|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Length | Amount (in Millions of $) | AAV (in Millions of $) | Guaranteed (in Millions of $) | Guaranteed % | Expires/Final Season | Age at Signing | Significant Career Injury | Notes |
| Josh Jacobs | 4 | 48.000 | 12.000 | 12.500 | 26% | 2027 | 26 | Yes – Quad issues stretching back to 2022 | Was best RB in league 2 years before signing |
| James Cook  (Contract Offered by Bills) | 3 | 33.000 | 11.000 | 11.000 | 33.3% | 2028 | 26 | No |  |
| James Cook (Proposed contract by Agent) | 4 | 40.000 | 10.000 | 18.000 | 40% | 2029 | 26 | No |  |
| James Conner | 2 | 19.000 | 9.500 | 8.250 | 43.4% | 2026 | 29 | Yes – multiple, missed 17 games over 7 years due to injury |  |
| David Montgomery | 2 | 18.250 | 9.125 | 10.500 | 57.5% | 2027 | 27 | No |  |
| Rhamondre Stevenson | 4 | 36.000 | 9.000 | 17.000 | 47.2% | 2028 | 26 | Yes – high ankle sprain, missed 5 games in 2023 |  |

Player Information and Contracts (including proposed contracts for cook)

Stats in year before signing (2023-2024 season, except 2024-2025 season for Cook)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Scrimmage Yards | Scrimmage TDs | Snap% | Rushing Success Rate | Receiving Success Rate |
| David Montgomery | 1132 | 13 | 38.5% | 54.8% | 54.2% |
| Rhamondre Stevenson | 619 | 4 | 51.6% | 49.4% | 39.8% |
| James Conner | 1205 | 9 | 61.8% | 49.5% | 39.4% |
| Josh Jacobs | 1101 | 6 | 57.4% | 45.9% | 55.6% |
| James Cook | 1267 | 18 | 44.6% | 53.1% | 50.0% |

Stats in previous 3 years before signing (All are from seasons beginning in 2021-2023 except Cook, who is 2022-2024)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Scrimmage Yards | Scrimmage TDs | Yards per Rush Attempt | Yards per Target | Yards after contact per rush attempt |
| David Montgomery | 3399 | 26 | 4.1 | 6.4 | 2.0 |
| Rhamondre Stevenson | 3047 | 15 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 2.2 |
| James Conner | 3414 | 35 | 4.3 | 6.5 | 2.1 |
| Josh Jacobs | 4374 | 27 | 4.2 | 5.7 | 2.0 |
| James Cook | 3521 | 27 | 4.9 | 7.1 | 2.1 |

Stats in year post signing (2024-2025 season)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Scrimmage Yards | Scrimmage TDs | Snap% | Rushing Success Rate | Receiving Success Rate |
| David Montgomery | 1116 | 12 | 34.0% | 55.1% | 73.7% |
| Rhamondre Stevenson | 969 | 8 | 54.8% | 50.2% | 39.0% |
| James Conner | 1508 | 9 | 60.0% | 51.7% | 56.4% |
| Josh Jacobs | 1671 | 16 | 62.5% | 52.2% | 53.5% |

Notes:

While Cook's stats are from the 2024-25 NFL season, both the team and player's respective contract offers could change drastically if negotiations were to occur after the season

Success Rate is defined as a play that gains at least 40% of yards required on 1st down, 60% of yards required on 2nd down, and 100% on 3rd or 4th down.

Contract Justifications:

Cook Contract Proposed by Agent: James Cook will be a similar age to when Josh Jacobs (approx. 5 months younger), David Montgomery (3 months older), and Rhamondre Stevenson (5 months younger) when it comes time for his second contract to go into effect with James Conner (2 years, 5 months older) having been a little bit older. As the numbers show, Cook has put up a similar if not better body of work compared to these four backs over the last few years. He also has no major injury history, only missing 2 games so far in his career. Due to the low injury history and improving numbers, I feel it makes sense for Cook to be willing to take an incentive-based contract. As seen in the stats of the other players in the year after signing their contracts, they all improved their numbers with no reason to suggest Cook would do otherwise. Given the system takes some rushing opportunity from the lead back through Josh Allen along with giving a significant number of reps to other running backs, it suggests Cook could put up better stats for a different team as a lead back. This gives significant reason for the Bills to pay Cook a contract of this value. This contract would place Cook just outside the top 5 in terms of AAV, and 4th in total value, with plenty of young running backs over the next few years who may sign contracts which surpass this value, making this what I believe to be a fair offer

