

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Power Score :

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

Effective stiff arm [1pt]:

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

Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:

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

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:

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

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

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:

Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:

Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:

Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:

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

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:

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

Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

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

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

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

Elusiveness Score :

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

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

Avoids direct shots [7pts]:

Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:

Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:

Effort with assignments [3pts]:

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

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]:

Makes difficult catch [1pt]:

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

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

Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:

Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

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

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

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

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]:

Overall Score:

Game Stats

Attempts:

Rush Yds:

1st Downs:

Rush Tds:

Target:

Rec:

Rec Yds:

Rec Tds:

Fumbles:

Broken Tackles:

BLKs Assigned:

BLKs Made:

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Profile

Name: Ryan Torain **Date:** 9/23/2007 **Opponent:** California

Overall Strengths: The best things about Torain as a runner are his footwork and strong angular cuts coupled with power. He is a slashing runner out of the style of the Curt Warner-OJ Simpson-Curtis Martin--players with good hip movement, but less speed than these three. His speed is more along the lines of Rudi Johnson-Stephen Davis--reliable chain movers who can break a gain if the defense sells out and the offense catches them. Otherwise, he's a chain mover who can wear out the defense. When moving downhill, he is difficult to tackle. Defenders need to hit him low and wrap him up or he will run over them or spin away from them. If they wrap him up, he will drive his legs for extra yardage. The best bet is to hit him before he gets into the hole where his power builds momentum and he's still upright. He catches the ball well with his hands and understands his blocking assignments. When Torain is healthy, he has the power, vision and moves to be a reliable contributor on an offense.

Overall Weaknesses: He needs to be more aggressive at the point of attack as a blocker and show more effort in the open field as a blocker. He lacks elite speed and he runs a bit upright. He takes a lot of punishment as a runner, although he does do his share of attacking defenders. His cuts are sudden, but his burst isn't. A lot of his 15-20 yard runs will be more 5-10 yarders at the next level if he gets the opportunity to contribute. He was rated in the preseason by one service (Mel Kiper) as the #2 RB prospect prior to the Lis Franc tear. The injury takes 4-6 months to heal, so Torain will likely not be fully healed until at least April or May of 2008. It was projected that he may work out on a limited basis at the combine, but probably wouldn't be able to run. Since he did run, it's a positive sign. This injury issue and inability to work out will likely mean he'll plummet down draft boards.

Power: His first run off tackle ended with him getting stood up by the safety rather than lowering his shoulder at the point of contact. This was a difference between possibly getting 4 yards and only netting 2. Although Torain knocked the helmet off a charging safety, he was a bit upright when the hit came because the safety came fast and seemingly out of nowhere. He did a good job turning one shoulder into the hit and driving his legs through the contact and that's what got him the first down and a safety laying on the ground looking for his helmet. Torain demonstrated good leg drive after contact to get 5 yards on a run up the middle with 7:56 in the 1st QTR. He doesn't consistently finish his runs with a great body lean. He'll drive his legs, but he doesn't lower his pads enough and he'll get hit at the end of runs in ways that knock his upper body backwards. This increases some risk for injury. Torain's rushing score came off a cut into the hole made by the RT. He did a good job lowering his pads against the LB at the 2 so the hit didn't stand him up and he was able to keep driving his legs to get the score. He actually broke two tackles on this run--the LB at the 2 and the safety at the 1.

Ball Handling: He carried the ball with his sideline arm on his four attempts, but he doesn't keep his elbow locked to his side and the ball looks like it could be knocked out easily. Torain picked up a fumbled ball when the QB was hit on a scramble and got two yards for a first down. He follows through on playfakes rather well, keeping his hands in a position as if he were carrying the ball and his head down.

Elusiveness: Nice burst out his cut. He didn't have to take a false step to make the cut out of the backfield on his second run with 13:22 in the opening quarter. Nice job dipping to the outside on the way out of the hole to avoid the oncoming safety who shot for his legs. On a run with 12:35 in the 1st QTR he made two impressive cuts in the hole to get the first down. He made a strong lateral cut after pressing the hole between LG and C and then a second cut off the hip of the C to run through a 2-yard alley before turning upfield and making a very subtle dip back to the inside of an LB shooting for his legs at the 30 before being dragged down from behind at the 21. He seems to weave in and out of holes without false steps. He's not very fast, but this balance allows him to run at a higher speed than those with a straight line burst but have to take false steps to change direction. With 11:26 in the 1st QTR he illustrated this point by dipping away from the penetrating DT in the backfield despite the fact he had to make the adjustment just a half step away from the defender before making sharp turn upfield through the hole. Good stop-start move in the hole to make the pursuing safety miss his angle as Torain burst forward for another 4 yards and the first down. He showed a very sudden and sharp, stop-start move with 3:13 in the half in the hole between the C and RG. The LB was 2 yards deep in the hole and the RB planted his right foot and cut to the left, turning his upper body sideways to avoid the hit before dragging another LB for 3 yards.

