

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS



DL DeANGELO BROWN

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2016

QUARTERBACKS - Will Gardner (PS#59) st'd in '14 until injury. True frosh Reggie Bonnafon (PS#25) earned 5 starts with rFr Kyle Bolin (PS#36) starting the bowl. The 3 QB's comb for 3,276 yds (55%, 21-10, 43 rush). Bonnafon is a dual-threat QB (164 rush) and Bolin is the most accurate. LY they added true frosh Lamar Jackson (PS#29). Bonnafon was the official st'r for the opener but Jackson led the comeback vs Aub. Jackson st'd vs UH (just 3rd true frosh QB st'r here s/1976) but Bolin led the comeback and st'd vs Clemson. Jackson st'd the next 5 and broke the UL single gm QB rush record with 184 (Jim Wagoner 162 in '74). Jackson inj'd his ankle and Bolin st'd vs Syr (24-35-362-3-1) and retook the job. He struggled vs UVA (10-21-139-1-0) but won. Bolin st'd vs Pitt but was benched trailing 42-17. Jackson almost guided the comeback. Bolin started vs UK but two 1Q int's got Jackson in for a comeback win. HC Bobby Petrino made his fifth and final QB change as Jackson threw for 227 and ran for a new QB rush rec of 226 vs A&M. Jackson struggled taking snaps from under center but improved during the year and threw for 1,840 (54.7%, 12-8, 960 rush). Bolin finished with 1,154 (56.9%, 7-6) while Bonnafon added 192 (58.3%, 2-1, 175 rush). Jackson should be one of the ACC's top QB's for '16.

RUNNING BACKS - In '14 Brandon Radcliff had 129 vs WF, 110 vs Syr and 136 vs ND to lead w/737 (5.1). At 226 lbs true frosh LJ Scott (PS#63), a prototypical Petrino RB, avg 6.9 (201 yd). LY they added PS#98JC Jeremy Smith and NW trans Malin Jones (PS#37). Big things were expected from Radcliff but he had just 263 over the first 8 (late fmb1 vs BC, bench vs WF). He ret'd with a vengeance (117 Syr, 146 Virg) and led the RB's with 634 (4.6). Smith had 129 comb'd in B2B gms vs WF and Syr (270, 4.5). Scott had just 137 (3.6) while QB Bonnafon also saw time as a hybrid QB/RB. A big reason for the RB struggles was an O-line that was allowing contact after less than 2 yds in the 1H of the year. With an improved O-line and everyone back, I look for significantly stronger numbers.

RECEIVERS - In '14 the Cardinals had 4 of their top 5 back. Devante Parker (inj) missed the first 7 but showed off his NFL form as he had 855 (19.9) in the final 6! VHT James Quick (PS#6) was #2 (566, 15.7). LY Quick was the only one of the top 6 rec's to return. They added in A&M trans Ja'Quay Savage (PS#16), UAB trans Jamari Staples (648 yds 2 yr), 2 JC's and some solid frosh. It was an injury depleted unit early on (1st 3 wks) with Staples, Quick and TE Cole Hikutini all inj'd (4 rec comb). Staples (miss 1st 4) had 194 vs Pitt and led with 638 (17.2). Quick had 130 vs Fla St (#2, 624, 16.0) while Hikutini was #4 (348, 18.3). True frosh Jaylen Smith had

214 in the first 4 (162 last 9) and finished #3. Everyone is back with 11 guys that are at 6'3" or taller making it one of the top units in the country.

OFFENSIVE LINE - LY the unit lost a 2nd Tm ACC LT(#3DC), 4Y LG (#3DC), a 4Y RG and a RT (7 st, lost job). They lost 158 car sts and had just 19 back! I pointed out the numbers were weaker than expected in '14 (143, 3.6, 41 sk) and Aaron Epps st'd the L/6 so they had 2 ret st's and added in 2 JUCO's. The numbers improved to 171 (4.5, 44 sk) aided by more mobile QB's. They shuffled the unit early and often with 11 diff st's. TY they lose RT Aaron Epps (8/14, UFA CIN), RG Skylar Lacy (9/10), RT Kelby Johnson (1/1, UFA TB), LG Pedro Sibia (3/3) and C TC Klusman (2/3). Six of the top 11 return, including 2 true frosh who st'd (53 car sts), making them more exp'd and hopefully a more stable unit in '16.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '14 UL shifted to a 3-4 and had to replace all 3 st's (#1DC), yet only all'd 28 rush ypg more. LY they only lost 1 DE (#6DC). Five of the top 6 ret'd incl 3rd Tm ACC Sheldon Rankins (8 sk '14). My computer called for them to allow 115 ypg rush and they yielded 120 (3.3, 38 sk). TY they lose 2nd Tm ACC DE Rankins (6 sk tk'l, 13 st, 6 sk, 7 tfl, #1DC NO) and DE Pio Vatuvei (5 st, 26 tk'l, 1 sk). They return 4 of the top 6 including 2nd Tm ACC NT DeAngelo Brown and add in Ole Miss/JC transfer Chris Williams (PS#87). While less exp'd, keep in mind the job they did with that '14 unit.

