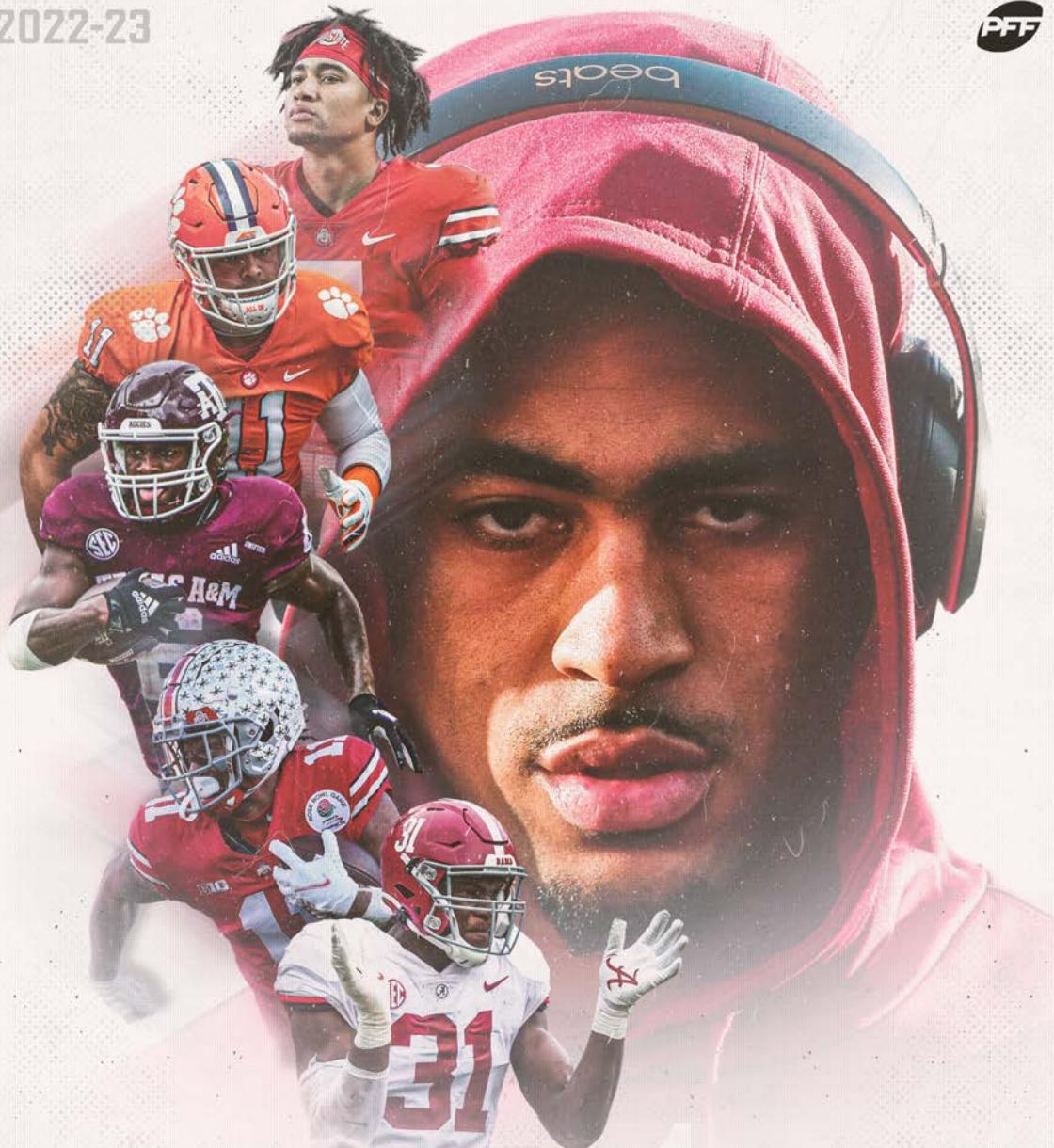


2022-23

PFF



# COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

## Welcome to College Football in the 21st century.

On the field, the sport is as good as it's ever been. The level of talent across positions is as **good as at any point in college football's history**. Importantly, the quarterback play is the highest it's ever been.

## Off the field, everything has changed.

Players have more rights than they ever have with the transfer portal and NIL becoming the two most important aspects of the sport. We've also seen a huge amount of coach movement this offseason. All of this is going to lead to the **most unpredictable season in college football's history**.

Welcome to the 2022 College Football Preview Magazine. Enjoy!

*THE PFF COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM*

## What's inside...

- Biggest strengths and weaknesses by team.
- **Breakout candidates and player spotlights.**
- Offensive and defensive scheme overview.
- **Strength of schedule, odds, and much more!**



# Table of CONTENTS

---

\*Table of Contents is fully hyperlinked\*



## ACC

- Boston College Eagles
- Clemson Tigers
- Duke Blue Devils
- Florida State Seminoles
- Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets
- Louisville Cardinals
- Miami Hurricanes
- North Carolina Tarheels
- North Carolina State Wolfpack
- Pittsburgh Panthers
- Syracuse Orange
- Virginia Cavaliers
- Virginia Tech Hokies
- Wake Forest Demon Deacons

## BIG 10

- Illinois Illini
- Indiana Hoosiers
- Iowa Hawkeyes
- Maryland Terrapins
- Michigan Wolverines

## BIG 10 CONT.

- Michigan State Spartans
- Minnesota Golden Gophers
- Nebraska Cornhuskers
- Northwestern Wildcats
- Ohio State Buckeyes
- Penn State Nittany Lions
- Purdue Boilermakers
- Rutgers Scarlet Knights
- Wisconsin Badgers

## BIG 12

- Baylor Bears
- Iowa State Cyclones
- Kansas Jayhawks
- Kansas State Wildcats
- Oklahoma Sooners
- Oklahoma State Cowboys
- TCU Horned Frogs
- Texas Longhorns
- Texas Tech Red Raiders
- West Virginia Mountaineers

# Table of CONTENTS

---

\*Table of Contents is fully hyperlinked\*



## PAC-12

- Arizona Wildcats
- Arizona State Sun Devils
- California Golden Bears
- Colorado Buffaloes
- Oregon Ducks
- Oregon State Beavers
- Stanford Cardinal
- UCLA Bruins
- USC Trojans
- Utah Utes
- Washington Huskies
- Washington State Cougars

## SEC

- Alabama Crimson Tide
- Arkansas Razorbacks
- Auburn Tigers
- Florida Gators
- Georgia Bulldogs
- Kentucky Wildcats
- LSU Tigers

## SEC CONT.

- Mississippi Rebels
- Mississippi State Bulldogs
- Missouri Tigers
- South Carolina Gamecocks
- Tennessee Volunteers
- Texas A&M Aggies
- Vanderbilt Commodores

