



NFL Draft 2019 Scouting Report: RB Justice Hill, Oklahoma 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.*

In this 2019 landscape of weak RB prospects for the NFL, **Justice Hill** kinda stole the show at the NFL Combine running a 4.40 40-time and killing it with a 40.0" vertical, 10'10" broad jump, and a very impressive (for his size) 21 bench reps. But he got hurt during the event and couldn't do the all-important agility times.

The 4.40 40-time was tops among the RB group in Indy.

The 40.0" vertical was tops among the RB group in Indy.

The 10'10" broad jump was tied for tops among the RB group in Indy.

If this is a weak class, and Hill killed at the NFL Combine...and Hill had a steady/good-great career at Oklahoma State – he has to be the #1 RB prospect in the draft, no?

I don't think so.

I do think his Combine and college career warrants the discussion. I think he's NFL viable. But I don't believe he's a future NFL sustainable star. Possible impact RB in the 'change of pace' role, but I'm betting against any 'wow' type of NFL activity.

You'd think I'd love him with those workout numbers, but we don't live on Combine numbers alone.

I've watched a preview tape on Hill in the summer of 2018, more tape in prep for the NFL Combine earlier this year, and even more work prepping for this scouting report. I never see 'it'. I see a very good athlete who has something to offer the NFL, but *stardom* at running back is likely not his upside.

For me, Hill just isn't a fluid running back...not fluid enough, not high-end enough to be taken seriously as one who carries a backfield or shocks the world. When I watch Hill work, I can't help but see a wide receiver (style) working as a running back. I studied **Trayveon Williams** before Hill...similar sizes, both good-great college careers – Williams is 10x the actual running back (instincts, vision, movement, blocking, etc.) that Hill is. Hill looks like a wide receiver on a jet sweep running the ball, to me – just running as fast as he can and avoiding whatever he can, which is great when you are a 4.40 runner. It is



MARCH 26, 2019

NFL-worthy, but Hill is not creating anything from his touches...he needs help to roll. The hole has to be there, etc., to let him fly. Against better defenses, ones with NFL talent, Hill is easily consumed between the tackles. If you can get him into space, great...but NFL runners usually have tight windows that close fast on hole/space opportunities and I don't see Hill running like he's high-end at finding the narrow path.

Hill definitely has enough speed and athleticism to play a role in the offense – 'change of pace', 3rd-down back, etc., is a good spot for him, but 10+ carries and/or leader of the backfield? I just don't see it.

I wanted to like Hill better than our computer model grades, I just don't see it on tape or in radical performance against better defenses. He was helped in 2016-2017 by a high-end, loaded passing game and up-tempo offense. He was a little less exciting after **Mason Rudolph** and all their NFL WR prospects graduated and went to the NFL.

I like Hill as a prospect, but I don't love him.

Hill is a nice young man, a multiple award-winning all-Academic type worker in the classroom (in finance). He belongs in the NFL. I just don't see the 'wow' factor. As a 5+ carries, 5+ targets RB in the NFL, he might be really nice. He's not the next Kamara or Cohen or that type of high-end part of a duo.

Justice Hill, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

Hill ran for 930 yards on 158 carries, 5.9 ypc in 2018 (10 games) – those are good numbers, on the surface, minus all the high-powered passing game guys from 2016 and 2017. However, his big games came against the non-defense playing teams of the conference – Texas Tech and Baylor. Add in big games against pushovers FCS Missouri State and Kansas...and a big season was had, aided by the schedule.

Against those four aforementioned pushovers, Hill averaged 17.8 carries, 125.3 yards, 7.2 yards per carry, 1.0 TDs per game.

The Big 12 schedule of defenses he faced was pretty weak across the board. Hill performed fine against them but when we adjust/weight for competition...his performance doesn't jump off the screen.

Hill had a big game (30-228-2) in a total shootout in 2017 vs. Oklahoma...a middle of the road defense in a 62-52 loss – outside of that moment, Hill had the normal/good Big 12 career, per game averages, etc., of most of the better backs in the conference.



2019 NFL Combine Measurables...

5'9.5"/198, 31/6" arms, 9.5" hands

4.40 40-time, 2.60 20-yard, 1.56 10-yard

21 bench reps, 40.0 vertical, 10'10" broad jump

DNP agility times at Combine or Pro Day

The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Justice Hill Most Compares Within Our System:

Seeing the **Matt Breida** comp on here stopped me in my tracks. I don't think Breida is that great a pure RB either – fast enough to do things, but not going to carry a backfield over time...however, he did a nice job in 2018 in the NFL, after being forced into an opportunity. The current NFL running back situation is that any RB with speed in the 4.6s or better can hang for a bit, the faster the better/longer. Breida or Hill are not ideal guys to lead your backfield but if you're forced to use them (like SF was in 2018), they can do OK enough.

If you think Hill's speed is so special, he can't miss...remember the plight of **Boston Scott** in 2018. Scott is as-good/a better, faster athlete than Hill, but Scott made the Saints roster as a 6th-round pick and then was later cut to make room for others, then picked up by Philly and put on a practice squad. Where's all the excitement for him – because he's really fast and athletic too?

RB Score	RB-Re	RB-ru	Last	First	College	Yr.	H	H	W	Speed Metric	Agility Metric	Power Metric
7.020	7.50	5.49	Hill	Justice	Oklahoma St.	2019	5	9.5	198	7.96	4.54	7.41
6.889	3.59	5.94	Breida	Matt	Ga Southern	2017	5	9.2	195	10.10	6.40	7.81
6.520	7.04	5.24	Ervin	Tyler	San Jose St	2016	5	9.7	192	6.82	-1.53	4.56
5.955	3.28	4.52	Todman	Jordan	UConn	2011	5	8.7	203	6.92	0.07	9.89
5.300	3.94	3.37	Fisher	Jonathan	N.C. State	2013	5	9.1	196	8.77	8.85	1.44
8.343	5.36	5.20	Irons	Kenny	Auburn	2007	5	10.5	203	5.50	3.83	4.51

**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.*



MARCH 26, 2019

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 2019. 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 2019. 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.

2019 NFL Draft Outlook:

Hill got some pop from his NFL Combine, but has started sinking again...he's going to go 3rd-4th-round, if I had to bet.

If I were an NFL GM, no thanks...I'm not paying a top 125 draft price for a so-so RB with sweet 4.40 speed. There will be a few UDFA's that run in the 4.4s who are bigger and have better hands, there almost always are. I'll play with them for the price and contract control. I'd take **Boston Scott** UDFA over #100 pick Hill in a heartbeat.

