

OHIO ST BUCKEYES

QB Braxton Miller



POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2012

QUARTERBACKS - Terrelle Pryor (PS#1) st'd 10 as a true frosh in '08. In '09 he threw for 2,094 (57%, 18-11) and became the first QB to lead OSU in rushing (779) s/Heisman winner Les Horvath (44). Pryor was the MVP of the Rose Bowl. Bkp Joe Bauserman (PS#59) hit just 6-19 for 124 in '09. In '10 Pryor's 157.9 pass eff nearly topped Bobby Hoving's schl rec (163.4 in '95). He became the first primary starting QB to lead his team to B10 Titles in his Fr, Soph and Jr yrs. LY when I wrote the magazine he was expected to return after a 5 game susp but he left early for the NFL. In Aug, 26 yr old Bauserman (16-22-174) won the 4-man battle over soph Kenny Guiton (PS#116), true frosh Braxton Miller (PS#2, IFS) and rFr Taylor Graham (PS#35). After an embarrassing loss in Miami where Bauserman hit just 2-14-13 (3 drops), interim HC Luke Fickell went with Miller. Bauserman hit 9-16-114 in the next 2 but came in an inj'd Miller vs Neb to hit 1-10-13 (Bucks blew 27-6 3Q lead). Bauserman would not att another pass. Miller, who is not a physical freak in the mold of Pryor at 6'2" 210, is still a dangerous runner (81 yd td run vs Ind, longest ever by OSU QB). The coaches said he was a much better passer as a frosh than Pryor was but seemed reluctant to let him air it out. Miller had just 4 att vs Ill in the win then avg'd just 14.5 att the next 4 wks. He showed his potential in throwing the GW 40 yd td pass with .20 left vs Wisc. They finally took the reins off vs Mich (14-25-235, 100 yd rush). In the bowl he hit 18-23-162. Miller earned B10 FOY throwing for 1,159 (54.1%, 13-4) while also finishing as the #1 rusher (715, 4.5). Bauserman (3 st) and Graham are gone leaving OSU with just 3 schlp QB's TY. With Meyer's success coaching QB's like Josh Harris, Alex Smith and Tim Tebow, Miller has a shot at being the B10 OPOY.

RUNNING BACKS - Daniel Herron finished #1 with 1,155 (5.3) in '10 while true frosh Carlos Hyde (PS#29) had 141 (5.9). LY Herron was susp the first 6. Hyde (6'0" 235), who is the fastest of the RB's (4.4) finished as the #2 RB rusher with 566 (5.3). Jordan Hall (DNP 3) finished #3 among the RB's with 408 (4.1). Herron ret'd with a "Boom" and had 114 vs Ill, 160 vs Wisc and 141 vs Ind but did not have another 100 yd gm in the L/4. He finished #2 (behind QB Miller) with 675 (5.0). Herron's 13 gm streak with a rush td ended vs Wisc which was OSU's longest streak s/Pete Johnson had 13 (75-76). Despite the loss of their top guy (#6DC CIN), Herron only ply'd in 7 so this could be an improved group with more contributions from VHT Rod Smith (PS#9) and spg arrival Br'onte Dunn (PS#10).