LINEBACKERS - LY the Cardinals had to replace a 1st Tm ACC LB (#5 tk'l, #3DC) and their #9 tackler. They ret'd the unit's top 2 tk'l's (#2 & #3) in the "Bash Brothers" Keith Brown and James Burgess. They also added in TCU transfer Devonte Fields (B12 DPOY '12)! Fields arrived late but had a big 2H of the year and led the FBS in tfl per gm (1.73). My computer proj (pg 43) forecast them to allow 23.7 ppg (allowed 24.1). TY they lose their Bash Brother duo in 2nd Tm ACC Burgess (13 st, #2 tk'l, 9 tfl, UFA MIA) and Brown (6 st, #10 tk'l, 2 tfl, trans to WKU). Trevon Young (6'4" 237) is bigger than Burgess (6'0" 229) and had 10 tfl. Fields got 8 sts at DE and is now locked in at LB so this looks like one of the ACC's top LB units again.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - The story of the unit in '14 was the emergence of Gerod Holliman (PS#20) who tied an NCAA record with 14 int (AIWorley, Washington '68). The Cards finished #2 in my PDR. LY they had to replace the Jim Thorpe Award winner, a #6 DC CB, their #6 tk'l and SS (#1 tk'l, #4DC). They had 111 car sts gone and ret'd only 5 of the '14's FBS leading 26 int's. They did add in a pair of VHT transfers from Georgia Shaq Wiggins (PS#37) and Josh Harvey-Clemons (PS#1) who had 11 car SEC sts. As expected they dropped in my PDR but were still solid at #47 (56.1%, 23-17). TY they lose S Jermaine Reve (7 st, #9 tk'l) and DeEric Culver (10 tk'l) but have 6 of the top 8 back and add in PS#58JC Ronald Walker. Harvey-Clemons did move to LB so they go from 0 ret st's to 3 and could move back into the Top 10 of my PDR.

SPECIAL TEAMS - LY the unit had to replace their P & LS. K John Wallace hit 15-21 FG (long 50, 28 TB 73 KO) and became the career leader in FG's. ST coach Tony Grantham said Josh Appleby had one of the strongest legs of any P he ever coached and he avg 40.4 (39.1 net, 57 PR yds all'd). The return game was average with the exception of a 100 yd KR vs Clemson by true frosh Traveon Samuel. They were #9 in '15 and lose their K & P and should finish in the same area again.

COACHES - Bobby Petrino left L'ville after a 12-1 season in '06 ('03-'06) and the Cards won a comb'd 15 gms over the next 3Y. Now in year 3 of his return, w/17 wins total in '14-'15, Petrino seems settled in. He spent '13 at WKU and was also with the Atlanta Falcons ('07) and Ark ('08-'11). OC Garrick McGee left for Illinois and the new Co-OCs are Lonnie Galloway (WR cch)

and Chris Klenakis (OL cch). Galloway is off a 2nd stint at WV (WR/asst HC '13-'15, '08-'10). Third year DC Todd Grantham was the DC ('10-'13) at Georgia. He also spent 11 yrs in the NFL incl 2Y as the Cowboys DL cch ('08-'09) and 3Y as the Browns DC ('05-'08). Tony Grantham (brother of DC) is in his 2nd ssn here (ST/LB) after serving as Navy's LB cch the prior six seasons.

