

ARIZONA WILDCATS

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2010

QUARTERBACKS - Arizona has not had a QB drafted or make 1st Tm P10 since joining the conf ('78). In 2005 HC Mike Stoops took the RS off of true frosh Willie Tuitama (PS#32) in Wk 7 and he guided the team to wins over Oregon St and UCLA and started the next 3 years. In 2007's new pass heavy offense, Tuitama stayed healthy all year for the first time and set UA single season records for yards (3,683), att comp (62%) and TD's (28-12 ratio) after throwing for just 1,335 (56%) in '06. In '08 Tuitama (bowl MVP) threw for 3,088 (65%, 23-8). Despite the presence of rFr Bryson Beirne (PS#109), true frosh Matt Scott was the backup and there was talk of using him as a runner. Scott played in 6 hitting 7-11-84 and was the #3 rusher (188, 8.2). Tuitama departed as the career passing leader. Scott battled Mich St transfer Nick Foles in '09. Scott has a cannon for an arm but needed to work on his accuracy, while Foles is a pure pocket passer. Scott started the first 3 but surprisingly Foles was called on to start at Oregon St and threw for 254 (3 TD). Foles later hit 78% vs Stanford (40-51) topping Tuitama's '07 record. He had the flu vs UCLA (3 int, 2 fumbles) and was called for a double pass at the end of the Cal game which took them out of FG range. He also suffered a broken finger on his non-throwing hand vs Ariz St but guided the team to a 2nd place tie in the P10 throwing for 2,486 (63.4%, 19-9). Scott threw for 441 (56.9%, 1-3) and was the #3 rusher (309, 7.5). Adding depth are Beirne (PS# 225 Jr) and Andrew McDonnell (6'2" 190 So). This unit is much more exp'd and Foles should be one of the top QB's in the P10. Remember, new QB coach Frank Scofield had 3 QB's drafted while at Tulane.

RUNNING BACKS - In '07 true frosh Nic Grigsby was the top rusher of a young unit with 704 (4.4) in 8 sts and had 200 rec (5.7). In '08 they added true frosh Keola Antolin (5'8" 195, PS#39). Grigsby became the Cats' first 1,000 yard rusher (1,153, 5.4) since Clarence Farmer in '01. Antolin only had 66 yds in the first 6 but rushed for 149 (7.1) vs Cal and had 4 TD's vs Oregon. Both ret'd last year but the unit was hit hard by injuries. Grigsby missed 3 and significant parts of others (shoulder). He had 400 (8.2) in the first 3 but finished #2 (567, 7.2). Antolin had shoulder and knee injuries but still led with 637 (5.6). Former OC Dykes called Grigsby & Antolin their big play guys and said the unit lost some pop without the top 2. Sr Nick Booth led the RB's with 84 vs Wash St and Greg Nwoko had 58 vs Oregon. HB/FB Chris Gronkowski did an excellent job blocking. Taimi Tutogi (6'1" 258 So) rushed for 50 (4.5) vs Wash St. This year they lose Booth and Gronkowski. Added to the mix are Daniel Jenkins (5'9" 187 rFr, PS#61), Kylan Butler (5'8" 180 rFr, PS#68) and Oliver Padre (5'10" 200 Sr). This unit should maintain better health and have a much stronger season statistically.

RECEIVERS - Mike Thomas (10.3 in 100M) was named co-P10 FPOY in '05 and in his last 3 seasons '06-'08 had 597 yds (11.9), 1,038 (12.5) and 825 (11.1). One of the most talented TE's in the country, Rob Gronkowski was #2 in '08 with 672 (14.3) becoming UA's career TE receiving leader. Last year they had to replace Thomas but then unexpectedly lost Gronkowski (back inj). Delashaun Dean had 418 (11.3) in '07 and 593 (11.2) in '08 but slipped to just 396 (9.4) in '09. Terrell Turner (PS#66) had 575 in '07 and 580 in '08 and was #2 with 458 (9.5) in '09. Juron Criner (88 as true) led LY with 582 (12.9). David Roberts was #3 with 410 (9.5) and David Douglas (PS#176) had 320 (10.3) in 4 sts. Not listed in the PSL are Sean Lieb (6'1" 186 Jr), Kyle Day (5'11" 180 Sr) and Terrence Miller (6'4" 225 So, PS#40TE). This year they lose Turner (11 st). Even with the loss of Gronkowski (#2DC NE) who DNP this unit is more exp'd.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '07 the Cats had 4 full-time starters ret but 3 were soph. They yielded 31 sks (5.8%) and surprisingly the rushing did not improve (77 ypg, 2.9). In '08 they had to replace one starter and one bkp but lost C Blake Kerley after 4 starts. The Cats improved to 158 ypg (4.1) while allowing 28 sacks

