

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2012

QUARTERBACKS - Last year the Bobcats had to replace Boo Jackson who threw for 1,897 (61%, 18-17). They ret'd Iowa St transfer Phil Bates (PS#30) who played in 4 gms for the Cyclones in '08 and hit 9-23-178 here in '10 but was the team's #1 returning rusher with 519. Bates was recovering from shoulder surgery and missed the spring. The coaches were very impressed with Tyler Tettleton (PS#109) feeling he would be perhaps the best QB OU has put on the field in quite some time. Tettleton lived up to their praise and set single season OU marks for td's and pass yds throwing for 3,302 (64.3%, 28-10) and was the #2 rusher (658, 4.0). RFr Kyle Snyder played in just 5 (118 ttl yd) and Bates, running the Wildcat, hit 4-5 (69 rush). This year they lose Bates (1 st at WR, 197 rec yds) and Snyder. Tettleton's only two backups are rFr Derrius Vick (PS#93) and true frosh Gregory Windham (PS#148). Tettleton is one of the

MAC's best QB's but they'll need him to stay healthy. **RUNNING BACKS-** In '08, Ohio had to replace their career leading rusher Kalvin McRae, who had 1,434 (4.9) in '07. The next 3 years, the Bobcats ran a TB by committee with their top rusher in that span rushing for just 621 (4.2). Donte Harden (PS#193) was suspended the first 6 of '10 but rushed for 244 (4.8) in the final 7 and was the leading returnee. Harden missed 2 LV but led with 986 (5.3) incl an OU single game record with 322 all-purp yds vs Temple. Soph Ryan Boykin added 435 (4.2) while Iowa St trans Beau Blankenship (PS#85) had 462 (5.0) incl 129 vs CM when Harden was out. This year Harden departs but added to the mix is rFr Kyle Hammonds (PS#114) and true frosh Daz'mond Patterson (PS#212) who was IFS. Even with the loss of their top guy, this unit is more exp'd as LY's top 2 RB returnees had just 457 in '10 while this year's

duo has almost 900 making this unit just as solid. **RECEIVERS** - Last year the Bobcats had to replace their top 2 rec's and TE Troy Hill (6'5" 10, PS#174), who had 3 sts (24, 8.0) as a rFr in '10, was OFY (ACL) in fall camp. The top returnees were Riley Dunlop (387, 14.3) and Jordan Thompson (204, 9.7). Also back was LaVon Brazill who RS in '10 after having 702 (13.2) in '09. Brazill set OU single season records for rec (74), rec yds (1146, 15.5) and td rec's (11). Dunlop was #2 with 586 (13.6) and Soph Donte Foster was #3 (352, 11.7). This year they lose Dunlop (14 st), Brazill (10 st, #6DC IND), Jerry Gross (1 st, 8 rec) and TE Zac Clark (2 rec). While they are replacing their top 2 rec for a 2nd straight year, unlike last year they lack a player like Brazill coming off a RS year so I'll call the unit clearly weaker in '12.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '10 the Bobcats had to replace 2 st'rs and 2 bkps (comb 5 sts). They had 3 Soph and 2 Jr st'rs with 3 bkps being frosh. With 3 st'rs back, improvement was expected, and despite allowing 12 sks the L/2 gms OU trimmed their total from 30 in '09 to 22 (8.1%) while opening holes for their best ypc rush (4.3, 164 ypg) s/'05. LY they only had to replace a pair of bkps as they ret'd all 5 st'rs and added in Fla St transfer John Prior (PS#117). I called it HC Frank Solich's best O-line here and OU improved to a Solich-era high 197 ypg rush (4.6, 24 sk 5.6%). This year they lose 2-time 1st Tm MAC RT Joe Flading (14 st, 3Y st'r) and LT AJ Strum (14 st, 3Y st'r) but do have 98 car sts back. This remains one of the top O-line's in the MAC but may be down a notch in '12