THIS DECADE 54-24 (69.2%) #19 - When former HC Howard Schnellenberger ('85-'94) got UL's program turned around he said that the Cardinals were on a collision course for the Nat'l Title. In '06 they blew a 25-7 lead at Rutgers or they would have been in that Nat'l Title gm. Bobby Petrino left after '06 (12-1, #6). The next 5 yrs, the Cards were 29-33 but did get to bowls in each of Charlie Strong's F2Y ('10 & '11, 7-6 each yr). In '12 they had just 9 Sr's but won the final Big East Title and then ambushed #4 Florida in the Sugar Bowl finishing AP #13. The Cards did not face a tm that was ranked when they played in '13. They went 12-1 and won 36-9 over Miami in the bowl (#15). In '14 Strong left for Texas but Petrino ret'd. He only had 11 ret st's and lost Teddy Bridgewater while stepping up to the ACC. That '13 team was +17 in TO's. L'ville was crushed by UGA in the bowl 37-14 and finished 9-4 (#24). LY they opened 0-3 but finished 8-5 and their 54-24 record makes them #19 in the FBS this decade.

2015 ANALYSIS 8-5 - UL ret'd just 9 st's in '15 and had just 10 sch seniors. L'ville had a 405-327 yd edge vs Auburn but came up 7 pts short. In a Nat'l TV sandwich they were upset by Houston at home (UH finish #8 AP). UL missed a 53 yd FG at the end vs UH losing by 3. They missed a 38 yd FG w/2:28 left vs Clemson to lose by 3 and opened 0-3 for the first time s/1984. They st'd 3 diff QB's in the 1st 3. L'ville beat NCSt on the road and had a 267-179 yd edge vs Florida St at half but lost by 20. UL had a 365-79 yd edge vs BC but won by just 3 and then topped WF by 1 with zero 4Q pts in either game. They beat Syracuse and Virginia, but trailed Pitt 42-17 and lost by 11. Louisville trailed UK 24-7 in the 3Q but rallied to win by 14 and later beat a Texas A&M team down to its #3 QB by 6 in the bowl for an 8-5 record (NR).

ALSO ON ROSTER: RB Trey Smith 6'0" 215 rFr TE Paul Logistics 6'3" 210 Jr QB Ethan Horton 6'0" 208 Jr WR Pat Thomas 6'4" 190 Sr DB Aaron Floyd 5'10" 172 So QB Sean McCormack 6'5" 200 Fr WR Chris Miele 6'2" 190 Jr

PHIL'S FORECAST

OFFENSE - L'ville avg 35.6 ppg over their final 5 gms in '15. If QB Lamar Jackson plays all year like he did in the bowl game, their offense will be unstoppable. They have 9 ret st's on offense (Petrino is known for his offenses) and my computer says (pg 43) they will be about a TD per game better than LY's 28.7 ppg.

DEFENSE - Losing DL Rankins and the "Bash Brothers" at LB is tough, but they have back LB Devonte Fields, S Josh Harvey-Clemons and CB Shaq Wiggins, who all saw their first action here last year. With 8 returning starters they could be stronger despite the losses.

2016 - L'ville won 8 of their last 10 gms in '15 including a bowl win over A&M so they come in with some momentum. They have a Stock Market Indicator of +2.5 and go from 9 ret st's and #117 in my experience rankings, to 17 ret st's and 14th most exp'd. QB Jackson has a great set of WR's to throw to and they are in the top 4 of the ACC in both Offense and Defense. The ST's need to improve. All the talk this year in the ACC will be about Florida St and Clemson who are both National Title contenders but Louisville has the talent to challenge those 2 in the Atlantic. Even with the addition of Houston on the non-conference slate, 3 of my 9 sets of power ratings are calling for double digit wins. Check out page 35 to see if Louisville made my Surprise Team List (National Title contenders).

