, he'll probably not be asked to block too often. Still, it may limit his potential as an every down back.

**Vision:** He spots cutback lanes well, and does a great job in the open field. Rarely does he start-stop to find openings. He's generally moving forward as he's looking for more daylight.

**Receiving and Routes:** Drew catches the ball comfortably and is a huge weapon in the passing game. He took a swing pass in stride with two lead blockers ahead, spotted the cut back, and ran nearly 50 yards down field. He made second cut back on the play to take advantage of two more blocks. Some of the yardage was lost on a holding penalty, but Drew's speed and open field running were on fine display.

**Durability:** He has never had 200 attempts in his college career, so durability as an every down back isn't something NFL teams will be expecting from Drew. The RB has suffered from an ankle injury that caused him to miss about two games last year.

**Character:** No known issues.

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**Player:** Maurice Jones-Drew

**Date:** 10/15/2005

**Opponent:** Washington State

**Overall Strengths:** Drew plays fast and runs hard. He may be small, but he's a back you must wrap up when attempting a tackle because he has excellent balance and a low center of gravity. Drew is a fine receiver out of the backfield and very dangerous in the open field. This is a great football player in a small body. He should make an impact in the NFL for many years as a multi-dimensional threat out of the backfield. If there is a player that can be the next Warrick Dunn, Drew has the best chance to do it.

**Overall Weaknesses:** If Drew were 5-10 and 217, he'd give Reggie Bush a run for his money as a top-5 pick. His size calls his durability, power, and ability to block into question. He'll have to prove all over again that he can overcome his size limitations. It isn't likely Drew will see more than 250 touches per season, even as a valuable cog in the offense.

**Power:** Jones has a very powerful lower body for his size. He is able to twist and turn for extra yardage after an opponent initially wraps him up for the tackle, but he's not going to overpower any linebackers or safeties. Jones-Drew can take a hit. He broke two tackles on a swing pass in the 3rd QTR, one such tackle was a DL with a good angle but bounced off the RB. He is consistently bouncing off tacklers that don't wrap up after making the initial hit. He takes a lot of direct shots for a man his size. He almost seems prone to the hard hit. He also initiates contact, but not sure his size allows him to punish defenders on a consistent basis. Between the tackles, Jones-Drew will stick his helmet in the pile and drive forward for all the yards he can get.

**Ball Handling:** Drew mishandled a pitch, but UCLA did get the ball back. Drew does a good job carrying the ball with his outside arm.

**Elusiveness:** The most dangerous part of this back's game is his ability to make people miss with a variety of cuts, spins, and elusive moves. He can elude a defender one on one at full speed with subtle moves--much like his 3rd QTR reception on a swing pass. He's able to make moves on the run that free defenders in open space--forcing them to break down too early.

**Balance:** He has good balance and runs with a low center of gravity. This gives Drew the ability to finish runs because he's difficult to knock off balance. Because of his thick legs and excellent balance, you have to wrap up in order to bring him down. He understands how to get low towards the end of the run, which helps him gain extra yardage on occasion. On Jones-Drew's screen pass for a TD, he did a great job avoiding direct shots and maintaining his balance as he went down the field.

**Speed:** This is one of his strengths. Drew has both excellent long speed and short area burst. If he doesn't have the ability to be an every down back in the NFL, he will be a dynamic returner.

**Blocking:** On a 3rd and 12 in the 3rd QTR Jones-Drew picked up a blitzing LB by getting into his body and driving him at least five yards behind the QB. Excellent block. He aggressively hits his assignments. He knocked back an LB into the line of scrimmage on the next series in the 3rd QTR. He also willingly helps out lineman on assignments. Jones-Drew has been a very reliable pass protector in this game.

**Vision:** Drew has good vision in the open field, but he's very much a down hill runner in this game. One would think he'd try to cut back more often.

**Receiving and Routes:** He had two big plays as a receiver on opening drive in the third quarter. One was a pass to the flat with blockers kicking out. Jones-Drew caught the ball with his hands first. Has a good feel for routes in the screen game.

**Durability:** He has never had 200 attempts in his college career, so durability as an every down back isn't something NFL teams will be expecting from Drew. The RB has suffered from an ankle injury that caused him to miss about two games last year.

**Character:** Of the last four plays in OT, Drew was handed the ball on three of them.