

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE



TE OJ HOWARD

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2016

QUARTERBACKS - Coming into '14 only 3 QB's had ever started a gm in the Nick Saban era: John Parker Wilson, Greg McElroy and AJ McCarron. Blake Sims (8 gm, 167, 62%, 2-0, 61 rush '13) had an uneven spring and it was widely expected that 6'5" Florida St transfer Jake Coker (PS#38) would win the job. Sims won it and threw for a schl single ssn record 3,487 (65%, 28-10) and was also the first Saban Tide QB that provided a run threat (#3 rusher, 350, 4.2). Coker played in 7 (403, 64.4%, 4-0). LY it was a 5-man battle with soph Cooper Bateman (PS#8), rFr David Cornwell (PS#6), Alec Morris (PS#72) and true frosh Blake Barnett (PS#3) all thought to be frontrunners at one point. Coker won the job but Bateman got the ill fated start vs Ole Miss. Coker came in with Bama down 30-10 and almost rallied the comeback. Coker got better throughout the season including an outstanding last 5 gms (1159, 73%, 9-0). He became the 4th Bama 1st year starting QB to win a National Title. This year they have a first time starter again and could come close to '15's production.

RUNNING BACKS - In '12 Bama had to replace Trent Richardson (#1DC). Eddie Lacy and TJ Yeldon became the first ever RB duo to each top 1,000 here. In '13 Lacy (#2DC) departed. Yeldon led with 1,235 (6.0, 14 td). Kenyan Drake was #2 (694, 7.5, 8 td) while PS#1 true frosh Derrick Henry added 382 (10.9). Yeldon was #1 in '14 before Henry passed him up in the Sugar Bowl. Henry led with 990 (5.8). Drake was OFY after 5 (271 ttd yd). LY they lost Yeldon (#2DC) and a #4 DC FB. They added PS#1 Damien Harris, PS#15 rFr Ronnie Clark and PS#6 Bo Scarbrough who tore his ACL in April. Henry avg 16.8 rush att's the first 4 but took over with 29.2 att per game after that. He had a school record 271 vs Auburn (46 att) and 189 in the SEC Title game (44 att). He set the SEC single season rush record with 2,219 (5.6, Herschel Walker 1981). Henry got my vote and took home the Heisman Trophy award (#2DC TEN). Drake (#3DC MIA) was a distant #2 (408, 5.3) and both must be replaced. Harris had 157 (3.4) and Scarbrough played in 6 (104, 5.8). This will be one of the nation's best RB units but it's their fewest returning RB rush yards in more than a decade.

RECEIVERS - In '14 Amari Cooper (#1 rec '12 & '13) had over 3x the amount of yds as the #2. He led with 1,727 (13.9, Biletnikoff Award, 3rd in Heisman). Soph TE OJ Howard (PS#1, 269, 19.2 '13) was #4 (260, 15.3). LY they had to replace their top 3 (#1 DC OAK) but did have 8 that were rated PS#15 or higher. Robert Foster (PS#3) had 99 yds the first 2 but was OFY vs Ole Miss (116, 11.6). True frosh Calvin Ridley lived up to his PS#2 billing and led with 1,045 (11.7). Soph ArDarius Stewart (PS#9) was #2 (700, 11.1), Howard was #3 (602, 15.8) and had a career

day in the National Title gm w/208 yds (41.6l 2 td). TY they lose Oregon St transfer Richard Mullaney (7 st, 390, 10.3, UFA HOU) and TE Ty Flounroy-Smith (3 rec). This group is vastly more exp'd than '15. Ridley & Howard are among the nations best and they add in BG transfer Gehrig Dieter (1033, 11.0).