(6.8%). Last year they had to replace two 3 year st's (#2DC) and another who had 8 sts. The starters averaged 6'5" 313. Their OL coach mentioned that it was his deepest unit in his time here and that it was the first time he wasn't overly concerned if a player went down. The Cats improved again, this time to 159 ypg and 4.8 ypc while allowing just 13 sks (2.7%). This year they lose LT Mike Diaz (11 st, 2Y st'r), G Herman Hall (11 st) and Kerley. The top returnees are 1st Tm P10 C Colin Baxter and 2nd Tm P10 LT Adam Grant who was granted a 6th year. RG Vaughn Dotsy missed 4 LY and should be 100%. This unit is actually a little more exp'd and should improve again.

DEFENSIVE LINE - Only twice this past decade did the Cats allow over 3.9 ypc rush. Once was in 2005 (4.6) and the second came in 2008 when they had to replace all 4 st's. That 2008 D allowed 131 ypg rush (4.1) with 24 sks. Last year it appeared the entire 2 deep ret'd but Kaniela Tuipulotu transferred to Hawaii (7 st '08). It was still a top-notch group but they didn't meet my expectations as they only improved to 120 ypg (3.9) with 34 sks. This year they lose 2nd Tm P10 DT Earl Mitchell (12 st, 48 tkl, 6.5 sk, #3DC HOU) and DT Donald Horton (13 st, 25 tkl, 3 sk). Six of the top 8 are back including Ricky Elmore, who led the team with 10.5 sacks. They also had Ohio St transfer Willie Mobley (PS#12) and PS#25JC Jonathan Hollins (RS '09). Not listed below is Chris Merrill (6'2" 285 So, PS#120). Despite being a little less exp'd, this figures to be one of the P10's top D-lines. They will periodically use a "cheat" formation with 4 DE's at the 4 DL spots.

LINERACKERS - Last year they had to replace their #1 and #8 tkl'rs but had their #5 and #6 back. The unit was underrated as they very seldom were caught in a missed assignment. I said despite the losses the unit should be stronger. MLB Vuna Tuihalamaka and Xavier Kelley both earned 2nd Tm P10. This year they lose Tuihalamaka (13 st, #4 tkl'r, 5.5 tfl), WLB Kelley (13 st, #2 tkl'r, 5.5 tfl) and Sterling Lewis (10 st, #9 tkl'r, 4 tfl). This is a lightly exp'd group (16 career tkl's ret) but they do add PS#15 and PS#111JC's who were in for spring as well as a PS#36 rFr. Despite the inexp, it wouldn't surprise me if Stoops fashioned another strong unit.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - In '07 UA had 7 of their top 8 back including Antoine Cason (Thorpe Award winner) and the Cats finished #23 (#35 '06, #21 '05) in my PDR. In '08 they had to replace Cason (#1DC) and his 3 year starting cohort CB Wilrey Fontenot (#7DC). Surprisingly the Cats allowed an outstanding 12-16 ratio and finished #15. VHT CB Devin Ross (PS#8) earned 2nd Tm P10. VHT true frosh Robert Golden (PS#21) was given the #1 jersey but had just 13 tkl. LY they had to replace 2 st's. They had an outstanding CB combo of Ross and Trevin Wade (comb 6 int, 21 pbu). The Cats dropped to #34 allowing 56.8% with a 19-12 ratio. This year they lose 3rd Tm P10 CB Ross (13 st, 81 tkl, 13 pd), 2nd Tm P10 S Cam Nelson (13 st, 74 tkl, 4 pd) and NB Corey Hall (3 st, 38 tkl, 1 pbu). Wade and SS



CB Trevin Wade

Golden are top-notch returnees and 2 VHT's got their feet wet LY in PS#80JC Marcus Benjamin at CB and true frosh FS 6'4" Adam Hall (PS#6, burned RS Wk 4). This year they also add true frosh Marquis Flowers (PS#16). Not listed in the PSL are Lyle Brown (5'10" 175 Jr.), William Jenkins (6'0" 200 So), Mark Watley (6'0" 178 So), Nick Lenhart (6'1" 190 So) and Victor Yates (5'11" 202 Sr). They are equal to LY in terms of exp but should make a move up my PDR.

