

# POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2012

QUARTERBACKS - After getting uneven QB play in '05 (49%, 11-17 ratio) and '06 (55%), Zac Robinson set an OSU ssn record for total offense (3,671) in '07. He would top HC Mike Gundy's career passing mark even though he was banged up and had a disappointing Sr yr (2084, 15-12) in '09. Former Yankees farmhand Brandon Weeden guided the comeback win vs Colo in '09 and saw action in 3 gms (248, 63%, 4-1). Weeden, who has the strongest arm that ex-OC Holgorsen had ever worked with, became a student of the gm immersing himself in tape. The 27 yr old Weeden was focused on baseball in HS and only st'd at QB as a Sr ('01). Despite playing with a sprained thumb (opted against surgery) throughout most of '10, Weeden threw for an OSU rec 4,277 (67%, 34-13) becoming their first 1st Tm all-conf QB s/'32 (Clarence Highfill). LY Weeden spent the offseason briefing new OC Todd Monken on the system and he was older (28 in Oct) than 18 of the 32 starting NFL QB's. He threw 2 IR td's in the opener but set OSU rec's in comp (42) and att's (53) vs Ariz (hit 1st 13). Weeden reset his records (47-60) vs A&M. He also hit 24-28 (85.7%) vs Kan topping Robinson's OSU % rec. Weeden had a streak of 194 passes w/o an int and set another OSU rec w/502 vs K-St. He was #1 in some Heisman polls but dropped from the top 5 after their 2OT loss to Iowa St. Weeden threw a lot more underneath passes so his % rose to 72.4% (4727, 37-13). Clint Chelf played in 5 throwing for 307 (66.7%, 3-0). TY they lose Weeden (#1DC CLE) who was 23-3 as a st'r. Chelf battled rFr JW Walsh (PS#10) and true frosh Wes Lunt (PS#21) during spg with Gundy naming the Weeden-esque Lunt (6'4" 211) the starter (1st true QB st'r s/93 Tone' Jones). Naturally with the loss of a veteran QB, I look for a good sized drop in the passing numbers.

ACKS - In '07 Dantrell Savage (PS#11JC) had 10 str 100 yd gms finishing with 1,272 (5.7). In '08 Kendall Hunter was 1st Tm AA rushing for 1,555 (6.5). Hunter suffered an ankle inj and played in just 8 gms in '09 (382, 4.3) but Keith Toston kept the 1,000 streak alive with 1,218 (5.4). Despite having to replace Toston I said the unit would be even stronger in '10 as Hunter was backed by 3 VHT's incl Jeremy Smith (PS#22). Hunter rushed for 1,548 (5.7) with 16 td's. Joseph Randle led Big 12 Fr in all-purp yds (1,160) as he was the best rec of the RB's (427, 11.5) and the #2 rusher (452, 5.5). Smith was the best downhill runner and had 262 (4.7) with most of his carries in the RZ (7 td). LY they added PS#9 Herschel Sims and I said they could keep their 1,000 yd streak alive. Randle finished with 1,216 (5.8) and 24 td's (43 rec's). Smith was #2 with 646 (7.1) and 9 td's. Sims added 242 (7.8) and true frosh Desmond Roland (6'2" 203, PS#52) had 95 (5.6). FB's also have an important role with David

Paulsen (6'2" 267 Sr) being used as the smash mouth option and VHT Kye Staley (PS#14) serving on pass downs. The unit returns intact TY and is one of the FBS's best RB corps.