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '07, Ohio had to replace 2 st'rs and slipped to allowing 186 ypg rush (4.5), their worst s/01. They had 2 st'rs back in both '08 and '09 and improved their ypc rush to 4.1 and 3.9. In '10 the 4 who started the final 8 in '09 all ret'd so I expected them to be one of the MAC's top D-line's and OU improved to 123 ypg (3.5, 24 sks). Last year Solich did one of his better coaching jobs in any unit since he's been here. The DL was wiped out as they had to replace all 4 st'rs and a bkp (120 car sts) and the returning DL were a lot smaller than their predecessors. They did get back Curtis Meyers (9 st '08, 0 st 09-10). They had put up their best rush D numbers in 11 yrs in '10 and this unit was my biggest ? on the team. It did not help when their largest DL, Neal Huynh, missed 6 sts including Temple when OU allowed 308 rush yds (6.8). His replacement, Corey Hasting, was 47 lbs lighter. Their numbers slipped but only to 142 ypg rush (4.0) with their 22 sks far better than I expected TY they lose DE Meyers (12 st, 29 tkl, 4 tfl) and DT Jeff King (5 st, 9 tkl, 1 tfl) but have 6 of their top 8 back. This unit probably will not improve much statistically but they are clearly stronger and should be one of the MAC's better D-lines.

LINEBACKERS - MLB Noah Keller was the #1 tkl'r and WLB Lee Renfro #2 in both '08 and '09. In '10 the Bobcats had to replace Renfro and their starting SLB (#13 tkl'r). They later lost Keller after 3 sts leaving them very inexperienced but they only allowed 23.8 ppg. Last year they had to replace Chad Clemens (just 2 sts, but #1 tkl'r) and their #7 tkl'r. They ret'd 2 st'rs (#5 and #11 tkl'rs) along with Keller so I called the unit vastly more exp'd despite the loss of its #1 tkl'r. OU improved to allowing 22.1 ppg. TY they lose 2nd Tm MAC Keller (14 st, #1 tkl'r w/116, 8 tfl) and Eric Benjamin (5 st, 28 tkl, 2.5 tfl). They return their #3, #5 and #11 tkl'rs and this unit is on par with '11

in terms of experience despite losing their top guy. **DEFENSIVE BACKS** - In '09 the Bobcats' secondary had to replace 2 st'rs (#2 DC) and then 3rd Tm MAC FS Steven Jackson was lost after 4 sts. Despite being a less exp'd unit, they had their highest finish ever in my PDR at #20 (54%, 17-20). In 10 they had to replace 3 st'rs but got back Jackson (like 2 ret sts). It was surprising to see OU slip to #85, their worst s/'05 (61%, 21-17). Last year they had to replace 3.5 st'rs and 2 bkps (comb 40 tkls). They did return Gerald Moore (8 sts '09, inj '10). I said that despite being less exp'd, they could improve upon their poor PDR finish of '10. FS Xavier Hughes was #1 in int's with 3 when he was OFY after 6 sts. OU still moved up to #48 (54.6%, 24-15). TY their only loss is CB Omar Leftwich (12 st, 5

pd). This could be one of the top secondaries in the MAC. SPECIAL TEAMS - This unit has been a Bobcat strength with 6 top 21 finishes s/'00. They were #5 in '06, #12 in '07 but just #52 in '08. Matt Weller (PS#49) led all frosh K's with 29 FG att (21-29, 2-3 50+). OU blk'd 5 kicks and had 4 PR td's and finished #19 in '09. Brazill became the career leader in PR yds but missed '10 and they also had to replace the #1 career KR, Chris Garrett (27.0). They still finished a solid #15. Last year

Brazill, their K and P were back so big things were expected but Brazill avg'd just 5.5 on PR. Weller had 10 TB on 84 KO and Paul Hershey avg'd 40.7 (net 37.8). Weller had a solid year hitting 25-34 (L/49) with only one miss from under 40 yds but unfortunately it was in the MAC Title game (lost by 3). OU still only dropped to #28. This year they lose top KR Harden (25.8), P Hershey and Brazill and will find it difficult to remain close to their accustomed spot near the top of my rankings

COACHES - Frank Solich spent 6 yrs as HC at Neb compiling a record of 58-19. He was Big 12 COY in '99 and '01 and produced at least 9 wins in 5 of his 6 seasons. Solich ret'd to his home state (from Cleveland) in '05 and LY led Ohio to their first 10-win ssn s/68. OC Tim Albin, who was the OC at NDSt in '04 and was at Neb from '01-'03 (pass gm coor '03), is in his 8th ssn here. Co-OC Gerry Gadowski is in his 6th ssn and also mentors the QB's. The DC also in his 8th season is Jimmy Burrow who was the DC at NDSt ('03-'04) and a Neb asst ('01-'02).

