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**NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT: RB  
SAQUON BARKLEY, PENN STATE**

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## CONTENTS

NFL Draft 2017 Scouting Report: RB Saquon Barkley, Penn State .....	2
Saquon Barkley, through the lens of our “Power RB” Scouting Algorithm.....	3
Projected measurables.....	4
The NFL “Power RB” that Saquon Barkley most compares with statistically in college, within our system: .....	4
Table 517.....	5
2017 NFL Draft outlook... ..	6
Copyright Statement .....	7

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## NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT: RB SAQUON BARKLEY, PENN STATE

*\*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 is a 2018 prospect preview report. We do not have all the data we'd like to have for a more definitive calculation.*

However it is you feel about **Doug Martin** as an NFL running back is how you should feel about **Saquon Barkley**. They are very similar running backs. The difference being that a **Doug Martin** talent playing at no-media coverage Boise State enters the NFL with some positive vibes from his NFL Combine work but doesn't have anyone hailing him as the next great NFL running back. **Saquon Barkley** has the **Doug Martin**-like talent AND all the media momentum...a momentum that can carry him to a Heisman Trophy in 2018. A momentum that will probably carry him into the top 10 of the NFL Draft in 2018.

Same guy/talents...just different emotions generated by the media coverage.

If you believe I am tearing down Barkley by comparing him to **Doug Martin** – you've already been suckered by the bias, ignorant football media coverage. Your emotions have been played upon. **Doug Martin**, in his right mind, in his best shape, is one of the 5–10 best running backs in the NFL. People don't really care about him because he went to 'who cares' Boise State followed by joining 'who cares' Tampa Bay. His best years have been wasted by a bad offense/team to work with. 2015 **Doug Martin** on the 2016 Dallas Cowboys leads the league in rushing and probably pushes 2,000 yards for the season. **Doug Martin** 2015 on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2015 – he just had a really good season...looking at stat totals only. If you really watched Martin's 2015 tape, you saw one of the best running back performances in the last several years...fighting through working with a horrible O-Line and terrible QB play. **Le'Veon Bell**-like work but without the Steelers' offensive line or QB play.

All that to say, Barkley reminds me of a lot of **Doug Martin**.

The scouting description of Barkley/Martin – perfect NFL size at running back (220-225+ pounds), high-end NFL speed for their size, powerful/physical runners as needed, really good hands in the passing game, and excellent/shifty feet.

The superpower that Barkley has, among all his very good 'checks all the boxes' attributes, is how terrific his agility or shiftiness is. Barkley approaches the line of scrimmage and has an elite ability to quick-stop and shift his feet/momentum to escape certain trouble...and not only to escape trouble, but make plays out of thin air by taking a carry up the middle but suddenly kick it outside and make a big play where there was none with the original play call between the tackles. That's a very big deal. Most running backs either run straight ahead and try to go as far as the hole/their power will take them. Other running backs are fleet of foot but hesitate when seeing trouble and then try to go outside for fear of the traffic – but the hesitation allows defenders to close in. Barkley has a gift where he's constantly moving his feet and almost pulls off Houdini-like shifts with his feet to get by for extra yards/space or sail right past oncoming defenders.

I liked everything about Barkley's game when I scouted his tougher games from 2016 – Ohio State, USC, Michigan. He's not an off-the-charts greatest RB prospect I've ever seen, but he's definitely one of the better running back prospects of the last few years. Barkley's strength as an RB prospect is that he's at minimum good at everything. He has no real flaws in his game and that's the beauty with him.

Off-the-field checks out fine at this stage. A noted hard worker with no issues on record. He has no major injuries sustained after two years at Penn State either.

## SAQUON BARKLEY, THROUGH THE LENS OF OUR "POWER RB" SCOUTING

### ALGORITHM

Barkley's first two years at Penn State have been record setting in many instances. The only thing I would point out is the odd stat lines in some of his 2016 games. It almost seems like Barkley pops for a huge game (150-200+ yards) or has a quiet under 85–90 yards game...or worse.

In 2016, versus Michigan State, Barkley ran 12 times for just 14 yards. In two career games against Michigan, Barkley's posted 63.5 yards rushing per game and just 4.2 yards per carry. He has pockets of games where he struggles, statistically.

I'm going to say, from watching the Michigan and Michigan State games...Barkley is becoming a marked man in the offense. He's not so good he can destroy anything in

his path. I saw the same guy in his best games as I did in his worst games – a high-effort runner, elusive, and physical. But he needs space to operate, but he’s starting to face stacked boxes upfront. As QB **Trace McSorley** continues to get better...and opens up the offense...Barkley’s performances have risen – four 150+ yard rushing games in his final 8 games of 2016.

Barkley caught 4 TD passes in 2016. He is an excellent swing/screen pass option out of the backfield. He’s not **David Johnson** or **Le’Veon Bell**, but he’s well above average in the traditional RB passing game. He’ll do fine there – very reliable hands.

PROJECTED MEASURABLES...

5’10”/222

4.50 40-time, 6.85 three-cone

20+ bench reps, 36.0” vertical

THE NFL “POWER RB” THAT SAQUON BARKLEY MOST COMPARES WITH  
STATISTICALLY IN COLLEGE, WITHIN OUR SYSTEM:

I see **Doug Martin**, but our computer models see **Tyler Gaffney** and **Rashard Mendenhall**. I can see the Mendenhall angle – he was a great NFL RB for a stretch.

TABLE 517

Rating	RB-Re	RB-Ru	Name	Name	College	Yr	H	H	Weight	Speed	Agility	Power
8.316	7.75	8.19	Barkley	Saquon	Penn State	2017	5	10.0	222	8.15	9.56	8.46
8.537	7.44	8.37	Gaffney	Tyler	Stanford	2014	5	11.4	220	8.80	11.51	6.63
10.955	10.20	10.58	Mendenhall	Rashard	Illinois	2008	5	10.1	225	13.62	9.76	9.94
9.010	6.20	8.62	Maroney	Lawrence	Minnesota	2006	5	11.7	217	7.72	7.40	7.63
12.017	8.53	12.14	Tomlinson	LaDainian	TCU	2001	5	10.2	221	10.86	11.38	8.45

*\*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 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.*

## 2017 NFL DRAFT OUTLOOK...

Had Barkley been in the 2017 NFL Draft, I suspect he would have gone in the first round...he has that kind of positive media vibe going for him. People could argue whether he'd be worth a first-round pick or not, but in the end – he would have gone

