

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2010

QUARTERBACKS - Pat White was arguably the most exciting player in college football from 2005-'08 and became the first QB in NCAA history to win 4 bowls as a starter and broke Missouri QB Brad Smith's NCAA record for career QB rush yds (4,480). In 2008 HC Bill Stewart tweaked the offense to add more passing. White threw 58 more times but for just 118 more yards (1,842) hitting 66% with a 21-7 ratio (974 rush, 5.1). Jarrett Brown (who OC Jeff Mullen referred to as his "Eric Dickerson") played often and started vs Syr and was also used as a power RB. Brown rushed for 169 (4.7) while hitting 22 of 30 passes. Last year they had to replace White (#2DC MIA) who set 25 WV or NCAA records. They added VHT true frosh Geno Smith (PS#4). Brown threw for 266 ypg the first 3 and became just the 4th Mountaineer to register 400+ yards of offense in a game (vs EC) but he suffered a concussion on the first drive vs Marshall and was never the same. He threw for 2,144 (63.2%, 11-9 ratio) with 466 rush (4.0). Smith had a huge 4th & 10 conv vs Marshall guiding them to the win and in 5 gm threw for 309 (65.3%, 1-1). He also played the 2H of the bowl after Brown suffered an ankle inj. This year they lose Brown. They add Barry Brunetti (PS#9). This unit is not as exp'd but could put up better numbers provided Smith stays healthy.

RUNNING BACKS - Steve Slaton rushed for 1,128 (5.5) including a Sugar Bowl record 204 as a true frosh in '05. In '06 he broke WV's single season record (Avon Cobourne, 1,710 in '02) with 1,744 (7.0) despite being banged up late. In '07 Slaton started to share his carries with Noel Devine and his numbers dropped to 1,051 (5.0). Slaton has gone on to two fine seasons in the NFL (#3DC HOU). In '07 Devine avg 8.6 ypc (627) and WR Jock Sanders had 105 (6.6). Devine led with 1,289 (6.3) in '08 while Sanders had 250 (5.2). Devine has a 41" VL (tm high), 435 lb bench and 4.3 speed. QB Brown was their power RB. After not having a solid short yardage RB in '08, Ryan Clarke emerged in '09 with 250 (4.2) and 8 TD's. Devine had an injury plagued season (ankle, hammy, hip) but still rushed for 1,465 (6.1) and Sanders had 175 (5.0) moving to RB from his slot WR spot when Devine was inj'd. True frosh Tavon Austin (PS#15) surprisingly only had 47 (7.8) and Shawne Alston (PS#141) added 18. Not listed in the 3 deep below are FB's Ricky Kovatch (6'2" 239 Jr), Matt Lindamood (6'0" 234 So) and Bryan Logsdon (6'5" 258 Jr). Devine turned down an early trip to the NFL, making this one of the nation's finest RB corps.

RECEIVERS - In 2008 WV had an inexp'd receiving corps and Alric Arnett led with 466 (13.3) while Jock Sanders had 462 (8.7). Brad Starks (PS#41QB) had 168 (9.9) and Wes Lyons had 104 (9.5). Four of the top 5 were back last year. Sanders was susp (spring) landing him in the doghouse but worked his way back into the rotation and led with 688 (9.6) while also playing RB. Arnett improved to 586 (13.6) while Starks had 405 (14.0) and Lyons had 263 (13.2). This year they lose Arnett (13 st) and Lyons (10 st). I look for a big impact out of Tavon Austin, who moves from RB and this unit is in about the same shape as '09.

OFFENSIVE LINE - Having a mobile QB always helps the OL stats but WV outdid themselves in 2006 with 303 ypg rush & 6.7 ypc! In 2007 they lost long-time OL coach Rick Trickett to Fla St as well as a 1st Tm AA at C and a 1st Tm BE OG. WV still avg'd 297 ypg (6.2) with 13 sks allowed (4.9%). In '08 the line ret'd intact. Partly due to Stewart wanting to get more passing into the offense, the rushing numbers dropped to 210 ypg (5.3) with 18 sacks (5.9%). Last year they had to replace 4 multiple year starters (1st and 2nd Tm BE). As you would expect they dropped even further to 186 ypg (4.8) with 24 sks (6.9%) the

most allowed since 2001. In a couple games, Stewart turned to mostly a rush attack in the 2H due to his QB's being under pressure. This year they lose 2nd Tm BE RT Selvish Capers (13 st, 3Y st'r, #7DC WAS). Nine of the top 10 return making them much stronger but it must be noted that the 4 ret st'rs took an amazing 98.9% of the snaps in 2009.