OFFENSIVE LINE - The Tide had improved their off ypc for an amazing 7 straight yrs (3.5 '06 to 5.8 '13). In '14 their ypc "dropped" to 5.1 (207 ypg) but they did trim their sk% from 4.7% to 3.5% (mobile QB Sims, 350, 4.2). True frosh LT Cam Robinson (PS#1) st'd all 14. LY they lost a 1st Tm SEC 2Y st'g LG (#4DC) their RG and a 2nd Tm SEC 2Y st'g RT (#7DC). Despite a Heisman winner at RB, the unit with just 2 st's back (40 car sts) slipped to 4.7 ypc and 5.6% sks but still won the inaugural Joe Moore Blocking Award (top OL country). This year they lose the Rimington Award winner in C Ryan Kelly (15/36, #1DC IND) and 2nd Tm SEC RT Dominick Jackson (14 st, UFA WAS). They improve to 3 ret st's (64 car sts) including 1st Tm SEC LT Robinson although his status is uncertain after a spring arrest. If Robinson returns, they look even stronger.

DEFENSIVE LINE - Last year Bama had 8 of the top 10 DL's back and I rated it the nations best D-line. They did not disappoint led by 1st Tm AA NG A Shawn Robinson (15 st, 46 tkl, 3.5 sk, 4 tfl, #2DC DET) and 2nd Tm SEC Jarrian Reed (15 st, #4 tkl'r, 4.5 tfl, #2 DC SEA) Bama allowed just 76 ypg rush (2.4). After having 53 sacks in '13 & '14 comb'd, the D had a Saban era high 53 sacks in '15 alone! DE Jonathan Allen (12 sks) turned down the NFL while DaRon Payne is a future #1 DC and is joined by plenty of other VHT's (see below). Bama went 3 consec yrs of not placing a DL on the 1st or 2nd Tm SEC ('12-'14) but had 3 LY. This will still be one of the nation's top D-lines despite losing two #2DC's (Robinson and Reed) and 2 bkps (21 tkl).

LINEBACKERS - LY they lost a 2nd Tm SEC LB (#3 tkl'r) but ret'd 6 of their top 7 including 1st Tm SEC Reggie Ragland, #2 tkl'r, 10.5 tfl). They have been recruiting smaller faster LB's to deal with the HUNH offenses making them more of a legitimate 3-4 now. Tim Williams (PS#7) had 0 tfl in Sept but later emerged as a pass rusher (10.5 sk). The Tide allowed just 15.1 ppg. TY they lose 1st Tm AA Ragland (15 st, #1 tkl'r, 2.5 sk, #2DC BUF), Dillon Lee (6 st, 27 tkl, 1 sk, 2 int, UFA NO) and Denzel Devall (15 st, 25 tkl, 1 sk). Reuben Foster (PS#2, #2 tkl'r) turned down the NFL as did Tim Williams, who was unblockable in the SG. They are close to '15's exceptional group (6 of top 9 back).

DEFENSIVE BACKS - Saban spends a lot of time coaching DB's and is normally harder on the secondary than any other unit. LY they lost their top 3 S's including a 1st Tm AA (Nagurski finalist, #1 tkl'r, #2DC). They moved two CB's (comb 17 sts '14) to S which made the unit faster. They were aided by a strong pass rush and the Tide finished #4 in my PDR (50.5%, 17-19 ratio). TY they lose 3rd Tm SEC CB Cyrus Jones (15 st, #10 tkl'r, 2 int, 7 pbu, #2DC NE) and FS Geno Matias-Smith (15 st, #3 tkl'r, 1 int, UFA WAS). SS Eddie Jackson turned down the NFL making the unit just as exp'd as '15 (13 VHT's).

SPECIAL TEAMS - In '14 true frosh P JK Scott (PS#4) avg 48.0 (#1 FBS) with a 44.7 net (#1 FBS). Adam Griffith (PS#4) hit his first 7 fg's (long 47) but was 5-12 after that (20 TB on 69 KO). LY they had to replace their top PR (152, 8.0) and KR (851, 23.0). Bama surprisingly struggled in coverage early on. Scott got off to a slow start but avg 44.2 (37.0 net). Griffith opened 0-4 on FG's, but hit 23-28 (schl rec 16 in row) after that (long 55, 7-11 40+) and had 55 TB on 100 KO. Cyrus Jones became their first player with 2 PRTD's in the same game (530, 12.6, 4 td!). Kenyan Drake (#3DC MIA) had 505 (22.6) on KR's. Bama was #10 but must replace Jones.

