

SCOUTING REPORT

SPEC SANDERS

Updated: June 9, 2015

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OVERALL ANALYSIS

Overall Analysis

STRENGTHS

- Very Good vision while running
- Can run inside or outside effectively

WEAKNESSES

- Stood a little flat-footed while throwing
- Not very elusive against the pass rush
- Can get his pads a little high while running

BOTTOM LINE

Spec Sanders was an effective single-wing tailback. In the running game, he showed ability to run both inside and outside effectively. Quick to turn up field. Very good downhill runner. Can run through arm tackles and had good speed. Vision, balance and footwork were very good. There were times when his pad level was a little high, making him easier to tackle. In the passing game, he had mixed results. There were times when his ball was crisp and perfectly on target. Other times, he was off. He did not always make the best decisions, as he would occasionally throw into double and triple coverage. He stood flat-footed and was not very elusive against the pass rush. For the most part, he showed half-field progression in his reads and did have a tendency to stare down his receivers. With short passing, Sanders was pretty accurate. He was decisive, accurate and had a quick release. The mid-range game was mixed and he was average with the long ball. He changed his throwing motion with long passes, which caused him to be inaccurate. His receivers did not help him as many passes that were on target were dropped. Had very good velocity on the ball on short and mid-range passes. He showed good ball handling on the fake.

OVERALL ANALYSIS

POSITION

Tailback

TEAMS

1946-48 New York Yankees, 1950 New York Yanks

UNIFORM NUMBER

81

GRADING SPECIFIC FACTORS

SPECIFIC FACTOR	GRADE	SPECIFIC FACTOR	GRADE
OVERALL ATHLETICISM (QAB):	7.7	FIRST STEP BURST:	7.4
Quickness:	7.8	PATIENCE:	7.8
Agility:	7.8	VISION:	7.8
Balance:	7.6	SET UP BLOCKERS:	7.8
STRENGTH AND EXPLOSION:	7.7	PAD LEVEL:	7.3
COMPETITIVENESS:	7.8	RUN AFTER CONTACT:	7.5
MENTAL ALERTNESS:	7.7	ELUSIVENESS:	7.7
INSTINCTS:	7.6	PASSING SHORT:	7.6
OUTSIDE RUN:	7.7	PASSING INTERMEDIATE:	7.1
INSIDE RUN:	7.5	PASSING LONG:	4.9

OVERALL GRADE

7.4

NUMBER OF GAMES REVIEWED

3

SCOUTS

Primary Scout: Ken Crippen

Secondary Scout: Matt Reaser

Game Reviews

GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
December 14, 1947	Cleveland Browns	7.4

BOTTOM LINE

Sanders played single-wing tailback. The field was very slippery. On the first offensive series, he threw two passes. Both went off the fingertips of the receiver. The passes could have been better. He did not play the second offensive series. On New York's next possession with Sanders in the lineup, he was able to lead the team downfield on several very good plays. He had a few inside runs. For the most part, he stayed low. However, on one occasion, he pad level was a little high and was easily brought down by the defense. He did show very good vision in making his cuts. The possession also contained a good screen pass to back Bob Sweiger (#80). Sanders also threw an excellent play action screen pass. Sanders followed that with an excellent outside run, showing strength to push away the defender. However, he slipped on the icy turf while making his cut. The final play of the series was a very good fake. He stood straight up in a passing motion, but slipped the ball behind his back to his halfback. When the Giants got the ball back offensively, Sanders ran off-tackle for a short gain. He kept his pad level low, but there was not much room to run. On the next series, Sanders dropped back on a play action pass and threw it long, but the ball was overthrown by several yards. On the next play, he hit his receiver on a crossing pattern. Excellent throw. On the next play, Sanders was sacked. He did not show much effort in trying to elude the pass rush. He followed that with an excellent short pass to his receiver. The ball got there quickly. Two plays later, Sanders threw a mid-range pass to a receiver that was in triple coverage. Starting the second half, Sanders ran a sweep outside, but gained little. On the next play, Sanders threw to a receiver that was behind the defenders by a few yards. Sanders underthrew the pass and it was knocked down. When New York got possession of the ball back, Sanders threw an ill-advised jump pass to his receiver. The ball was tipped and was intercepted. On the next series, Sanders held on to the ball too long and was sacked. Two plays later, he threw a pass to a receiver in double coverage. The next possession showed, Sanders make an excellent pass down the middle to a wide open receiver. A few plays later, Sanders attempted to run up the middle, but slipped in the backfield for a loss. On the next play – the first of the fourth quarter – he hit a receiver in stride while rolling out to the right. Excellent throw. This was followed by another excellent throw on a crossing pattern, but the receiver dropped the ball. Next, Sanders threw a screen pass, but the receiver fumbled the ball. On the next offensive possession, Sanders had an excellent off-tackle run. He showed quickness, elusiveness, balance and very good footwork to get a long gain. Later in the series, Sanders scrambled and fumbled the ball. For the remainder of the game, Sanders threw a few good swing passes for nice gains. Nothing else of note.