S - In '09 OSU had to replace 4 of their top 5 rec's. Dez Bryant (1480, 17.0 in '08) was then susp'd after 3 gms but still finished #2 (323, 19.0). Hubert Anyiam (PS#105) led with 515 (12.3) and rFr Justin Blackmon was #4 (260, 13.0) At the end of Aug 10 Holgorsen wondered if a go-to WR would emerge. Blackmon became that guy and was the Big 12 OPOY, the Biletnikoff winner and led the nation with 1.782 (16.1) and 20 td's. Blackmon had an NCAA rec 12 straight 100 yd rec gms (Aaron Turner, Pacific). Anyiam had just 135 (12.3) while Josh Cooper moved up to #2 (736, 10.8). Mel Kiper had Blackmon #13 on his Big Board yet he turned down the NFL LY. The goal was to spread the catches around more equally but Blackmon still led with 1,522 (12.5) with 18 td's becoming the 2nd 2x Biletnikoff winner (TT's Michael Crabtree '07-'08). Cooper was #2 with 715 (10.1) and Tracy Moore was #3 (672,14.9). Anyiam broke his foot (OFY after 7 gm, 370, 13.7). TY they lose Blackmon (12 st, #1DC JAX), Cooper (5 st), Anyiam (6 st), bowl hero Colton Chelf (1 st, 291, 13.9) and Michael Harrison (255, 12.8). Naturally with the loss of 3 of their top 4, this unit looks weaker.

INE - In '10 OSU had to replace a 1st Tm AA (#1DC), a pair of 3 yr st'rs and another st'r. The OL unit ret'd just 12 car sts (#117 FBS). With OSU moving to a TTech "Air Raid" style of off under Holgorsen, it was very surprising to see the ypc actually increase to 5.0 while all'g just 10 sks (1.9%). The unit's performance was key to OSU's surprising season. LY they had 5 ret st'rs (76 car sts) and added in PS#21JC LT Michael Bowie (5 st). LG Jonathan Rush was lost after 3 sts but Nick Martinez (13 st 10) replaced him. The Cowboys improved to 159 ypc (5.3) with 12 sk (2%). TY they lose Big 12 OL of the Yr C Grant Garner (12 st, 2Y st'r), 1st Tm B12 and AA T Levy Adcock (13 st, 2Y st'r), Martinez (13 st, 2Y st'r) and C Casey LaBrue (1 st). They lose their top 2 OL but odds are Gundy will fashion another solid group (63 car sts return).

EFENSIVE LINE - In '09 the Cowboys had to replace just 2 DL (comb 14 sts) giving them their most exp'd unit in 3 yrs. As expected, they were much stronger, yielding an OSU rec low 96 ypg rush (3.0). In '10 they had to replace 2 st'rs and allowed just 134 ypg rush (3.5, 30 sks). LY they had to replace their top guy in DE Ugo Chinasa, 2 other st'rs and a bkp. The less exp'd unit slipped again allowing 185 ypg (4.4, 30 sks). TY they lose 1st Tm B12 DE Jamie Blatnick (13 st, 50 tkl, 8 sk) and DE Richetti Jones (13 st, 33 tkl, 4 sk). The top ret DL had just 2 sks but they add in a PS#15JC (IFS), are more exp'd and stronger.

LINEBACKERS - LY OSU had to replace 1st Tm B12 Orie

Lemon (#1 tkl'r) as well as their #2 tkl'r and a bkp (15 tkl). James Thomas (#4 tkl'r '10) lost his spot to impressive true frosh Shaun \_ewis (PS#14, #5 tkl'r, Frosh AA). With just 1 st'r back OSU all'd 26.8 ppg but led the nation with 44 TO's forced. TY they lose Thomas (#14 tkl r, 4.5 tfl, 4 int) but have 5 of their top 6 back incl their #2, #3 and #6 tkl'rs and Gundy calls it his best LB unit yet.