SPECIAL TEAMS - HC Mike Stoops inherited a unit that finished #106 in my ST rankings in '03. They improved to #78 and #52 (in '04 & '05) and with super K/P Nick Folk, rose to #10 in '06. 2007 was the first time S/'97 that UA had simultaneously debuted a new K, P and returnman but they still managed a #22 finish. RFr P Keenyn Crier avg 43.7 (net 38.1) and KR Mike Thomas avg 23.7. In '08 a more veteran unit finished #9. Last year they had to replace K Jason Bondzio (14 of 16 FG, long 49) as well as the dangerous Thomas (709 tft ret yds). The Cats had another strong finish (#22). Alex Zendejas (PS#8) nearly lost his spot in Aug but hit 17-22 (long 47). He was replaced on KO's midseason by John Bonano (7 TB's). Crier had a 41.5 avg (35.1 net). William "Bug" Wright avg an outstanding 17.5 on PR's while Travis Cobb (PS#42JC, 25.4) and Keola Antolin (28.4) were dangerous KR's. Orlando Vargas blocked a punt and ret'd it for a TD vs Ariz St. This year the unit returns intact and is clearly one of the top ST units in the country.

COACHES - Mike Stoops was K-St's DC from '96-'98 then was DC at Okla from '99-'03. He is now in his 7th year here. OC Sonny Dykes left to become the HC of Louisiana Tech after 3 successful seasons here. DC Mark Stoops left after 6 years ('04-'09) to become the Florida St DC. Mike Stoops promoted OL coach Bill Bedenbaugh and RB/TE coach Seth Littrell to co-OC's this year. LB coach Tim Kish and former Colorado DB coach Greg Brown will be co-DC's in 2010.

PHIL'S FORECAST

Arizona joined the P10 in '78 and is the only team in the conf that has not been to the Rose Bowl. The Cats were ranked #4 in the '99 preseason polls but stumbled to a 6-6 record that year and went through 9 straight years without a winning season (39-65) including a surprising 9-28 at home in P10 play. When Mike Stoops was hired ('04) there was great enthusiasm but the team struggled to a 3-8 finish (-118.1 ypg in P10 play). In '05 they lost their last 2 games, were -9 in turnovers and finished 3-8. In '06 I called them my #2 Most Improved team and they did indeed achieve bowl eligibility but did not get a bid despite upsetting #25 Wash St, #8 Cal and getting their first win at Autzen Stadium since 1986 (37-10). In 2007 they slipped back to 5-7 and it was time to make my Most Improved List again in '08. Arizona did not disappoint as they went 8-5 landing their first bowl bid since the 1998 Holiday Bowl and in the Las Vegas Bowl they defeated #17 BYU, 31-21. Their 5 losses were by an avg of 5.6 ppg and they were +57.8 ypg in P10 play (5th best). They had just 12 returning starters last year and had to replace their QB but had just 13 letterman lost (2nd fewest P10). I pointed out they could have been a 12-1 team in '08 but went from 5 P10 HG's to 5 P10 AG's and also had to face Iowa away from home. The Cats did indeed improve. They suffered an extremely tough loss vs Wash as they had a 461-256 yd edge and led 33-21 and had the ball late when a pass was ruled an IR TD, although one photo shows the ball touching the ground. They suffered another tough loss vs Cal (see QB writeup). Still, they had a great shot at the Rose Bowl and led Oregon 24-14 in the 4Q. Up 31-24 they were int'd in the EZ. The fans approached the field expecting to charge but they gave up a TD with :06 left and lost in 2OT. They knocked off Ariz St and USC (1st win over USC since 2000) both on the road in the final 2 and finished tied for 2nd at 6-3 and their +65.1 ypg was 3rd best. The Wildcats entered the AP Top 25 for the first time since 2000 but were only there for 2 weeks. They were shutout in the bowl by Nebraska. While they only have 4 st's back on D (lose top 4 tkl'rs) they only lose 17 lettermen and will have a potent offense. They get 5 P10 HG's and a road trip to Wash St. I will call for them to have their most wins since 1998 and to have a shot at their 1st ever Rose Bowl.

