

OHIO ST BUCKEYES



SLOT Jordan Hall

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2013

QUARTERBACKS - In '11 Terrelle Pryor was supposed to return after a 5 gm susp and interim HC Luke Fickell went the safe route by starting senior Joe Bauserman (PS#59) in the first 3. Braxton Miller took over getting the final 10 sts. They seemed reluctant to let him air it out as he had just 9.4 att's per gm in his first 5 sts but threw the GW 40 yd td pass with .20 left vs Wisc. The reins were then off vs Mich (14-25-235, 100 yd rush). Miller earned B10 Fr POY (1159, 54%, 13-4) and was the #1 rusher (715, 4.5). Miller is the perfect fit for Meyer's offense. He started strong with a QB single gm rush rec (161) vs Miami, Oh and the next wk vs UCF, he ran for 141 yds and had a QB rush att record with 27 (Cornelius Greene 24 '74). Miller topped that later with 186 vs Neb and set the OST record for tll offense w/3,310 yards (Pryor's 3,526 was vacated). Miller was the B10 OPOY throwing for 2,039 (58.3%, 15-6) and was the #1 rusher (1271, 5.6). Kenny Gupton threw for 139 (56.5%, 2-1) and he directed or finished a td drive on 8 of his 15 series. TY they add in Meyer recruit Cardale Jones (6'5" 241 rFr, PS#41). Miller worked with a QB specialist in the offseason and is my pick to take home the Heisman TY!

RUNNING BACKS - LY OST had to replace its top RB "Boom" Herron (6'5, 5.0, #6DC). Carlos Hyde was the top returnee with 566 (5.3). Hyde had 82 in the opener (DNP 2) then was the OPOW vs Neb (140 yd, 4 td) and later had 156 vs Indy. Team capt Jordan Hall (408, 4.1 '11) had 218 (5.4) in just 3 gms but RS (inj). Hyde is up to 242 lbs (4.45 spd) to fit his power running style. He led the RB's w/970 (5.2) and 16 td's incl 146 yds vs Mich. Rod Smith (PS#9) had just 116 (4.0) in '11 and 215 LY but with an impressive 6.7 ypc. True frosh Br'onte Dunn (PS#10) added 133 (5.3). TY Hall will be used at SB (Percy Harvin true) and they lose FB Zach Boren (3 st, LB Wk 7). They add in rFr Warren Ball (6'1" 222, PS#26) and true Ezekiel Elliott (PS#14) and I'll call the unit improved.

RECEIVERS - OST had an inexp'd rec corps in '11 (2 soph, 2 rFr, 2 true) that lacked big play ability, battled inj's and had a QB that was reluctant to throw the ball. True frosh Devin Smith (PS#36) led with a paltry 294 (21.0) while "Philly" Brown (PS#18) was #2 (205, 14.6). Jake Stoneburner had 7 td's on his 14 rec. LY all 3 r't'd. Brown's 60 rec's were double of #2 Smith but he only had 669 yds (11.1). Smith had 618 (20.6). Evan Spencer (PS#34) added 136 (11.3). TY they lose Stoneburner (8 st, 269, 16.8) but I look for increased production. They add RB Jordan Hall (SLOT), PS#11JC Corey Smith, true frosh Dontre Wilson (PS#21) and Jalyn Marshall (PS#4) while Chris Fields (PS#24) had a great spring. Keep an eye on Michael Thomas (PS#93) who Miller stayed with while attending QB camp in the offseason.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '10 OST had 93 car sts back and improved to 220 ypg rush with their 5.2 ypc being the best in over 2 decades (22 sk, 6.3%) as Pryor's mobility helped. In '11 they had to replace two 3Y st's (1st Tm B10 LG) along with 2 bkps. They returned 77 car sts but 1st Tm B10 LT Mike Adams was susp 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 lowest ypc s/O4. LY they had to replace 2Y (#2DC), 3Y and 4Y (1st Tm AA) st's. They dropped to 42 car sts and Meyer was very unhappy with the unit in spring. Co-OC/OL cch Ed Warinner did a great job molding this unit and by season's end they were a strength improving to 5.2 ypc while allowing just 30 sks. All 5 st's st'd all 12. TY they do lose RT Reid Fragel (#7DC CIN) but return 1st Tm B10 Andrew Norwell, 2nd Tm B10 Jack Mewhort and 81 car sts so this is one of the B10's top O-line's.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '10 OST had an inexp'd DL (only 1 ret st) but allowed just 97 ypg (3.1) despite their 23 sks being the fewest in over a decade. In '11 the Steelers drafted (#1DC) their 3rd Ost DL in 2Y prompting PIT HC Mike Tomlin to remark that Ost's D is the closest in the college game to what the Steelers run. Despite only replacing 2 st's they slipped to all g 142 ypg rush (3.8, 23 sk). LY the line r't'd intact and they added in 4 of my Top 15 frosh DL. The 4 st's did play the bulk of the snaps and they improved to 116 ypg (3.6, 30 sks). This is the biggest concern on the squad TY. Gone are DE Nathan Williams (8 st, 40 tkl, 2 sk), DT Johnathan Hankins (12 st, 55 tkl, 4 tfl, #2DC NYG), DT Garrett Goebel (11 st, 42 tkl, 4 tfl) and the B10 DPOY DE John Simon (11 st, 9 sk, 5.5 tfl, #4DC BAL). Three true players in Noah Spence (PS#2, 12 tkl, 1 sk), Tommy Schutt (PS#11, 1 st) and Adolphus Washington (PS#8, 3 sk). I thought LY's line underachieved and to say TY's unit is inexp'd is an understatement. It's been 28 yrs s/OST has had to replace all 4 DL st's but I think they'll be better than most expect led by Washington.

