



Running Back Top 10 Prospects

This is my first time doing full tape watching and evaluating draft prospects in full.

I am basing my decisions purely on what I see, I have given this a great deal of attention, throughout the college season I have watched games due to games being played more in the UK, I have also used highlights as well as watching games as well.

With the playoffs also being shown in the UK and a great deal more attention on this there may be slightly more recency bias in some of these picks.

This running back class is absolutely stacked. There is an amazing amount of talent in this class and there could easily be around 20 drafted in my opinion. Any team needing a long term answer at running back this is definitely the draft to take one, even if you have a veteran in your ranks.

In the running backs I have watched I would say there is one clear rb1 in the class and potential top 10 pick in the upcoming draft. I do believe the next 2 are potentially 2nd rounders with all of these top 5 potentially being drafted in the top 2/3 rounds. The next group of running backs down to 15 could go anywhere between rounds 4-7. I could honestly see 20 running backs drafted. As stated it is a very good group.

1. Ashton Jeanty (Boise State)

The clear back in this group. Jeanty was amazing this year breaking many long standing records. He was amazing and carried Boise State to the playoffs.

Strengths:

Jeanty has huge big play ability, he went up against 8 in the box and managed to churn out yards, his power is outstanding, his is so hard to bring down due to his balance and poise. He literally beats tackles for fun.

The Boise State running back has a great change of direction, he has a terrific burst of pace to get away from defenders.

Not only does Jeanty have the power and pace, he also has incredible vision, he hits his gaps and running lanes really well.

Jeanty is a 3 down back, he is good in pass protection, although he didn't do it often he has fairly decent hands and routes so can be used in the pass game.

In my opinion Jeanty is the best running back prospect since Saquon Barkley.

Weakness:

I couldn't really see anything i genuinely believe Jeanty is the real deal, however he did have two fumbles in the playoffs against a tough Oregon team, this may and it's super harsh, have a team or two a little worried but they would be foolish to pass up on Jeanty.

2. Omarion Hampton (North Carolina)

The number 2 and 3 in my opinion could go either way. Hampton really impressed this season with some solid play. I could see Hampton going late in the first or early second.

Strengths:

Another genuine 3 down back, Hampton is good in pass protection. He is fantastic in both the pass and the run game.

Hampton is a very violent and powerful runner. He is also able to find gaps in traffic and with a huge burst of pace can get some big gains.

The North Carolina running back breaks lots of tackles with his balance and gets extra yards after contact as well.

Hampton is a young back and has stayed healthy.

He has not had a fumble this season and therefore has great ball protection.

Weaknesses:

This is super harsh, but sometimes he does look for contact rather than trying to elude, but that is incredibly harsh.

3. Treveyon Henderson (Ohio State)

I prefer Henderson over the next two players who are really close to this level also, however There is just something more with Henderson. I do think he is a slightly better back than his partner at Ohio State who we will look at below also.

Strengths:

Henderson is a complete 3 down back. He is good in the run, block and pass game.

Therefore he has good hands for the pass game, he is a powerful runner and is hard to bring down, Henderson is also a good and willing blocker.

Henderson has a terrific burst of pace and change of direction. This helps him elude defenders, he can also run over tacklers for the extra yards.

The vision Henderson shows is also impressive, he can move through lanes, and also in zone scheme runs also. He is excellent in open space, he makes good decisions to get the extra yards.

From the interviews and reports especially around the arrival of Judkins, he is a real team player.

Weaknesses:

He didn't make the expected jump, however this could be down to the shared reps.

4. Quinshon Judkins (Ohio State)

Judkins had a terrific finish to the season, the Championship game was by far the highlight of it all. This probably is another slight recency bias decision But Judkins also proved he could do it on the main stage.

Strengths:

The main thing that jumps out to me about Judkins is his ability to make tackles miss, he is very agile, has some great cuts, and has some good vision. Then the power comes next and you have a good back. He can break tackles with ease, he has a huge stiff arm to move defenders away.

It doesn't stop there though, Judkins is really capable in the pass game, this could be blocking or catching. He runs good routes.

Weaknesses:

Although Judkins does have good pace, in the Championship final there was a play where he breaks free and should rush for a touchdown but is caught. I'm not sure if he ran out of gas or his top speed isn't great but that was concerning.

5. Kaleb Johnson (Iowa)

Johnson could easily be 3 in this list, there really isn't too much between Johnson and the others, however I feel Johnson is more a zone scheme back.

Strengths:

The big positive about Johnson is the ball protection, he had 0 fumbles last year and it's easy to see why. He has great ball security when rushing. He has great balance and vision. He runs with patience but still has great power and speed. This is all why he is an excellent zone scheme back. Johnson is able to break tackles, he beats a lot of open field defenders as well.

Although we haven't seen it often Johnson is capable as a receiving back, he has decent routes and hands and could maybe be used a bit more in the future than what we have seen.

The other big positive for teams drafting Johnson is he is young, good size, and can still develop even further.

Weaknesses:

Johnson's pass protection could use some work.

He also had a good offensive line in college, therefore it is unclear how useful he will be with a poor offensive line and tougher defences. This seems a reach and another harsh call though.

6. Cam Skattebo (Arizona State)

7. Damien Martinez (Miami)

8. DJ Giddens (Kansas State)
9. Bhayshul Tuten (Virginia Tech)
10. Ollie Gordan II (Oklahoma State)