OFFENSE

JERSEY #
IN RED

2016 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY #
IN RED

DEFENSE

QB 8 LAMAR JACKSON SO. 6-3 196 PS#29. 7 st, 1840 (55%, 12-8), 960 rush (5.9) as true. 7 Reggie Bonnafon (6'3" 209 Jr) PS#25. 5 st, 864 (51%, 5-4) 14. 3 st (1QB, 2RB) 192 (58%, 2-1), 175 rush (3.9) LY. 14 Kyle Bolin (6'2" 208 Jr).
RB 23 BRANDON RADCLIFF SR. 5-9 214 PS#89. 5 st, 737 (5.1) 14. 5 st, 634 (4.6) LY. 27 LJ Scott (6'0" 226 Jr) PS#63. 3 st, 201 (6.9) 14. 4 st, 137 (3.6) LY. 34 Jeremy Smith (6'2" 221 Jr) PS#98JC. 33 Malin Jones (6'0" 225 Sr) PS#37.
WR 17 JAMES QUICK SR. 6-1 191 PS#6. 9 gm, 73 (12.2) as true. 12 st, 566 (15.7) 14. 8 st, 624 (16.0) LY.
9 Traveon Samuel (5'7" 178 So) PS#64. 13 gm, 177 (9.8), 321 KR (26.8) as true. Emonee Spence (6'3" 194 So) PS#72.
19 JA'QUAY SAVAGE JR. 6-3 214 PS#16. 10 gm, 71 (17.8) as true. A&M trans '14. 6 st, 135 (11.7) LY.
86 Devante Peete (6'6" 203 So) PS#33. 13 gm, 166 (13.8) as true. Gio Pascascio (6'3" 185 Sr), Jalen Washington (5'11" 177 So).
WR 2 JAMARI STAPLES SR. 6-4 195 PS#265. 12 st, 648 (16.2) F2Y at UAB. 6 st, 638 (17.2) LY. 87 Jaylen Smith (6'4" 184 So) PS#164. 10 st, 376 (13.0) as true. 88 Javonte Bagley (6'3" 192 Jr) PS#310. 4 gm as true. 1 st, 88 (12.6) LY.
TE 18 COLE HIKUTINI SR. 6-5 242 PS#134JC. 3 st, 348 (18.3) LY. 89 Keith Towbridge (6'5" 261 Sr) PS#57. 12 st, 261 (13.7) 3Y. 83 Micky Crum (6'4" 257 So) PS#45. 7 st, 163 (11.6) LY. Charles Standberry (6'3" 226 Jr) PS#409JC.
C 61 TOBIJAH HUGLEY SR. 6-3 289 DNP '13. 11 st, 14. 11 st LY. 54 Kevin Austin (6'2" 286 Jr) PS#5042J. DNP as WO LY. LS 49 Colin Holba (6'3" 233 Sr) 1 gm '14. 12 gm LY. 42 Tyler Polston (6'3" 239 Jr) DNP LY.
RG 50 Khalil Hunter Jr. 6-4 291 PS#36JC. 4 gm LY. 56 Kiola Mahoni (6'3" 300 Jr) PS#252JC. 4 st, 8 gm LY. 65 Luke Schultheiss (6'1" 284 Jr). Tyler Haycraft (6'3" 269 Jr) DNP LY. LS 46 Brendan Lowery (5'11" 210 So).
LG 79 Kenny Thomas So. 6-6 320 PS#206. 5 st, 10 gm as true. 71 Chandler Jones (6'4" 300 rFr).
PS#162. Linwood Foy (6'5" 290 Jr). 67 Thomas Nauert (6'2" 255 rFr). LS 41 Ryan Betlach (5'10" 193 Jr).
RT 72 LUKAYAS MCNEIL SO. 6-6 313 PS#119. RS '14. 9 st, 11 gm last season. 68 Danny Burns (6'6" 303 rFr) PS#115. DNP last season. 69 Chaz Ray (6'3" 340 rFr) WO this spring. 63 Nathan Scheler (6'1" 270 So).
LT 74 GERON CHRISTIAN SO. 6-6 320 PS#113. 13 st at LT as true. 70 Toriano Roundtree (6'7" 305 So) RS as a late signee last season. Robbie Bell (6'5" 285 Fr) PS#171. 4 pancake blocks last year as HS Sr.
K 43 Austin Johnson Fr. 6-2 185 PS#21. QB/K/P in HS w/215 all-purp yds, 13td pass, 9 rush tds, 7-8 tgl/L42 as HS Sr. 47 Jon Brown (5'10" 202 Jr) 1 gm, 1 KO LY. 32 Blanton Creque (5'11" 170 So). Anthony George (6'1" 190 Sr).