## GROUP OF 5 TEAMS

- BYU Cougars
- Central Florida Knights
- Cincinnati Bearcats
- Houston Cougars
- Notre Dame Fighting Irish

ACC  
ACC  
ACC



# BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES



- Head Coach  
**Jeff Hafley**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**64 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**5.9**
- Chance to win ACC  
**2.1%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#40 NTL, #6 ACC**

A hand injury early in 2021 kept quarterback Phil Jurkovec out for most of the season, but he was able to return for the team's final four games. However, he was still a roller coaster. He posted the highest big-time throw rate but the fifth-worst turnover-worthy play rate in the FBS over that span. Jurkovec has to be more willing to play within the structure of the offense. On a positive note, his innate ability to make plays under pressure will be used in full force this fall, given the Boston College offensive line. Four of the unit's five starters from last year are out of the college ranks, while the lone returner — star guard Christian Mahogany — tore his ACL in the offseason. The defense will be just fine thanks to the coverage unit. The Eagles ranked seventh nationally in coverage grade in 2021 and return three of their four most valuable players from that group.

## THE PORTAL

4

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-49 OF 64 TEAMS)

634

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(60 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.10

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

(52 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

The Eagles will go as far as Phil Jurkovec takes them. If he can change his play style for the better, they can be above average for the first time in over a decade.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**42nd**

Sep. 3	Rutgers
Sep. 10	@ Virginia Tech
Sep. 17	Maine
Sep. 24	@ Florida State
Oct. 1	Louisville
Oct. 8	Clemson
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ Wake Forest
Oct. 29	@ Connecticut
Nov. 4	Duke
Nov. 12	@ NC State
Nov. 19	@ Notre Dame
Nov. 26	Syracuse

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ One of the best secondaries in the ACC
- ✓ Run-stuffers up front
- ✓ Explosive pass offense

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Lost 4/5 OL from last year's group
- Boom-or-bust passing game
- No running game

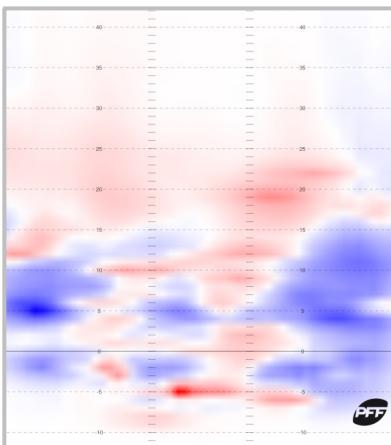
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: PHIL JURKOVEC

Jurkovec's 2021 season started with high hopes but an early season hand injury caused him to miss six games in the middle of the season. He did eventually come back but the results were not very good. The offense, predicated on deep drop backs, would seem to work for Jurkovec's skill set but it took too long for receivers to get open and for the quarterback to work through progressions. New offensive coordinator John McNulty will hopefully give his quarterback easier decisions to make in the passing game. Jurkovec needs to clean up his release as well. He can have a jerky throwing motion. His biggest strength is the ability to throw with people in his face because of his large frame. There's still a lot to like about him from a physical standpoint but he's yet to put it on the field consistently and the talk of him being potentially the number one pick in the draft is premature to say the least.

## 2021 JURKOVEC TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
80.6	12.5%	5.7%	42.0%	13.9
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## TE: GEORGE TAKACS

After being an afterthought in the Notre Dame passing offense, Takacs will look to prove that he can be more than a blocking tight end for Boston College. The 6-foot-6, 247-pound tight end will undoubtedly be an asset in the run game — he stands at the 80th percentile in run-blocking grade among FBS tight ends since 2019. That said, the 2018 four-star recruit has the skill set to become a productive receiver at BC. He was largely ignored during his lone year with ample receiving action in 2021, as he was targeted on just 2.8% of his route (lowest rate among FBS tight ends). Takacs has a massive catch radius that could turn him into a big red zone threat for the Eagles.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: ZAY FLOWERS

No returning Power Five wide receiver for the 2022 season has seen more vertical route targets since 2020 than Flowers, who caught 18 of those 56 looks for 688 yards and nine touchdowns. The 5-foot-10, 177-pounder possesses elite stop-start ability, and that shows up in his routes and after the catch. Over the past three years, Flowers has gathered 25 broken tackles and averaged 7.2 yards after the catch on 114 total receptions. While limitations to his game lead to inconsistent production, he's capable of popping off in any given week.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
73.0	2.27	8.3%	15.2	18
<b>55th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>	<b>T-106th</b>	<b>T-18th</b>	<b>T-32nd</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: JOSH DEBERRY

DeBerry's inside-outside versatility is a massive asset to the Boston College defense. He's been not just the most valuable Eagles defender since 2020, but also the most valuable defensive player — regardless of position — in the entire ACC. Over the past two years, DeBerry ranks first among ACC slot cornerbacks in coverage grade and places in the top five among ACC outside cornerbacks in the same metric. He's a difficult player to shake in one-on-one matchups, regardless of what role he is playing. Boston College is set to field a talented secondary in 2022, but no player will be more important to that unit this fall than the 5-foot-11, 175-pound DeBerry.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
82.2	52.3%	1.04	6.8%	9
<b>13th</b>	<b>53rd</b>	<b>T-100th</b>	<b>T-157th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## G: CHRISTIAN MAHOGANY

Only a handful of Power Five guards produced 80.0-plus grades as both a pass-blocker and run-blocker in 2021, and Mahogany was in that exclusive group. He allowed zero pressures in over half of his games played for 2021. He's a top-10 returning interior offensive lineman nationwide, although he is now set to miss the season after tearing his ACL.

## CB: ELIJAH JONES

Jones tied for third among ACC outside cornerbacks in coverage grade for the 2021 season. While he is prone to giving up a big play every once in a while, he sticks to receivers like glue. In single coverage last year, Jones led the ACC in coverage grade and didn't allow a single open target.

## SAF: JAIDEN WOODBEY

Woodbey revived his college football career by transferring from Florida State to Boston College last year. The 6-foot, 221-pound safety is coming off a career-best 71.8 PFF grade. He is particularly stout against the run, with his run-defense grade in the box ranking third among Power Five safeties in 2021.

