



NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: RB Ronald Jones, USC

**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.*

I'm not sure what I am supposed to love about **Ronald Jones** for NFL purposes.

If I did a Ben Franklin list...dividing a piece of paper in two and writing down the pros and cons for Jones – it doesn't look too good.

On the pro side:

- Very nice college production
- Nice burst after the handoff

On the con side:

-- Smaller than you want your NFL RB (5'11"/205), not damning...but in a sea of productive, nimble guys who run as fast/faster the past two years who are also 220+ pounds – it doesn't help Jones's prospects for being highly rated. It also doesn't quell fears that he has a frame that is 'injury-prone' at the next level.

-- 4.48 40-time at his Pro Day, means likely 4.5+...which means 'meh' (and I don't buy the "I'm only 80%" afterwards...he wouldn't have run if he were 80%. His agent is a big-time agent -- he wouldn't have let him run.

-- Smaller hands (8.8" and smaller arms (31.0") then than you'd like to see. Not damning but not ideal...and Jones was an ignored part of the passing game at USC. He's not a bad receiver, he's just not a good+ one.

-- (unofficial, at this time) 7.18 three-cone, 4.25 shuttle times. It does not shock me, and I'll explain why in a moment, but these are not good numbers. Not the end of the world, but another bad log on the fire.



APRIL 7, 2018

The cons don't mean Jones isn't worthy of an NFL look, but the '*next Reggie Bush*' or '*next Jamaal Charles*' comparisons are in serious doubt. And if you don't see Jones as super-special with his feet, you can't push him as a top 3 RB in this class (as many are).

The RB that I see on tape matches the physical measurables. Actually, the skills skill set Jones does have is a bit of a shame, a cruel joke on him...and something that could dupe evaluators...

Jones has skills – he runs the ball with confidence, he has a little pop in his legs once he has the ball, he has nice instincts and quick/shift feet to avoid the first body in his way...all this WHEN he runs between the tackles. When Jones is pushed outside, whether he tries to cut back or it's a sweep, etc., Jones is human...and defenders catch up to him and drag him down easily. He's a pretty gifted inside runner, but therein lies the problem...

In the NFL, you don't want to build your run game on a thinner-framed, 205-pound RB. In the NFL, Jones will not likely hold up to the hits in the interior, and he wouldn't run into tacklers and get an extra yard or two...he's going to get stonewalled and sent backwards a lot. You can see it coming. If he has a lane he'll pop through it nicely...but you could say that about 50+ NFL RBs not starting today, and most of them are bigger/thicker than Jones.

As I watched Jones in games against Stanford, Texas, Penn State...I saw a very good college RB, but not a great NFL prospect. Nice maneuvers up the middle...a really solid RB. Weaker when going east-west. Not a presence in the passing game or as a blocker. Some NFL skills, but a lot of red flags to go with.

There's kind of a place in the world for Jones. If Jones had to start opening day for (let's say) the Buccaneers, he would probably carry the ball 15+ times for 50–70 yards and not look so bad. He isn't awful...it's just he isn't ideal. Not game-breaking speed...not high high-end NFL agility (and this may be a reason why he never returned kicks or punts at USC)...not an ideal NFL size...not great hands (not bad hands). Jones has the profile of a 5th–7th round RB.

In the same conference, Oregon's Royce Freeman played a similar schedule and is 20+ pounds bigger, measured faster/more agile, and was ultra-productive just like Jones...but he's often ranked behind Jones, and barely seen as a top 100 prospect, but even though he's 10x the prospect Jones is. Colorado's **Phillip Lindsay** had a very productive career and 2017 season in the Pac-12 and is a smaller RB prospect with pretty good hands and similar speed to Jones – crickets chirping. Jones is good, but 'USC' has a way of dazzling scouts and fans. If Jones played at Colorado...he'd be a top 150 to top-150-to-UDFA projected prospect in the mainstream, but start falling in love with his college interior skills and daydream him as a **Reggie Bush**...and you'll talk yourself up to him as the next **Alvin Kamara**. He's not, he's simply not.

Some NFL team is going to spend a top 75 pick on a guy who is a backup/works-in-a-pinch guy, and two years from now the Jones-hype will have died off and his team will be drafting other RBs trying to find answers...while Jones hangs around on the roster because he's a useful hand...but he never has great impact..



Ronald Jones, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

The past two years, the best defenses that Jones has faced...Washington/2016, Alabama/2016, Colorado/2016, Stanford 3x in 2016–2017, Texas/2017, Penn State/2016 bowl, Ohio State/2017 (9 games), Jones tallied...

161 carries for 680 yards...4.22 yards per carry.

That's the issue the computer models see with Jones...a bit of 'fluff' in his overall performance, indicators of trouble/limitations as a runner COMBINED with his so-so measurables...indicators that he should not be a top 100 player selected.

In those 9 games above...8 catches...0.9 receptions per game. 15.2 rec. yards per game...half of his yardage on that span coming off a broken play, catch-and-long-run score against Texas. Jones was really not a thought at all in the passing game...and you'd think they'd want to find ways to get him the ball in space if he were Reggie Bush incarnate.

2018 Combine/Pro Day measurables...

5'11"/2015, 8.8" hands, 31.0" arms

4.48 40-time, 4.25 shuttle, 7.13 three-cone (Pro Day times)

36.5" vertical, 9'6" broad jump, DNP bench

*The low broad jump is another red flag into the mix...

The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Ronald Jones Most Compares Within Our System:

If **Ronald Jones** is used in a limited way with a really good offense...he could have a James White career. No shame in that...just not top 50 overall worthy for value in the NFL Draft.



<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>
6.072	3.51	5.96	Jones	Ronald	USC	2018	5	11.0	205	2.74	1.01	5.46
4.271	5.36	3.06	White	Johnny	UNC	2011	5	9.7	209	2.00	1.87	4.13
5.698	5.65	4.61	White	James	Wisconsin	2014	5	9.1	204	1.28	5.76	8.88
6.575	7.87	6.02	Washington	DeAndre	Texas Tech	2016	5	8.2	204	4.85	6.10	9.06
4.316	2.77	4.53	Dayes	Matt	NC State	2017	5	8.5	205	-0.17	-8.59	6.17
1.332	4.82	1.04	Gray	Cyrus	Texas A&M	2012	5	10.2	206	4.45	1.29	7.89

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

**RB-Re score = New/testing in 2018. 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 2018. 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.

