

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2011

OUARTERBACKS - Shaun Carney became the first ever true frosh Falcon QB to start an opener and left after '07 as the school's career leader in passing (5391), total offense (7952) and comp % (61.9). In '08 AF went from a 4th year senior to a combined 7 career gms. True frosh Tim Jefferson led an 84 yd td drive vs Navy and took over the starting job. He won his first 5 sts and threw for 655 (55%) with 387 rush (3.8) en route to being named the MWC FPOY. Despite missing time in spg (acad) Jefferson was named the starter but was inj'd vs NM and Connor Dietz started 3. Dietz is more of a runner who yells and screams to fire up his teammates while Jefferson is a quiet leader with a better arm. Jefferson threw for 848 (57%, 5-2, 254 rush) while Dietz threw for 197 (47%, 1-0, 369 rush). After the ssn Jefferson admitted to playing inj'd most of the yr (knee) and he missed part of spg '10. He still led with 1,459 (51.6%, 10-6) and was the #2 rusher (794, 5.2). Dietz played in 5 (124 ttl yds). This year they both return and Jefferson is 2 wins away from setting the AF record for career wins. I look for continued improvement.

RUNNING BACKS - The FB was the main ball carrier in Fisher DeBerry's wishbone offense but in '06 Chad Hall became the first HB to be the #1 rusher since '94. Hall was moved to ZWR (basically a RB) in Calhoun's first yr. He was the MWC OPOY rushing for 1,478 (6.4) while also finishing #1 in rec (524, 10.5) ttl td's (16) and ret yds (681). LY he made the roster for the PHI Eagles. AF had to replace its top 5 rushers in '08 and the top 4 TB were all frosh and soph. FB Todd Newell led with 594 (4.2) and converted QB Asher Clark rushed for 588 (4.5). WRZ Kylé Halderman had 350 (9.7) and FB Jared Tew added 328 (6.6) In '09 four of the top 6 ret'd (lost Newell). Clark worked at QB in spg which slowed his progress. In the final 5 he had 481 and finished #2 (865, 5.7). FB Tew led with 970 (4.1) but with 87 more rush att than Clark. WRZ Jonathan Warzeka had 267 (5.6). LY

MAY ALSO BE SEEN ON FIELD:

4 of the top 5 ret'd incl Tew who was the #2 rusher after 7 (540, 4.9) but missed 5 (inj). He did ret for the bowl and scored the game winning TD (OMVP). Asher Clark joined an exclusive club when he became the 3rd AFTB ever to crack 1,000 yds (1031, 5.7). Nathan Walker took over for Tew at FB and rushed for 470 (4.6) meaning the FB's as a whole also topped 1,000. Warzeka added 312 (7.6). TY they lose Tew (6 st), Walker (6 st), FB Ryan Southworth (PS#158, 48 yds) and WRZ Halderman (11 st, 530 ttl yd). Despite the loss of their top 3 FB's (a frosh may win the job), this group could be just as good with Clark's return.

RECEIVERS - With the WRZ in the RB's this position

includes just one WR and a TE. Kevin Fogler led with 567 (22.7) in '09 which was 49% of the team's rec yds. LY Fogler returned but was injured and made only 4 sts (67, 33.5). Zack Kauth (3 st, 274, 17.4) filled the void. Chaz Demerath (241, 14.2) gave the TE spot more production than in recent years. This year they lose Folger and Demerath (11 st) but filling the TE spot will be Joshua Freeman (1 st) who avg'd an impressive 30.5 on 4 rec. With both of LY st'rs gone the unit will be down a little but they have gained valuable experience.