ALSO ON ROSTER TE Troy Hill 6'5" 210 Jr

OL Seth Everhart 6'5" 290 rFr OL Brad Fain 6'4" 250 So OL Matt Prichard 6'0" 275 Sr

DL Colt Buehner 6'3" 227 rFr CB Brian Hairston 5'8" 171 rFr DB CJ Anderson 6'2" 187 Jr

L'S FORECAST

Frank Solich took over in '05 and it didn't take long for him to work his magic. In '06 he got Ohio to their first bowl since 1968 as they were 9-4 before losing to S Miss in the GMAC Bowl. Coming off a 4-8 season in '08 where they were -12 in TO's, I called them my #2 Most Improved Team in the country in '09. While they were picked as low as 6th in some other preseason magazines, I pegged them to win the MAC East Title and Solich and company did not disappoint. Unfortunately, they got banged up in their reg ssn finale and then lost to CM in the MAC Title game by 10 and then to Marshall in the bowl. Despite their 7-1 record in the MAC in '09 they were -23.9 ypg in conf play but +13 in TO's. In '10 they had a shot at the MAC Title game but were -4 in TO's in the ssn finale vs Kent St and had a streak of 8 str MAC road wins snapped. They were then thrashed in the bowl by Troy. Last year OU was coming off a yr where they had 35 sts lost to injury (pg 324) and despite having just 11 ret sts, I felt they had a schedule tailor-made for MAC success. Their 4 conf AG's were vs tms that finished 1-7, 1-7, 1-7 and 2-6, and they avoided the big 3 out of the West. They were the only one of the top 4 MAC East tms that kept their HC. Those factors not only had me calling for them to appear in the MAC Title game (Miami was media pick) but I gave them an excellent shot at their first double digit win season s/68. OU dominated NMSt on the road, 44-24 then steamrolled an FCS foe and Marshall (comb 74-10). Four TO's did them in vs Rutgers (only -6 yds). They had a 376-200 yd edge but a blk'd punt and a blk'd FG kept Kent St within 7 and OU moved to 4-1. OU's D was banged up and it cost them 2 wins. They went into Buff and led 31-24 but lost 38-37. Weller missed a 41 yd att with :41 left vs Ball St and their 7 gm home win streak was snapped. Their DL's and DB's started to get healthier and they beat Akron by 17 then RB Harden had 322 all-purp yds in their 35-31 win over Temple. They beat CM by 15 but needed a 23 yd FG on the final play to get past BG. They had already clinched the MAC East Title when they edged conf rival Miami 21-14. In the MAC Title game OU led 20-0 at half but missed a 46 yd 4Q FG and allowed the comeback by NIU in a gm that would have given Ohio their first MAC Title s/68. They beat Utah St 24-23 for the school's first ever bowl win to finish 10-4. This year the Bobcats are more exp'd with 14 ret sts (+93.2 ypg MAC, 3rd best). They did benefit from 2 net close wins LY but they don't play either NIU or WM. This year's edition is even stronger than the '11 version and capable of topping last year's 10 win total.

JERSEY # OFFENSE

LINEUP 2012 PROJECTED STARTING

JERSEY # **DEFENSE** 6-2 250 PS#169JC. In for spring. 57 Wade Wells (6'3" 229 Jr) PS#199JC.