S - From '05-'08 OSU finished just #98, #80, #92 and #64 in my PDR. Led by star CB Perrish Cox, an inexp'd unit (lost 3 st'rs) surprisingly finished #8 in '09. In '10 they had to replace 3 st'rs again incl Cox. Despite inexp and inj's, OSU still finished #23 and added depth by playing 6 true frosh. LY they had to replace 2 st'rs yet climbed to #3 in my PDR (59.5%, 15-24). The 24 int's were #2 in the FBS (NCSt #1). CB Brodrick Brown and SS Markelle Martin (both 1st Tm B12) were both among 15 semifinalists for the prestigious Thorpé Award. TY they lose SS Martin (#3 tkl'r, 11 pbu, #6DC TEN) but return 7 of their top 8 making this one of the top secondaries in the country

SPECIAL TEAMS - Joe DeForest is one of my favorite ST coaches and in his 11 yrs OSU had 8 top 20 finishes incl #1 in '10. PS#11 Quinn Sharp has had to wait behind a Ray Guy winner (Matt Fodge '08) and a Lou Groza winner (Dan Bailey 10). LY Sharp handled all 3 specialty chores for the 1st time hitting 22-25 FG's (L46), having an amazing 61 TB (#1 FBS by 21) on 114 KO and avg 46.3 on punts (tm net 38.8). Surprisingly OSU only avg 3.4 on PR but Justin Gilbert led the B12 in KR (27.0). OSU was #14. TY Sharp is back and despite the loss of DeForest (to WV), this unit should finish in my Top 10.

**HES** - Mike Gundy was a star QB here and later was the QB coach and OC in the early '90's. He ret'd here in '01 as the asst HC/OC and took over as HC in '05. Gundy, at 38, was the youngest HC in the NCAA in '05 and has led the Cowboys to 41 wins in the L4Y incl a schl record 11 in '10 which was broken LY (12). OC Todd Monken coached WR's here from '02-'04 and was àn NFL WR cch (JAX '07-'10). He replaced Dana Holgorsen in '11. DC Bill Young is in his 3rd stint at OSU and 4th ssn as their current DC. He was the DC at Miami, Kan, Ohio St, Okla and USC.

# PHIL'S FORECAS

In '06 and '07 OSU barely qualified for bowls at 6-6 but recorded B2B bowl wins for the 1st time s/87 when the original "triplets" (QB Mike Gundy, RB Thurman Thomas and WR Hart Lee Dykes) played together. In '08 with just 13 ret sts and despite having to face the #1, #2, #3 and #3 tms they finished 9-4 and #16 (best s/'03). In '09 (#9 pressn) they had another version of the "triplets" in QB Zac Robinson, RB Kendall Hunter (1st Tm AA) and WR Dez Bryant (1st Tm ÅA). When they knocked off Georgia, OSU entered the Top 5 (1st time s/85). Bryant was lost after 3 sts and a banged up Hunter had just 3 sts all yr. In the finale with a Fiesta Bowl bid on the line vs rival OU, OSU was outgained 367-109 and finished 9-4 (NR). In '10 they were one of the most inexp'd tms in the country (8 ret sts, 42% lett ret). OSU was picked 5th by the B12 media but the offense emerged under new OC Holgorsen featuring the lethal pitch-catch combo of Weeden to Blackmon. They rose to #10 when they hosted Okla but were outgained 588-379 and lost by 6. In the bowl they beat Ariz and finished #13. LY they had to replace Holgorsen and RB Hunter from an offense which avg 44.2 ppg but ret'd Weeden and Blackmon. Due to their tough schedule (A&M, TX, MO, TT all on road), they were picked 3rd by the B12 media and I had them tied for 3rd as well. No national magazines forecast OSU to win the B12 as OU was the preseason #1 overall in many places (I had Ala) although their #8 ranking in the cch's poll was their highest ever. OSU opened an expected 3-0 with 3 blowout wins but trailed A&M 20-3 at half. For the 2nd str yr an A&M QB imploded in the 2H vs them as OSU rallied for a 30-29 win. Against Kan they pulled their st'rs late 2Q leading 56-7 then knocked off Texas on the road, 38-26. They stopped Missouri's 10 gm home winning streak (45-24). They destroyed RG3 and Baylor 59-24. Against K-St, OSU needed a td with 2:16 left to retake the lead. The Wildcats got to the OSU5 with :05 left but had 3 shots at the EZ fall inc and OSU escaped. After destroying TT 66-6, they were upset by Iowa St in 2OT on a Fri night which cost them a shot at the Nat'l Title. Okla was a no show for their Bedlam Game and OSU won 44-10 for their first outright conf champ in the post WWII era. Stanford had 590-412 yd and 27-15 FD edges but missed 3 FG's and OSU prevailed in OT in the Fiesta Bowl to finish #3 at 12-1. TY the losses are heavy as they lose Weeden and Blackmon and their 12 ret sts are tied for 2nd fewest in the B12. OSU was +21 in TO's LY, had 2 net close wins and an off ypp of 11.2. Despite all of those factors pointing downward, I will call for OSU to have their 3rd str DD win ssn and they will be an under-the-radar team yet again.

