

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: DeAngelo Williams **School:** Memphis **Opponent:** Mississippi **Surface:** Grass
Height: 5-9 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 6-10 **Climate:** Sunshine
Weight: 214 **Date:** 9/5/2005 **Location:** Memphis **Temperature:** Hot

Overall Score: **90**

Power Score : 12

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]: Yes
Effective stiff arm [1pt]: Yes
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt] No
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]: Yes
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]: Yes

Balance Score : 9

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]: N/A
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]: Yes
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]: Yes

BHandling Score : 15

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]: Yes
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]: Yes
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]: Yes
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]: Yes
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]: Yes

Speed Score : 11

Effective short area burst [7pts]: Yes
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]: Yes
Effective outside runner [3pts]: Yes

Vision Score: 11

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]: Yes
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]: N/A
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]: Yes

Elusiveness Score 16

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]: Yes
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]: Yes
Avoids direct shots [7pts]: Yes
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]: Yes
Effective lateral movement [3pts]: Yes

Blocking Score : 4

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]: Yes
Effort with assignments [3pts]: Yes
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt] No

Receiving and Routes Score : 9

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts] Yes
Makes difficult catch [1pt]: N/A
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]: N/A
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt] Yes
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]: Yes
Runs precise routes [1pt]: No

Durability Score : 3

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]: Yes
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]: N/A
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]: Yes
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts] No

Game Stats

Attempts: 24
Rush Yds: 85
1st Downs: 5
Rush Tds: 0
Target: 3
Rec: 2
Rec Yds: 14
Rec Tds: 0
Fumbles: 1
Broken Tackles: 4
BLKs Assigned: 5
BLKs Made: 4

Player: DeAngelo Williams

Date: 9/5/2005

Opponent: Mississippi

Overall Strengths: Williams is short, but he has a thick frame--especially his thighs. Built a lot like Emmitt Smith, but with breakaway speed. He led the nation in touchdowns last year (22) and second in the nation in all-purpose yards (2230), rushing yards (1948), and points (138). Williams has excellent moves and quickness. The variety of moves are impressive: giving and taking away a leg to the defender, spins, lateral jump cuts, and small cuts while moving at full speed. He is just as capable of being a one cut runner as he is of making multiple moves. When running out of a single back set or I-formation, Williams is dangerous because he's able to make cutbacks facing the defense head-on. Four of Williams' best five runs of the day were from a single back set running forward to the LOS. He displayed stamina in the 4th quarter where he averaged 4 yards per carry for his last 10 carries of the day.

Overall Weaknesses: Williams is a bit more difficult to evaluate because he plays in an offense that spreads the field. The scheme dictates that Williams will receive the handoff as he's going in motion towards the QB from a WR position. This means he's closer to the line and heading East-West, rather than North-South on many running plays, and Williams gets less time to spot a holes or make effective cutbacks. Plus, the Memphis offense that was a top-10 offense from last year lost 4 of its 5 previous starters on the offensive line. There were at least 3 attempts where a defender was able to blitz into Williams' direction without opposition. The Ole Miss team blitzed a safety on 5 running plays with Williams. There were at least 10 plays where a defensive lineman cleanly shed a lineman and greeted Williams in the hole or was completely unblocked by the offense. Although Williams didn't have a great yardage day, his talent was still clearly on display. Williams appears to take plays off when he doesn't have the ball.

Power: Williams is deceptively powerful. He took an off tackle play out of a full house backfield set and LB Patrick Willis--a pro prospect in his own right--went for a kill shot--leading with his head, but bounced off Williams' upper body. After this hit, Williams gained two more yards on the play. On a 25-yard run in the second quarter, Williams broke two arm tackles with ease. He has won Memphis' award for excellent performance in the weight room--two years running. He runs with power because of he's low to the ground, strong in the thighs, and fast. He uses a stiff arm frequently, but his arms appear short and it affords Williams the opportunity to gain extra yards.