QB 4 TYLER TETTLETON JR. 6-0 200 PS#109.10 gm, 128 (39%, 0-2) true. RS '10.14 st, 3302 (64%, 28-10), DE 73 Ty Branz So. 658 rush (4.0), 3rd Tm MAC LY. 15 Derrius Vick (6'1" 205 rFr) PS#93. Gregory Windham (6'1" 217 Fr) PS#148. RB 22 Beau Blankenship Jr. 5-9 202 PS#85.7 gm, 11 (2.8) true at lowa St. RS here 10.462 (5.0) LY. 20 Ryan NG 93 NEAL HUVNH SR. Boykin (6'1" 221 Jr). 213 (5.2) rFr. 2 st, 435 (4.2) LY. 29 Kyle Hammonds (5'8" 180 rFr) PS#114. Daz'mond Patterson. IFS. 261 Sr). 6 tkl '09-'10.4 st, 44 6-0 179 PS#428. 13 gm 2Y. 14 gm, 90 (15.0) LY. 17 Bakari Bussey (6'2" 205 Sr) DT 89 CARL JONES SR. WR 81 Tyler Futrell Sr. 123 (13.7) '109-10.4 st, 112 (10.2) LY. Chris Murray PS#186.2 lan Dixon (57" 157 rFr). 84 Kawmae Sawyer (60" 188 So). 260 rFr) PS#260. 54 John Taylor (64" 260 Jr) PS#2429. DNP rFr. 6 kt | LY. 95 Irandon Purdin (6'3" 255 rFr) PS#429. LY. 87 Landon Smith (5'11" 180 So) PS#160. 9 gm, 24 (8.0) true. 6 Stephane N'gournou (6'3" 200 Jr) PS#250. OFY (inj) rFr. (64" 222 rFr) PS#381. 69 Matt Waters Jr. 6-0 203 PS#201JC. IFS. 19 Mario Dovell (6'0" 200 Jr) PS#389. 32 (8.0) rFr. 1 st, 151 WILL 34 JELANI WOSELEY SR. 6-2 205 PS#748. 1 st, 9 gm, 11 tkl '10.9 st, 13 gm, 53 tkl, 5 tfl LY. 31 Tim Edmon (18.9) LY. 24 Chase Cochran (6'2" 182 So) PS#194. DNP rFr. 85 Adam Alderman (6'0" 190 Jr). 82 Chris Johann (5'11" 184 So). [(5'11" 240 So) PS#144JC. IFS. 33 Blake Jones (5'11" 218 So) PS#177. 5 tkl, 1 sk rFr. 50 Chris Owens (6'0" 226 So). TE 88 JORDAN THOMPSON SR. 6-4 248 PS#101.13 st, 109 (15.6) rFr. 13 st, 204 (9.7) '10.11 st, 258 (10.8) LY | NLB 38 Keith Moore Jr. 6-0 219 2 kl true. 35 tkl, 4 tfl LY. 32 Joe Stefanski (6'2" 236 So) PS#295.5 kl rF 9 Derek Roback (6'3" 249 So) PS#75 ND. 5 st, 56 (9.3) here LY. 44 Tyler Knight (6'5" 250 Sr) PS#76JC. 1 rec LY. | S1 Jovon Johnson (6'0" 215 rFr) PS#379. Jake Schany (6'2" 210 Fr) PS#141. 48 Craig Luburgh (6'1" 205 So). C 65 SKYLER ALLEN SR. 6-3 288 PS#567.2 gm true. 13 st '10. 13 st LY. 76 JD Bales (6'5" 307 Sr). 3 gm '09-'10. SLB 46 ALPHONSO LEWIS SR. Lang (5'11" 193 So). 31 Bubba Williams (6'1" 194 rFr). 58 Seth Everhart (6'5" 290 rFr). RG 77 ERIC HERMAN SR. 6-4 319 PS#305. 11 st RG, 14 gm rFr. 13 st RG '10. 14 st RG, 750+ snaps, 2nd Tm MAC LY. 63 Sam Johnson (6'3" 316 Jr). 4 gm rFr. 5 gm, 73pl LY. 67 Mike Lucas (6'4" 340 rFr) PS#344. LG 66 JON LECHNER JR. 6-5 332 PS#69.9 st LG, 13 gm rFr. 13 st LG, 698pl LY. 64 Vince Carlotta (6'4" 289 10. 1 st LG, 14 gm LY. 52 Mark Smith (6'3" 286 Jr) PS#454. 7 gm true. 78pl LY. Sr). 2 st LG, 9 gm rFr. 4 st LG, RT 50 Ryan McGrath Jr. 6-6 304 PS#554. 4 st LT, 13 gm rFr. 13 gm bkp RT, 200+ snaps LY. 75 Mike McQueen (6'5" 305 rFr) PS#475. 54 Lucas Powell (6'3" 284 rFr) PS#252. 72 Michael Curtis (6'5" 300 rFr) PS#259. 6-6 301 PS#117. RS at Florida St in '09.13 gm bkp LT, 200+ snaps here LY, F3 13 GERALD MODRE SR PS#299.1 gm rFr. 68 Jacob Welter (6'4" 313 rFr) PS#197. 70 Steven Crane (6'6" 323 So). LT 74 John Prior Jr. 61 Bryce Dietz (6'5" 290 So) 49 MATT WELLER SR. 6-0 203 PS#49.21-29 FG, L/52, 32-36 PAT, 1st Tm MAC rFr. 11-14 FG, L/51