RECEIVERS - Ohio St had 3 first round WR picks in '06 -'07. In '09 they had to replace #2 and #4 DC's. It was an inexp group in '09 and soph PS#4 DeVier Posey (11 rec true) led with 828 (13.8) while Dane Sanzenbacher was #2 (570, 15.8). In '10 Sanzenbacher led with 948 (17.2) while Posey was #2 (848, 16.0). TE Jake Stoneburner (PS#4) was on pace for the most rec's by a TE under former HC Jim Tressel until an inj (#3, 222, 10.6). LY they had to replace Sanzenbacher and Posey was susp for the first 10. The WR's lacked exp (2 So, 2 rFr, 2 Fr), big play ability and battled inj (just 1 ret WR ply'd in all 13). True frosh Devin Smith (PS#36) led with a paltry 294 (21.0) while soph Corey "Philly" Brown (PS#18) was #2 (205, 14.6) despite missing 4. Stoneburner had 7 td's on his 14 rec. TY they only lose Posey (3 st, 162, 13.5, #3DC HOU) and should have one of the most improved receiving corps in the country.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '10 the Bucks had 93 car sts back and improved to 220 ypg rush with their 5.2 ypc being OSU's best in over 2 decades (22 sks, 6.3%) as Pryor's mobility helped. LY they had to replace two 3Y st's (1st Tm B10 LG) and 2 bkps. They had 77 car sts ret but did not have 1st Tm B10 LT Mike Adams for the first 5. Despite still having a mobile QB, the unit allowed 46 sks (18.8%) and dropped to 191 ypg (4.4), their fewest ypc s/06 and lowest ypc s/04. TY they lose 2nd Tm B10 LT Adams (8 st, 2Y st'r, #2DC PIT), C Mike Brewster (13 st, 4Y st'r, 1st Tm AA '10, 2nd Tm B10 '11) and RT JB Shugarts (12 st, 3Y st'r). They drop to 42 car sts but have 5 VHT's that have st'd and could improve after underperforming LY.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '10 the Buckeyes had an inexperienced line but still fared well allowing just 97 ypg (3.1) but with just 23 sks (fewest in over a decade). LY they had to replace 2 st's incl the 3rd OSU DL in 2 yrs to be drafted by the Steelers (#1DC) prompting PIT HC Mike Tomlin to remark that OSU's D is the closest in the college game to what the Steelers run. Top DE Nathan Williams was OFY after 1 st and Urban Meyer called him a great player and the D's heart and soul. It wasn't your typical OSU season LY as the Bucks yielded 142 ypg rush (3.8, 23 sk). This year the only loss is Solomon Thomas (4 tkl) and they get Williams back so after having their worst ypg rush D s/99 (160 ypg), this figures to be a vastly improved def front with 3 VHT st's and a 317 lb NT as well as the addition of 4 of my top 15 DL freshmen.

LINEBACKERS - Last year OSU had to replace their #1 and #2 tkl'r's (both #6DC's). They ret'd their #9 tkl'r along with Etienne Sabino who BS in '10. The 3 st's were PS#7, PS#7 and PS#13. OSU all'd 21.0 ppg, their most s/99. TY they lose 2nd Tm B10 Andrew Sweat (11 st, 2nd tkl'r, 5 tll), STAR Tyler Moeller (10 st, 44 tkl, 2 tll) and Nate Oliver (7 tkl). Ryan Shazier st'd the last 3 earning B10 Fr POW with 15 tkl vs Penn St in his 1st start (#6 tkl'r). He joins Sabino and Storm Klein (#5 and #9 tkl'r's) making this unit more exp'd and I also look for a bigger impact from PS#1 Curtis Grant (2 tkl true) who impressed in spring getting the bulk of reps at MLB.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - Since '97 OSU has had seven #1DC DB's with 24 drafted overall. Even in a year like '06 when they had to replace all 4 st's (#1, #3, #4DC's), OSU still finished #12 in my PDR (10-21 ratio). They lost #1 and #4 DC's in '09 but finished #12 (10-24 ratio). In '10 they had to replace 2 st's (#7DC) and improved to #5 (54%, 9-19) despite having 4 S's OFY by Halloween. LY they had to replace a 1st Tm AA CB (#4DC) and 2 other st's (#3 and #4 tkl'r's, #5DC). They also dealt with some susp and inj issues and actually fell to #63, their lowest s/99! TY they lose CB Dominic Clarke (2 st, 12 tkl) but return all 4 st's and should have one of the nation's most improved PDR's.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Tressel always put a premium on ST play so it was surprising they finished #41 and #49 his last 2

ysr after finishes like #1 in '04 and #5 in '08. LY they only had to replace their K. Soph Drew Basil (PS#8) missed his first 2 FG but had OSU's 3rd longest streak (Mike Nugent 24 '01-'02 & Vlade Janakievski 15, '79-'80) with 12 str ending on a 50 yd att (16-19 yr). Basil did have a key xp blk'd vs Purdue. Ben Buchanan (34.3 net '10) improved to avg 41.3 (37.4 net) in '11. OSU was +3.6 yds on PR and +4.4 yds on KR diff. Fickell did a good job moving them to #31. ST's stalwart Nate Ebner (11 tkl, #6DC NE) departs, but with all of the top players back they will contend for the top spot.

COACHES - In his 2nd yr Jim Tressel became the 1st cch to win an NCAA Title at both the IAA and IA levels. He had DD wins in 8 of his last 9 yrs. A 5 game susp for '11 turned into a coaching change on Memorial Day. DC Luke Fickell was named the interim HC and OSU finished with a losing record for the 1st time s/88. Despair turned into enthusiasm when Ohio native Urban Meyer was named HC. Meyer has a pair of Nat'l Titles during his tenure at Fla ('05-'10) as well as going 22-2 at Utah ('03-'04) and 17-6 at BG ('01-'02). Fickell (here s/02) was retained as co-DC and will be joined by Everett Withers who was NC's DC s/08 and also the Tar Heels interim HC LY. OC Tom Herman's previous stops incl OC at Iowa St ('09-'11), Rice ('07-'08) and Tex St ('05-'06). Ed Warinner is the co-OC after spending 2Y at ND (OL, run gm coor) and 5Y at Kansas (OC L/3).

