



## NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: RB Rashaad Penny, San Diego 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.*

I've gone through **Rashaad Penny's** tape several times over the past couple of months. A taste before the Senior Bowl and another pre-NFL Combine. I just never got that excited. I could see that he was 'good' but the thought in my mind also lingered – **Donnel Pumphrey was a god at San Diego State** and he's nowhere near a destined star for the NFL. Penny is obviously a bigger, better pro prospect from a physical sense...but still, anytime a Mountain West or WAC conference RB goes off, I'm immediately suspicious and dismissive because of the defenses they face. I go right to their games against Boise State (the legit team in the Mountain West) to see how they did and go from there (Penny faced Boise in 2017...21 carries for just 53 yards).

Penny had a great college career. When I put on the tape...he looked fine but never really grabbed my attention. And, I always had that MWC bias lurking. I sat down to do a full study and watched several games to try to figure out what direction to go with Penny – future star? Great sleeper? Likely MWC bust in the pros?

I watched him against Stanford/2017, Houston/2016, Boise State/2017, Arizona State/2017, and his Northern Illinois games along with pieces of his other performances – and still I was unmoved. As I looked over my notes it dawned on me that the lack of 'wow' or the absence of some kind of stirring was because that's who Penny is – he's just a plain ol', pretty good NFL RB prospect. Scouts tend to look for a defining moment/game...to fall in love with a particular skill(s) or to find something to blast a prospect on something(s) they don't do well. In the end, with Penny, I didn't have a lot of major notes...everything was pretty safe, vanilla/good – because that's who he is.

Penny is not a great RB talent at any one thing. Nor is he showing a glaring flaw. He's big but plenty of top guys are much bigger. He's fast but not jaw-droppingly fast. He runs fairly strong but he's not a classic bruiser. He has OK hands but is not a serious downfield pass game threat...he's fine for screen passes. He's not extra agile or bouncy, but he evades tacklers between the tackles with a quick step/dodge OK enough.

There's nothing I see with Penny that makes me go 'wow'.



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There's nothing I see with Penny that makes me go 'Oh, no'.

That's who Penny is – boringly OK/'good'.

Boringly OK/good with a little downside risk.

What I like about Penny is he is a solid between-the-tackles runner...he sticks to the middle of the field not always trying to hit homeruns to the outside. He accelerates well through holes nicely. He has decent enough vision and patience to find openings, but sometimes misses them running too fast to an area. He doesn't crash into tacklers to move a pile, but he'll take and give contact at a nice 220-pound size. Give him an opening and he'll drop the 4.46 speed on the defense.

What I don't like about Penny...not a great one-cut runner out of the backfield. Almost slows down shifting space after the hand-off, but really cuts nice when running full speed. Prone to getting caught in NFL backfield/line of scrimmage too much. Is big but not ultra-physical...tries to finesse through holes versus bullying through them. Very shaky hands on anything beyond screen passes. Watched him drop/butcher too many easy passes in college, at the Senior Bowl practices and at Combine drills. He's not a dud but he's definitely not a natural catching the ball.

I'd love to share something mind-altering on Penny, but the simple fact is – he's a 'B' or 'C' at everything...not an 'A' or an 'F' at anything. He's not a generational talent and he's not a bust. He could rush for 1,000+ yards as a rookie or sit as a backup no one really cares about for a few years. He's not so good you force him as a rookie starter and he's not so bad you can't trust him in big spots if needed. He's a good hand...to be almost completely defined by which team/offense/depth chart he lands with.

**Kalen Ballage** is going to give you moments of 'A' and moments of 'D'. Penny...moments of 'B' and moments of 'C' – and that's not as exciting but it's useful.

### Rashaad Penny, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

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Penny rushed for 170 or more yards in nine of 13 games in 2017...that's amazing even if it is in the Mountain West Conference. The worry is – against the other good teams in the MWC, Boise State and Fresno State, Penny had his worst games...his only two non-100+ yard rushing games in 2017.

The best teams Penny would have faced the past two seasons – Boise State, Fresno State, Northern Illinois, Houston (bowl) and Stanford...he faced them a combined 7 times and tallied 167 carries for 541 yards and just 1 rushing TD...which equated to 77.3 yards rushing per game and a paltry, red flag inducing 3.23 yards per carry. This data point alone makes you mark down Penny's NFL prospects.

What you have to give Penny credit for – 7 kick return TDs in his college career and 1 punt return TD...that's stellar. When Penny gets up to speed he can really go.



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Penny 2017: 2,248 yards rushing, 25 TDs, 7.8 yards per carry

Pumphrey 2016: 2,133 yards rushing, 17 TDs, 6.1 yards per carry

Penny was definitely the better version of 'San Diego State RBs', for those saying they are alike (for good or for bad).

*2018 NFL Combine measurables...*

5'11"/220, 31.25" arms, 9.25" hands

4.46 40-time, DNP agility times...and that's a concern and we'll update his grade when we get them from Pro Day

13 bench reps, 32.5" vertical, 10'0" broad jump

The speed is good...and everything else is 'meh'.

### The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Rashaad Penny Most Compares Within Our System:

**George Atkinson** has showed some NFL ability, on the fringes for a few teams. A decent return man...good speed for his size. Never did much in live games. I wonder if Penny played for Notre Dame whether he would have been like Atkinson...or if Atkinson had gone to San Diego State with their quality ground attack – would he have produced big numbers like Penny?

I'm getting more and more worried Penny is a mild hoax...a 'C' prospect propped to a 'B' by playing in the Mountain West.



## 2018 NFL DRAFT SCOUTING REPORT

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<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>
7.287	5.77	6.15	Penny	Rashaad	San Diego St	2018	5	11.0	220	9.44	5.54	6.72
5.265	5.14	4.77	Atkinson	George	Notre Dame	2014	6	1.3	218	9.00	4.78	5.95
5.617	3.61	5.05	Tucker	Matthew	TCU	2013	6	0.3	223	9.89	1.90	5.11
5.486	4.08	4.27	Kitts	Wes	Austin Peay	2013	5	10.1	222	7.75	5.83	7.96
7.030	4.48	6.58	Carter	Raymond	Colorado St	2012	5	11.4	217	6.36	2.41	8.53
6.664	6.07	6.10	Turbin	Robert	Utah State	2012	5	9.5	222	7.17	4.51	10.63
5.008	5.91	3.65	Smith	Kolby	Louisville	2007	5	11.2	220	6.81	2.59	5.40

*\*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 starting in 2015. 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 starting in 2015. 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.*



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### 2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

Penny is tracking as a 3rd to 4th round draft projection...a little better than other similar talents, and I think it's because of his attractive MWC production. Without it...would Penny be like **Kalen Ballage** or **Josh Adams** for a draft projection (5th round+)?

If I were an NFL GM, I'd have Penny on the draft board as a low-priority late draft pick...considering all the talent available this year in the draft and in free agency. I would never spend top 100 or 150 draft capital on him.

### NFL Outlook:

Penny likely has an up and down career as opportunity comes his way and he has up and down moments within it. Once the fresh rookie new car smell wears off he'll be 'just another guy' on a depth chart...useful but not important. Could have a moment of promise ahead but in the long run he's just 'average' or 'good'.

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