Fr. 2 st, 18 tkl, 4 tfl LY. 96 Tony Davis (6'4" 215 So) PS#356. 2 tkl, 4 gm true. NG 93 NEAL HUYNH SR. 6-3 301 PS#421. 41 tkl, 4 tfl '09-10. 8 st, 32 tkl, 4 tfl LY. 94 Corey Hasting (61' 261 Sr). 6 tkl '09-10. 4 st. 48 tkl, 6 tfl LY. 91 Antwan Crutcher (61" 300 So) PS#236. 15 tkl true. Trae Clark PS#201. 6-0 245 PS#604.1 st, 48 tkl, 5.5 tfl '09-'10.12 st, 22 tkl, 3 tfl LY.53 Justin Haser (6'5' 6-3 257 PS#421.19 tkl, 4 tfl '09-'10.14 st, 62 tkl, 8 tfl, 2ndTm MAC LY.59 Eric Price 6-0 219 2 tkl true. 35 tkl, 4 tfl LY. 32 Joe Stefanski (6'2" 236 So) PS#295. 5 tkl rFr. 6-1 206 PS#161.13 gm, 20 tkl rFr. 6 st, 38 tkl, 4.5 tfl *10.7 st, 64 tkl, 5 tfl LY. /3.6 tkl rFr. **36** Ben Russell (61" 234 rFr) PS#190.**40** Nieco Teipel (61" 225 So). 10 AJ Grady Jr. (6'1" 198 So) PS#2 CB 18 TRAVIS CARRIE SR. 6-0 212 1 st, 35 tkl true. RS '09. 12 st, 39 tkl, 5 pbu '10. 13 st, 49 tkl, 17 pd, 2nd Tm MAC LY. 41 Ian Wells (5'11" 192 rFr) PS#270. 37 Devin Bass (5'9" 178 rFr) PS#336. 26 Mose Denton (6'1" 200 Sr) 14 tkl LY. 5-11 170 19 tkl true. 35 Nathan Carpenter (5'9" 197 So) 6 st, 53 tkl, 11 pd rFr. 2 Jamil CB 45 Larenzo Fisher So. Shaw (6'0" 199 Jr) 2 st, 18 tkl, 3 pbu LY. 5 Octavius Leftwich (6'1" 190 Sr) 15 tkl 2Y. 16 Ryan Clark (5'9" 169 Sr). 11 tkl 3Y. SS 27 JOSH KRISTOFF SO. 6-0 194 PS#457.8 st, 52 tkl, 6 pd LY. 23 Xavier Hughes (6'1" 171 Jr) PS#243.11 gm, 3 tkl rFr. F/6 st (OFY), 24 tkl, 7 pd LY 28 Aaron Macer (6'0" 194 rFr) PS#358. 21 Brandon Atwell (6'2" 212 So). 1 tkl rFr. 6-1 205 PS#321. 8 st, 68 tkl, 7 pd, 3rd Tm MAC '09. 1 st, inj'd '10. 14 st, 84 tkl, 5 pd rFr. Andy Fay (6'0" 210 So). 39 Devin Jones (6'0" 200 rFr). 42 James Ray (6'0' 185 Sr). LY. 25 Thad Ingol (5'10" 190 So) 18 tkl 56 Grant Venham Fr. 6-3 210 PS#140. Add on to spg roster. 40 Nieco Teipel (6'1" 225 So). Also LB. 40-44 PAT 10.25-34 FG, 48-49 PAT, Ohio record pts, 2nd Tm MAC LY. 39 Josiah Yazdani (5'10" 201 So). 1 gm LY. | Ohio does not list a P on its spring roster but HC Frank Solich expects a couple of walk-on's to compete for job.

-4 48-42

+1¹ +7 -9 40-43 38-27

-<u>3</u> E

Eastern Michigan

Bowling Green

Toledo

Temple at Akron Miami, Oh

at

10-31

-48

_ _ _

at Kent St

at Temple Buffalo Bowling Green

Akron

at Miami, Oh

10-20

Miami, Kent St Ball St , Oh

Temple

Buffalo Northern Illinois

† Central Michigan

26-19

10-14 19-32 3-28 49-42

+3 +2' +2' +1'

Bowling Green

-16 +8' -4 34-17 31-23 6-28

Akron

Buffalo

at Kent S

at

aţ

Miami, Oh

Louisiana

-9, +3'

at Akron

Temple at Central Michigan at Bowling Green Miami, Oh

† Northern Illinois