OFFENSIVE LINE -In Calhoun's first year, AF had to replace 3 st'rs (comb 42 st) but still paved the way for 300 ypg rush (5.4) while allowing 13 sks. All 5 st'rs did play the majority of the snaps. They had to replace 3 st'rs in '08 and slipped to 267 ypg (4.5) but did allow just 5 sks. In '09 they had 3 st'rs back and Calhoun called it a team strength and they improved to 283 ypg (4.5, 11 sk). Last year they had to replace all 5 st'rs incl a pair of 1st Tm MWC's and their 1 career start was 2nd lowest in the FBS. I pointed out that service academies do a great job with inexp'd units but they surpassed my expectations paving the way for their best ypg rushing (307, 5.3) since '02 while allowing just 5 sks. All 5 started all 13 games. This year they lose LG Tyler Schonsheck (13 st), 2nd Tm MWC RT Chase Darden (13 st) and OT Alexander Arndt (11 gm). With 3 st'rs back and 7 of the top 10, this is a much more exp'd unit but it will be tough to improve upon '10's outstanding production.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '09 AF had to replace 2 starters but returned 6'5" 275 Ben Garland who earned 1st Tm MWC. Despite being less exp'd than '08, the unit allowed just 134 ypg rush (3.7), their ypg best since 99. LY they had to replace 2 st'rs including Garland and then lost proj'd starting DE Wylie Wikstrom in the opener. As you would expect, the numbers slipped to yielding 202 ypg (4.8) with the sks dropping from 24 to 14. The lone returning st'r DE Rick Ricketts earned 2nd Tm MWC and DE Zach Payne (3 tkl '09) was 3rd Tm MWC. This year they lose Ricketts (13 st, 71 tkl, 10 tfl, Def MVP bowl), NG Bradley Connor (3 st, 23 tkl, 4 tfl) and Wikstrom. They have 4 of the top 6 back incl 2 strs and while still on the smaller side, as is the norm here, should be a much improved group.

BACKERS - Due to graduation and then inj's in '09, 2 true frosh combined for 8 sts with their top returning tackler, Ken Lamendola, being lost after 5 sts. LY they had to replace their #1 and #2 tkl'rs. The top returnees were Andre Morris (#3) and Wale Lawal (#12 tkl'r). This year they lose OLB Morris (#6 tkl'r, 13 st, 1 int), Chris Judge (7 gm) and Lawal will likely retire. They have their most veteran LB corps in yrs with 5 back who started LY (incl #1, #3, tkl'rs) plus Lamendola returns.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - Despite having to replace 3 st'rs,

AF finished #48 in my PDR in '08. With an exp'd unit in '09 they moved up to #24 (10-20 ratio). Last year they ret'd 3 st'rs incl 1st Tm MWC Anthony Wright and 2nd Tm MWC CB Reggie Rembert. SS Brian Lindsay only made 6 sts (inj). Teams threw away from Rembert but he still became the first 1st Tm AA here S/'92. AF kept its #24 finish for a 2nd consecutive year (54.8%, 10-12). This year they have 7 of the top 8 back and

despite the loss of their top guy (Rembert 13 st, 51 tkl, 3 int, 10 pbu), could have another Top 25 PDR finish.

ALTEAMS - AF was #11 in my ST rankings in '07 They had to replace dangerous RM Chad Hall in '08 and dropped to #64. In '09 they lost outstanding K Ryan Harrison. P Brandon Geyer had an amazing net of 39.5 (18 I20) and just 3 TB's and Erik Soderberg made the 2nd most FG's in AF history (22-30, L50) and had 15 TB's on 71 KO's. Reggie Rembert (25.1) and Jonathan Warzeka (27.9) split KR duties and Warzeka had a KR td in the bowl (1st at AF S/85). Anthony Wright was the top PR (18.2) with an 88 yd td vs Army, the first PR td here S/98. AF made a remarkable climb up to #4. LY they had to replace Geyer and then Soderberg unexpectedly struggled with FG's (5-10, L30) and KO's (10 TB, 4 OOB on 46 KO). Zack Bell and Erik Schweiss handled 25 KO's (no TB's). New P Keil Bartholomew avg'd 40.4 while QB Tim Jefferson (out of shotgun) avg'd 45.2 on 12 punts (8 In20) and AF had a tm net of 38.7. Warzeka was solid on KR (28.7) with a 100 yd td vs CSU. KR D was #109 at midseason but improved to allowing 21.2 on the yr. TY they lose Bartholomew but could top LY's #47 finish.