## OFFENSE

### OC: JOHN MCNULTY



**PLAY ACTION  
PASSING**

**45th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: TEM LUKABU



**MAN  
COVERAGE**

**64th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**52nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.1%	36.4%	41.9%	10.3%	26.7%	36.5%
<b>70th</b>	<b>113th</b>	<b>57th</b>	<b>101st</b>	<b>96th</b>	<b>33rd</b>

# CLEMSON TIGERS



- Head Coach  
**Dabo Swinney**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**4 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**9.4**
- Chance to win ACC  
**23.3%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#10 NTL, #1 ACC**

Clemson's 2021 offense fell well short of the 2020 unit's success and was the key reason for the team's first sub-10-win regular season since 2015. The passing offense went from 12th in the Power Five to 58th in passing efficiency year-over-year. Quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei struggled to overcome his accuracy woes and turned in a 64.8 passing grade for the season. If Uiagalelei plays at that same level, the ACC may be out of Clemson's hands once again. That is, unless head coach Dabo Swinney and company pivot to five-star true freshman quarterback Cade Klubnik. The Tigers' defense is stacked, especially along the defensive line — a unit that will be in the conversation for the best in the nation. Last year's defense finished top five in expected points added (EPA) allowed, and there's a good chance Clemson holds onto a top spot in 2022 despite defensive coordinator Brent Venables' departure.

## THE PORTAL

1

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-59 OF 64 TEAMS)

527

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(61 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.02

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(42 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**Clemson's offense is still a big question mark. There's some serious doubt the unit will rapidly improve with Uiagalelei in 2022, but the defense can still get the team pretty far.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**52nd**

Sep. 5	@ Georgia Tech
Sep. 10	Furman
Sep. 17	Louisiana Tech
Sep. 24	@ Wake Forest
Oct. 1	NC State
Oct. 8	@ Boston College
Oct. 15	@ Florida State
Oct. 22	Syracuse
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	@ Notre Dame
Nov. 12	Louisville
Nov. 19	Miami FL
Nov. 26	South Carolina

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ One of the best DL in the FBS
- ✓ Special LB corps
- ✓ Backend is still great despite the losses

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Inaccurate QB
- WR room well below the standard
- Inconsistent pass-protection

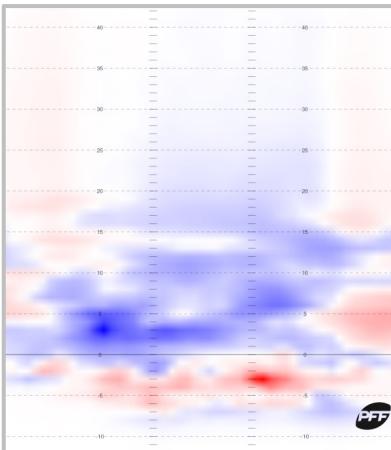
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: D.J. UIAGALELEI

To say it was a poor season from Uiagalelei would be an understatement. Thought of as a Heisman contender and the heir apparent to Trevor Lawrence, the former 5-star quarterback struggled with accuracy throughout the whole season. The receiving corps and offensive line did not do any favors but the quarterback could not elevate his teammates. The accuracy was and still is the biggest concern but he also had a high sack rate. He did continue to show off his ability to throw while in tight situations and his arm strength is still elite but it wasn't enough. He has some mobility and can be a load to take down in the open field. After a rough outing in Clemson's spring game do not be surprised if the Tigers new 5-star phenom Cade Klubnik not only starts at some point in the season but even as early as Week 1.

### 2021 UIAGALELEI TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
66.6	4.5%	2.3%	34.3%	9.1
<b>58th</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>T-15th</b>	<b>61st</b>	<b>T-38th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## LB: JEREMIAH TROTTER JR

Trotter has high expectations due to being former NFL All-Pro linebacker Jeremiah Trotter's son and a top-40 ranked recruit in the 2021 class. The 6-foot-1, 210-pound Tiger could reach those high expectations sooner rather than later while comprising one of the most talented linebacker rooms in the country. Trotter earned a 71.4 PFF grade across his 58 snaps as a true freshman in 2021. He's a heady player who plays in control and has the agility to avoid blocks. Trotter has the traits to be a playmaker in the run game as he was on a limited sample in 2021 (earned a positive grade on over a third of his run defense snaps).

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## OT: JORDAN MCFADDEN

The 2018 three-star recruit owns single-season PFF grades of 88.3, 83.5 and 87.4 over the past three years while serving as a reserve, a starting right tackle and then a starting left tackle. He's played 1,963 career snaps yet been flagged for just two penalties. McFadden took his pass protection to new heights in 2021, allowing zero pressures in over half of his games played en route to a career-best 84.7 pass-blocking grade. The 6-foot-2, 300-pounder's physical tools may not jump out, but he is as consistent as it gets from a technical standpoint.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
87.4	84.7	2.4%	26.4%	84.9
<b>4th</b>	<b>T-14th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>121st</b>	<b>T-13th</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## LB: TRENTON SIMPSON

The 6-foot-3, 225-pound Simpson is one of the best athletes at linebacker in college football. His verified high school testing numbers in the 40-yard dash, vertical jump and short shuttle were comparable to the 80th-90th percentile among NFL combine athletes. Former Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables took advantage of Simpson's physical gifts in his pressure packages, and that shouldn't change much with a new defensive coach in charge. Playing as the SAM/nickel for Clemson in his first year as a starter in 2021, the former five-star recruit recorded an 88.3 pass-rush grade while racking up seven sacks, 13 hits and 11 hurries. Simpson was one of the 10 highest-graded players at the position in the Power Five from Week 4 to the end of the campaign and is poised to take an even bigger leap next fall.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
73.5	65.2	68.8	11.1%	35
<b>18th</b>	<b>64th</b>	<b>38th</b>	<b>T-48th</b>	<b>T-65th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 OFF-BALL LBS

## KEY STARTERS

### EDGE: MYLES MURPHY

Murphy showed up to campus as the No. 7-ranked recruit in the 2020 class and never wavered — he posted PFF grades of 85.2 and 79.2 as a true freshman and sophomore, respectively. The 6-foot-5, 275-pound edge defender has been at his best against the run. Since 2020, his run-defense grade ranks first among Power Five players at the position.

### SAF: ANDREW MUKUBA

Mukuba looked far from a true freshman in 2021. He is an all-around athlete who isn't afraid of physicality, already establishing himself as a top tackler. He missed only three tackles on 48 attempts and finished with 75.0-plus grades against the run and in coverage. He's a top-five returning FBS safety for the 2022 season.