DEFENSIVE LINE - WV usually has a tough run D and in '06 allowed just 93 ypg (3.0). In '08 they had to replace 2 starters (1st and 2nd Tm BE) from the 3-man group. WV allowed 132 ypg and the ypc rose to 3.6 (113, 3-0 in '07). Last year they had to replace 2 players (comb 11 sts, 41 tkl). They did have their top 2 DL's back in NT Chris Neild and DT Scooter Berry. Berry had just 5 starts due to inj's (250 ply '09, 900+ '08). Neild, who is a space eater that occupied double teams, earned 2nd Tm BE. Julian Miller had 9 sks (3rd Tm BE). Surprisingly they slipped to 3.7 ypc (127 ypg) with 29 sks. This year the unit returns intact and should get a full year out of Berry and adds PS#5JC Bruce Irvin (16 sk at JC '09). Adding depth are Joe Rhein (6'1" 265 Jr), Glenn Gress (6'2" 250 Jr), Jamal Nelson (5'11" 272 Jr), CJ Huffman (6'1" 278 Jr), Donovan Pearson (6'0" 270 So), Curtis Feigt (6'6" 284 rFr) and possibly Tevita Finau (6'5" 290 Jr, PS#18JC). This is clearly one of the BE's top D-lines.

LINEBACKERS - WV plays a 3-3 stack D but I limit the secondary outlook to 4 positions and include the Bandit in this unit. 2006's starting BS moved to LB in '07. Last year they had to replace their #1 tkl'r (1st Tm BE), their #2 tkl'r and a backup (31 tkl). They got back Reed Williams (107 tkl '07) who missed all but 2 gm of '08 (inj). LB's Pat Lazear (rock), JT Thomas (speed) and Williams (red hair) were nicknamed Earth, Wind and Fire. Williams was banged up often but was the #4 tkl'r (2nd Tm BE). This year they lose Williams (10 st, 6 tfl), S Nate Sowers (11 st, 43 tkl, 2 pbu), BS Franchot Allen (5 st, 22 tkl), LB Ovid Goulbourne (20 tkl, 5.5 sk) and Zac Cooper (10 tkl, 3.5 sk). They do return their #1 (2nd Tm BE Lazear) and #2 (1st Tm BE Thomas) tkl'rs and have 5 with starting experience with SS Sidney Glover moving to BAN this year.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - WV had an exp'd secondary in '07 and climbed from #64 in my PDR in '06 to #19 (15-16 ratio). In '08 they had to replace all 4 st'rs plus 3 backups. Stewart did a great job as the unit (4 car sts) finished #34 (11-17 ratio). LY they only had to replace 1 starter (#7DC) and had 8 back with starting exp and moved up to #26 allowing 53% with a 19-17 ratio. This year they lose CB Kent Richardson (24 tkl), CB Guesley Dervil (3 tkl) and Anthony Wood (13 tkl). Not listed in the PSL is Lawrence Smith (5'9" 178 So). This is a very exp'd and improved secondary.



FS Robert Sands

SPECIAL TEAMS - The Mountaineers always finished near the top of my ST rankings under Rodriguez. In his final 4 years they were #35, #32, #8 and #37. In '08 Pat McAfee was a Ray Guy finalist (40.5 net) and hit 17 of 20 FG's (L/52). They had to replace their top PR and KR and WV dropped to #43. A surprising weak spot was their KR defense (28.0). Last year they had to replace P/K McAfee (#7DC) and their top PR and dropped to #55. New K Tyler Bitancourt (PS#7) hit 13-15 FG's (L/45). WV is one of the few tms that has a holder on the roster and he is Sr Jeremy Kash. Added to the mix at K is Alabama transfer Corey Smith (PS#9). Josh Lider had 1 TB on 48 KO's and Bitancourt had 3 on 19. Scott Kozlowski was the punter in 2006 but lost his job until he regained it in '09 avg 44.4 (38.4 net). Mark Rodgers improved his KR avg from 21.1 to 22.9. This year they lose Kozlowski (1st Tm BE) and Rodgers but could improve in my ST rankings.

