



NFL Draft 2019 Scouting Reports: RB Alexander Mattison, Boise 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.*

-- 'Quick hit' scouting is a quick publishing of shorthand notes I had from watching 2-4 games of activity on a prospect this week, and with me already knowing the measurables and where the prospect was drafted. Also, with me having done some brief tape study/work on them and having a computer scouting model grade on them pre-Draft. With the 'quick hit', I wanted to do an abridged re-look at certain prospects, post-draft, for any numbers of reasons. –

Why a re-look here? I had a mediocre/'meh' impression of Mattison the first time I watched his work, and then his measurables came in pretty weak at the NFL Combine. I had no interest in him at all for any draft 'sleeper' or fantasy purposes. However, he got drafted by the Vikings...and he sits as a top possibility to be backup to the overrated/oft-injured **Dalvin Cook**. Suddenly, Mattison landed in a prime spot for a backup RB. So, I wanted to take a second look to see if/when he got the chance to replace Cook...was there any 'there' there?

Here are my notes as I wrote them watching a few of his games and re-looking at his case file...

-- Shoulder and ankle surgeries in the offseason, played through the issues in the 2018 season (supposedly, and unknown extent). He might be faster than his weak Combine times?

-- 2-time Mountain West Scholar Athlete, multiple time All-Academic in conference.

-- Watching his bowl game vs. Fresno State first...Fresno had a top 10 CFB defense (by PPG allowed) and Alexander ran 40 times for 200 yards and a TD (no catches on a target).

-- Passionate runner, tries hard.

-- One-cut runner = not that athletic and needs to not slow down or he's dead. Mattison is a below average athlete who has poor stop-start ability. Trouble at the next level.



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-- Mattison was consumed by the Fresno defense all 1st-half when it wasn't snowing. As the snow fell, and as he kept running the ball (40 totes) things opened up a bit more. I was more impressed with the Fresno defense than Mattison in this game.

-- Side-to-side/east-to-west running...Mattison is pretty weak. He can't stop when the middle is congested and kick it outside because he cannot do it fast enough to get past defenders. He's a dead man when he tries to stop-start or go east-west...unless he has no traffic and can ramp up to full speed/no hesitation, he's a weak RB.

-- Man, Fresno safety **Mike Bell** is killing it in this game. 10 tackles, 9 solos. I'm more impressed with Bell than Mattison.

-- Watching Mattison vs. Troy from their opening game, facing an eventual top 30 defense in CFB.

-- Same issues, same pros and cons versus Troy. Solid straight ahead with no stopping but weak going side-to-side.

-- Looks like a poor man's **Jay Ajayi**, only less talented/not as tough a runner...and Ajayi wasn't that talented either.

-- Good vision in traffic. Solid between the tackles.

-- OK/good hands displayed. Catches fairly naturally. Just him stopping to make a catch is a killer for him to try to get going again – thus his flimsy 6.4 yards per catch in 2018, and 8.5 for his career.

-- Can I say again, watching the Troy game and sampling a few plays from Air Force and Oklahoma State games – he cannot stop-start like you want an NFL running back to be able to. It makes him a mediocre at-best prospect and only if you run him straight up the gut...and even then, he's so slow (4.67 40-time) that he can't pull away/run past defenders.

Just not impressed at all here.

Alexander Mattison, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

-- Ten 100+ yard games the past two seasons, and seven of the 10 games he had 22 or more carries. He was a bit of a compiler on a heavy workload. Yes, he led the Mountain West in rushing, but he also had 301 carries.

-- He also only hit 4.7 yards per carry in 2018 while leading the league in rushing – a weak number for a pro prospect working this conference. The Mountain West spits out **Kapri Bibbs, Donnel Pumphrey, Kay**



Ajayi, Jeremy McNichols, etc., type RB prospects all the time – great in-conference RBs who flop in the pros, mostly.

-- Less athletic and less productive than his predecessor, **Jeremy McNichols**, at Boise State.

-- *Measurables:*

5'10.7"/218, 9.12" hands, 31.5" arms

4.67 40-time, 2.71 20-yard, 1.61 10-yard

4.29 shuttle, 7.13 three-cone

22 bench reps, 35" vertical, 10'7" broad jump

The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Alexander Mattison Most Compares Within Our System:

Ryan Torain had some OK moments in the NFL when shoved into a one-cut system and forced touches (usually because of injury to others). Eventually, Torain quietly slipped off the radar because of his non-explosive ways. I have a feeling therefore goes Mattison – possibly useful if forced work, but not for long.

<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>
5.260	4.32	4.18	Mattison	Alexander	Boise St.	2019	5	10.5	221	-3.58	2.84	8.03
4.230	1.67	2.99	Torian	Ryan	Arizona St	2008	6	0.3	225	-0.46	0.76	7.43
5.477	3.27	4.25	Johnson	Gus	SF Austin St	2015	5	9.5	215	-1.05	6.82	8.84
5.198	1.18	4.41	Martin	Desmond	Wayne St	2015	5	11.5	221	-6.70	1.17	9.46
3.527	0.08	2.52	Walker	Arnold	Alcorn St	2014	5	9.5	225	-8.50	0.20	6.19

**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.

2019 NFL Draft Outlook:

Drafted #102 by the Minnesota Vikings

NFL Outlook:

Alexander Mattison is the perfect **Mike Zimmer** back...tough, unathletic, non-game-changer/breaker, three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust. Zimmer hates **Jerick McKinnon** and **Latavius Murray** types, he loves **Dalvin Cook** and **Alexander Mattison** types. Hopefully, Mattison will get some chance/work before