Ball Handling: Williams runs the ball in either hand. The stat sheet doesn't credit Williams with a fumble, but on a 3rd down swing pass to open the third quarter, Williams clearly fumbled the ball when three defenders converged on the RB and one was able to knock the ball loose as he was going down. Williams did have the ball locked away, but it was a good hit. This actually would have been the first fumble of his college career (768 carries total). Although he fumbled this ball, he did a good job keep the ball close to his body throughout the game.

Elusiveness: Williams makes little moves to veer away from on-coming defenders with the angle. On the second run of the game, he made a 3rd defender miss by dipping just slightly to the outside. Although he slipped and only gained 4 yards, the move prevented him from losing yardage. The third running play was for at best a 1-yard gain, but as he ran towards the middle of the line he made a lateral move that ruined the DE's angle. He forced the DE off balance and then made a second move to elude an LB on a run-blitz with a clean shot at him. Williams has an array of start-stop, lateral, and spin moves. He possesses excellent footwork and will make one cut to get into the hole. As much as Williams is an instinctive runner, he also understands how to read and react to the defense.

Balance: Williams has excellent balance. On his first reception of the game he was hit in the thigh, and spun away from the tackle to gain a first down.

Speed: Williams clearly has first-round caliber speed and quickness. His second run was bounced to the outside for a gain of four yards. During this run he outran an LB and safety that were unblocked on the perimeter. One of the quickest backs I've seen in this year. He gets to full speed very quickly and few backs are as dangerous in open space. In the third quarter, Williams took a hand off out of the shotgun formation. The blitzing OLB got into the backfield untouched and was within a step of Williams as he took the ball from the QB. Williams moved so quickly out of the way, the OLB could only lightly touch his leg. Williams made a second move to make the converging DL miss, too. Although tackled for a loss, the play was amazing to watch for his moves. With better blocking from the offensive line and Williams is capable of huge gains on any play.

Blocking: His only blocking assignment was at the end of the 2nd quarter. Williams made the correct read and initiated contact with the defender. He didn't deliver an aggressive hit, but he did wall off the defender. Williams does not look for opportunities to make blocks if he is not playside of the ball, nor does he finish out fakes. He'll slow to walk or standstill if he is not playside. The RB was a lead blocker on an end around in the 4th quarter and he dove at the defender's feet--this won't work in the NFL, but it did open up space for the WR. Former Notre Dame coach Bob Davie complimented Williams on this play, but it wasn't that effective of a chop block.

Vision: Williams effectively showed he understands what the defense tries to do against him. In the second quarter, Williams recognized the safety blitz. The defender timed his run blitz perfectly, but Williams' made one small cut back inside and the safety completely missed. Williams gained six yards.

Receiving and Routes: Williams is consistently lined up as either a slot receiver or an outside receiver in this offense. Although they send him in motion before the snap to receive handouts out of this set, he also runs pass routes. On the second play of the game Williams was clearly the primary option, but he was well-covered. The QB wound up sacked and injured for the rest of the year. On 3rd and 7 on the second drive of the first quarter, Williams lined up in the slot and ran a crossing pattern. He caught the ball and spun off an attempted tackle for the first down. Williams did a nice job getting separation on the defender in coverage. He cut across well enough to be ahead of the defender on the throw, but also kept a nice amount of depth between him and the defender so he could get the angle as he turned up field. The Ole Miss defensive actually double covered Williams on a few routes in the game. In the 4th quarter, Williams ran a deep slant but the QB threw it too high. At the same time he hesitated on his route just enough to make the catch more difficult.

Durability: Williams broke his leg last year, which may have been the reason he decided to return to Memphis rather than enter the NFL draft. While rehabilitating he did not get subjected to contact during training camp, but worked exclusively at receiver. After his first reception he fell awkwardly on his shoulder and had to leave for a few plays.