LINEBACKERS - In '11 OST had to replace its #1 and #2 tkl's (both #6DC's). They r't'd their #9 tkl along with Etienne Sabino (RS'10). The 3 st's were PS#7, PS#7 and PS#13. OST all'd 21.0 ppg, their most s/99. LY they lost 2 st's (#2 & #10 tkl's) incl a 2nd Tm B10. Ryan Shazier (PS#21) st'd the L/3 as a true and had 15 tkl vs PSU. He joined Sabino (PS#7, #5 tkl'r) and Storm Klein (PS#7, #9 tkl'r) making the unit a little more exp'd. OST still all'd 22.8 ppg and Klein lost his job to FB Zach Boren, who moved mid-year and still had 50 tkl (3.5 tfl). This year they lose Sabino who missed 4 (inj) and finished #7 (3.5 tfl). Klein (5 st, 18 tkl) and Boren (4 st). At one point during the yr zero LB's were left from the '09 and '10 recruiting classes so they had 3 seniors, 2 soph and the rest were frosh (2 pl 1/2 yr). There are plenty of VHT's to choose from and they do return their top guy in Shazier (4th Tm AA) so they should come close to LY's production.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - Since '97 OST has had seven DB's drafted in the 1st Rnd with 24 drafted overall. OST has always ranked at the top of my PDR, as an example, in '06 when they had to replace all 4 st's (#1, #3, #4DC's) and still finished #12 (10-21 ratio). They lost #1 and #4DC's in '09 and were #12 (10-24 ratio). After a #5 finish in '10 they had to replace a 1st Tm AA CB (#4DC) and 2 other st's (#3, #4 tkl's, #5DC) in '11. They also dealt with some susp and inj issues and fell to #63, their lowest s/99! LY all 4 st's were back and I called them one of the nation's most improved secondaries. The fastest guy on the tm was CB Bradley Roby, who led the B10 in pd w/19. OST climbed back up to #27 (15-14 ratio). TY they lose 1st Tm B10 CB Travis Howard (12 st, 40 tkl, 4 int) and CB Orhian Johnson (8 st, 39 tkl, 7 pbu). They may get Jamie Wood (6'1" 210 Sr, PS#14) back as he attempts to overcome an inj. Three of their 4 st's return incl the #2, #3 and #4 tkl's and OST should be back to their more usual spot in the Top 12.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Urban Meyer places an emphasis on the punt blk team which he calls "The Freakshow" and plays many starters in the group. LY they appeared to have all of the key players back so it was very surprising that they slipped down to #56. Top KR Jordan Hall (683, 26.3) RS and Rod Smith had 303 (23.3). PR Philly Brown was solid (221, 12.3). Drew Basil hit 16-19 fg's (L47) in '11, then 8-11 (L52) LY but only had 18 TB on 76 KO. 3Y P Ben Buchanan avg 41.0 (35.7 net). TY they lose Buchanan but everyone else returns. LY Meyer talked about the lack of depth hurting this unit as they gave up a lot of big plays. A Top 10 finish TY would not surprise me.