COACHES - After taking over in 2007 Nick Saban has led Bama to 4 Nat'l Titles and 8 straight Top 10 AP finishes. Now in

his 3rd season with Saban, OC Lane Kiffin used his 7Y of HC exp (NFL OAK, Tenn, USC) to lead the Tide to their best ever offense avg 485 ypg in '14. Former Tide secondary coach Jeremy Pruitt, who was under Saban from '07-'12, returns for his 2nd stint in '16 as DC, replacing Kirby Smart (HC Georgia). Pruitt excelled as Georgia's DC '14-'15. In '13, Pruitt served as DC at Florida St. (Nat'l Title 12.1 ppg). Saban did switch ST coor's TY promoting Burton Burns (10th yr on staff, RB ch).

THIS DECADE 72-10(8.8%) - Alabama has won 4 Nat'l Titles in the L7Y. Two of the 3Y they did not win the title they entered the season #1 in the AP Poll which was '10 (10-3) and '13 (11-2). They won Nat'l Titles with preseason rankings of #5, #2, #2 and #3. In '13 #1 Bama gave up a missed fg td vs Auburn, costing them a trip to the SEC & Nat'l Title games. They lost their bowl to Okla and finished #7. In '14 the Tide overcame an early loss and whipped Missouri 42-13 in the SEC Title game (#1 seed for playoffs). Bama led Ohio St 21-20 at half despite being outgained 348-149 but lost 42-35. They finished 12-2 (#4). LY they overcame an early loss to Ole Miss and won the Nat'l Title again and their 72-10 record is best this decade.

2015 ANALYSIS 14-1 - Bama had just 10 ret st's in '15. LY Auburn was the media's pick to win the SEC (I had Bama). At 2-0 they had a 17 gm home win streak snapped due to -5 in TO's vs Ole Miss. Bama had a streak of 72 straight gms as a favorite end at UGA but routed the Bulldogs 38-10. Bama needed a TD w/2:24 left to win by 5 at home vs Tenn. The Tide was #7 & a TD fav over #4 LSU and led 30-10 (434-182 yd). Bama got a 25 yd TD run by Henry w/26 left to beat Auburn by 16 on the road. They became the first team s/98 to win B2B SEC Titles when they beat Florida. They shutout Mich St in the playoffs and then beat Clemson in the National Championship.

ALSO ON ROSTER:

WR Tre'Dunn 6'0" 170 Fr
RB Ty Turner 5'9" 171 Jr
RB Avery Reid 6'0" 192 So
WR Lawrence Ekeokoma 5'7" 180 Jr
WR Derek Gore 5'11" 212 Jr
WR Armani Purifoye 6'0" 190 So
WR Jonathan Rice 6'4" 207 So
WR Josh Pugh 6'1" 208 So
WR Parker Barden 6'1" 201 So
WR Jamar Michael Willis 6'0" 199 Sr
WR Torin Marks 5'11" 175 Jr
WR Austin Johnson 6'2" 200 Jr
WR Thomas Woods 5'6" 165 Jr
TE Brandon Greene 6'3" 307 Sr
TE Truett Harris 6'3" 235 Sr
TE Brandon Moore 6'0" 248 Sr
TE Hunter Bryant 6'5" 226 Jr
TE Jacob Parker 6'1" 224 Jr
DB Donagan Mosley 5'10" 185 So
DB Nate Stakelmeier 6'3" 207 Sr
DB Blaine Anderson 5'10" 167 Sr

PHIL'S FORECAST

OFFENSE - Over the last 7 yrs Bama has avg between 32.1-38.7 ppg (very consistent) and LY with just 3 ret st's avg 35.1 ppg. TY the O-line and receiving corps are much more exp'd. They have a 1st time starting QB again (4 Nat'l Title w/ one) and lose their Heisman Trophy winning RB. I think they are improved and will top '15's total (only 427 ypg LY).