### DI: BRYAN BRESEE

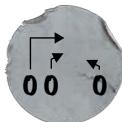
Bresee was a breakout candidate entering his 2021 true sophomore campaign, but a torn ACL in his fourth game derailed that. The 2020 No. 1 overall recruit played 582 snaps his first two years and earned a 70.8 PFF grade. Bresee — a 6-foot-5, 300-pounder — is the total package and should continue on a breakout path in 2022.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: BRANDON STREETER



RPOS



QUICK GAME PASSING



QB RUNS

### 112th

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

### 41st

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: WES GOODWIN



ZONE COVERAGE



MUG FRONTS

### 13th

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

### 4th

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
9.9%	25.9%	38.9%	13.9%	39.3%	35.2%
<b>117th</b>	<b>34th</b>	<b>81st</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>23rd</b>

# DUKE BLUE DEVILS



Head Coach  
**Mike Elko**

PFF Power Ranking  
**89 Of 130**

Projected Win Total  
**5.7**

Chance to win ACC  
**1.4%**

2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#51 NTL, #7 ACC**

It's a new era for Duke football. After a 14-year run under David Cutcliffe, it's Mike Elko's time to lead the Blue Devils as head coach. Unfortunately for Elko, he doesn't have much to work with. The quarterback room features Riley Leonard and Jordan Moore — both of whom were three-star recruits in the 2021 cycle, saw limited action as true freshmen and struggled in that small sample with poor passing grades. In the backfield, Duke lost go-to ball carrier Mateo Durant and is set to have Jordan Waters — who owns a 71.5 rushing grade on 58 career carries — lead the way. The Blue Devils ranked outside the top 50 among Power Five teams in offensive efficiency in 2021. In all likelihood, they won't be any higher in 2022. Last year, the defense ranked last in the ACC in expected points added per play allowed. While they have a strong defensive staff, they don't have the players to be significantly improved in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

**7**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

**5,829**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(24 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.00**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(36 OF 64 TEAMS)



Trust the process, Duke fans. This year isn't it, though.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:  
**67th**

Sep. 2	Temple
Sep. 10	@ Northwestern
Sep. 17	North Carolina A&T
Sep. 24	@ Kansas
Oct. 1	Virginia
Oct. 8	@ Georgia Tech
Oct. 15	North Carolina
Oct. 22	@ Miami FL
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 4	@ Boston College
Nov. 12	Virginia Tech
Nov. 19	@ Pittsburgh
Nov. 26	Wake Forest

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Serviceable offensive line

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Don't have a reliable QB
- The entire defense is a worry — prone to giving up explosive plays vs the run and pass

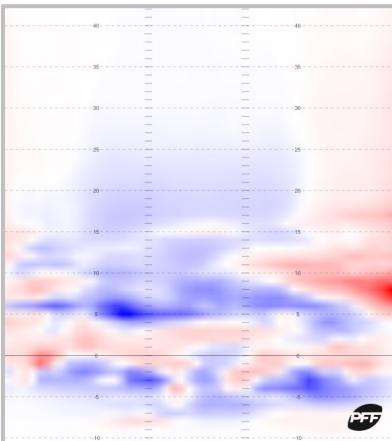
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: RILEY LEONARD / JORDAN MOORE

Jordan Moore and Riley Leonard were both three-star recruits in class of 2021 and both did get some run on the field last season. Leonard was QB2 and so got the majority of the backup snaps — 164 to 85. Neither performed particularly well although Leonard had a solid outing coming on at halftime in the Louisville game with the Blue Devils already down big. New head coach Mike Elko and offensive coordinator Kevin Johns will be expected to inject some modernity in the teams first season post- David Cutcliffe. The Blue Devils have a long way to go.

### 2021 MEMPHIS OFFENSE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
60.8	1.5%	3.5%	30.9%	6.2
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## C: JACK BURNS

Burns was one of the best centers at the FCS level and will now try to be the same in the Power Five after transferring from Cornell to Duke. The 6-foot-3, 304-pound lineman was the second-highest-graded center in the entire FCS last season. He earned a 75.6 grade as a run-blocker and an 84.2 mark in pass protection with just seven pressures allowed — none of which were a sack. He needs to play with consistent leverage at Duke, but Burns could continue to play well despite the steep increase in the level of competition.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: JALON CALHOUN

By the numbers, Calhoun is a pure slot receiver who has been force-fed schemed underneath touches throughout his Duke tenure. Of his 141 career catches, 65 were an underneath reception, which is the third-most in the Power Five since 2019. The problem is, Calhoun hasn't been effective on those opportunities. He's produced 3.9 yards per underneath target since 2019, ranking second-to-last in the Power Five. Calhoun did show in 2021 he could handle a more diverse route tree, so while he may not be an elite producer, there's reason to believe he can build on his 76.1 receiving grade from 2021.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
70.0	2.27	5.1%	7.4	18
T-73rd	T-41st	T-60th	144th	T-32nd

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DL: DEWAYNE CARTER

First things first: Carter needs to improve his run defense and tackling. He earned a poor grade against the run in 2021 and has missed 14 of his 50 career tackle attempts. As a pass-rusher, though, Carter is an impactful player. The 6-foot-3, 300-pound interior defensive lineman produced three or more pressures in eight of his 12 outings a season ago and batted three balls. Not to mention, Carter is also an important leader for Duke. The only thing holding him back is a lack of consistency, although the traits are there for him to become an all-around player.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
70.1	57.8	71.7	11.1%	19
T-50th	T-132nd	T-35th	11th	T-44th

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

# KEY STARTERS

## EDGE: R.J. OBEN

Oben, measuring in at 6-foot-4 and 255 pounds, produced a 73.6 pass-rush grade in 2021 — the sixth-best mark in the ACC. And that success was despite him seeing little game action his first two years on campus in 2019 and 2020.

## OT: ANDRE HARRIS JR

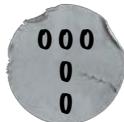
Harris joins Duke as a transfer from Arkansas State, where he was one of the best pass protectors in the Group of Five. He ranked 17th from 2018 through 2020 among Group of Five guards in pass-blocking grade before kicking over to left tackle for 2021 and ranking third.

## OT: GRAHAM BARTON

Barton's positive growth in his 2021 true sophomore year is reason for optimism for 2022. His 75.2 run-blocking grade last year ranked ninth among ACC tackles. The 6-foot-6, 315-pound lineman produced a positively graded run-block rate that stood at the 80th percentile nationally.

## OFFENSE

### OC: KEVIN JOHNS



**PISTOL  
FORMATION**



**RPOS**

**97th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**104th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: ROBB SMITH



**MUG  
FRONTS**



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**

**128th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**107th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
10.2%	26.5%	43.0%	10.3%	26.4%	49.2%
<b>114th</b>	<b>41st</b>	<b>45th</b>	<b>102nd</b>	<b>101st</b>	<b>102nd</b>

# FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES



- Head Coach  
**Mike Norvell**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**50 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.6**
- Chance to win ACC  
**5.3%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#21 NTL, #4 ACC**

Mike Norvell is searching for his first bowl appearance as Florida State's head coach, and 2022 could be the year. Whether quarterback Jordan Travis can consistently win with his arm remains to be seen, but he is a dynamic athlete who will add value on the ground alongside running back Treshawn Ward and company. Last year's Seminoles offense ranked second in the Power Five in explosive run rate (24.1%). Florida State has good depth at receiver, but no true No. 1 option. Given that and Travis' inability to win with his arm, it's unlikely the team's passing offense is above average in 2022. But the ground game and the defense can help keep the Seminoles afloat. Depth is an issue at some spots on defense, but the starting unit is an exciting group. The defense ranked top 10 in the Power Five in unit grade in 2021 and should rank near there in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