TOP NEWCOMERS FOR 2010

DB Marquis Flowers 6-3 200 PS#16
DL Willie Mobley 6-2 277 PS#12
LB Derek Earls 6-3 235 PS#15JC
WR Dexter Ransom 6-4 217 PS#40JC
OL Trent Spurgeon 6-7 270 PS#60
DL Kirifi Teala-Taula 6-3 280 PS#80
WR Austin Hill 6-3 200 PS#71
OL Mickey Baucus 6-8 275 PS#104
OL Matthew Jakubiec 6-7 312 PS#115
LB Paul Vassallo 6-3 240 PS#111JC
WR Garic Wharton 5-11 168 PS#116
WR Tyler Slavin 6-2 190 PS#118
DB Josh Robbins 6-3 185 PS#181
DB Jourdan Grandon 6-2 240 PS#184
DB Jonathan McKnight 5-11 175 PS#186
OL Chase Gorham 6-2 225 PS#192
LB Kyle Benson 6-2 221 PS#165
DL Mohammed Usman 6-2 240 PS#243JC
DL Sanelia Fuimaono 6-2 240 PS#235
OL Carter Leies 6-5 320 PS#261
OL Fabbians Ebbebe 6-8 295 PS#262
DL Ben Pettinato 6-4 235 PS#47
QB Cameron Allerhagen 6-3 200 PS#296
DL Aiulua Fanene 6-4 280 PS#1277

OFFENSE

JERSEY # IN RED

2010 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY # IN RED

DEFENSE

QB 8 NICK FOLES JR. 6-5 245 PS#33. Mich St trans. 2486 (63%), 19-9 ratio, HM P10 LY. **4** Matt Scott (6'3" 195 Jr) **PS#15**. 525 pass (55%), 2-3 ratio, 497 rush (7.8) 2Y. **RB 5 NIC GRIGSBY SR.** 5-10 190 PS#108.21 st, 1857 (5.0) 2Y.8 st (inj), 567 (7.2) LY. **2** Keola Antolin. 1162 (5.0) 2Y. Greg Nwoko (6'2" 228 So). 273 (3.6) rFr. **31** Taimi Tutogi. **WR 82 JURON CRINER JR.** 6-4 210 PS#91.88 (12.6) tft yds. 582 (12.9) LY. **81** David Roberts (6'0" 190 Jr) **PS#114**. 425 (9.4) 2Y. **6** Travis Cobb (6'0" 180 Sr) **PS#42JC**. 1 rec, 30 KR (25.4) LY. **WR 18 DELASHAUN DEAN SR.** 6-4 261 PS#41. 12 st, 1011 (11.2) '07/08. 11 st, 396 (9.4) LY. **85** David Douglas (6'1" 198 Jr) 4 st, 361 (10.6) 2Y. **80** Devin Veal (5'11" 188 Jr) **PS#131**. **WR 19 William "Bug" Wright Jr.** 5-9 175 3 st, 276 (10.6) 2Y. **40** Gino Crump (6'2" 210 Jr). **TE** Richard Morrison (6'0" 180 Jr) **PS#64**. Tommy Papillon (6'4" 200 So). Mike Descicciolo (5'8" 175 So). **LT 88 AJ SIMMONS SR.** 6-3 255 PS#39DL. 2 st, 3 rec, '07/08. 7 st, 132 (13.2) LY. **86** Jack Baucus (6'6" 255 rFr) **PS#36**. Alex Monetta (6'5" 225 So). **HB** Oliver Padre (5'10" 200 Sr). **C 64 COLIN BAXTER SR.** 6-4 295 PS#89. 24 st /CLG 2Y. **40** Gino Crump (6'2" 210 Jr). **76** Kyle Quinn (6'2" 310 So) **PS#97**. 9 gm ST's rFr. **LS** Chase Gorham. David Hightberger (6'1" 185 So). **RG 70 VAUGHN DOTSY JR.** 6-5 335 PS#70. 4 gm true. 9 st (inj) LY. **57** Jovon Hayes (6'2" 320 Sr) **PS#29**. 5 gm 3Y. **72** Trace Biskin (6'5" 295 So) **PS#113**. **61** Ryan Browner (6'3" 282 So). **LG 55 Conan Amutaunai Sr.** 6-4 335 PS#113. DNP rFr. 4 gms in '08. 5 sts at OG, 8 gms (knee inj) LY. **62** Chris Putton (6'4" 295 rFr) **PS#252**. Eric Bender-Ramsay (6'6" 325 rFr). **RT 67 Phillip Garcia Sr.** 6-7 330 PS#103JC. RS due to inj '08. 2 st LT, 5 gm LY. **LT 78 Judis (6'8" 310 Sr) PS#372JC**. 10 gm ST's LY. **75** Shane Zink (6'7" 302 So) **PS#39BJC**. **77 Jack Adams GRANT SR.** 6-6 235 PS#91DL. 1 gm '06-'07. First 5 st at RT, 7 gm (inj) in '08. 13 st at RT, 2nd Tm P10 LY. Awd 6th yr. Trent Spurgeon (6'7" 270 Fr) **PS#60**. **K 14 ALEX ZENDEJAS JR.** 5-11 190 PS#8. 4 gm, 5-5 PAT, 1 punt (51.0) rFr. 17-22 FG L/47, 38-41 PAT, 29 KO, 4 TB LY. **17** John Bonano (6'0" 180 Jr). 1-1 PAT, 40, 7 TB, 2 gm LY.