DEFENSE - Kirby Smart departs but Saban should have a smooth transition as he brings in Jeremy Pruitt, who was on the staff for 6 years and was a top-notch DC at Georgia and Florida St. While he loses some big time players to the NFL, they plug in other uber VHT's who will become stars this year. His biggest gifts were DL Jonathan Allen, LB Reuben Foster, LB Ryan Anderson and S Eddie Jackson all turning down the NFL.

2016 - Going thru this team, it is remarkable the amount of uber VHT's they have on the 2nd and 3rd team (players that would be stars at almost any other school). No wonder Saban has taken home 4 National Titles in 8 years. Three of those were won with an inexp'd QB (and when they were not preseason #1). Saban has now won 8 "championship" games in a row (either SEC or National). Alabama is just #116 in my Experience Chart but was #124 last year. The biggest question may be the schedule. They face their top 3 SEC foes (Miss, Tenn, LSU) all on the road and USC at a neutral site. They do not fare well when preseason #1 and have a killer schedule but this team is capable of taking home another title.

OFFENSE

JERSEY # IN CRIMSON

2016 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY # IN CRIMSON

DEFENSE

QB 18 Cooper Bateman Jr. 6-3 224 **PS#8.** 14 gm holder '14. 1 st, 15 gm, 291 (71%, 1-2) LY 2 Jalen Hurts (6'2" 210 Fr) **PS#16.** IFS. **8** Blake Barnett (6'5" 200 rFr) **PS#3.** **12** David Cornwell (6'5" 234 So) **PS#6.**
RB 34 Damien Harris So. 5-11 214 **PS#1.** 12 gm, 157 (3.4) 174 KR (19.3) LY **9** Bo Scarbrough (6'2" 230 So) **PS#6.** 7 gm, 104 (5.8) LY BJ Emmons is **PS#5.** **5** Ronnie Clark (6'2" 217 So) **PS#15.** 3 gm, 20 (4.0) LY **31** Xavier Marks (5'8" 160 So).
WR 3 CALVIN RIDLEY SO. 6-1 188 **PS#2.** 11 st, 1045 (11.7), **2nd Tm SEC** as true. **81** Derek Fick (6'4" 200 So) **PS#36.** 10 gm LY 4 Daylon Charlott (6'0" 195 So) **PS#15.** 5 gm as true. **10** TJ Simmons is **PS#71.**