COACHES - Urban Meyer reenergized Buckeye Nation and after his one ssn of retirement he led OST to their 6th undefeated season. Meyer had a pair of Nat'l Titles at Fla ('05-'10) as well as going 22-2 at Utah ('03-'04) and 17-6 at BG ('01-'02). Luke Fickell (here s/O2) was retained as co-DC (interim HC in '11) and was joined by Everett Withers, who was NC's DC from '08-'10 (also the Tar Heels interim HC in '11). OC Tom Herman's previous stops incl OC at Iowa St ('09-'11), Rice ('07-'08) and TXST ('05-'06). Ed Warinner is the co-OC with stops for 2Y at ND (OL, run gm coor) and 5Y at Kansas ('03-'04, OC '07-'09).

ALSO ON ROSTER:
RB Levi Ratliff 6'2" 200 So
WR Ryan Ross 5'11" 190 Jr
LS George Makrides 6'2" 234 Sr
RB Devin Hill 5'10" 228 So
WR Kato Mitchell 6'0" 186 So
DB Russell Doup 6'2" 195 Jr
WR Devonte Butler 5'7" 170 Fr
DB Kevin Niehoff 6'3" 200 So

PHIL'S FORECAST

Ohio St actually finished outside of the AP Top 25 for 3 str yrs prior to '02. I had Ost rated as my #1 Surprise Team (dark horse contender for the Nat'l Title) in '02 while only 2 other magazines even picked Ost to win the B10. OST took home their first Nat'l Title s/'68 (Woody Hayes' 3rd) when they defeated Miami. Since then, OST has finished in the AP Top 5 seven of L/10Y. In '11 Jim Tressel who did a remarkable job, was let go over the summer and Luke Fickell guided the team to a bowl but when they lost to Florida, they had their first losing season s/'88 and just their 3rd s/'60. OST was actually -45.5 ypg in B10 play!! It was surprising that they went to a bowl because the NCAA handed them a 1 year bowl ban and had it been retroactive, the Buckeyes would have been in the National Title game LY. I mentioned that Ohio St was a +5.5 in my Stock Market Indicator (pg 29) in '12, had 15 ret st's and was #2 on my MIT list. OST doubled its win total from 6 to 12. They had a close win vs Cal where the Bears missed 3 fg's and Ost won by 7 despite being outgained 512-412. UAB outgained them 403-347 but Ost won by 14. Ost got a big road win at Mich St 17-16. They trailed Neb 17-7 and 24-21 in the 2Q but won, 63-38. They led 52-34 with 6:47 left vs Indy but gave up a couple of late scores and hung on for a 3 pt win. It looked like Purdue would be their first loss of the yr especially when QB Miller was inj'd and Gupton was int'd late 4Q. They got the ball back with :47 left and Gupton drove them 61/7pl for a td and 2 pt conv with :03 left and the Buckeyes would escape in OT, 29-22. OST was tied at HT w/PSU 7-7 but got a 17 yd IR td to open the 3Q and went on to a 35-16 lead in their 12 pt win. After blowing out Illinois, the Bucks went into Wisc. UW fumbled at the 3 and missed a 40 yd fg and Ost won in OT, 21-14. Vs Mich, they trailed 21-20 at HT. OST dominated the 2H with Mich failing to cross midfield. They finished the season 12-0 and #3 in the final AP poll. TY OST looks stronger as they have 13 ret st's incl one of the Heisman favorites Miller but benefitted from 6 net close wins LY. Neb and Mich St drop off the schedule and they will be favored in their first 11, with the only ? being the ssn finale at Michigan. A check of the Big Ten conf pg (pg 77) shows that I have Ohio St ranked either 1, 2 or in one case 3 in the Individual Unit rankings for the Big Ten making them the most talented team in an improved conf. Now that the Buckeyes are bowl eligible, with the combination of their talent and schedule I expect them to get to the National Title game!

OFFENSE

JERSEY #

IN SCARLET

2013 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY #

IN SCARLET

DEFENSE

QB 5 BRAXTON MILLER JR.

6-2 215

PS#2

L/10 st, 1159 (54%, 13-4), 715 rush (4.5), B10 FPOY true. 12 st, 2039 (58%, 15-6), 1271 rush (5.6).

B10 OPOY LY 13 KENNY GUITION

6'3" 208 Sr

PS#116

15 gm, 144 (56%, 2-2), 3Y.

RB 34 CARLOS HYDE SR.

6-0 242

PS#29

3 st, 707 (5.4), 2Y 8 st, 970 (5.2), 2nd Tm B10 LY 2 Rod Smith (6'3" 238 Jr) PS#9, 116 (4.0) rFr. 9 gm, 215 (6.7), 303 KR (29.3) LY 25 Br'onte Dunn (6'0" 222 So) PS#10, 133 (5.3) true.

SLOT 80 CHRIS FIELDS SR.