DE 44 RICKY ELMORE SR. 6-5 250 PS#182. 9 st, 35 tkl, 8.5 tfl 2Y. 13 st, 44 tkl, 11.5 tfl, 2nd Tm P10 LY. **83** D'Aundre Reed (6'4" 258 Sr) **PS#192**. 4 st, 26 tkl '07/08. 3 st, 17 tkl LY. **DT NA WILLIE MOBLEY SO.** 6-2 277 PS#12. Ohio St trans. **92** Dominique Austin (6'4" 292 rFr) ever Rose Bowl. **Jr** PS#126. 7 tkl, 2Y. **91** Sione Tuihalamaka (6'2" 275 rFr) **PS#142**. Jowyn Ward (6'2" 295 Jr) **PS#214**. **DT 93 Jonathan Hollins Jr.** 6-4 280 PS#25JC. RS LY. **94** Lolomana Mikaele (6'2" 305 Sr) **PS#237**. 1 st, 13 gm rFr. Susp '08. 3 st, 12 tkl LY. **43** Justin Washington (6'2" 275 rFr) **PS#368**. **DE 42 BROOKS REED SR.** 6-3 255 PS#109. 7 tkl, 9 gm rFr. 13 st, 37 tkl, 9.5 tfl, HM P10 '08. 8 st, 10 gm (inj), 23 tkl, 5 tfl LY. **58** Apaiaitu Tuihalamaka (6'3" 258 Jr) **PS#69**. 7 tkl 2Y. **SLB 33 Jake Fischer So.** 5-11 220 PS#102. 13 gm, 7 tkl as true. **13** Cordarius Golston (6'1" 215 rFr) **PS#187**. **54** CJ Parish (6'2" 235 Sr) **PS#88JC**. 3 tkl, 13 gm here LY. **MLB 40 Derek Earls Jr.** 6-3 235 PS#15JC. 96 tkl frosh at JC. 108 tkl, 9.5 tfl at JC LY. Here for spg '10. **10** Trevor Erno (6'1" 230 rFr) **PS#36**. Kyle Benson is PS#165. **WLB 41 Paul Vassallo Jr.** 6-3 240 PS#111JC. Only 4 gms at JCLY (inj'd). Here for spg '10. **51** RJ Young (5'11" 232 So) **PS#143**. 6 tkl, 12 gms rFr. **53** Brett Thompson (6'3" 215 So). **CB 7 Marcus Benjamin Sr.** 6-0 190 PS#80JC. 10 gm, 7 tkl, 1 pbu here LY. **2** Mike Turner (5'11" 175 Sr) **PS#129**. 12 tkl LY. Jourdan Grandon **PS#184**. **26** Khryl Knowles (5'11" 170 So). **CB 24 TREVIN WADE JR.** 5-11 182 1 st, 12 tkl rFr. 13 st, 71 tkl, 14 pd, 1st Tm P10 LY. **21** DeWayne Peace (5'11" 180 rFr) **PS#102**. 17 Derrick Rainey (6'1" 190 rFr) **PS#401**. **SS 1 ROBERT GOLDEN JR.** 5-11 200 PS#21. 13 gm, 13 tkl true. 13 st, 41 tkl, 3 pd LY. Marquis Flowers is **PS#16**. **3** Anthony Wilcox (6'2" 205 Sr) **PS#47BJC**. 1 tkl here '08. 4 gm LY. **17 52 Adam Hall So.** 6-4 212 PS#6. 9 gm, 9 tkl as true. **9** Joe Perkins (6'2" 205 Sr) **PS#446JC**. 13 gm, 20 tkl here '08. 12 gm, 25 tkl LY. **29** Trevor Foster (6'0" 205 Sr). 14 tkl 3Y. **P 47 KEENYN CRIER SR.** 6-1 200 59 punts (43.7), L/83, 1st Tm P10 rFr. 48 (43.9), 3rd Tm P10 '08. 57 (41.5) LY. John Bonano also **PK**. **39** Kyle Day (5'11" 180 Sr) **PS#14**. 12 gm 3Y.

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