**11**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-12 OF 64 TEAMS)

**7,622**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(13 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.13**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(24 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Florida State has a tough schedule ahead of it, but the team just might have enough juice to crack a .500 record and make a bowl game.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**33rd**

Aug. 27	Duquesne
Sep. 4	LSU
Sep. 10	OFF
Sep. 16	@ Louisville
Sep. 24	Boston College
Oct. 1	Wake Forest
Oct. 8	@ NC State
Oct. 15	Clemson
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	Georgia Tech
Nov. 5	@ Miami FL
Nov. 12	@ Syracuse
Nov. 19	Louisiana
Nov. 25	Florida

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Talented safety tandem
- ✓ Well-rounded LB corps
- ✓ Big play run game

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No clear WR1
- Can Jordan Travis win with his arm?
- Thin at corner

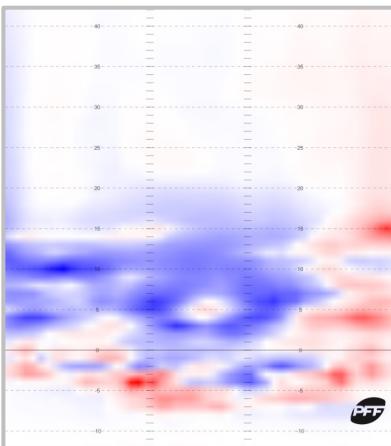
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JORDAN TRAVIS

Playing in a dysfunctional offense certainly did not help Travis but he showed some traits that will help him going forward. With a porous offensive line, there were some nifty plays in the pocket to avoid rushers and make plays with his legs. He was so rarely able to play on time and that might have affected his accuracy, which was a major concern in 2021. A lot of the big completions were schemed up for Travis last season but it's still so unclear to see who he is as a quarterback given how bad Florida State's offense was. The accuracy concerns are real however and that might just be a feature of Travis' game rather than something that can be worked out.

### 2021 TRAVIS TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
85.2	5.2%	2.1%	27.9%	10.0
<b>T-16th</b>	<b>T-23rd</b>	<b>T-9th</b>	<b>42nd</b>	<b>T-19th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## CB: OMARION COOPER

For most teams, a cornerback room heavily that features underclassmen is a concern, but for Florida State, it's not as big of a deal considering Cooper's breakout potential. He shined in his limited playing time as a true freshman in 2021. The four-star recruit posted a 73.9 PFF grade, as he allowed just five catches from 16 targets for 62 yards. While two of those receptions were touchdowns, Cooper made up for it with two interceptions and three pass breakups. The 6-foot, 196-pound corner displayed sharp click-and-close ability and plus ball skills.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: TRESHAUN WARD

Ward's feet and shiftness play a big part in him being a breakaway threat. He didn't have enough attempts to qualify, but his 2.24 rushing yards over expectation in 2021 would have beat out every running back in the country. The 5-foot-10, 192-pounder's 25.3% explosive run rate would have also ranked No. 1. He has established himself as a top receiving option in the passing game, too — his 71.7 receiving grade in 2021 ranked third among ACC running backs. With former Seminoles running back Jashaun Corbin now in the NFL, Ward will look to turn those flashes into consistent production as Florida State's lead back in 2022.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
84.5	25.3%	0.29	3.75	1.53
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### DL: ROBERT COOPER

Cooper has always been a steady force against the run and is now growing as a pass-rusher. He owns an 86.2 run-defense grade for his career, the third-best among 36 ACC interior defensive linemen since 2018. The 6-foot-2, 338-pounder also ranks third or better among that group in run stops (52), run tackles for loss or no gain (20) and positively graded run play rate (22.5%). He used to solely rely on the incredible power in his frame as a pass-rusher, but now he's rushing with a plan — winning with power and technique. Cooper's 12.9% pass-rush win rate in 2021 was nearly double that of his previous career best.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
74.6	77.6	73.4	11.3%	23
<b>21st</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>T-20th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

# KEY STARTERS

## EDGE: JARED VERSE

Verse transferred to Florida State from FCS Albany. The 6-foot-4, 221-pound edge defender has the tools the top programs covet on the edge, and his lone outing against a Power Five program in 2021 (Syracuse in Week 3) was a good one — he earned a 79.9 PFF grade on the back of six pressures and five stops.

## SAF: JAMMIE ROBINSON

Robinson is a top returning safety in the ACC and an all-around player who can go from the slot to deep seamlessly. The 5-foot-11, 192-pounder posted a career-high PFF grade in 2021 after transferring from South Carolina. He's a surefire tackler, too, as his mere 16 misses on 218 career attempts attest.

## G: DILLAN GIBBONS

Gibbons was stuck as a reserve at Notre Dame from 2017 through 2020, prompting a transfer to Florida State in 2021. He didn't disappoint in his first year as a starter, allowing no sacks or hits en route to an 83.3 pass-blocking grade — the ninth-best among Power Five guards last season.

## OFFENSE

### OC: ALEX ATKINS



**GAP RUNS**



**QB RUNS**

**67th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**80th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: ADAM FULLER & RANDY SHANNON



**DIME PACKAGE**



**2-HIGH**

**87th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**16th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.7%	31.4%	35.6%	13.6%	34.6%	43.4%
<b>27th</b>	<b>86th</b>	<b>110th</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>36th</b>	<b>104th</b>

# GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS



- Head Coach  
**Geoff Collins**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**81 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4**
- Chance to win ACC  
**0.6%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#53 NTL, #8 ACC**

It's do-or-die time for head coach Geoff Collins after three straight sub-.500 seasons. The Yellow Jackets made a bowl every year from 1997 through 2014 but have since made just two, and those struggles are expected to continue in 2022. Quarterback Jeff Sims and running back Dontaé Smith both earned 82.0-plus rushing grades in 2021 and should lead a successful ground game, but the passing game brings uncertainty. Sims earned a 57.4 passing grade in 2021 and was woefully inconsistent. Defensively, there's concern everywhere. The Yellow Jackets ranked second-to-last in expected points added per play allowed in 2021. The unit returns just one player who earned a PFF grade above 65.0 in 2021. They'll need several first-time starters to break out to even claw back to somewhere near average.