Character: There were some minor things I disliked about Williams' game today when it came to giving 100% effort. He hesitated on a route that would up as an incomplection. Although thrown a little high and Williams made a nice attempt, his initial give-up on the route was the problem. Williams never follows through on fakes, or pass routes not directed to him. Nor did Williams attempt to get down field and make any open field blocks. He has to be careful not to give off signals that tip off the defense to the intent of the play.

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: DeAngelo Williams **School:** Memphis **Opponent:** Akron **Surface:** Astro Turf
Height: 5-9 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 38-24 **Climate:** Indoors
Weight: 214 **Date:** 12/26/2005 **Location:** Motor City Bowl **Temperature:** Temperate

Overall Score: 92

Power Score :

13

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:

Yes

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

Yes

Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]

Yes

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

Yes

Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Yes

Balance Score :

9

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

N/A

Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:

Yes

Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

Yes

BHandling Score :

15

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Yes

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Yes

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

N/A

Speed Score :

11

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

Yes

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

Yes

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Yes

Vision Score:

11

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

Elusiveness Score

16

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

Yes

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

Yes

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Yes

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Yes

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Yes

Blocking Score :

4

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

No

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

Yes

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

N/A

Receiving and Routes Score :

10

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]

Yes

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

Yes

Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:

Yes

Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]

Yes

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Yes

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Yes

Durability Score :

3

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:

Yes

Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:

N/A

No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:

N/A

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]

No

Game Stats

Attempts: 30

Rush Yds: 233

1st Downs: 5

Rush Tds: 3

Target: 0

Rec: 0

Rec Yds: 0

Rec Tds: 0

Fumbles: 0

Broken Tackles: 9

BLKs Assigned: 6

BLKs Made: 3

Player: DeAngelo Williams

Date: 12/26/2005

Opponent: Akron

Overall Strengths: Broke the NCAA record for most 100-yard games with 34, once held by Tony Dorsett and Archie Griffin and the NCAA's all-time, all-purpose yardage leader. In fact, if there is a back that reminds me of Tony Dorsett, Williams is that player. Williams has an excellent burst and smooth open field moves. His best traits are vision and balance. There will be detractors about his long speed, minor injuries, and his competitive spirit for not facing Tennessee this year. Ignore them, Williams is the complete package that is sound in just about every fundamental you would desire from a feature runner. He's also a player with character and leadership skills. He had a terrific season although he had to run behind a new offensive line, and a 4th-string QB. He should be a starter in the NFL for quite a few years.

Overall Weaknesses: Williams needs more work with his blocking. The Memphis RB tends to drop his head too early on cut blocks and he tips off his opponent to his intentions. Once he develops better blocking skills, he has the total package to be an every down back. But at this point, he may have to start as a change of pace option or be taken out on third down if the team that drafts him doesn't use him as a receiver out of the backfield. Williams has great burst, but he can get caught from behind on longer runs. He's deceptively powerful, but he's not a bruising back. His ability to stay healthy is something that is fair to question about his potential to hold up as an NFL starter.

Power: Williams does a good job falling forward when wrapped up at the end of his runs. He has a very well-built, and powerful body for his size. He does a good job driving forward after the initial contact. Williams understands how to make space in short-yardage situations by lowering his head and plowing through traffic. He is behind Ricky Williams on career yards per carry at 6.16. Williams demonstrated an adequate stiff arm with his left arm on a sweep in the 3rd QTR. He began the 4th QTR with an even more effective stiff arm on a carry for the first down, and followed up on the next carry with yet another stiff arm against an LB that helped him gain another 15 yards. He easily ran through leg tackles in this contest. The most impressive play I saw all night from Williams was on a 1st and goal from the 2-yard line after he made a 69-yard run and weaved through the secondary. Williams took the pitch, ran through an LB's tackle, was grabbed by both the NT and DT at the 2-yard line, and then carried both players across the goal line. To run the ball 69-yards in the 4th QTR after several carries in the game, and then follow it up with a power run against two guys that weigh at least a combined 550 pounds speaks volumes about Williams' stamina and effort.

