



NFL Draft 2020 Scouting Reports: RB Tavien Feaster, South Carolina (QH)

**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.*

Our Quick Hit (QH) scouting reports are a modified/shorter version of our full-scale reports. On these Quick Hits, I look at a lesser amount of tape and write a shorter amount of flowy words – these are usually designed more for sleeper prospects that I want to get more acquainted with and if something really jumps out, I'll go deeper. It's just me trying to get in and get out and deliver the pertinent notes to you for your consideration and for review later if they start to make waves in a year or two.

I'll do a chunk of these pre-Draft and then more after the Draft, going through the players that caught my attention in the draft (because of how high they were taken) or that I stumble across in training camp or the preseason that catch my eye.

Most of my notes on these Quick Hits will be short and sweet bullet points versions of our full-scale reports. Enjoy...

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Every time I'd watch tape of South Carolina's offense...whether to study **Bryan Edwards**, **Rico Dowdle**, the O-Line, or opposing defensive players – **Tavien Feaster** always jumped out at me as a runner. I'd always wonder why he wasn't getting more play for the NFL Draft. So, we're taking a deeper look.

BACKGROUND...

-- Former USA Today 1st-team High School All-American.

-- 'Mr. Football' in South Carolina, and 'Mr. Track' as well. Was the South Carolina Athlete of the Year as a high school junior.



- Spent three years at Clemson, graduate transferred to South Carolina for his Senior season. couldn't get past **Travis Etienne** at Clemson.
- Clemson's all-time leader in yards per carry average for a career.
- East-West Shrine Bowl participant, no NFL Combine invite.

TAPE AND RANDOM NOTES...

- Just looks like a natural, NFL-talented running back. Has the movement skills and size (5'11"/221) of a legit NFL RB.
- Feaster has natural instincts for running the ball – sees the line scrimmage well, finds gaps/holes, and punches through them. Fast enough to get past defenders and strong enough to knock tacklers back for a few extra yards.
- Has a nice 'plant foot and go' ability. Changes directions swiftly.
- Doesn't try to dance around and make runs worse by trying to kick everything outside/avoid interior contact. He likes to play between the tackles. Is not afraid of traffic or contact.
- Pretty good hands, maybe very good hands in the passing game.

Tavien Feaster, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

- Was a backup to **Travis Etienne**, so he went to be a starter for South Carolina...but ended up splitting time/touches as a starter with current NFL prospect (and Combine invite) RB **Rico Dowdle**.
- Feaster only had 4 games where he carried the ball 13 or more times in 2019/at South Carolina. His numbers in those games (all against decent opponents): 18.0 carries, 108.5 yards (6.0 ypc), 1.3 TDs per game.
- Against Alabama 2019...10 carries for 33 yards. He looked fine, but his team was walloped.
- Against Clemson 2019...12 carries for 47 yards, 4 catches for 8 yards. Again, his team was crushed early and often in this game.
- South Carolina had quite a mess of an offense/offensive plan in 2019...the coaching plan didn't help Feaster much.



2020 Pre-Draft measurables:

5'11"/221, 9.25" hands, 30 1/8" arms

No Combine invite, Pro Day cancelled.

The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Tavien Feaster Most Compares Within Our System:

Two names jump out...

He does remind me of **Jaylen Samuels**, in style of running the ball...but not as great a receiver (but rare few would be). He runs like Samuel – hard, quick, strong, slithery, productive but not off-the-charts, just solid/good/capable.

Keith Ford was a savvy runner I saw in NFL preseasons, but, so far, he's never stuck in the league in the regular season.

<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>
6.640	6.19	7.60	Feaster	Tavien	So Carolina	2020	5	11.0	221	6.18	7.11	7.12
7.369	9.37	6.44	Samuels	Jaylen	NC State	2018	5	11.4	225	4.62	7.79	5.72
7.230	6.49	7.38	Harris	Damien	Alabama	2019	5	10.1	216	5.97	10.01	4.07
5.229	4.71	4.07	Smith	Dreamius	West Va	2015	5	10.5	223	8.05	8.97	5.86
3.234	0.84	3.37	Ford	Keith	Texas A&M	2018	5	10.1	219	-1.60	-1.31	5.65
3.876	0.63	2.80	Crowell	Isaiah	Alabama St	2014	5	11.0	224	2.22	-1.63	7.62
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.

2020 NFL Draft Outlook:

With no Senior Bowl or Combine...he may go undrafted, but I think his high school recognition, the possible bad luck at Clemson – he should be remembered/known and gets drafted 6th-7th-round, maybe.

If I were an NFL GM, I don't draft him, he's not that special, but I would try to nab him as an undrafted free agent.

NFL Outlook:

An uphill battle. He's going to have to fight for his life in the NFL preseason/s and hope to catch a roster break and then have injuries hit above him to force him to get a chance, and then try to cash in on that to get known at the pro level. It's daunting but happens a lot...the opportunity will come his way eventually, but he might be on-off 3-4 different teams until his break comes.