6-3 269 PS#50TE. 13 tkl, 2 tfl rFr. 3 st, 13 tkl, 4 tfl '10. 13 st, 35 tkl, 2 sk, 8 tfl, 2 pbu

# 2012 PROJECTED STARTING

JERSEY # **DEFENSE** IN ORANGE

OFFENSE QB 11 Wes Lunt Fr. 6-4 211 PS#21. Named st'r after spg, Big, strong pocket passer. 4 JWWalsh (6'2' 199 DE 89 NIGEL NICHOLAS SR. rFr) PS#10. 10 Clint Chelf (6'1" 201 Jr) PS#97. 213 (74%, 2-1) rFr. 5 gm, 307 (67%, 3-0) LY. 18 Cole Darnell (5'11" 173 So). LY. 80 Cooper Bassett (6'5" 259 S RB 1 JOSEPH RANDLE JR. 6-1 194 PS#40. 5 st, 452 (5.5) true. 13 st, 1216 (5.8), 266 rec (6.2), 1st Tm B12 DT 94 ANTHONY ROGERS JR. 169 Jr) 6 gm LY. FB 9 Kye Staley (5'10" 236 Sr) PS#14. 6 st, 85 ttl yd, 2nd Tm B12 LY. rFr) PS#42.89 Nick Rockwell (5'7 WR 82 Isaiah Anderson Sr. 5-10 168 PS#146. 1 st, 1 rec rFr. 3 st, 216 (18.0) '10. 6 st, 315 (11.2) LY. 17 Charlie DE 96 Ryan Robinson Sr. Moore (6'2" 202 Jr) PS#334. 58 (14.5) 10.56 (18.7) LY. 29 Cameron Gravelle (6'0" 185 So). 83 Brendan Fagan (6'2" 187 rFr). 29 tkl, 2.5 tfl LY. 92 Jimmy Bean (6'5 6-2 220 PS#120. 1st, 13 gm, 183 (16.6) true. 6'st, 13 gm, 212 (12.5) '10. 7 st, 13 gm, WLB 37 ALEX ELKINS SR. 192 So) PS#84. 6 gm LY. 24 Darren Ross (5'9" 175 Jr). 35 John Goodlet (5'10" 182 Jr). 210 So) PS#101. 11 gm, 5 WR 87 TRACY MOORE SR 672 (14.9) LY. 88 Kevin Johnson (6' IR 18 Blake Jackson Jr. 6-3 238 PS#6JC.JCAALY.IFS.80 Torrance Carr (6'2" 226 rFr) RSLY. TE 14 Justin MLB 45 CALEB LAVEY JR. Horton (6'3" 254 Sr) PS#45. 2 st, 13 gm, 101 (25.2) LY. 47 John Conaway (6'2" 249 Jr). 44 Jeremy Seaton (6'2" 247 rFr). (6'0" 238 rFr) PS#63. MedRS C 60 Evan Epstein Sr. 6-3 291 PS#319. '09 Air Force transfer. 12 gm L2Y.66 Travis Cross (6'4" 275 SLB 11 SHAUN LEWIS JR. rFr) PS#89, 54 Jake Jenkins (6'3' RG 68 LANE TAYLOR SR. 6-3 328 11 st rFr. 13 st, 1st Tm B12 10.12 st, all d 0 sks, HM B12 LY.77 Gerron Anthony CB 19 BRODRICK BROWN SR. (6'2" 319 So) PS#194. 76 Eli Dickerson (6'6" 310 So) PS#187. LS 53 Andrew Suter (6'2" 268 Jr). 56 Connor Sinko (6'3" 266 Jr). LG 70 JONATHAN RUSH SR. 6-4 284 PS#187. 13 st, HM B12 10. OFY 11 (knee) after 3 st. No contact spg. 51 Brandon Webb (63" 326 Jr) PS#22. 10 gm L2Y. Chris Grisbhy (65" 315 So) PS#55JC. 62 Orlando Hudson (64" 319 Sr). 6-7 292 PS#353. 2 gm, 2nd string 10. 6 st (4RT, 2 LT), 13 gm LY, all d 2 sk, SS 2 Lavocheya Cooper Jr. RT 71 Parker Graham Jr. 20 kd. 85 Daniel Koenig (6'6" 295 So) PS#122. RS '10. 12 gm ST '11. 52 Joe Okafor (6'6" 296 So) PS#121. PS#235. 25 gm, 27 tkl L2Y. 7 Shar 6-4 323 PS#21JC. 5 st LT, 12 gm LY. 0 sacks allowed & limited QBH's LY. FS 8 DAYTAWION LOWE JR. LT 61 Michael Bowie Sr. 69 Devin Davis (6'5" 275 rFr) 13 QUINN SHARP SR. 49 Matt Green (6'1" 233 rFr) PS#13. 90 Bobby Stonebraker (6'0" 165 So). 39 Wes Harlan (5'7" 178 Sr) 29 gm holder L3Y. KO, 53 TB (#1 FBS) '10. 47 punts (46.3) tm net 38.8, 114 KO/61 TB (#1 by 21!). 2x 1st Tm AA. 59 Michael Reichenstein (6'4" 212 Jr).