COACHES - After Rich Rodriguez left for Michigan in '07, Bill Stewart was the interim HC for the bowl and was given the job after the upset of Oklahoma. Stewart was the Assoc HC and is in his 11th year here. He hired OC Jeff Mullen away from WF (QB coach). Jeff Casteel is in his 10th year as DC. They also have an Asst HC in Steve Dunlap (DC at NCST, Marshall and WV). One large loss this year is Assoc HC/ Recruiting Coor Doc Holliday who is one of the top recruiters in the nation, but left to become HC at Marshall.

PHIL'S FORECAST

Rich Rodriguez went 3-8 in his first season but rebounded to win 9, 8, 8, 11, 11 and 10 and won at least a share of the Big East Title in 4 of his last 5 years (only previous BE Title 1993). In his final 3 seasons WV finished #5, #10 and #6 (in the AP). In 2007 they ret'd 15 st'rs including Heisman candidates QB Pat White and RB Steve Slaton. WV opened #3 and when they hosted Pitt in the reg season finale, they were #2 and only needed to win to play in the National Title game. Stuningly Pitt, a 29 pt underdog, upset them. WV was +109.2 ypg which was 192.4 ypg better than co-champ Conn. Rodriguez left for Michigan and Bill Stewart was interim HC for the bowl. When Stewart engineered a 20 pt Fiesta Bowl win over #3 Okla, he was given the HC job. That WV team benefitted from +13 in TO's in '07 and they had just 11 ret starters in '08 (2nd fewest BE). Stewart also tweaked the playbook adding more passing (why mess with a good thing?) so all signs pointed to a weaker record. WV actually add'd 40 more passes than '07 but threw for 111 less yards and their ppg went from 39.6 to 24.5, despite the presence of White and Noel Devine. In White's final collegiate game, he managed a 1 pt win over NC in the Meineke Car Care Bowl and WV finished 9-4. Last year in my magazine I said WV could open up 6-1 but had 3 tough Big East road games down the stretch and probably would not top '08's 9 win total. WV did throw the ball 42 times more and this time saw an increase of 528 additional pass yards. They only had a slight improvement in scoring to 26.2. WV opened 2-0 and had a 509-400 yard edge vs Auburn but was -5 in TO's and lost on the road. They dispatched Colo, Syr and Marshall as expected to move to 5-1 and then got a 56 yard TD run by Devine with 2:10 left to pull out a 28-24 win vs Conn. On a short week, travelling to USF on a Friday, they lost 30-19. L'ville started a 3rd string walk-on QB and WV barely got past them 17-9 despite being outguined 301-273. They played before the biggest crowd in Nippert Stadium history vs #5 Cincy and WV lost by 3 after a TD w/:39 left. They were entering a great situation facing #8 Pitt. It was basically a meaningless game for Pitt as the following week vs Cincy would determine the Big East Title and a BCS bowl berth. WV needed a FG on the last play to win by 3. WV pulled out another 3 pt win at Rutgers the next week. In the bowl WV faced a tough situation as they were taking on Fla St in the final game for HC Bobby Bowden and lost QB Brown in the 2Q and WV lost by 12 matching their 9-4 record of 2008. They had 2 net close wins and despite their 5-2 Big East record, they were -2.9 ypg (4th best). This year they have 16 ret starters but are less experienced at QB. This is Stewart's best team yet and they have my #1 rated D in the Big East. That makes them a prime contender for the Big East title and a BCS bowl bid.

TOP NEWCOMERS FOR 2010

WR Ivan McCartney 6-3 183 PS#12
LB Bruce Irvin 6-3 235 PS#5JC
QB Barry Brunetti 6-0 207 PS#9
OL Quinton Spain 6-6 330 PS#36
QB Jeremy Johnson 6-2 175 PS#37
OL Marquis Wallace 6-5 290 PS#87
LB Michael Dorsey 6-3 210 PS#95
RB Trey Johnson 6-10 172 PS#84
LB Jewone Snow 6-3 230 PS#94
LB Troy Gloster 6-0 200 PS#91
DB Wes Tonkery 6-1 190 PS#137
WR Quantavious Leslie 6-4 180 PS#124
LB Doug Rigg 6-1 215 PS#132
LB Trevor Demko 6-6 245 PS#209
DB Avery Williams 5-10 173 PS#233
DB Travis Bell 6-2 187 PS#235
DB Ishmael Banks 6-0 185 PS#419
DB Quadral Forte 6-1 190 PS#469
WR Dante Chambers 6-0 175 PS#360
DB Anthony Vecchio 5-9 160 PS#1014

