



NFL Draft 2017 Scouting Report: RB Alvin Kamara, Tennessee

**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.*

One of the prospects up for the award for 'prospect hype I least understand' is Tennessee's **Alvin Kamara**. Tweener size (214 pounds), below-average speed (4.56), and caught a good amount of screen and swing passes in some games...and for some that's a resume worthy of the #1 RB prospect ranking for 2017, currently? I don't get how anyone could see him as the #1 RB in this class, nor as a first-rounder, nor as a top 100 pick.

All you have to do is go back to last year's draft for guidance – 'Tweener' sized **Kenneth Dixon** and **Wendell Smallwood**. Dixon and Smallwood were far superior runners in college...not even debatable. Dixon far superior as a pass-catcher, and Smallwood equal/better than Kamara as a receiver. Dixon wildly productive in college. Kamara was 'good' in college as was Smallwood. Dixon clearly the better prospect of the three. Smallwood, I would give an edge (as a talent) over Kamara. Dixon was drafted #134 overall last year. Smallwood was #153. How is it even possible that Kamara is a top 30–40 prospect overall. It makes no sense whatsoever by comparison.

I'd argue Kamara isn't that great of a prospect on top of all that. What's his argument over a Dixon or Smallwood? Kamara is an average speed, decent burst, solid hands, 'tweener' sized running back...a dime a dozen at 214 pounds. However, the death blow is his horrible east-west/agility skills (for a top prospect). I can see it on tape. You get Kamara going on a pitch/sweep to the outside and he's dragged down quickly every time. He's decent right up the middle because he has a nice acceleration, but not your ideal between-the-tackles runner at 214 pounds. There's a reason why a healthy **Alvin Kamara** did every drill at the NFL Combine EXCEPT the agility timing. The agility times were not going to help him, and he knew it. It's a smart draft strategy, but scouts have to see through the BS.

I'm shocked this is a name people are seriously discussing as a top RB prospect. He's every average running back prospect that has ever attempted to jump to the NFL. He's not special. He's useful. He belongs in the NFL, I guess. He's not bad as a screen pass option because he's good with a head of steam after the catch...but I could argue that there will probably be five+ RB prospects who will go undrafted this year that are as good in the passing game as Kamara, and fast as runner. What NFL team will be idiotic enough to spend a top 50 pick on something they could get as a UDFA? There will be one for sure.



Kamara started his college career at Alabama, so I suspect that's some of the hype right there. However, he was suspended twice there for behavior. He asked for his release and Alabama happily obliged. He got arrested for driving with a suspended license and failure to appear soon after. Tennessee gave him a shot, and he seemed to turn the corner on his maturity. That's great. But why would I pay big money for a former headache player and mediocre talent across the board...at a position that does not warrant spending much draft capital on it?

Alvin Kamara, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

Kamara rushed for 70 or less yards in a game in 19 of his 24 career games. His five top rushing efforts came against Bowling Green State, North Texas, Kentucky, Texas A&M, and Vandy. Aside from Texas A&M, he wasn't slaying a lot of dragons...and Texas A&M was down last year, especially on defense.

As the established guy against Georgia, Alabama, and Nebraska (bowl) Kamara averaged 38.0 yards rushing per game (3.7 ypc) in 2016.

In his final three college starts, Kamara rushed for 55-69-31 yards (51.7 yards per game)...sophomore **John Kelly** (5'9"/212) started taking more carries in these games.

If you take away his nice 2016 Texas A&M game, Kamara has had a pretty bland college career. Mostly a backup to **Jalen Hurd**, and then fading against John Kelly for touches. He got a chance at more touches only when Hurd got hurt early 2016 season. Kamara wasn't better than Hurd, not sure he's better than John Kelly...and yet Kamara is the #1 rated RB prospect for the 2017 NFL Draft for some. Unbelievable.

NFL Combine data...

5'10.2"/214, 32.8" arms, 9.3" hands

4.56 40-time (9th best among 16 RBs 200-219 pounds), DNP agility drills

15 bench press reps, 39.5" vertical (#1 among RBs at the Combine), 10'11" broad jump (#1 among RBs at the Combine)

Kamara's career stats on CFB Reference: <http://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/players/alvin-kamara-1.html>



The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Alvin Kamara Most Compares Within Our System:

The **Devontae Booker** comp may be spot on. What I thought about Booker's tape last year was what I thought about some of Kamara's tape this year – good enough straight ahead, weaker east-west, not built to run between the tackles in the NFL long-term. Booker was a beloved prospect who everyone turned on when he flopped as a workhorse in the NFL last season. Part of that is Booker being misused; the other part is that he worked behind a terrible O-Line. Guys like Kamara and Booker are good enough to thrive in a great NFL situation (great O-Line and passing game), but mostly they are interchangeable/'OK' talents, and there are 50–75+ guys just like them who are kicking around the league.

<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>
5.080	7.83	3.57	Kamara	Alvin	Tennessee	2017	5	10.2	214	4.39	6.35	4.26
5.801	6.70	5.04	Booker	Devontae	Utah	2016	5	11.0	217	5.78	7.97	6.36
6.323	4.48	6.20	Artis-Payne	Cameron	Auburn	2015	5	9.6	212	6.85	5.34	6.23
5.257	5.43	4.71	Farrow	Kenneth	Houston	2016	5	9.4	219	-0.44	7.14	7.69
7.708	9.7	7.43	Davis	Mike	So Carolina	2015	5	9.1	217	4.70	8.55	5.39
7.104	5.94	7.22	Ingram	Mark	Alabama	2011	5	9.1	215	6.12	2.15	7.41
7.163	5.38	5.71	Hill	Michael	Mo. West	2013	5	10.1	209	2.49	11.87	7.50
8.014	7.07	6.75	Stacy	Zac	Vanderbilt	2013	5	8.3	216	8.10	14.66	8.88

**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 strength of opponents faced, mixed with all the physical measurement metrics—then compared/rated historically within our database and formulas. More of a traditional three-down search—runner, blocker, and receiver.

**RB-Re score = New/testing in 2016. 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*



MARCH 22, 2017

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 2016. Our new formula/rating that attempts to classify and quantify a 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.

2017 NFL Draft Outlook:

Everywhere you turn you see Kamara in the top 40–50 overall...50-50 in the first round in those mock drafts. With the 2016 draft precedent for guys like Kamara (with Dixon and Smallwood...not to mention Paul Perkins), I'd have to say Kamara will fall in the draft from his lofty status of today. I wouldn't be surprised if he ends up third round. He should be fifth round+ but there's enough hype that some team will get suckered in earlier.

NFL Outlook:

Has a **Devontae Booker** or **Cameron Artis-Payne** type career arc. Fans and analysts all excited, and then after a dud rookie season everyone moves on to the next hype guy. Within three years...forgotten. Only an injury-laden NFL roster situation giving him a push can get his career sparked early. Kamara is not good enough to start and star right away, but he is good enough to keep a seat warm until the starters/stars return from injury in the NFL – not much beyond that.



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Signature _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.C." with a stylized flourish.

Date _____

3/22/2017