GAME REVIEWS

GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
September 16, 1948	Baltimore Colts	7.2

BOTTOM LINE

Sanders played single-wing tailback. On the first series of the game, Sanders had a few nice runs; one off-tackle and one inside. Both were very good. He threw two passes. The first was a swing pass to his halfback. Good ball positioning and hitting his halfback in stride. The second was a medium-range pass on a post pattern, where Sanders overthrew his receiver. On the next possession, Sanders had a run and a pass. He faked a handoff and ran inside for a short gain. The short pass hit the receiver, who went a few yards, then fumbled the ball. The Yankees had one more possession in the first quarter. It started with Sanders running a sweep that turned off-tackle. Very good footwork and instincts to turn it up field. Sanders threw a play-action pass which went off the fingertips of the receiver. He threw the pass while falling backwards and having two defenders in his face. On the next play, Sanders overthrew his receiver on a crossing route. The final play was originally a pass, but Sanders pulled it down to run for a short gain. In the second quarter, Sanders showed very good footwork and elusiveness on a sweep to the right. He also showed elusiveness on a pass rush and tossed the ball to his fullback back in the flat. Sanders was not as elusive on the next play and was sacked. He finished the series with a pass across the field while off-balance. The ball was a little short and was intercepted. On their next possession, alternated between runs and passes. On the runs, he showed patience to allow his blockers to get into position. He also showed elusiveness and very good footwork to make the most out of each play. In the passing game, Sanders showed very good accuracy on short passes, but mid-range to long passes were off target. He did have a turnover. Sanders was late with his pass and tried to force the ball into double coverage. The defenders tipped the ball and it was intercepted. On Sanders' last full possession, he threw a nice ball down the middle and hit the receiver in the hands. However, the receiver failed to pull in the ball. His final pass was overthrown. Late in the fourth quarter, Sanders was replaced by Al Dekdebrun (#88) at tailback. Dekdebrun took the team downfield. When they reached the five-yard line, Sanders returned and had back-to-back very good runs. The second run went for a touchdown. Using very good vision, Sanders cut and ended with power to score. Sanders did have a four-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, but it was not shown on the film.

GAME REVIEWS

GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
November 28, 1948	Buffalo Bills	7.7

BOTTOM LINE

Sanders played single-wing tailback. He played sparingly in the game. Pete Layden (#84) played tailback the bulk of the first and second quarters. Sanders did not appear until the second quarter, and then he was only in for a play. It was a sweep to the outside. Sanders showed very good footwork, elusiveness and balance in the run. He returned later in the quarter and became the primary tailback. He ran a few sweeps to the right side. He showed very good instincts to make the proper cuts to gain yardage. His short passes were very good to excellent. The balls were well-placed and he hit the receivers in stride. The final play of his first full series was a six-yard touchdown pass to end Jack Russell (#53). Sanders threw it across the field while rolling out to the right. In the second half, Sanders and Layden both played tailback. Sanders continued to run well, allowing his blockers to set up. His passes were inconsistent. The long ball was usually over thrown and the mid-range passes were slightly off target. However, he did throw a couple of very good mid-range passes in the fourth quarter. Also in the fourth quarter, he hit Russell for a second touchdown pass. Sanders struggled against the pass rush in the game as very few times he escaped the pressure. He was hit in the head late in the fourth quarter and fumbled the ball to Buffalo. He ran a sweep to the right. As he cut up field, he was destroyed by the defender. The film ended later in the fourth quarter (not a complete game). Sanders did not play the remainder of the film.

GRADING SCALE

Grading Scale

GRADING SCALE		
CLASS	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Hall of Fame	9.0	Rare
	8.5	Exceptional to Rare
	8.0	Exceptional
Hall of Very Good	7.5	Very Good to Exceptional
	7.0	Very Good
	6.5	Good to Very Good
Other	6.0	Good
	5.5	Above Average to Good
	5.0	Above Average
	4.5	Average to Above Average