LY. 80 Cooper Bassett (6'5" 259 Sr) PS#40TE. 13 gm, 11 tkl '10. 12 gm, 17 tkl, 4 tfl, 2 pd LY. Michael Glover (6'3" 247 So). 6-3 293 PS#120.5 tkl, 2 tfl rFr. 9 st, 13 gm, 21 tkl, 2.5 tfl, 1 pbu LY. 72 Christian LY.31 Jeremy Smith (510" 204 Jr) PS#22. 2 st, 262 (4.7) '10.1 st, 12 gm, 646 (7.1) LY. 23 Herschel Sims (5'8' 204 So) PS#3. Littlehead (6'2" 312 So) PS#128. 4 st, 12 gm, 16 tkl LY. 93 Maurice Hayes (6'3" 316 Sr) PS#121JC. 3 gm, 2 tkl LY. Ittlehead (6'2" 312 So) PS#128. 4 st, 12 gm, 16 tkl LY. 93 Maurice Hayes (6'3" 316 Sr) PS#121JC. 3 gm, 2 tkl LY. 10 JC PS#68. 13 gm, 291 (15.3), 13 KR (20.1) as true. 6 David Glidden (5'7" 171 DT 99 Calvin Barnett Jr. 6-2 299 PS#15JC. IFS. 98 Davidell Collins (6'5" 267 Jr) PS#318. 8 gm, 2 tkl true. 12 gm, 7 tkl LY. 91 James Castleman 296 So) PS#101. 11 gm, 7 tkl true. 97 Diamonte Wheeler (6'2" 285 So) PS#165. 2 gm LY. 6-4 246 PS#36JC. 13 gm, 21 tkl, 3 tfl LY. 40 Tyler Johnson (6'1" 232 Jr) PS#182. 9 gm, 225 So) PS#80. 3 gm, 2 tkl LY. Mike Mustafa (6'3" 278 rFr). 65 Kaleb Cusak (6'2" 265 rFr). 6-3 222 **PS#40JC**. 12 st, 90 tkl, 5 tfl, 3 pd, HM B12 LY. 41 Nico Ornelas (6'1' 210 So) PS#101. 11 gm, 5 tkl L Kris Catlin (6'1" 219 rFr) PS#75. GS '10. RS LY. 48 Tyler Fields (5'11" 211 Sr). 6-3 240 PS#47.9 gm, 10 tkl as true. 13 st, 74 tkl, 5 tfl, 1 int LY. 52 Ryan Simmons Demarcus Sherod (6'0" 220 rFr) PS#85. 35 Jesse Patton (6'1" 225 rFr).