6-0 200

PS#24

8 st, 114 (14.2) '11, 8 gm, 55 (13.8) LY 7 Jordan Hall (5'8" 194 Sr) PS#45RB, 19 gm, 409 rush (4.8) 2Y 3 st, 408 rush (4.1) '11, 13 st, 218 rush (5.4), MedRS LY 4B Craig Cataline (6'1" 235 Jr).

WR 10 COREY 'PHILLY' BROWN SR.

6-0 187

PS#18

10 st, 310 (14.1), 2Y 11 st, 669 (11.1), 221 Pr (12.3), 2ndTm B10 LY Corey Smith PS#11JC, 83 Michael Thomas (6'2" 199 So) PS#93, 2 st, 22 (7.3) true. 87 Peter Gwilym (6'1" 199 So).

WR 9 DEVIN SMITH JR.

6-1 198

PS#36

13 gm, 294 (21.0) true. 10 st, 618 (20.6) LY 6 Evan Spencer (6'2" 206 Jr) PS#34, 78 (26.0) true. 4 st, 136 (11.3) LY 33 Frank Epitropoulos (6'1" 200 rFr) PS#67, Stacey Blidie (6'2" 195 Jr).

TE 86 JEFF HEUERMAN JR.

6-6 250

PS#24

11 gm true. 9 st, 94 (11.8) LY 81 Nick Vannett (6'6" 255 So) PS#9, 2 st, 12 gm, 123 (13.7) rFr. 89 Blake Thomas (6'5" 250 rFr) PS#13, Marcus Baugh (6'4" 245 Fr) PS#5.

C 71 COREY LINSLEY SR.

6-3 295

PS#23

6 gm rFr. 10 gm '11, 12 st C, HM B10 LY 50 Jacoby Boren (6'2" 287 So) PS#81, 1 gm true. 64 Ivon Blackman (6'3" 320 Sr) 5 gm 3Y LS 41 Bryce Haynes (6'4" 220 So) PS#320, 10 gm rFr.

RG 79 MARCUS HALL SR.

6-6 315

PS#5

1 st RT, 9 gm true. RS '10, 1 st st RG, 11 gm '11, 12 st rFr.

SS Tommy Brown (6'4" 310 So) PS#83

DNP

rFr

Tim Gardner (6'5" 320 Fr) PS#78, 67 Ben St John (6'3" 290 Jr).

LG 78 ANDREW NORWELL SR.

6-6 319

PS#8

11 gm true. 13 st (5 LT, 8 LG), HM B10 '11, 12 st LG, 1stTm B10 LY 73 Antonio Underwood (6'3" 301 Jr) PS#81, 1 st, 4 gm true. Evan Lisle PS#10, 62 Logan Beougher (6'4" 287 So).

RT 88 TAYLOR DECKER SO.

6-7 315

PS#31

Decommit Nid 8 gm as true. RS '09 Chase Farris (6'4" 300 So) PS#36, 3 gm rFr. 65 Pat Elfein (6'2" 293 rFr). PS#80, 69 Eric Kramer (6'4" 295 Jr) RS '10, 1 gm rFr. 7 gm bkp LY.

PS#36, 3 gm rFr. 65 Pat Elfein (6'2" 293 rFr).

PS#80, 69 Eric Kramer (6'4" 295 Jr) RS '10, 1 gm rFr. 7 gm bkp LY.

LT 74 JACK MEWHORT SR.

6-7 308

PS#29

10 gm rFr. 13 st (F/5 LG, L/8 RG), HM B10 '11, 12 st LT, 2nd Tm B10 LY 76 Kyle Dodson (6'6" 324 rFr) PS#33, 76 Darryl Baldwin (6'6" 307 Jr) PS#46, 7 gm, 3 tkl DL rFr. 12 gm LT LY.

B10 LY 76 Kyle Dodson (6'6" 324 rFr) PS#33, 76 Darryl Baldwin (6'6" 307 Jr) PS#46, 7 gm, 3 tkl DL rFr. 12 gm LT LY.

K 24 DREW BASIL SR.

6-2 210

PS#8

0-2 FG, 87 KO, 9 TB true. 16-19 FG, L/47, 63 KO, 14 TB '11. 8-11 FG, L/52, 76 KO (61.0), 18 TB LY 39 Kyle Clinton (6'1" 215 Jr) PS#142. Ohio transfer. 2 KO (63.5), 1 TB LY.

DE 92 Adolphus Washington So.