DACHES - Troy Calhoun is a 1989 graduate of Air Force (1st alumnus to be HC here) and is just the 6th coach in school history. In '06 he was the OC for the Houston Texans and an asst with Denver prior. He was also the OC at Ohio ('97-'00) and Wake Forest ('01-'02) where his '02 Demon Deacons led the ACC in total offense! AF has 3 OC's. QB cch Blane Morgan and OL cch Clay Hendrix have been co-OC's the last 4 yrs and WR cch Mike Thiessen has been co-OC the L2Y (5 as WR cch). Matt Wallerstedt coached the ILB's while Charlton Warren coached the secondary and together they are in their 2nd season as co-DC's

'HIL'S FURECAST

Troy Calhoun stepped into a great situation. In Fisher DeBerry's last year ('06) AF suffered 5 close losses and despite a 4-8 record and having to face #11 Tenn and #9 ND, they were only outscored by 2 ppg. Calhoun's first team achieved AF's best ever MWC record (6-2). While they had 3 fortunate wins, in the bowl they led Cal 21-0 but QB Carney suffered a gruesome leg injury and they lost by 6. There were some factors pointing to a weaker record in '08. Despite their 6-2 MWC record, AF was -13.6 ypg in conf action. After going 4-11 the previous 3 yrs in games decided by 8 or less, things bounced their way in '07 3-1). They benefitted from +10 in TO's, had just 8 ret st'rs and lost 25 lett while returning just 23 (48%). They were picked 6th in the MWC and had 15 soph and 16 seniors on the 2 deep. Calhoun did a great job getting AF to 8 wins. They did catch some breaks again (see my '09 magazine). The Falcons got to 8-2 before losing their last 3. The '08 squad benefitted from +13 in turnovers and only had 12 sts lost to injury. In '09 they had 44 lett ret and just 21 lost. AF went 5-3 in the MWC and for the first time under Calhoun, had a positive net ypg at +35.5 in MWC play. AF had 4 net close losses in '09 and teams in that category showed improvement 31 of 36 times (86.1%). AF managed to improve to 9-4 LY despite going from +22 in TO's to +5. AF's 4 losses were to teams with a combined record of 44-9 (#2 and #6 tms final AP poll) and 3 of the losses were by a combined 10 pts. AF did snap Navy's streak of 7 straight CIC Trophies and 15 straight wins vs service acad's. AF did have a missed 2 pt conv vs SDSt in a 2 pt loss and outgained Utah 411-327 in their 5 pt loss. AF was +61.6 ypg in MWC play, 3rd best and their best mark under Calhoun. They do benefit from 4 MWC HG's and are 21-11 in MWC play under Calhoun. Their 14 ret st'rs are the most Calhoun has had to work with and the 77% ret lettermen is the highest any service academy has had the L7Y. Expectations are high for the Falcons and they do catch a young TCU team in their 2nd game. If they win that game or their bowl this team has the potential for their first 10 win season since 1998.