2010 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

OFFENSE **JERSEY # IN GOLD**
QB **12** Geno Smith So. 6-3 210 PS#4.5 gm, 309 (65%) practiced in spg, no contact.
15 Coley White (6'0" 175 So) PS#116. 1 gm rFr. Barry Brunetti (PS#9. **10** Ian Loy (6'0" 182 So).
RB **7** NOEL DEVINE SR. 5-8 180 PS#2. 191 gm (6.9) '07/08. 10 st, 1465 (6.1), 1st Tm BE
LY **34** Shawne Alston (5'11" 222 So) PS#141. 5 gm true. Daquan Hargrett (5'6" 188 rFr) PS#102.
SR **9** JOCK SANDERS SR. 5-7 179 PS#114. 13 st, 567 (8.2) 2Y. 11 st, 688 (9.6), 2nd Tm
BE **15** Eddie Davis (6'0" 186 Sr), 21 gm, 8 tkl, 3Y. FB Ryan Clarke (6'0" 247 So), 1 st, 250 rush (4.2) rFr.
WR **14** Brad Starks Jr. 6-3 190 PS#41QB. 2 st, 168 (9.9) rFr. 7 st, 405 (14.0) LY.
Ivan McCartney (PS#12. **10** JD Woods (6'0" 192 So) PS#104. 4 gm rFr. Ryan Nehlen (6'2" 198 So).
WR **1** Tavon Austin So. 5-9 173 PS#15. 4 st, 13 gm, 151 (10.1) true. **10** Stedman Bailey (5'10" 195 rFr) PS#64. **88** Reggie Rembert (5'7" 157 So). Andrew Goldbaugh (5'9" 170 So).
TE **68** TYLER URBAN JR. 6-5 249 PS#142. 79 (19.8) true. 7 st, 117 (11.7) LY. **6** Will Johnson (6'2" 238 Sr) PS#189. 7 st FB, no rush, 16 rec 3Y. Chris Snook (6'2" 237 rFr) PS#15.
C **74** JOE MADSEN SO. 6-4 290 PS#252. 13 st (6, 7 RG), 840 pl, 43 kd rFr.
90 John Bassler (6'4" 295 So) PS#212. 4 gm rFr. **LS** **67** Cody Nutter (6'3" 241 Jr), 14 gm 2Y.
RG **61** ERIC JOBE SR. 6-2 290 PS#180. 5 st C, 25 gm, 2Y 13 st (7C, 6RG), 852 pl, 15 kd LY. **71** Ryan Spiber (6'3" 288 rFr) PS#108. **50** Tyler Rader (6'3" 291 Jr) 1 gm 2Y TE/FE.
LG **77** JOSH JENKINS JR. 6-3 300 PS#2. 5 gm true. 13 st LG, 853 pl, 46 kd, 3rd Tm BE LY. **65** Chad Snodgrass (6'4" 296 Jr) PS#89. 4 gm 2Y. **73** Jordan Weingart (6'3" 288 rFr).
RT **68** Jeff Braun So. 6-4 308 PS#94. 191 gm rFr. Matt Timmerman (6'3" 294 Sr). Limited action 2Y. 12 gm, 50 pl, 1 kd LY. Quinton Spain (PS#36. **79** Pat Eger (6'6" 288 rFr) PS#185.
LT **64** DON BARCLAY JR. 6-4 304 PS#156. 1 st LG, 13 gm rFr. 13 st LT, 839 pl, 1 sk all'd, 64 kd LY. **70** Nick Kindler (6'6" 285 rFr) PS#86. **72** Cole Bowers (6'5" 289 rFr) PS#62.
K **40** TYLER BITANCURT SO. 6-1 198 PS#7. 13-15 FG, L/45, 4 FG vs Liberty (WV rec), 1st Tm BE rFr. **34** John Howard (5'11" 198 rFr) PS#102. Corey Smith (5'11" 214 Jr) PS#9. 3 gm AL true.