WR 1 Robert Foster Jr. 6-2 191 **PS#1.** 8 st, 44 (7.3) 14. 3 st, 116 (11.6), OFY LY. Gehrig Dieter (6'3" 207 Jr) **PS#11.** 3 st '12 at SMU. Trans '13. 6 st, 460 (13.1) '14. 1033 (11.3) at BG LY. Raheem Falkins (6'4" 202 Sr).
WR 13 ARDARIUS STEWART JR. 6-1 204 **PS#9.** 2 st, 13 gm '14. 15 st, 700 (11.1) LY. **17** Cam Sims (6'5" 206 Jr) **PS#20.** 25 gm, 108 (8.3) 2Y. Trevon Diggs is **PS#26.** **28** Anthony Averett (6'0" 180 Jr) **PS#36.** Torin Marks (5'11" 175 Jr).
TE 88 OJ HOWARD SR. 6-6 242 **PS#1.** 8 st, 529 (17.1) 2Y. 15 st, 602 (15.8) LY. **84** Hale Hentges (6'5" 256 So) **PS#3.** 2 st true LY. Miller Forchall (6'5" 220 Fr) **PS#24.** **89** Brandon Greene (6'5" 307 Sr) **PS#39OL.** 1 st, 15 gm LY.
C 71 ROSS PIERSCHBORRIST SO. 6-4 304 **PS#10.** 14 st, 15 st, LG SEC Fr Tm LY. **63** JC Hassenauser (6'2" 297 Jr) **PS#11.** 7 gm LY. **67** Josh Casher (6'1" 284 So) **PS#35.** 1 gm LY. **LS** Cole Mazza (6'2" 235 Sr) **PS#1.** 39 gm 3Y.
RG 50 ALPHONSE TAYLOR SR. 6-5 345 **PS#70.** 2 st, 12 gm '14. 15 st LY. **56** Brandon Kennedy (6'3" 302 Jr) **PS#24.** **59** Dallas Warmack (6'2" 299 So) **PS#35.** 7 gm true. **LS** **53** Ryan Parris (6'0" 209 So). Scott Meyer (6'2" 215 Fr).
LG 66 Lester Cotton So. 6-4 319 **PS#8.** 4 gm true. **75** Bradley Bozeman (6'5" 312 Jr) **PS#1.** 2 st at C, 8 gm '14. 15 gm LY. **72** Richie Pettibon (6'4" 300 rFr) **PS#11.** 1 gm LY. **79** Chris Owens is **PS#41.** IFS. **62** Will Davis (6'5" 325 Sr).
RT 73 Jonah Williams Fr. 6-5 288 **PS#2.** **70** Charles Baldwin (6'5" 297 Jr) **PS#3JC.** IFS. **2nd Tm NJCAA** LY. **77** Matt Womack (6'7" 320 rFr) **PS#97.** Scott Lashley is **PS#42.** **64** Eastwood Thomas (6'5" 297 So).
LT 74 CAM ROBINSON JR. 6-6 327 **PS#1.** 14 st, Fr AA as true. 15 st, **1st Tm SEC** LY. ? for this season.
78 Korren Kirven (6'4" 308 Sr) **PS#49.** 8 gm DL 2Y. 1 st, 6 gm at OT LY. Deonte Brown is **PS#34.**
K 99 Adam Griffith Sr. 5-10 193 **PS#4.** 12-19 lg, 147, 53-54 PAT, 20 TB/69 KO. 14. 23-32 lg, L/55, 62-62 PAT, 55 TB/100 KO, **2nd Tm SEC** LY. JK Scott (6'5" 198 Jr) **PS#4.** **96** Gunnar Raborn (5'9" 180 Jr). Andy Pappanastos (5'11" 194 Jr).