## THE PORTAL

**16**

 PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(3 OF 64 TEAMS)

**3,993**

 CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(35 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.18**

 2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(16 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**Georgia Tech needs Jeff Sims to reach his perceived ceiling sooner rather than later. The rest of the roster isn't up to par.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**5th**

Sep. 5	Clemson
Sep. 10	Western Carolina
Sep. 17	Ole Miss
Sep. 24	@ UCF
Oct. 1	@ Pittsburgh
Oct. 8	Duke
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 20	Virginia
Oct. 29	@ Florida State
Nov. 5	@ Virginia Tech
Nov. 12	Miami FL
Nov. 19	@ North Carolina
Nov. 26	@ Georgia

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Still have a good backfield despite losing Jahmyr Gibbs
- ✓ Athletic QB that's a threat on the ground

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No passing game to speak of
- Liability in the secondary
- Defensive front vs the run is scary

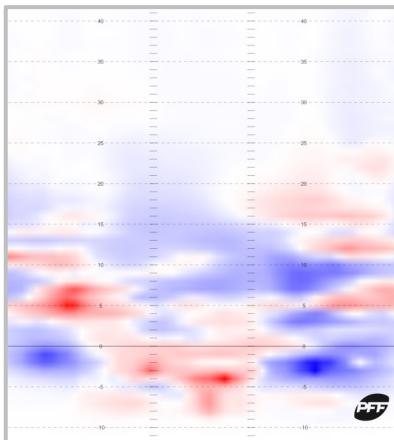
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JEFF SIMS

After starting as a true freshman in 2020, Sims displayed varying signs that he was eventually going to figure it out and be a productive quarterback. It just hasn't happened. Still, being such a young starter on a team depleted of talent and transitioning into an entirely different offensive philosophy was never going to be easy. Zach Gibson, meanwhile, transfers in from Akron, where he was the second-highest-graded Group of Five quarterback in 2021. Gibson could start and will at least push for playing time early. Taisun Phommachanh also transferred to Georgia Tech from Clemson.

### 2021 SIMS TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
69.0	4.0%	3.9%	35.8%	9.2
<b>T-53rd</b>	<b>48th</b>	<b>T-52nd</b>	<b>65th</b>	<b>T-35th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## OT: PIERCE QUICK

Quick is eyeing a breakout campaign with Georgia Tech after riding the pine for three years at Alabama — just 33 career snaps to his name. Some of that was partly due to injury. Quick is from Alabama and was one of the top-ranked offensive line recruits of the 2019 cycle. The former top-50 recruit has the traits to develop into a reliable, standout offensive lineman for the Yellow Jackets. Sometimes he can get a bit impatient out of his stance and overreach, but his balance is bound to improve. He has the athletic ability and mean streak to be great.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: DONTAE SMITH

Georgia Tech won't be able to replace Jahmyr Gibbs' dynamism and versatility, but Smith should be able to hold down the fort just fine. His resume includes only a couple of starts in his four years with the Yellow Jackets, but he has more than shown he can be a sturdy, elusive back. For his career (122 carries), Smith has posted a 90.2 rushing grade, 0.43 broken tackles per attempt and 4.3 yards after contact per attempt. Between him and Louisville transfer Hassan Hall, along with a dual-threat quarterback, there should be few concerns about the Yellow Jackets' ground game.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
89.7	17.4%	0.39	3.75	0.79
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### LB: CHARLIE THOMAS

Thomas wears many hats for Georgia Tech, including off-ball linebacker, defensive end and the slot as the overhang. And he does so at a high level. Despite playing a good number of isolated snaps at the nickel spot, Thomas turned in an 80.5 coverage grade in 2021 — a top-10 mark among returning FBS off-ball linebackers. His nine passing stops from the slot tied for the third-most in the ACC. The 6-foot-2, 207-pounder's playmaking in the box against the run leaves something to be desired, but he is undoubtedly a valuable asset in coverage.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
71.6	63.4	80.5	13.5%	35
T-24th	T-71st	8th	T-84th	T-65th

RANK AMONG 182 P5 OFF-BALL LBS

## KEY STARTERS

### EDGE: KEION WHITE

White has played just 72 snaps since 2020 due to a lost season at Old Dominion and then an injury-impacted 2021 campaign with Georgia Tech. Back in 2019 with the Monarchs — his first year as an edge defender — he earned an 84.8 PFF grade, a top-25 mark in the FBS.

### OT: JORDAN WILLIAMS

Williams was streaky in pass protection while starting as a true freshman and sophomore in 2020 and 2021. He produced a 66.2 pass-block grade over that span. The 6-foot-6, 333-pound tackle has shown flashes that indicate he can improve on that mark, but only time will tell.

### WR: MALACHI CARTER

Carter isn't one of the ACC's best, but he's at least coming off a better season in which he showed he can be a reliable receiver for the Yellow Jackets. The 6-foot-3, 195-pounder's hands were much stronger in 2021, as he dropped just one pass and caught five of eight contested targets.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: CHIP LONG



QB  
RUNS

**109th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**62nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: ANDREW THACKER



SIMULATED  
PRESSURES



BLITZ  
HAPPY



MUG  
FRONTS

**129th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**47th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.9%	35.9%	36.3%	9.8%	27.8%	46.9%
<b>77th</b>	<b>110th</b>	<b>104th</b>	<b>110th</b>	<b>86th</b>	<b>120th</b>

# LOUISVILLE CARDINALS



- Head Coach  
**Scott Satterfield**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**55 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**5.9**
- Chance to win ACC  
**3.8%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#54 NTL, #9 ACC**

Louisville's staff, led by head coach Scott Satterfield, deserves credit for its recruiting and transfer portal work as of late. Former Central Arkansas wide receiver Tyler Hudson and Tennessee running back Tyion Evans should be playmakers alongside quarterback Malik Cunningham, one of the most dynamic runners in the country. Cunningham is the only returning FBS quarterback with at least a 90.0 rushing grade in 2021. His rushing ability presents a known floor for the offense, and he continues to just get better as a passer. On defense, Louisville added six defensive backs who have combined for over 5,000 career snaps to join forces with key returners safety Kenderick Duncan and cornerback Kei'Trel Clark. And up front, the Cardinals brought in one of the best interior defenders in the country in former Arizona State Sun Devil Jermayne Lole.