DEFENSE **JERSEY # IN GOLD**
DE **67** JULIAN MILLER JR. 6-4 260 PS#128. 21 tkl rFr. 13 st, 53 tkl, 14 tfl, 3rd Tm BE LY. Bruce Irvin (PS#5JC. **91** JB Lageman (6'3" 266 So) 1 sk rFr. **77** Will Clarke (6'6" 265 rFr) PS#251.
NT **88** CHRIS NEILD SR. 6-2 301 PS#48TE. 14 st, 60 tkl '07/08. 13 st, 35 tkl, 2nd Tm BE LY. **94** Josh Taylor (6'1" 278 Jr) PS#377. 7 st, 23 tkl, LY. **55** Chris Palmer (6'3" 285 rFr) PS#155.
DT **90** SCOOTER BERRY SR. 6-1 287 PS#68. 23 st, 61 tkl, 10 tfl 2Y. 5 st (inj), 15 tkl LY. **99** Jorge Wright (6'2" 264 So) PS#464. 10 tkl rFr. **62** Larry Ford (6'3" 255 Sr) PS#7BJC. 1 st, 9 tkl, 2Y.
WLB **30** JT THOMAS SR. 6-2 225 PS#110. MedRS '07. 65 tkl '08. 76 tkl, 1st Tm BE LY. **32** Najee Goode (6'1" 238 Jr) PS#310. 3 st, 23 tkl, 2Y. **44** Taige Redman (6'0" 221 rFr) PS#172.
MLB **45** Anthony Leonard Sr. 6-1 246 PS#64. 6 st, 72 tkl 2Y. 1 st, 9 gm, 23 tkl LY. **53** Branko Busick (6'0" 231 rFr) PS#60. **59** Tyler Anderson (6'2" 240 rFr). **51** Josh Contraguerro (5'11" 213 So).
SLB **61** PAT LAZEAR SR. 6-0 237 PS#44. 26 gm, 3 st, 44 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 78 tkl, 6 tfl, 1 pbu, 2nd Tm BE LY. **42** Donovan Miles (6'1" 234 So) PS#82. 2 gm rFr. **43** Casey Vance (5'9" 227 Jr).
BS **11** SIDNEY GLOVER SR. 5-11 207 PS#105. 11 st, 79 tkl 2Y. 10 st, 60 tkl, 7 tfl, 2 int LY. **29** Darwin Cook (5'11" 205 rFr) PS#213. **34** Derek Knight (5'11" 201 Sr) PS#86. 2 gm rFr.
CB **8** KEITH TANDY JR. 5-10 198 1 st, 6 tkl rFr. 13 st, 61 tkl LY. **1** Pat Miller (5'10" 183 So) PS#364. 2 tkl true. **23** Benji Powers (5'11" 181 Jr). Brantwon Bowser (5'11" 190 Sr).
CB **22** BRANDON HOGAN SR. 5-10 189 PS#134. 1 st WR, 12 rec as true. 9 st CB, 60 tkl, 10 pd '08. 13 st CB, 74 tkl, 12 pd 1st Tm BE LY. **9** Brodrick Jenkins (5'10" 182 rFr) PS#201.
FS **25** Terence Garvin So. 6-3 215 PS#166. 10 tkl true. **63** Tripp Hale (5'10" 198 Sr). 26 gm, 24 tkl '07/08. 11 gm, 5 tkl LY. **27** Courtney Stuart (6'2" 218 Sr) PS#266JC. 13 gm, 6 tkl, 2Y.
FS **2** ROBERT SANDS JR. 6-5 221 PS#172. 9 st, 33 tkl true. 9 st, 33 tkl, 13 pd, 1st Tm BE LY. **24** Eain Smith (5'11" 204 Jr) PS#118. 25 gm, 8 st, 56 tkl 2Y. **41** Nick Cadwell (5'9" 188 So).
P **44** Corey Smith Jr. 5-11 214 PS#9. Hit 0-1 FG's, 0-1 PAT, no punts as true at Alabama. Sat out '09 (transferred). **83** Gregg Pugnetti (6'1" 208 Sr). No gm action L/3Y.