5-11 222 PS#14.6 st. 58 tkl. 8 tfl. 3 int '10. 13 st. 61 tkl. 9.5 tfl. 2 int. 2nd Tm B12 LY. Joe 281 So) PS#242. RS '10. No action '11. Paul Lewis (6'3" 290 Fr) PS#366. Mitchell (6'3" 216 Jr) PS#278. 13 gm, 5 tkl '10. 1 st, 13 gm, 32 tkl, 1 tfl LY, Lyndell Johnson (6'3" 190 So) PS#45.9 gm, 11 tkl LY. 5-8 183 PS#189. 13 st, 77 tkl, 10 pd '10. 13 st, 68 tkl, 20 pd, 3rd Tm AA, 1st Tm B12 LY.16 Andrae May (6'0" 188 Sr) 19 tkl LY. ACL spg '12. 36 Jonovan Griffin (5'11" 172 rFr) PS#160. 30 Bryant Reber (6'0" 175 rFr) 6-0 194 PS#74. 18 tkl true. 13 st, 59 tkl, 1 tfl, 15 pd, 26 KR (27.0), HM B12KR LY. CB 4 JUSTIN GILBERT JR. 20 Larry Stephens (5'10" 182 Jr) PS#130. 23 gm, 17 tkl L2Y. 24 Miketavius Jones (5'10" 159 rFr). 18 Devin Hedgepeth (5'11" 173 Jr). 6-0 186 PS#149. 10 gm, 8 tkl true. 5 gm, 6 tkl LY. 23 Zack Craig (6'1" 193 Jr) niel Gary (6'0" 205 Jr) 10 st, 94 tkl, 5 pd '10. Wyo trans. Chase Wolfie (6'1" 185 rFr). 5-11 198 **PS#39**. 11 gm, 10 tkl true. RS '10. 13 st, 97 tkl, 2 sk, 6 pd LY. 3 Isaac PS#190. Michael Wilson (6'6" 275 Fr) PS#62. Greg Brantley (6'6" 310 Fr) PS#85. Maselera (5'11" 183 So) PS#92. 9 gm, 3 tkl LY. 28 Deion Imade (5'11" 196 Jr) PS#191.22-25 FG LY, L/46, 0 blk/d, 79-80 PAT, 61 TB/114 KO, 1stTm AA LY. P 13 QUINN SHARP SR. 6-1 205 PS#11.67 punts (45.1) net 36.0, 70 KO, 35 TB rFt. 46 (46.2) L/78, tm net 40.7, 98 6-1 205 PS#11.67 punts (45.1) net 36.0, 70 KO, 35 TB rFr. 46 (46.2) L/78, tm net 40.7, 98

Iowa St

Colorado Oklahoma

Texas Tech - #2

Texas -

Kansas -

at Oklahoma - #10

Colorado at Oklahoma

Baylor - #22

Kansas Oklahoma - #14

48-14

Texas

at

-21 -20

44-10

Kansas St - #17 at Texas Tech

Oklahoma - #13

at Iowa St