OFFENSE

DEFENSE

QB 7 TIM JEFFERSON SR. 6-0 200 18 st, 1503 (56%, 10-5) 641 rush (3.4) 2Y. 13 st, 1459 (52%, 10-6) 794 rush (5.2), 3rd Tm MWC LY. 11 Connor Dietz (6'0" 185 Sr) 3 st, 264 (51%, 2-0) 426 rush (4.8) 2Y. Tucker Tipton (5'10" 185 Jr). FB 35 Wesley Cobb Jr. 5-9 190 PS#421. 2 gm, 9 yds '09. 8 gm, 13 (2.6) last year. Tyrone Sauls Jr). Tripp Patterson PS#476. 33 Anthony LaCoste (5'10" 190 So) PS#216. PS#186. 25 Mike DeWitt (6'1' RB 17 ASHER CLARK SR. 5-8 185 19 st, 1453 (5.1) '08-'09. 12 st, 1031 (5.7), 2ndTm MWC LY. 28 Cody Getz (5'7" 170 Jr) PS#248. 52 (3.7) true. 132 (5.7) LY. 21 Darius Jones (5'9" 160 Jr) 129 (6.5), 13 gm '09-'10. WRZ 15 JONATHAN WARZEKA SR. 5-9 180 8 st, 246 (13.7) '08-'09.4 st, 312 rush (7.6), 406 rec (22.6) LY. 10 Mikel Hunter (5'9" 170 Jr) 64 rush (9.1) true. 106 rec (21.2) LY. 80 Brandon Hirneise (6'1" 185 Jr) 1 st, 31 (10.3) LY. WRX 85 Zack Kauth Sr. 6-4 205 1 st, 10 gm '09. 3 st, 274 (17.1) LY. 16 Drew Coleman (5'9" 170 Jr) PS#546.7 gm true. 1 rec LY. Christian Gann PS#173. Marcus Hendricks PS#321.82 lke Ariguzo (6'5" 215 So). 6-3 200 PS#465. 12 gm '09. 1 st, 122 (30.5) LY. 84 Daniel Pickett (6'4" 230 Sr TE 81 Joshua Freeman Sr. Austin Briehl (6'5" 225 Jr) PS#121.4 gm LY. DJ Miolen (6'3" 252 Fr) PS#89. 6-3 250 4 gm '09. 13 st C, 3rd Tm MWC LY. 63 Jeffrey Benson (6'0" 255 Sr) PS#173. 5 gm '08-'09. 12 gm LY. 29 C 54 MICHAEL HESTER SR. PS#481.7 gm '09.4 gm LY. <u>LS</u> 56 C RG 73 AJ WALLERSTEIN SR. olton Reid (6'0" 255 Sr) PS#526. 13 gm '09. 13 st LS LY. Harrison Elliott PS#357. 6-4 280 PS#138.5 gm true. 1 st LG, 13 gm '09.13 st BG, 1stTm MWC LY 'S#206. JV team LY. Matt Rochell (6'4" 235 Fr) PS#289. Wilson Heres PS#414. 62 Nathan Badger (6'2" 250 Jr) P LG 67 Jordan Eason Jr. 6-3 255 PS#490. JV team '09. 13 gm last year. 65 Michael Husar (6'1" 270 So) PS#671. Ltt'd last year. Jarrett Hudson (6'5" 260 Fr) PS#295. Joe Frank (6'2" 260 Fr) PS#236. AF Prep LY. 6-3 255 PS#373. No game action '09. No game action LY. 76 Evan Kaufmar RT 70 Kevin Whitt Sr. (6'4" 255 Jr) PS#613.3 games LY Blake Fussell (6'2" 280 Fr) PS#402. Jake Welch (6'3" 275 Fr) PS#472. LT 75 JASON KONS JR. 6-4 255 3 gm '09. 13 starts at LT last yr. 68 Andrew Kerber (6'3" 275 So) PS#709. JV team LY. Ari Uzo-Okereke (6'5" 290 Fr) PS#363. Jacob Ehm (6'6" 275 Fr) PS#391. AF Prep last yr. K 99 ERIK SODERBERG SR. 6-1 190 PS#90.1 KO '08.22-30 FG, L/50, 2nd Tm MWC '09.5-10 FG, lost job P 96 David Baska So. 6-0 175 PS#280. Added 15 lbs in spring '11. Steve Valadez (5'11" 180 Fr) LY. Zach Hoffman (6'1" 190 So) PS#66. 98 Parker Herrington (6'1" 185 Jr). 93 Erik Schweiss (6'0" 190 So). 4 gm LY. PS#50. HM All-Texas honors at punter during HS. Spent 2010 at USAFA Prep School. Brett Dunn is PS#53.