LE 99 James Hearn's Jr. 6-3 257 PS#39. 11 gm, 12 tk'l, 3.5 tfl LY. 93 Chris Williams (6'1" 295 Jr) PS#87.14.
Ole Miss '14. JC LY. 95 Kyle Shortridge (6'2" 305 Jr) PS#115. 4 gm, 2 tk'l '14. 12 gm, 7 tk'l LY. Mike Boykin is PS#114.
NT 97 DeANGELO BROWN SR. 6-0 308 PS#146. 7 gm, 10 tk'l as true. DNP (inj) '13. 3 st, 20 tk'l, 1.5 sk '14. 12 st, 40 tk'l, 2 sk, 4.5 tfl LY. 90 Johnny Richardson (6'3" 322 Jr) PS#58. 1 st, 9 tk'l '14. 2 gm, 4 tk'l LY. Caleb Tillman is PS#147.
RE 14 Drew Bailey Sr. 6-3 284 PS#82JC. 12 gm, 9 tk'l LY. 94 GG Robinson (6'4" 290 rFr) PS#142.
58 Jonathan Greenard (6'4" 226 rFr) PS#163. Kordell Slater (6'4" 244 Fr) PS#250. Derek Dorsey (6'3" 275 Fr) PS#169.
2nd 92 DEVONTE FIELDS SR. 6-4 245 PS#8JC. B12 DPOY at TCU as true. JC '14. 12 st, 64 tk'l, 11 sk, 11.5 tfl, 3 pbu, 2 sk LY. ACC LY. Gary McCrae (6'4" 220 So) PS#43. Henry Famurewa (6'2" 245 Jr) PS#99. Damien Smith (6'1" 215 So).
MIKE 32 STACY THOMAS JR. 6-1 225 PS#63. 26 gm, 40 tk'l LY. 91 Trevon Young (6'4" 237 Sr) PS#41JC. 11 gm, 7 tk'l '14. 9 st, 32 tk'l, 8.5 sk LY. OFS. 57 Finesse Middleton (5'11" 242 Jr) PS#147. 8 gm, 4 tk'l LY. Trey Smith (6'0" 215 rFr).
MOSS KEITH KELSEY SR. 6-1 236 PS#114. 13 st, 87 tk'l, 6 sk, 3 pbu, 7 qb, HM ACC '14. 13 st, 107 tk'l, 3.5 sk, 8.5 tfl, 3 pbu, 6 qb, 1st Tm ACC LY. 42 Isaac Stewart (6'2" 238 Jr) PS#118. 9 gm, 7 tk'l LY. PJ Blue is PS#39.
WILL 25 JOSH HARVEY-CLEMONS SR. 6-5 230 PS#1. 11 st, 66 tk'l, 5.5 tfl, 6 pd at UGA '13. Trans '14. 13 st, 88 tk'l, 2 tfl, 3 pbu, 3 int LY. NB 53 Amonte Caban (6'1" 226 Fr) PS#58. 29 Javier Santiago (5'9" 190 So). John Stith (5'10" 185 So).
CB 6 SHAQ WIGGINS JR. 5-10 171 PS#37. 8 st, 19 gm, 6 pd as true. UGA trans '14. 13 st, 30 tk'l, 13 pbu LY.
10 Jaire Alexander (5'11" 184 So) PS#137. 1 st, 19 tk'l, 3 pd, 223 PR (9.7) as true. Lamarques Thomas is PS#92.
CB 15 TRUMAINE WASHINGTON JR. 5-10 181 PS#317. 8 gm, 14 tk'l as true. 12 st, 56 tk'l, 7 tfl, 6 pbu, 4 int, 3rd Tm ACC LY. 20 Ronald Walker (6'2" 195 Jr) PS#58JC. IFS. 3 Cornelius Sturgill (5'11" 186 So). Devonte Parnell (5'11" 184 Jr).
SS 22 CHUCKY WILLIAMS JR. 6-2 204 PS#68. 9 gm, 6 tk'l '14. 13 st, 61 tk'l, 2 tfl, 7 pbu, 3 int LY. 1 Alphonso Carter is PS#80JC. London Iakop (6'0" 212 Jr) PS#89JC. Marcus Mays (5'10" 185 So). Cannon Crawford (5'6" 166 Fr).
FS 11 Dee Smith So. 6-1 200 PS#52. 6 gm, 7 tk'l as true. 24 Ykieshis Jacob (6'0" 195 Jr) PS#241. 9 gm, 4 tk'l as true. 1 st, 16 tk'l LY. 5 Khane Pass (6'1" 200 rFr) PS#119. 28 Terrence Ross (6'1" 208 Jr) PS#234.
P 43 Austin Johnson Fr. 6-2 195 PS#21. Also at K. 29 Mason King (6'3" 175 rFr) LY. Likely the P showed potential at pract LY. 43 Patrick Soucy (6'0" 185 So). 36 Evan O'Hara (5'10" 194 So) PS#151. WO. DNP LY.