Ball Handling: Williams appears to feel most comfortable carrying the ball in his right hand, but he does use both hands. On his 33-yard run, Williams originally had the ball in his left hand because the play was designed to go this way. When Williams cut back to the right, the Memphis RB sensed the pursuit on his left and switched the ball to his right hand while heading towards the right sideline.

Elusiveness: Although Williams has a nice wiggle and runs with good lateral movement, he always seems to be moving forward. Williams long run from his own 1-yard line in the 2nd QTR started with an excellent start-stop change of direction that was so quick, it threw off the angle of the run blitzing safety and got Williams outside for a long gain. He has very good start stop moves and he has the quickness to reverse his field for positive gains. Williams also dips in and out of space with lower body moves that set up the defender to commit too soon. Williams displays very impressive change of direction while on the move. He made a very smooth lateral move to the right on a hand off intended to go up the middle and took it outside of a 15-yard gain. Other than Reggie Bush, there isn't a better open field runner in college football. Williams took a 4th QTR run through the middle of the defense and eliminated a great angle of a safety that was over the top of Williams and closing. Williams was able to turn the safety around and then cut away from him at the last moment

Balance: Williams gained 5 yards on an option play after he was able to lean back, avoid the brunt of a hit coming to his right side behind the line of scrimmage, and then maintained his balance for the entire gain.

Speed: Williams good speed to get around the corner of the defense. He took a draw play to the outside in the 1st QTR for a 19-yard gain and was not touched until 15 yards down field. His burst looks better than his long range speed. When he gets into the open field there is a tendency for the secondary to recover and get a chance to make an attempt.

Blocking: Williams delivered an excellent kickout block on an end around on the second play of the game. Williams went low and drove his body right into the groin area of the OLB--perfect technique on a cut block--and knocked him out of the play. With 1:57 left in the 2nd QTR, Williams was the lead blocker on a QB sprint out, but he ran right by a defender coming off a block. It looked like either Williams saw the LB but let him through to the QB but turned around to act as if he missed it or he honestly ran past the man without seeing him before it was too late. Williams did make a pretty good cut block on the edge rusher on the next play to help his QB complete a 48-yard bomb. The block was a little too low in the legs, but it still made the LB a beat too slow to get to the QB. Yet it was the type of play an NFL LB might be able to make if Williams blocks this way in the pros. In the 3rd QTR on an attempted doubled pass on 3rd & 10, Williams telegraphed his cut block on the CB by lowering his head too soon. This allowed the CB to hurdle the attempt and disrupt the play. Williams should become a better blocker, but hasn't consistently demonstrated good technique in this game.

Vision: Possibly Williams' best trait as a runner. His specialty is the cutback run. On a 3rd and 10 from Memphis' own 1-yard line, Williams took a hand off designed to go to the left, but correctly identified the LBs stacked on that side of the formation and cut back to the right. He exploited the open lane with a burst of speed for a 33-yard gain.

Receiving and Routes: Williams did a good job trying to adjust his route to the flat by turning upfield when the Akron secondary jumped the original route while the Memphis QB was getting flushed to the right. Williams had only 11 receptions this year, but has proven throughout his career to be an excellent receiver out of the backfield. He had 35 receptions as a sophomore.

Durability: Williams broke his leg in 2004's bowl game. Had some nagging ankle injuries in his career but always seems to get back within a short period of time.

Character: Williams is a team player that had t-shirts made labeled "The Memphis Tigers Breakfast Club--we make pancakes all day long." He is very much a leader on the Memphis St. squad. As a freshman he was able to enlist the help of his coaches to keep his teammate Marcus Avery in the program when Avery got discouraged when told he'd be moved to WR. Very much a student of the game, Williams compiled all his carries last year on film so he could analyze his style.