Balance: Good balance to get an extra five yards after eluding the oncoming safety who did hit his leg on the cutback with 13:20 in the 1st QTR. Torain runs with very good balance because he has a very angular running style. He seems to weave in and out of holes without false steps. Torain showed good balance after running 8 yards untouched to the left edge and getting hammered by the safety two yards before the marker. Torain met him with his shoulder and the safety fell off to left and lost his helmet as Torain ran over a second defender for 3 extra yards and a 1st down. On his next run with 7:54 in the 1st QTR, he got 5 yards into the hole up the middle and tried to dip to the left of the oncoming safety. The defender grabbed Torain around the shoulders and spun the RB 180 degrees clockwise, but the RB planted his foot and drove himself backwards downfield as three Cal defenders converged on him from each direction and his body lean (with the help of an ASU lineman) got him the extra 4 yards for a first down. Very good balance. On 3rd and 1 with 13:42 in the 4th QTR. Torain faced 9 men in the box and took a hand off from the weak-I. After getting to the first down marker untouched behind his C and RG, he met the MLB head on 3-yards in front of the marker with the RDT coming off his block to hit Torain in the right side. The RB hit the LB with good pad level and spun out of the wrap towards the middle of the field. He sidestepped the LOLB in the hole and broke the run to the left hash another 3 yards downfield. He ran out of tackle where the safety grabbed both legs at the 39 and angled just enough away from an LB at the 41 to gain 4 more yards after the LB's initial hit for an impressive display of power and balance during a 15-yard gain.

Speed: Torain is known more for his slashing skills than his speed. He has shown a good burst out of his cuts. He's not very fast, but this balance allows him to run at a higher speed than those with a straight line burst because many of these players have to take false steps to change direction. Torain's straightline burst is probably average. He got a 7-yard gain on a draw but was easily caught by the LB on an angle that a top speed back would probably outrun. He did a better job lowering his shoulders on a 10-yard run for a first down with 5:21 in the half. He bulldozed through the contact for an extra two yards, knocking back the safety. When he's not planting and cutting, he seems to have one speed, which is kind of a plus and minus for him. He popped a draw up the middle through the 1st and 2nd tier of the offense with :41 in the half, but could not outrun the angles of the secondary, which a back like McFadden, Jones, Johnson, or Thomas Brown could have done on this play. He was the same distance from these defenders going full speed as draws I've seen these four runners bust for scores but he had to try to make a move to elude a player than just outrun them. The run was for 23 yards.

Blocking: Torain's first assignment was in the 1st QTR with 6:10. He took on the edge rusher off the left side. He was prepared to make a hit, but the edge rusher slowed down as the QB released the pass. Good 3rd and 5 block on the Cal OLB on the blindside. This helped the QB break the pocket and get the first down when he couldn't spot an open receiver downfield. He still could have delivered a more aggressive pop and got his hands into the chest of the player and drove him back with his legs. He leans well into the hit, but doesn't drive his legs. He had the same problem on the next play with the edge rusher off the front side and he was driven back by a safety who got into the QB's face and forced a hurried throw. He doesn't seem to have a knack for anticipating blocking opportunities in the open field or it's just a lack of effort. Torain's cutblock attempt on the RDE was sidestepped on the play that Carpenter was intercepted at the end of the 2nd half.

Vision: His first second run was a basic zone blocking set up designed to the left side. Torain pressed the hole and cut back to the gap between RG and C when he saw the C clearing the way 4 yards away. He burst through the hole for a first down. Torain got the ball with 12:10 in the 1st QTR facing a 9-man front. The blocking by his line was great and he ran through a huge hole off the LG and LT untouched for 5 yards. The offensive line was opening very wide holes for Torain on each of his runs thus far. He did not have to create much in the backfield or hole to get through the line of scrimmage with the exception of one run. The only time he was stopped after his 1st run was against a 9-man front with 6:50 in the 2nd QTR and the ASU line was called for holding. On 3rd and 1 with 13:42 in the 4th QTR. Torain faced 9 men in the box and took a hand off from the weak-I. He did a good job angling toward the upfield movement of the right side of the line and got the first down behind that push without any defensive contact--good vision. The rest of this impressive run is detailed in the section about balance.

Receiving: He got good depth on his swing route on 3rd and 8 on the opening drive of the game. The ball wasn't thrown to him, but he created a lot of space to do something with the ball if it were thrown to him. His first catch was a swing pass to the same side as mentioned before. The ball was on snapped on the near hash, so he didn't have a lot of room to operate as before. He caught the ball with his hands and his back to the QB. He got to the sideline at the 10 and blockers ahead of him at the 4 yard line. He outran a diving attempt at the 6 and reached the endzone while tightropeing the sideline for the score. Nice job running a flat route out of the backfield and turning back to the QB to catch the football with his hands before turning upfield. He faced down a CB and spun out of his tackle before help arrived to knock down the RB.

Durability: Torain suffered a season-ending, Lis Franc injury in 2007. He was rated in the preseason by one service (Mel Kiper) as the #2 RB prospect prior to the Lis Franc tear. The injury takes 4-6 months to heal, so Torain will likely not be fully healed until at least April or May of 2008. He may work out on a limited basis at the combine, but probably won't be able to run. This injury issue and inability to work out will likely mean he'll plummet down draft boards.