PHIL'S FORECAST

Ohio St actually finished outside of the AP Top 25 for 3 str yrs prior to '02. I rated Ohio St #7 in '02 which was far higher than almost every other source. I called them my #1 Surprise Team (dark horse contender for the Nat'l Title) while only 2 other magazines even picked OSU to win the B10. OSU took home their first Nat'l Title s/'68 (Woody Hayes' 3rd) when they defeated Miami. Since then, OSU has finished in the AP Top 5 six of L/9Y. Prior to LY the other 2 non-top 5 finishes were #9 and #20. They played for the Nat'l Title in '06 and '07 but lost to two SEC schools. They had lost 3 str BCS bowls but defeated Oregon in the '09 Rose Bowl finishing #5. In '10 OSU got to #1 but lost at Wisc and finished 12-1 (#5) after beating an SEC tm (Ark) in the Sugar Bowl. OSU finished in a 3-way tie for tops in the B10 (+164 ypg, #1 by far), the 6th str time they won at least a share of the B10 Title. In '10 OSU benefitted from +15 in TO's, 2 net close wins, had just 7 sts lost to inj and an off ypp of 11.6. LY AFTER I wrote the magazine, Tressel was fired and OSU was the lead story on ESPN on almost a daily basis. Luke Fickell became the 1st OSU HC s/Woody to win his first gm by a shutout. OSU played 12 true frosh in the opener (3rd most FBS) as depth became an issue (a lot of susp). They barely escaped Tol, 27-22. After they were whipped by Miami, 24-6 they dropped out of the polls for the 1st time s/04 ending the nation's longest poll streak (103 wks). After beating Colo, they only got a late td to avoid a home shutout vs Mich St. They led Neb 27-6 in the 3Q but QB Miller was inj'd and Bauserman hit just 1-10 and OSU lost by 7. They knocked off a #16, 6-0 Illinois tm on the road and then upset #12 Wisc 33-29 in a rare role as HD. After a lackluster win over Ind, they got a td with :55 left for the apparent win vs Pur but the xp was blk'd and they lost in OT. They had no shot at the B10 Title and Penn St, in their first road gm after Paterno was let go, won 20-14. Braxton Miller had a fine reg ssn finale at Mich 2 days before they hired Urban Meyer but they came up 6 pts short. In the bowl OSU had a 299-263 yd edge but they allowed 2 ST td's and lost 24-17 (first losing ssn s/88, 3rd s/60). OSU was -45.5 ypg in B10 play (4th worst). OSU will be ineligible for the Leaders Title due to their NCAA mandated 1 yr bowl ban. Meyer did bring in a great recruiting class and LY's tm had 4 net close losses, has a +5.5 in my Stock Market Indicator (pg 27) and TY has 15 ret sts with no further susp looming over their heads. OSU makes both my Most Improved and Surprise Team lists.