## THE PORTAL

**11**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-12 OF 64 TEAMS)

**11,349**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(5 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.07**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(30 OF 64 TEAMS)



Louisville isn't an ACC contender, but the team could sneak a win or two against some of its stout opponents down the stretch en route to a bowl appearance.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**28th**

Sep. 3	@ Syracuse
Sep. 9	@ UCF
Sep. 16	Florida State
Sep. 24	USF
Oct. 1	@ Boston College
Oct. 8	Virginia
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ Pittsburgh
Oct. 29	Wake Forest
Nov. 5	James Madison
Nov. 12	@ Clemson
Nov. 19	NC State
Nov. 26	@ Kentucky

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Not an easy rushing attack to defend
- ✓ Underrated OL
- ✓ LBs in the pass-rush

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- WR room is lacking reliable depth
- Weak interior DL

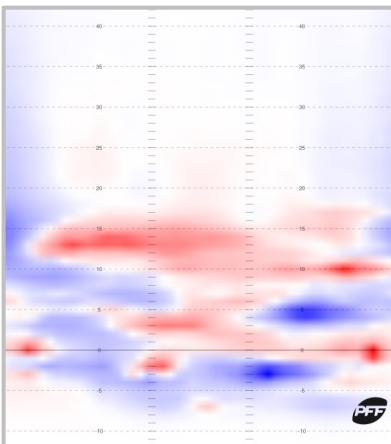
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: MALIK CUNNINGHAM

After a down year in 2020 where Cunningham could not capitalize on the success he and the Cardinals offense had in 2019, the Louisville quarterback bounced back and had his best year ever as a passer. There were thoughts that his breakout 2019 campaign was solely based on play-action and schemed up passing and that maybe proved true in 2020. Finally, he became a player capable of getting through progressions in a timely manner and finding the right receiver. He can also use his legs to escape pressure and make plays but he's not reliant on that. His arm strength is well above average although his accuracy could stand to improve a bit.

### 2021 CUNNINGHAM TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
91.5	5.1%	3.0%	27.1%	10.9
<b>6th</b>	<b>T-27th</b>	<b>T-35th</b>	<b>36th</b>	<b>T-10th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: TIYON EVANS

Evans was one of Tennessee's top recruits from the 2021 JUCO class. He shined early for the Vols before getting hurt against South Carolina in Week 6. Prior to the injury, Evans ranked fourth among SEC running backs in both rushing grade (88.9) and explosive runs of 10-plus yards (16). The 5-foot-11, 220-pound back has power, wiggle and breakaway ability. Evans will now look to continue on that breakout path with Louisville's dynamic rushing attack.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## TE: MARSHON FORD

Ford, once a walk-on, is now one of Louisville's best pass-catching threats. He has produced at a high level ever since taking on a notable role in 2019. The Louisville H-back has earned a 91.4 receiving grade while generating a 139.2 passer rating when targeted over that span. Ford is mostly asked to work underneath in the Cardinals' offense, but that's not to say the 6-foot-2, 240-pound tight end hasn't impressed against single coverage. He owns a 98.7 receiving grade on such plays since 2019 (27 targets versus single coverage).

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
79.2	1.69	0.0%	8	65.8
<b>T-8th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>T-1st</b>	<b>T-3rd</b>	<b>T-30th</b>

RANK AMONG 42 P5 TES RECEIVING, 99 BLOCKING

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DL: JERMAYNE LOLE

Lole missed his 2021 season at Arizona State due to injury, opting to transfer to Louisville in the hopes of a bounce-back campaign. Before that season-ending triceps injury, the 6-foot-2, 305-pound interior defensive lineman established himself as a force at the position. Lole looked like he was on his way to elite status in the 2020 coronavirus-shortened season while playing a more three-technique exclusive role after the Sun Devils' scheme changed. He proceeded to be the third-highest-graded Power Five defensive lineman from that position and came up with 18 pressures and 17 defensive stops despite playing in just four games.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
85.9	82.7	74.7	12.8%	17
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# KEY STARTERS

## G: CALEB CHANDLER

Chandler is one of the best guards in college football. Last season, he played near-flawless football down the stretch. From Week 6 on, he earned 90.0-plus pass-blocking and run-blocking grades — something no other Power Five guard accomplished.

## SAF: KENDERICK DUNCAN

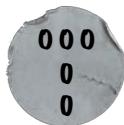
Duncan had no issue making the jump from the Group of Five to the Power Five last season. After being one of the 10 highest-graded safeties at the Group of Five level from 2018 through 2020 with Georgia Southern, Duncan was one of the 10 highest-graded safeties in the ACC in 2021.

## EDGE: YAYA DIABY

Diaby was one of the five most valuable edge defenders in the ACC last season for Louisville. He ranked top five among ACC edge defenders in 2021 in run-defense grade (80.9), run stops (20) and positively graded run-play rate (20%).

## OFFENSE

### OC: LANCE TAYLOR



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**PLAY ACTION PASSING**



**ZONE RUNS**

**24th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**41st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: BRYAN BROWN & WESLEY MCGRIFF



**DROP 8**



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**

**96th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**95th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.7%	28.0%	42.1%	11.2%	27.8%	38.6%
<b>13th</b>	<b>53rd</b>	<b>55th</b>	<b>84th</b>	<b>84th</b>	<b>49th</b>

# MIAMI HURRICAES



- Head Coach  
**Mario Cristobal**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**30 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.4**
- Chance to win ACC  
**7.5%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#16 NTL, #3 ACC**

The Miami hype is back in full swing thanks to quarterback Tyler Van Dyke. The 2020 four-star recruit earned a 75.5 PFF grade across nine starts in 2021 after recording multiple big-time throws in all but one ACC start and tying for second in the Power Five in big-time throw rate (7.1%). The 6-foot-4, 224-pounder throws with good touch and can hit the big play downfield. Add in a stout offensive tackle duo, a young but promising receiving corps with multiple breakout candidates and one of the best play callers in the country in new offensive coordinator Josh Gattis, and there's plenty of reason to believe in the Hurricanes' offense this fall. The defense was average in 2021, but that side of the ball also has improved potential for 2022. Key transfer additions, such as interior defender Akheem Mesidor, edge defender Mitchell Agude and cornerback Daryl Porter Jr., and promising young talents, such as interior defender Leonard Taylor and safety James Williams, are leading that charge.

## THE PORTAL

**11**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(T-12 OF 64 TEAMS)

**6,671**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(19 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.16**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(22 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Miami is a high-ceiling team for 2022. It's not a guarantee, but the Hurricanes are set to reclaim the Coastal division.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

**STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:  
46th**

Sep. 3	Bethune-Cookman
Sep. 10	Southern Miss
Sep. 17	@ Texas A&M
Sep. 24	Middle Tennessee
Oct. 1	OFF
Oct. 8	North Carolina
Oct. 15	@ Virginia Tech
Oct. 22	Duke
Oct. 29	@ Virginia
Nov. 5	Florida State
Nov. 12	@ Georgia Tech
Nov. 19	@ Clemson
Nov. 26	Pittsburgh

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Dangerous potential on the DL
- ✓ One of the best OT duos in FBS
- ✓ Now have one of the best offensive play-callers in CFB

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Horrid tackling in 2021...does that change?
- Interior OL could have some growing pains

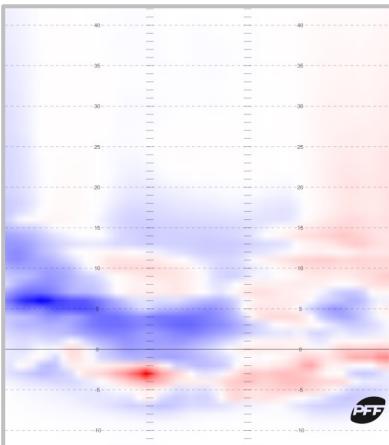
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: TYLER VAN DYKE

Van Dyke burst on to the scene taking over from D'eriq King midway through last season and impressed enough that he's being talked about as a potential first round pick and even one of the first quarterbacks taken in next year's NFL draft. Van Dyke is very toolsy and can sling the ball over the field. The transition from former offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee's offense to current Hurricane offensive coordinator Josh Gattis' offense will reveal whether Van Dyke is capable of reading out more pro-style passing concepts with regularity. Last years offense allowed him to show off his physical traits but this years will allow him to show off more of the mental side of the game.

