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Cowboys Player Profile Series: FB Lawrence Vickers

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By [Jon Machota / Special Contributor](#)
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 8:00 am on June 18, 2012 | [Permalink](#)

Position: Fullback**Size:** 6-0, 250**Age:** 29**College:** Colorado**Drafted:** Sixth round, 180th overall pick, in 2006**Experience:** Entering his seventh season

Contract status: Signed a two-year contract with the Cowboys in March. According to Spotrac.com, the deal is worth a total of \$2.4 million with Vickers making a base salary of \$800,000 in 2012.

2011 review: While playing in 14 games for the Houston Texans, Vickers caught four passes, recorded one rushing attempt and one start. However, Vickers played a significant role in clearing space for Texans running back Arian Foster, who rushed for 1,224 yards and 10 touchdowns.

2011 grade: C+

2012 Outlook: Although Vickers has become known for briefly exiting organized team activities earlier this month [because of fire ants in his pants](#), during the 2012 season, the veteran will be identified as the lead blocker for DeMarco Murray and Felix Jones.

Before landing in Houston last year, Vickers spent his first five NFL seasons with the Cleveland Browns doing similar work. The Beaumont native rarely carried the ball, something he's done only 34 times in 90 career games, instead, Vickers occasionally caught passes [45 career grabs with three going for scores] and blocked for several running backs.

"I want to do the dirty work," Vickers said in a 2010 interview [posted on YouTube](#). "I want to do that job that most people can't do. And most people can't play the fullback position. It's hard. It's not like blocking on the line. It's a collision. It's a gut check."

In 2008, Vickers was named as a second alternate for the Pro Bowl. Two years later, he led the way for Peyton Hillis to rush for a career-high 1,177 yards and 11 touchdowns.

When the Cowboys were healthy at fullback last season, Murray had success. But when fullback Tony Fiammetta, who is currently with the New England Patriots, was sidelined because of illness, Murray, who eventually had his rookie season ended prematurely because of a broken ankle, wasn't as productive.

Can Vickers help Murray find similar success? Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones must think so. After all, Jones recently said: "This can be the best we've been at fullback since Daryl [Johnston]."

Murray wasn't about to make any bold predictions last week when asked about the addition of Vickers. Like Murray pointed out, because players weren't wearing pads at OTA and mini-camp practices it's difficult to know how everything will unfold when both sides start hitting.

"So far so good," Murray said. "I'm loving the enthusiasm he brings to the running back group and brings to the practice field and what he brings to this team, so I'm excited to see what he's going to do in training camp."

Follow Jon Machota on Twitter: [@jonmachota](#)

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Godspeed Dan · Top Commenter · Santa Fe, New Mexico

He was a greatly under-rated pickup for us this year. Vick, with the remodeled OL and Cally coaching, Murray will be our 1st 1,000+ yard runner in a long time. And he'll just get better and better.

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Eric Martello · Top Commenter · Fort Worth, Texas

From the sounds of things, I like what I hear. Loved Fiametta, but he couldn't stay healthy.

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Randy Hankins · Top Commenter · Richland Community College

I saw him here in Houston do for Arian Foster what Moose did for Emmitt. He is a great addition.

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Gina Genochio · [Subscribe](#) · Top Commenter · College of San Mateo

Welcome to 'Silly Season' at the DMN. No, boys and girls, Vickers is NOT the key to the Dallas running game. DeMarco Murray is, but we probably won't really HAVE one until there's a new head coach in Dallas. Jason Garrett couldn't spell 'run' if you spotted him the 'r' and the 'n'.

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