Cook Contract Offered by Bills: The Bills would most likely base their contract model on the contract the Packers offered to Josh Jacobs. This is primarily due to a struggle with cap space, along with an aging roster whose super bowl window may be closing. Jacobs’s contract was fully guaranteed for year one, with no future guaranteed money. The Bills would want to keep Cook as part of the offensive core for the 2026-2027 season, but after that they have a lot of decisions to make regarding the cap due to expiring contracts after that season. This type of contract would give the Bills a lot of flexibility with cap space and also give them the option to retain Cook if they felt necessary. The Bills may also believe that their highly rated offensive line along with not running Cook into the ground through the usage of other players has protected him, possibly making his stats make him look better than they believe him to be, but they still have seen the output and have good reason to want to guarantee they can keep Cook in the system as they push for the super bowl. This style of contract most likely guarantees them another year with James Cook and then provides a lot of flexibility with what they will do in the future. The lack of guaranteed money also allows the Bills to use Cook a lot more, as they don’t have to worry about spending a significant amount of their salary on a possibly injured running back in future years.

Blake Boenisch Evaluation:

Basic Info

* Position: Defensive Tackle
* School: Rice University
* Height: 6’3”
* Weight: 332 lbs
* Class: Redshirt Senior
* Hometown: Needville, Texas

Physical Info:

Compact and powerful frame for a DT. Strong Presence for an interior lineman. Main objective is to draw double teams to allow teammates to make plays

2024 Stats:

* 42 Tackles (25 solo, 16 assisted)
* 4 TFL
* 0 Sacks
* 0 FF
* 0 FR
* 1 PD

Strengths:

* Run Defense: Very strong base allows him to be an anchor for the defensive line. In the American conference Rice was 3rd in rushing scoring defense and 5th in opponent yards per carry, which he was a major part of.
* Durability: Has only missed 1 game over the last 3 years, in week 5 of this year vs Charlotte
* Versatility: Due to his size and style of play could play as a 1-tech in 4-3 or a NT in 3-4
* Coaches always have praised him for being coachable and holding himself accountable

Weaknesses:

* Pass Rushing/Penetrating the Backfield: Over his 4 years he has only recorded 1.5 sacks, all coming in 2022, and 1 PD this past season. While his total tackles took a major step up this year, his TFL’s did not rise accordingly showing a potential lack of ability to get into the backfield and create plays
* Lateral Quickness: Developing his agility could allow him to pursue more plays out of the tackle box, which could lead to more big plays for the Rice defense.
* Block Shedding: Similar to the first point, while he is very hard to push back he also struggles to push the other way and get around blocks, preventing his ability to create big stops for his defense and create 3rd and long situations.
* Athleticism: While he’s strong, he’s not super quick or agile

Notes:

* Entered the transfer portal in December, withdrew in May
* Shows up in big games, specifically against Memphis (finished ranked 24th in AP Poll) this year he had 10 combined tackles.
* Rice defense was one of the statistically best in the program over the last 25 years
* Play recognition isn’t the strongest on play action plays
* Run Defense struggles a lot when he isn’t on the field

Player Comparisons:

* In terms of playstyle Boenisch resembles a poor man’s Jordan Davis. He can rotate in on early downs to control gaps and make the running game much harder. He can succeed as an Anchor on the defensive line and create opportunities for teammates to make plays. Boenisch does lack the explosiveness and athleticism that Davis was able to show in college and continues to show in his career. There is obviously a massive talent and athleticism gap.
* He also compares very similarly to the former Northwestern DT Tyler Lancaster, who was able to succeed as a rotational DT with Green Bay for a couple of years. Both lack explosiveness but Lancaster was able to put up numbers showing more penetration of the backfield during his time at Northwestern against big ten competition, much better opposition than what Boenisch has gone up against. Lancaster impressed scouts at his pro day and earned a high RAS score
* Overall to earn his shot Boenisch must show an ability to continue to be a strong anchor, but when he has opportunities against single blockers or in pass rush, he must show an ability to make plays. His chance at getting an opportunity will depend heavily on the athleticism he shows during the upcoming season and at his pro day.

Summary:

* Blake is a very strong run defender who only can improve in that respect. Already serves as a great anchor for a solid run defense in the AAC at Rice. Very valuable in must run situations. Must develop as a pass rusher/disruptor if he wants to get a shot at the next level. Very high character who could develop to become productive. Most likely projects as going undrafted but could get a mini camp invite if he’s able to surprise people with his athleticism and development over this season and when his pro day comes around.