



|  Pro Scouting Report  | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| PLAYER INFO | | | | | | | | | | |
| # | Pro Position(s) | Prospect (Last, First) | | DOB (Age) | Scout Name (Last, First) | | | | | |
| 30 | HB | Conner, James | | 5-5-95 (25) | Wolfe, Mitchell | | | | | |
| COLLEGE | | | | YEAR - RD - TM | TEAM | | | | | |
| PITTSBURGH (PAPT) | | | | 2017 - 3 - PIT | Pittsburgh Steelers | | | | | |
| CAREER INFORMATION | | | | | | | | | | |
| Games Played | Games Started | Games Won | Winning % | Positions Started | Captain | | | | | |
| 37 | 22 | 22 | 59% | RB | No | | | | | |
| INJURIES | Pre-NFL: Tore MCL in first game in 2015; diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma during rehab but recovered in time for 2016. 2017 - Missed 2 games (Tore right MCL in Week 15). 2018 - Missed 3 games (Lower right leg contusion/sprain in Week 13). 2019 - Missed 6 games (Left Week 2 early with left knee injury, Injured AC joint in right shoulder in Week 7 and missed Weeks 8 and 9, Reaggravated injury in Week 10 and missed Weeks 11-13, suffered thigh injury in Week 16 and missed Week 17). | | | | | | | | | |
| KEY STATS | Career: 363 attempts, 1581 yards (4.4 YPC), 16 TDs, 89 catches, 748 yards, 4 TDs, 5 fumbles. Pro Bowler in 2018 with 1470 total yards and 13 total TDs. 2019: 116 attempts (39th in league, 1st on team), 464 yards (4.0 YPC, 43rd, 1st), 4 TDs (t-11th, 1st), 38 targets (37th among RBs, 6th), 34 catches (t-31st, 6th), 251 yards (32nd, 6th), 3 TDs (t-4th, t-2nd), 1 fumble (t-5th, t-4th), 1 lost, 328 snaps (33% snap share). Carries, yards, rushing touchdowns, targets, catches, and receiving yards all decreased in 2019, significantly being affected by injuries (Catch % and Receiving TDs increased). | | | | | | | | | |
| MEASURABLES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Height | Weight | 40 YD | 10 YD | Arm | Hand | Vert | 3 Cone | SS | Broad | Bench |
| 6014 | 233 | 4.65 | 1.63 | 31.3 | 9 7/8 | 29" | 7.14 | 4.40 | 113" | 20 |
| EXPOSURES | 2019: @ SF 9/22, vs CIN 9/30, vs BAL 10/6, vs MIA 10/28, vs BUF 12/15 | | | | | | | | | |
| STRENGTHS | Burst in Man/Gap Schemes / Creating Yards After Contact and Finishing Runs with Strength / Hands / Competitive Toughness | | | | | | | | | |
| WEAKNESSES | Decision-Making and Vision in Zone Schemes / Ability to Create Outside Structure / Burst in Zone Schemes / Athletic Ability / Long Foot Speed | | | | | | | | | |
| SCHEME FIT | HB in Man/Gap-heavy run offense (ideally with a FB and QB under center) and running simple routes in short areas of the field on passing downs. | | | | | | | | | |
| PROJECTION | Role player HB in Man/Gap-heavy run offense (ideally with a FB and QB under center) where he can follow blockers through gaps into daylight. Good play strength and very good ability to finish runs and create YAC with power, along with solid ability in the passing game (catching and blocking), make him an effective option at HB. Adequate Athletic Ability, Ability to Create, and Burst prevent him from being a Pro Bowl-caliber HB. Struggled with injuries throughout career. | | | | | | | | | |
| BACKGROUND | 3rd year RB that has started 22 of 37 games and 10 of 16 in 2019. 3rd year with HC Mike Tomlin, 2nd year with OC Randy Fichtner (previously QB coach), and 1st year with RB coach Eddie Faulkner. 2019 offensive production marred by injuries to all skill positions groups, along with using multiple QBs, leading to defenses stacking the box, as they did not fear backup QBs. Passing offense utilizes play action to attack defense in deep areas, with RPOs and screens to attack short areas; run game leans more towards Man/Gap schemes, frequently using a sixth OL as well. 2019 was 2nd year as a starter. Early down back, frequently in 11, 12, and 13 personnel, primarily tasked with executing Man/Gap (Iso, Duo, Power, Counter, G Lead) and Inside Zone running schemes. Effective in passing game as blocker and receiver; offensive scheme wanted to use different players (and possibly keep Conner on a pitch count). | | | | | | | | | |
| BODY TYPE / AA | Good height, good weight, adequate arm length, and good hand size. Adequate athletic ability, with solid balance and quickness and adequate agility and explosiveness. | | | | | | | | | |
| POSITIVES IN PASS GAME | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solid in passing game: executes basic RB routes well (Swing, Flat, Out, Hook), gets to his spot quickly and has good awareness to work toward open areas; good instincts to get friendly to QB; good hands, tracking ball into his hands before tucking and turning up-field, good at catching on the run, and solid at adjusting to balls outside his frame. Solid at blocking: good when lead blocking on Jet Sweeps and willing to block in passing game. | | | | | | | | | | |
| POSITIVES IN RUN GAME | | | | | | | | | | |
| Solid mental processing: solid instincts in Man/Gap schemes to press and follow blockers to find gaps. Solid vision in Man/Gap schemes: better when he follows a blocker into holes and has to make a quick decision on an assigned gap. Good Burst in Man/Gap schemes: accelerates quickly from stance when hole is defined and follows a blocker through the gap. Good footwork between blocks and solid ability to get skinny in the hole and push through with strength. Very good ability to create Yards After Contact and finish runs: runs behind his pads with power and violence; has strong legs, solid balance, and good leg drive to push through weak tackle attempts; runs through arm tackles in the hole with ease and can drop the shoulder to run through defenders. Good ball security: struggled with fumbles in 2018, corrected issues and tucks ball with both hands when running through traffic and getting tackled. Very good overall competitive toughness: good physical toughness and aggressiveness, tries to play through injuries and runs with strength and violence; very good mental toughness, came back from torn MCL and Hodgkin's lymphoma in college to become NFL starter, has a nose for the end zone when in red zone. | | | | | | | | | | |
| NEGATIVES IN PASS GAME | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does not run dynamic routes into the intermediate and deep area of the field. Blocking ability limited by lack of technique: either Cut blocks or leads with shoulder, does not use hands, leading to misses. | | | | | | | | | | |
| NEGATIVES IN RUN GAME | | | | | | | | | | |
| Struggles with Tempo and diagnosing defensive front/scheme in Zone run schemes. Marginal decision-making in Zone schemes, especially when running from Shotgun: stops running to try to read the blocks and does not have the athletic ability to reaccelerate and/or dodge multiple defenders. Marginal vision in Zone schemes: struggles to read the play, set up blockers, and select the right path. Adequate ability to create: adequate athletic ability hampers creating yards when play breaks down, or when trying to make multiple defenders miss in the open field. Adequate burst: not an explosive athlete and does not make quick hard cuts, especially prevalent in Outside Zone runs; does not have the athletic ability to bounce runs outside and beat LBs and DBs to the corner. Adequate play speed: issues with mental processing and decision-making (especially in Zone schemes) hamper ability to execute assignments with speed, does not possess the long foot speed to bust DBs' angles and break off long runs with speed. | | | | | | | | | | |