DE 95 Harry Kehs Sr. 6-4 260 PS#113. JV '08.1 tkl, 1 gm in '09. 2 tkl, 11 gm LY. 48 Ross Fleming (6'3 220 Sr) PS#432. 1 gm, 2 tkl '09. 7 gm, 3 tkl LY. Troy Timmerman (6'3' 255 Fr) PS#300. David Greenstreet (6'4' 225 Jr). NT 86 RYAN GARDNER SR. 6-3 260 PS#331.11tkl'09.10st, 29tkl LY.88 Ben Kopacka (6'5" 255 Sr) PS#102.11 gm '09. 6 gm (inj) 2 tkl LY. 78 Dylan Turner (6'3" 245 So) 4 gm, 2 tkl true. Caleb Konemann (6'3" 245 Sr) ? TY (acad). ĎE 51 ZĂCH PAYNE SR. 6-3 255 PS#465. 3 tkl '09. 13 st, 55 tkl, 6.5 tfl, 3rd Tm MWC LY. 96 Daniel Vinson (6'3" 235 So) PS#601. 71 Travis Miller (6'2" 265 Jr) 3 tkl LY. James Rushing (6'3" 238 Fr) PS#349. Tanner Rice PS#376. OLB 44 PATRICK HENNESSEY SR. 6-2 225 PS#427.2 st, 29 tkl, 2 tfl '07-'08.2 st, inj'd '09.9 st, 60 tkl, 10 tfl, 3rd Tm MWC LY. 38 Jason Butler (6'0" 215 Jr) PS#951. Trevor Caswell (6'1" 200 Fr) PS#297. Jordan Pierce PS#303. ILB 32 JORDAN WAIWAIOLE SR. 6-3 230 PS#247.3 tkl '09.13 st, 96 tkl, 7.5 tfl, 2ndTm MWC LY.47 Ken Lamendola (6'2" 235 Sr). 2 tkl true. 13 st, 118 tkl, HM MWC '08. 5 st (inj'd) 24 tkl '09. Inj'd LY. 52 Josh Kusan (6'0" 210 Jr) 12 tkl LY. ILB 41 BRADY AMACK SR. 6-0 225 PS#408. 15 tkl '08-'09. 12 st. 82 tkl. 4.5 tfl. 3rd Tm MWC LY. 57 Austin tkl LY. 45 James Chambers (6'0" 220 Jr) PS#223. 9 tkl 2Y. Dallis Joiner PS#312. Niklas (6'2" 225 Jr) PS#408. 1 st, 4 OLB 50 Alex Means Jr. 6-5 220 PS#436. 4 st (inj), 28 tkl true. 3 st, 22 tkl LY. 45 Jamil Cooks (6'4" 205 So) PS#951. 13 tkl, 3 blk'd K true. Connor Healy PS#170. 33 Harrison McWilliams (6'1" 215 Sr) 10 tkl 2Y. ? '11 (inj). CB 5 ANTHONY WRIGHT SR. 5-10 190 PS#381. 10 st, 43 tkl, 6 pd true. 13 st, 54 tkl, 7 int, 1st Tm MWC '09. 13 st, 50 tkl, 8 pd, HM MWC LY. 24 PJ Adeji-Paul (6'0" 185 Sr) PS#368. 2 st, 8 tkl '08-'09. 2 st, 20 tkl LY. Jaylen Harris PS#310. CB 14 Josh Hall Sr. 6-0 175 PS#408. 8 tkl '09. 16 tkl LY. 3 Chris Miller (5'8" 183 So) PS#830. 11 tkl true. **23** Steffon Batts (6'0" 180 So) PS#323. No game action LY. **30** Roland Pierce (5'10" 176 So) PS#821. **SS 34 ANTHONY WOODING SO**. 6-2 177 6st, 10gm, 30tkl, 3pd true. **31 Brian Lindsay** (6'1"210 Jr) PS#433.5 tkl true. 6 st, 7 gm (inj'd), 32 tkl, 4.5 tfl LY. Aaryn Bouzos (5'9" 180 Fr) PS#158. Cedric Parker (6'0" 175 Fr) PS#246. FS 6 JON DAVIS SR. 6-1 198 PS#406. 5 tkl true. 13 st, 56 tkl, 5 pd '09. 13 st, 93 tkl, 3 int, 2nd Tm MWC LY. 26 Kevin Jablons 190 Sr) PS#325. 16 tkl 2Y. Jon Lindemann PS#220. Jeremy McNeal PS#393

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