OFFENSE		JERSEY # IN SCARLET		2012 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP		JERSEY # IN SCARLET		DEFENSE	
QB 5 BRAXTON MILLER SO.		6-2 210 PS#2. L/10st, 1159 (54%, 13-4), 715 rush (4.5), B10FPOY as true. 13 Kenny Guiton (6'2" 206 Jr) PS#116. 6 gm 2Y.		DE 43 NATHAN WILLIAMS SR.		6-3 249 PS#27. 11 st, 90 tkl, 10 sk '08-'10. 1 st, MedRSLY.OFS '12. 8 Noah Spence PS#2. 50 JT Moore (6'2" 250 So) PS#47. 4 st, 9 tkl rFr. Adolphus Washington PS#8. 91 William McCary (6'1" 234 Sr).		DT 53 GARRETT GOEBEL SR.	
RB 7 Jordan Hall Jr.		5-9 198 PS#45. 409 (4.8) '09-'10. 3 car, 408 (4.1) LY. 34 Carlos Hyde (6'0" 235 Jr) PS#29. 141 (5.9) true. 3 st, 566 (5.3) LY. 2 Rod Smith (6'3" 230 So) PS#9. 116 (4.0) rFr. Br'onte Dunn (PS#10).		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
WR 10 COREY "Philly" BROWN JR.		5-11 186 PS#18. 1 st, 105 (13.1) true. 9st (inj), 205 (14.6) LY. FB 44 ZACH BOREN (6'0" 246 Sr) PS#46. 10 st '09-'10. 12 st LY. 49 Adam Homan (6'3" 245 Sr) PS#53. 3 rec 3Y. Darryl Wood (5'9" 247 So) PS#24. 11 gm true. Nick Vannett (6'6" 248 rFr) PS#36. #1 w/294 (21.0) true. 9 Verlon Reed (6'0" 200 So) PS#78. 5 st.		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
WR 15 DEVIN SMITH SO.		6-1 196 PS#36. #1 w/294 (21.0) true. 9 Verlon Reed (6'0" 200 So) PS#78. 5 st.		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
WR 88 Chris Fields Jr.		6-0 197 PS#24. 8 st, 114 (14.2) LY. 83 Michael Thomas (6'2" 196 Fr) PS#93. 18 Evan Spencer (6'2" 205 So) PS#34. 78 (26.0) true. Peter Gwilym (6'1" 192 Fr). Frank Kangah (6'0" 190 Fr). Ryan Ross (5'11" 190 So).		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
TE 11 JAKE STONEBURNER SR.		6-5 245 PS#4. 10 st, 193 (13.8), HM B10 LY. Jeff Heuerman (6'5" 247 So) PS#24. 11 gm true. Nick Vannett (6'6" 248 rFr) PS#36. #1 w/294 (21.0) true. 9 Verlon Reed (6'0" 200 So) PS#78. 5 st.		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
C 71 Corey Linsley Jr.		6-3 292 PS#23. 6 gm rFr. 10 gm LY. 51 Brian Bobek (6'2" 275 So) PS#18. 5 gm as true. Pat Ellefin PS#80. LS 41 Bryce Haynes (6'4" 209 rFr). 56 George Makridis (6'2" 225 So) 1 gm rFr. 13 gm LY.		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
RG 79 Marcus Hall Jr.		6-5 317 PS#5. 1 st RT, 9 gm true. RS '10. 1st 5 st, 11 gm LY. 55 Tommy Brown (6'4" 317 So) PS#3. 50 Jacoby Boren PS#81. IFS. 64 Ivon Blackman (6'3" 310 Jr). 4 gm 2Y. 67 Ben St. John (6'3" 277 So).		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
LG 78 ANDREW NORWELL JR.		6-6 304 PS#8. 11 gm as true. 13 st (5LT, 8LG), HM B10 LY. 73 Antonio Underwood (6'2" 301 So) PS#81. 1 st RT, 4 gm true. 69 Eric Kramer (6'4" 285 So). 1 gm rFr. 70 Tim Trummer (6'1" 283 rFr).		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
RT 77 Reid Fragel Sr.		6-8 298 PS#13. 13 gm on ST true. 5 st TE, 13 gm, 121 (13.4) '10. 4 st TE, 13 gm, 64 (12.8) LY. +18 lbs with move from TE to OT in spg. 68 Taylor Decker PS#31. IFS. 60 Joey O'Connor PS#33.		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
LT 74 JACK MEWHORT JR.		6-6 310 PS#29. 10 gm rFr. 13 st (1st 5 LG, L/R RG), HM B10 LY. 76 Darryl Baldwin (6'5" 292 So) PS#46. 7 gm, 3 tkl, 1 sk rFr. Moved from DL for spg. 66 Kyle Dodson (6'6" 310 Fr) PS#33.		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
K 24 DREW BASIL JR.		6-1 210 PS#8. 0-2 FG, 87 KO, 9 TB true. 16-19 FG, L/47, 63 KO, 14 TB LY.		DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	
17 Ben Buchanan (5'11" 190 Sr) PS#3. 2 KO, 0 TB 2Y. 39 Kyle Clinton (6'1" 212 Fr). IFS. 20 Russell Doup (6'1" 183 Fr).				DE 54 JOHN SIMON SR.		6-2 260 PS#20. 13 st, 56 tkl 2Y. 13 st, 53 tkl, 7 sk. 3rd Tm AA LY. 93 Adam Bel-lamy (6'4" 292 Jr) PS#89. 10 st, 25 tkl LY. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 255 So) PS#20. 2 gm true. Logan Beougher (6'3" 263 Fr).		DE 42 Luke Roberts PS#91. IFS.	

