



NFL Draft 2022 Scouting Report: RB Brian Robinson, Alabama

**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.*

There are really two issues to discuss on **Brian Robinson's** projection (talent and production) to the NFL...one good, one bad.

Let's start with the bad...

Brian Robinson really isn't a very good running back. He's OK/not terrible. He's big, which looks impressive to the eye...but 'big' isn't the end-all. **Antonio Gibson** is as big/bigger...and now that Robinson was drafted, no one cares about him.

The 'wave' of support for Robinson comes from two things, neither of which really even matters...

(1) He plays for 'Alabama'...and that's worth +3 rounds of draft stock immediately.

(2) In his CFB playoff game against Cincinnati on live TV with all the world watching, Robinson ran for 204 yards ...so, to every knee-jerk/cherry-picking analyst, this is who Robinson is – a 200+ yards a game rusher.

The 'Alabama' label doesn't do a thing for me, or **Bo Scarborough**, among others over time (or upfront during the scouting process). And the 200+ yard rushing game against Cincy was fine, but it was an SEC/national power deciding to take advantage of the obvious – Alabama's all-star O-Line vs. Cincy's smaller, less talented front seven and running heavy with their 'plus-sized' good college RB. Cincinnati had a great secondary, so Alabama attacked with their strength against the Bearcats' weakness and Robinson had a career day.

Every little online scouting report/summary you'll read about Robinson goes right back to the Cincy game as proof of his greatness. They don't really mention his dull 3.4 yards per carry (16-55-0) game against Georgia in the SEC title game the game before the Cincinnati matchup nor do they discuss his 'nothing' 3.1 yards per carry game (22-68-0) in the National Championship against Georgia.



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In fact, when you consider Robinson was the lead back for a college all-star team/O-Line and Heisman QB and then you look and see his final 7 games against SEC foes led to the following yards per carry in games (last game to 8 SEC games prior), you'll be disappointed (and you should be)...

3.1

3.4

4.4

4.5

1.4

4.1

3.8

That is terrible production given Robinson's size, his O-Line, his offense in general, and the all-but-Georgia-inferior-to-Alabama opponents.

I'm not shocked by Robinson's lack of effectiveness in a golden (Alabama) situation – I can see it on tape, he's just not that great. A big guy running straight ahead OK, not overly tough but big and harder to bring down (though he was brought down too easily throughout his SEC career), and a terrible east-west runner (further proven by his awful 4.59 shuttle and 7.33 three-cone Pro Day).

There is a ton of evidence to support Robinson is 'not a great running back', but it's all negated (for the media) by that one big game against Cincinnati + 'went to Alabama'. Makes no sense...but it is absolutely what happens in scouting every year of my life, so it actually makes perfect sense.

I'd be willing to push Robinson as a high probability 'bust'/letdown for the NFL if not for his 'good news' attribute...

Something I didn't pick up on until watching his tape deeper – **Brian Robinson** is a helluva blocker at running back. That does not make him a great runner of the ball, but I know the NFL – it will make him a **RUNNER** of the ball, because he can block. He'll get playing time and opportunity because of his blocking. The NFL people love blocking skills more than ground or air effectiveness. Robinson is going to get opportunities other young/talented RBs are not afforded...because he can block...and because he is big, and NFL people love 'look', and he played for 'Alabama' so that cements it.

The Commanders are already talking about a Gibson-Robinson tandem. I always laughed at that upfront notion -- thinking his new team is just overhyped on 'big' and 'Alabama' ...but then I remembered, all that matters for opportunity is NFL coaching perceptions. So, no matter what case I make for caution on Robinson – Washington will go all-in on their perception. You ain't changing their minds. You are definitely not changing **Ron Rivera's** mind.



So, you have a very bland, average...below average power RB who can block like a mother, is decent in the passing game – but one who has his coaching staff bought into the visual and so will get a ton of chances to work.

There's really nothing else more to say about BRob. He's a good kid, hard worker, limited talent...but opportunity trumps talent in the NFL/Fantasy Football world, so be ready for the **Brian Robinson** Express to split a backfield near you/Washington D.C.

Brian Robinson, Through the Lens of Our RB Scouting Algorithm:

-- **Brian Robinson's** 2021 SEC/non-SEC split...

Non-SEC = 6.5 yards per carry

SEC = 4.46 yards per carry...which is really dreadful considering all the advantages Robinson had to work with. Anything under 5.0 in college is suspect, but below 4.5 WITH Alabama is semi-shocking.

-- 3.1 catches per game his final 10 games...he's a pretty decent pass receiver for his size.

2022 NFL Combine/Pro Day Measurables...

6'1.5"/224, 9.75" hands, 31.87" arms

4.53 40-time, 2.63 20-yd, 1.57 10-yd

30" vertical, 9'11" broad...these measurables portend 'not great legs'.

4.59 shuttle, 7.33 three-cone at his Pro Day...which portends 'really stiff'.



The Historical RB Prospects to Whom Brian Robinson Most Compares Within Our System:

I don't care what the computer analysis says...**Brian Robinson** is best described as 75% effective/talented **Najee Harris** (in every way, except 2x the blocker), and Najee has a lot of these same hidden issues along with the 'Alabama' and 'big' scouting inflation attributes. I'm not super high on Najee...and Robinson is a watered down version of that.

RB Score	RB-Re	RB-ru	Last	First	College	Yr	H	H	W	Speed Metric	Agility Metric	Power Metric
6.032	4.89	5.98	Robinson	Brian	Alabama	2022	6	1.5	225	4.39	-3.33	8.64
5.792	1.57	4.49	Ross	Charles	Rice	2014	6	0.3	223	5.31	0.54	6.34
5.175	5.80	4.87	Hightower	Tim	Richmond	2008	6	0.1	226	1.80	0.48	8.28
4.280	0.78	2.97	Ollison	Qadree	Pittsburgh	2019	6	0.5	228	1.35	-1.99	6.43
1.707	-0.72	0.36	Williams	David	Arkansas	2018	6	0.1	224	1.01	-7.99	6.57
1.721	1.32	1.19	Wingo Jr.	Ronnie	Arkansas	2013	6	1.6	231	1.47	-7.25	7.31

**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.

2022 NFL Draft Outlook:

Was drafted #98 overall by Washington. I didn't believe he would be drafted top 100, pre-Draft thoughts...but I should've known better. He has the perfect characteristics the NFL wants... 'big' and 'played for Alabama', but then the blocking – I'm now, thinking back, wondering how he didn't go 2nd-round with this hat trick of great NFL characteristics.

If I were an NFL GM, I would not have taken Robinson seriously as a prospect. I mean, he's a nice #3 RB for sure...big, hands, blocker...but I would know he was going to go way too hot in the draft to take seriously.

NFL Outlook:

I am already reading things from the coaching staff on him and I know they are convinced of Robinson's greatness, so I best plan/project on him getting a good workload and being disappointing with it, but he'll get the volume to make up for some of the low ypc...and the ineffectiveness will be blamed on 'rookie' and 'O-Line' as he gets chance after chance for two seasons before everyone either turns on him or falls asleep on him for some other hot rookie prospect – which is also the way of the NFL...rookies are magical unicorns and 3rd-year RBs are boring old injury-prone sticks in the mud.



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Signature R.C. Date 7/3/2022