



NFL Draft 2016 Scouting Report: RB Kenyan Drake, Alabama

**Our RB grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, leaked Wonderlic test results, etc. We will update ratings as new info becomes available.*

**We use the term "Power RB" to separate physically bigger, more between-the-tackles-capable RBs from our "speed RBs" group. "Speed RBs" are physically smaller, but much faster/quicker, and less likely to flourish between the tackles.*

This was a really strange scouting study. If you only allowed me to look at **Kenyan Drake's** 5–10 best plays in college, I'd swear he was a sleeper prospect to not only work in an NFL passing game out of the backfield, but to also draw more carries/workload... Maybe, eventually taking over as a three-down running back. The first snapshot view of Drake is a good one.

However, after I dug a little deeper here, watched more play-by-play tape, and looked over his college career, I was left feeling more negative on his NFL prospects. There are so many conflicting pieces of data on Drake, with more negative than positive, that I would see him as an undraftable or a late-round flier pick. The fact that **Kenyan Drake** was drafted in the top 75 shows how pathetic the Miami Dolphins scouting system and personnel assessment/valuation group is.

Let's look at the pros and cons on Drake, pros first...

– Drake is a very fluid, quick-footed running back...impressive movement for his size. He gets out of the gates fast, and he can pick up speed heading down field, leaving defenders in the dust. He's a 4.45 40-time runner from the NFL Combine, so he definitely has the speed.

– At 6'0.5"/210 he has a decent frame, a little thin, but a frame you can build upon. He could be bumped to 220 pounds.

– He handles himself well as a receiver out of the backfield. He does a great job catching the ball and immediately getting his body turned around to head downfield. There's not a lot of wasted movement. He looks more like a wide receiver in motion than a running back.

The cons...

– At first, Drake seemed like a really fast, speedy scatback type runner only in a mega-sized 6'0"+ frame. The size-speed combo is intoxicating, at first. The more I watched, the more I fell out of love with Drake as a runner of the ball. He runs like he is scared, and I don't mean that as horribly as it sounds.

Everything seems to be at a very frenetic pace, like he's just trying to escape contact at all costs. It kind of works for him, because he avoids tackles in college with his swift feet. In the pros, I fear that more



JULY 13, 2016

talented defenders will have no issue catching up to him and crashing him to the ground for limited gains. He goes down quick upon contact. He runs with his hand extended out in an almost 'get away from me' type of move, not a classic **Walter Payton** stiff-arm.

– People talk about Drake's work ethic in the weight room, and his body does look chiseled, but I can't explain why he would then only bench 10 reps at the NFL Combine. He may be just born with a weaker upper body...not a plus translating to the NFL.

– He may have a 'weak' everything. The guy is a walking M.A.S.H. unit. In 2014, he had a horrific ankle dislocation in a game and was lost for the season. In 2015, he was noted to have a cracked rib, a concussion, a sprained ankle, quad issues, and then broke his arm on a special teams play. He ended up getting back to action quickly with a cast on his broken arm, which is a credit to him, but overlooks the fact that the guy seems to be a walking injury waiting to happen.

– What gets glossed over on Drake, because he plays for the *holy Alabama Crimson Tide*, the college team that scouts and analysts love more than life itself, is that he's been in trouble/suspended multiple times. He was suspended in 2012 for a team rules violation. He was in hot water with the coaches for some stupid tweets as well. But his 2014 arrest/suspension takes the cake...

Late one night, Drake was in an area where there had been a shooting. The police taped off an area for investigation. It just so happened that Drake's car was parked in that area under investigation. He couldn't get to his car. Officers told him he would not be able to get to his car until they finished their investigation. Drake then proceeded to disobey the officers, went through the police tape, and tried to get into his car. Of course, the idiot was arrested on the spot. Alabama gave him a minor suspension.

Reading that arrest story, while doing this research, I thought, "*This guy has to be a complete moron or an entitled prick, or both.*" It's not like he has just one blot on his off-field activity...he has a few.

– Drake is supposed to be some kind of wunderkind for a receiving back out of the backfield, but I think it's just scouts and analysts in love with themselves over any Alabama prospect. I watch the tape, and I'm not blown away with Drake's hands as a receiver. Get him the ball, and let him go, and he's going to make a few big plays for sure. However, I think he's going to drop a lot of passes looking ahead to pending contact, and I think he's going to have trouble making those big plays in the pros because he's just average NFL-fast, not off the charts.