DE 93 JONATHAN ALLEN SR. 6-3 294 **PS#9.** 13 gm, 16 gm, 145 tkl, 12 st, 33 tkl, 5.5 sk, 6 tfl, 7 qbh, 1st Tm SEC '14. 11 st, 36 tkl, 12 sk, 3rd Tm AA LY. **69** Josh Frazier (6'4" 315 Jr) **PS#14.** 12 gm, 5 tkl LY. Terrell Hall is **PS#7.**
NG 54 Dalvin Tomlinson Sr. 6-3 307 **PS#41.** 14 gm, 22 tkl '14. 15 gm, 34 tkl, 6 pbu LY. **91** OJ Smith (6'2" 315 So) **PS#62.** 1 gm LY. **36** Johnny Dwight (6'3" 306 So) **PS#18.** 1 gm LY. Raekwon Davis is **PS#25.** Kendall Jones is **PS#17.**
DE 9 DE J.D. SHAWN HAND JR. 6-4 278 **PS#1.** 9 gm, 7 tkl, 2 sk as true. 15 gm, 16 tkl, 6.5 tfl LY. **94** DaRon Payne (6'2" 319 So) **PS#9.** 3 st, 15 gm, 13 tkl as true. **94** Dakota Ball (6'3" 268 Sr) **PS#66.** **51** Jake Long (5'9" 228 Sr).
ILB 56 Tim Williams Sr. 6-4 237 **PS#7.** 12 gm, 5 tkl, 1.5 sk '14. 15 gm, 19 tkl, 10.5 sk LY. **48** Mekhi Brown (6'5" 243 rFr) **PS#13.** **17** Adonis Thomas (6'2" 225 rFr) **PS#15.** Christian Bell is **PS#53.** Jamey Mosley (6'5" 226 So).
ILB 10 REUBEN FOSTER SR. 6-1 240 **PS#2.** 1st, 11 gm, 22 tkl '14. 8 st, 73 tkl, 9 pbu, 8 tfl LY. **22** Ryan Anderson (6'2" 253 Sr) **PS#35.** 15 gm, 37 tkl, 6 sk LY. **31** Keaton Anderson (6'1" 220 rFr) **PS#63.** Lyndell Wilson is **PS#1.**
ILB 32 RASHAAN EVANS JR. 6-3 230 **PS#2.** 13 gm, 15 tkl '14. 14 gm, 10 tkl, 4 sk LY. **42** Keith Holcombe (6'4" 227 So) **PS#46.** 15 gm, 9 tkl LY. **40** Joshua McMillon (6'3" 245 rFr) **PS#25.** Gussie Busch (5'11" 205 So).
SLB 20 SHAUN DION HAMILTON JR. 6-0 232 **PS#13.** 14 gm as true. 5 st, 15 gm, 27 tkl LY. **47** Christian Miller (6'4" 230 So) **PS#3.** 12 gm LY. **33** Anfernee Jennings (6'3" 268 So) **PS#37.** Ben Davis is **PS#3.** Derek Garnett (6'1" 240 Jr).
CB 29 MINKAH FITZPATRICK SR. 6-1 200 **PS#5.** 10 st, 14 gm, 45 tkl, 11 pbu, 2 int as true. **7** Tony Brown (6'0" 195 Jr) **PS#5.** 3 st, 14 gm, 10 tkl '14. 13 gm, 16 tkl LY. ? '16 (susp). Maurice Smith (6'0" 195 Sr) **PS#24.** 15 gm, 15 tkl LY.
CB 26 MARLON HUMPHREY SO. 6-1 198 **PS#2.** 15 st, 45 tkl, 8 pbu, 3 int LY. **11** Kendall Sheffield (6'0" 188 Fr) **PS#4.** Nigel Knott (5'11" 180 Fr) **PS#11.** Jared Mayden (6'0" 198 Fr) **PS#25.** Levi Wallace (6'0" 170 So). Bo Grant (6'2" 195 Sr).
SS 4 EDDIE JACKSON SR. 6-0 194 **PS#124.** 1 st, 4 tkl, 6 pbu '14. 15 st, 46 tkl, 6 int, **2nd Tm AA** LY.
6 Laurence "Hootie" Jones (6'2" 214 Jr) **PS#9.** ? '16. **28** Anthony Averett (6'0" 180 Jr) **PS#36.** 6 gm, 2 tkl LY.
FS 15 Ronnie Harrison So. 6-3 216 **PS#3.** 1st, 15 gm, 17 tkl, 6 pbu, 2 int LY as true. **27** Shawn Burgess-Becker (6'1" 215 So) **PS#20.** 13 gm, 3 tkl LY as true. **14** Deonte Brown (6'2" 183 Fr) **PS#7.** Shyheim Carter is **PS#13.**
P 15 JK SCOTT JR. 6-5 198 **PS#4.** 55 punts (48.0) L/73, 44.7 net, 1st Tm AA '14. 70 punts, L/59 (44.2), 37.0 net LY. **99** Adam Griffith (5'10" 193 Sr) **PS#4.** Brandon Satterfield (6'2" 210 So). Gunnar Raborn (5'9" 180 Jr).