6-3 292

PS#8

10 gm, 9 tkl, 3 sk, 1 blk'd PAT, 156pl true. 50 JT Moore (6'3" 262 Jr) PS#47, 6 st, 10 tkl, 2Y 34 Jamal Marcus (6'2" 230 So) PS#44, 11 gm, 8 tkl true. 84 Rashad Frazier (6'4" 271 Jr).

DT 63 Michael Bennett Jr.

6-3 285

PS#11

13 gm, 17 tkl true. 2 st, 8 gm (inj), 11 tkl LY 51 Joel Hale (6'4" 309 Jr) PS#53, 9 gm, 4 tkl true. 7 gm, 6 tkl, 119pl LY. Joey Bosa (6'5" 270 Fr) PS#13, Claudius Mbemba (6'2" 245 rFr).

NT 90 Tommy Schutt So.

6-2 303

PS#11

1 st, 10 gm, 4 tkl, 1 qbh as true. 72 Chris Carter (6'4" 341 So) PS#54, 8 gm rFr. Billy Price (6'4" 305 Fr) PS#30, Michael Hill (6'2" 305 Fr) PS#33, Donovan Munger is PS#66.

LEO 8 Noah Spence So.

6-3 247

PS#2

11 gm, 12 tkl, 1 sk true. 88 Steve Miller (6'3" 252 Jr) PS#20, 2 gm, 1 tkl true. 1 st, 7 gm, 2 tkl, 1 sk, 1 qbh LY. Chris Rock (6'5" 267 So) PS#81, 55 Tyquan Lewis PS#55, IFS.

WLB 10 RYAN SHAZIER JR.

6-2 222

PS#21

L/3 st, 13 gm, 57 tkl, 5 tfl true. 12 st, 115 tkl, 17 tfl, 12 pd, 3 qbh, 1 IR td, 4th Tm AA LY. Trey Johnson (6'2" 200 Fr) PS#6, 48 Joe Burger (6'1" 238 So). 97 John Holman (6'4" 264 Jr).

MLB 14 Curtis Grant Jr.

6-3 241

PS#1

10 gm, 2 tkl as true. 3 st, 12 gm, 8 tkl LY 5 Camren Williams (6'1" 231 So) PS#27, 10 gm, 3 tkl true. 42 Luke Roberts (6'1" 234 So) PS#91, 1 gm true. Craig Fada (6'0" 225 So).

SLB 37 Joshua Perry So.

6-4 243

PS#15

All-OH, 70 tkl, 7 sk HS Sr. 10 gm, 5 tkl as true. 21 David Perkins (6'2" 228 So) PS#40, 9 gm, 6 tkl true. Mike Mitchell (6'4" 225 Fr) PS#10, 186 tkl, 32 tfl, 7 FF as Sr in HS.

CB 12 Doran Grant Jr.

5-11 191

PS#3

13 gm, 6 tkl true. 1 st, 19 tkl LY. 16 Cam Burrows (5'11" 200 Fr) PS#9, IFS. 13 Eli Apple PS#13, IFS. 11 Adam Griffin (5'8" 183 Jr) PS#272, 12 gm, 14 tkl, 2Y. Nik Sarac (5'9" 182 So).

CB 1 BRADLEY ROBY JR.

5-11 192

PS#134

12 st, 47 tkl rFr. 11 st, 63, 19 pd, 2ndTm AA LY 26 Armani Reeves (5'10" 194 So) PS#17, 5 gm, 2 tkl true. 18 Najee Murray (5'9" 186 So) PS#55, 5 gm, 3 tkl true. Gareon Conley PS#38.

SS 2 CHRISTIAN BRYANT SR.

5-10 192

PS#27

10 st, 78 tkl, 9 pd 2Y. 12 st, 71 tkl, 13 pd, 2nd Tm B10 LY. Corey Brown (6'1" 201 Sr) PS#15, 29 gm, 26 tkl 3Y 30 Devan Bogard (6'0" 192 So) PS#43, 7 gm (ACL), 3 tkl LY.

FS 4 CJ BARNETT SR.

6-1 202

PS#25

7 gm, 4 tkl true. MedRS '10, 13 st, 75 tkl, 8 pd, 2nd Tm B10 '11. 9 st, 56 tkl, 8 pd, HM B10 LY 23 Tyvis Powell (6'3" 201 Fr) PS#58, 20 Ron Tanner (6'0" 200 So) PS#8, 2 gm, 2 tkl rFr.

P 24 Drew Basil Sr.

6-2 210

PS#8

Starting K, has no punt att's in 3 years. 14 Jake Russell (6'1" 195 So). Walk-on. 33 Frank Epitropoulos (6'1" 197 rFr). Avg'd 39.2 ypp as Sr in HS. Also working at WR spg.