At his best, Drake looks like an interesting, useful NFL receiver out of the backfield and a guy who can run the ball a few times per game. That's at his best. What I think is going to happen – he's going to be constantly hurt, not going to fight his way back as the team would hope, and then cop some kind of attitude about it. I think we're all going to forget about **Kenyan Drake** pretty quickly because of his personal demons/attitudes, and just 'solid' talents. I could be wrong about that – perhaps he bulks his body, stays injury- and incident-free, and becomes an asset...but if you're asking me to bet based upon the research I have in front of me – I'll go against Drake having any major impact in the NFL.



Kenyan Drake, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

Drake has an impressive 6.8 yards per carry over his college career and led the SEC in YPC in 2013 with 7.5. However, I would point out that much of this is coming from Drake as a change-of-pace insert into the backfield for occasional touches and getting to work with a dominant O-Line/team that is making college stars/pro letdowns out of most of their RBs. Any Alabama player is going to look great, statistically, if they run a 4.4+ 40-time.

Drake is supposed to be this great receiving back, but he had 0–2 catches in 23 of his last 29 games/last three seasons of play. He's caught 0 or 1 passes in a game in 17 of his last 29 games. His best receiving game in his career: 5 catches for 91 yards and 1 TD vs. Middle Tennessee State.

At the NFL Combine, Drake was dead last in bench press reps among all RB prospects with 10 reps.

The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Kenyan Drake Most Compares Within Our System:

Ryan Grant is a match that makes some sense...a less physical, always hurt **Ryan Grant**.

<u>RB Score</u>	<u>RB-Re</u>	<u>RB-ru</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Speed Metric</u>	<u>Agility Metric</u>	<u>Power Metric</u>
4.564	6.64	3.27	Drake	Kenyan	Alabama	2016	6	0.5	210	4.01	3.39	1.59
1.294	2.02	0.02	Grant	Ryan	Notre Dame	2005	6	1.1	215	4.20	1.73	5.23
5.565	5.42	3.48	Boyd	Cory	So Carolina	2008	6	0.4	213	2.95	3.73	4.82
2.675	0.44	1.7	Coffee	Glen	Alabama	2009	6	0.1	209	3.21	-6.48	8.63

**A score of 8.50+ is where we see a stronger correlation of RBs going on to become NFL good/great/elite. A score of 10.00+ is more rarefied air in our system and indicates a greater probability of becoming an elite NFL RB.*

All of the RB ratings are based on a 0–10 scale, but a player can score negative, or above a 10.0 in certain instances.

Overall rating/score = A combination of several on-field performance measures, including refinement for the strength of opponents faced, mixed with all the physical measurement metrics – then compared/rated



JULY 13, 2016

historically within our database and formulas. More of a traditional three-down search – runner, blocker, and receiver.

**RB-Re score = New/testing in 2017. Our new formula/rating that attempts to identify and quantify a prospect's receiving skills even deeper than in our original formulas. RB prospects can now make it/thrive in the NFL strictly based on their receiving skills – it is an individual attribute sought out for the NFL and no longer dismissed or overlooked. Our rating combines a study of their receiving numbers in college in relation to their offense and opponents, as well as profiling size-speed-agility along with hand size measurables, etc.*

**RB-Ru score = New/testing in 2017. Our new formula/rating that attempts to classify and quantify an RB prospect's ability strictly as a runner of the ball. Our rating combines a study of their rushing numbers in college in relation to their offense and strength of opponents, as well as profiling size-speed-agility along with various size measurables, etc.*

Raw Speed Metric = A combination of several speed and size measurements from the NFL Combine, judged along with physical size profile, and then compared/rated historically within our database and scouting formulas. This is a rating strictly for RBs of a similar/bigger size profile.

Agility Metric = A combination of several speed and agility measurements from the NFL Combine, judged along with physical size profile, and then compared/rated historically within our database and scouting formulas. This is a rating strictly for RBs of a similar/bigger size profile.

2016 NFL Draft Outlook:

As of this publishing, we know Drake was selected #73 overall, a 3rd round pick in the 2016 NFL Draft. One of the dumbest wastes of a pick in 2016. First off, one-dimensional/specialty running backs shouldn't be considered until the 6th round, at best. Drake is not only a limited offering, but he's constantly hurt with a terrible off-field record. There was no reason for this pick...except 'Alabama'.

If I were an NFL GM, he would have been a UDFA prospect only for me. A 6th–7th round talent with a ton of baggage you shouldn't waste a draft pick on.

NFL Outlook:

If Drake stays healthy, and I assume Miami will force him touches so they don't get embarrassed, then he'll probably account for himself OK. Nothing special. He'll have a moment or two, but in the end, he is likely to underwhelm...a constant frustration of 'if he could just stay healthy'...