### 2021 VAN DYKE TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
75.5	7.1%	3.0%	28.0%	10.7
<b>41st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>35th</b>	<b>43rd</b>	<b>12th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: BRASHARD SMITH

Everyone knows that new offensive coordinator Josh Gattis likes to get tricky, so expect a good amount of end-arounds, reverses, sweeps and other trickery to keep the defense on their toes. Smith will likely be the playmaker Gattis uses in these scenarios. The 2021 four-star recruit has the speed to turn schemed touches into big gains. The 5-foot-10, 194-pound receiver earned an 88.3 receiving grade from 25 routes last season. He was targeted 14 times at an 0.9-yard average depth and averaged 13.4 yards after the catch on his 14 receptions with four broken tackles.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## OT: ZION NELSON

Hurricanes quarterback Tyler Van Dyke has one of the best blindsides protectors in the country in Zion Nelson. The 6-foot-5, 316-pound tackle has developed into a stout pass-blocker and brings All-American potential. From Week 4 of 2021 to the season's end, Nelson allowed just six pressures in nine games en route to a 91.6 pass-blocking grade, first among Power Five tackles. He possesses exceptional footwork and plays with sharp awareness but does need to work on not getting out over his toes and slipping off blocks. Still, Nelson is already advanced and will be a brickwall in pass protection, regardless.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
73.3	85.3	2.8%	34.2%	65.0
<b>53rd</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>77th</b>	<b>94th</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: TYRIQUE STEVENSON

Stevenson returned home to South Beach to play on the outside for Miami after two years with Georgia as a slot cornerback. The 2019 No. 37-ranked recruit elevated his play after the position and school change. He earned a 76.1 coverage grade while allowing 0.68 yards per coverage snap in 2021. When Stevenson was left on an island, he almost always came out on top. His grade from press coverage was the highest among ACC cornerbacks. Stevenson is the ACC's best returning cornerback, with a skill set to achieve even higher levels of play in 2022.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
72.1	51.0%	0.68	10.2%	12
<b>T-55th</b>	<b>38th</b>	<b>T-14th</b>	<b>106th</b>	<b>T-16th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### OT: D.J. SCAIFE JR

Scaife was quickly pulled from right tackle in 2021 after allowing a sack in Week 1 against Alabama. Following a brief stint on the bench, he took over the starting right guard spot in Week 4 and proceeded to be the highest-graded pass protector at the position in the Power Five for the remainder of the season (87.8)

### SAF: JAMES WILLIAMS

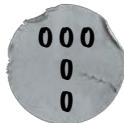
Williams has superstar potential thanks to his off-the-charts physical traits. It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when the 6-foot-5, 224-pound safety makes the major jump. The 2021 five-star recruit produced the fourth-highest coverage grade in the ACC (78.1) as a true freshman last year.

### DI: LEONARD TAYLOR

Taylor is in the same boat as safety James Williams — the interior defender is a 2021 five-star recruit who performed well as a freshman but is just scratching the surface. The 6-foot-3, 305-pounder's positively graded run-play rate in 2021 would've led the ACC had he played enough snaps to qualify (29.3%).

### OFFENSE

#### OC: JOSH GATTIS



**PISTOL  
FORMATION**



**GAP  
RUNS**

**18th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**102nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: KEVIN STEELE



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**

**46th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**86th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
15.1%	22.4%	42.5%	13.7%	31.3%	40.5%
<b>5th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>50th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>51st</b>	<b>76th</b>

# NORTH CAROLINA TARHEELS



- Head Coach  
**Mack Brown**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**29 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.7**
- Chance to win ACC  
**10.8%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#11 NTL, #2 ACC**

As is the case for any team, the quarterback position will play a significant role in North Carolina's success for 2022. It'll either be Jacolby Criswell or Drake Maye leading the way, both of whom are former four-star recruits with less than 50 combined dropbacks in their careers. Whoever ends up the starter will need more pass catchers and the offensive line to step up. Those two positions forced 2021 starter Sam Howell to run all over the place, and that's not a sustainable play style. Meanwhile, the secondary — headlined by outside cornerback duo Storm Duck and Tony Grimes — is poised to bounce back with a clean bill of health. There are also several breakout candidates up front, including former five-star recruit Desmond Evans and interior defender Myles Murphy. Last year's defense tied for 10th in the ACC in unit grade, but the Tar Heels could improve on that ranking quite a bit this fall.

## THE PORTAL

5

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

5,274

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(26 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.05

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(48 OF 64 TEAMS)



**North Carolina is set up for a wide range of outcomes in 2022.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

**STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:  
38th**

Aug. 27	Florida A&M
Sep. 3	@ Appalachian State
Sep. 10	@ Georgia State
Sep. 17	OFF
Sep. 24	Notre Dame
Oct. 1	Virginia Tech
Oct. 8	@ Miami FL
Oct. 15	@ Duke
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	Pittsburgh
Nov. 5	@ Virginia
Nov. 12	@ Wake Forest
Nov. 19	Georgia Tech
Nov. 25	NC State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Bounce-backs in the DB room
- ✓ Several breakout candidates, especially on the DL

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- OL is a hindrance
- Wild card at QB
- WR room is a one-man show until proven otherwise

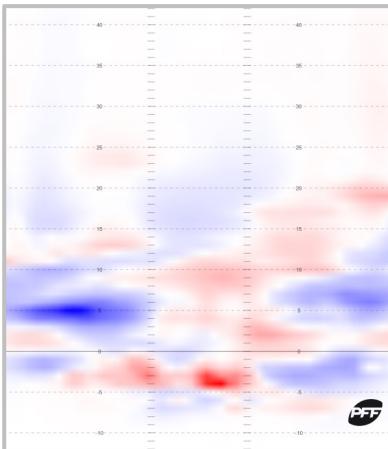
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: DRAKE MAYE / JACOLBY CRISWELL

The Tar Heels are tasked with replacing one of their all-time great quarterbacks in Sam Howell. The top candidates are Drake Maye, a 2021 four-star recruit, and Jacolby Criswell, a 2020 four-star recruit. When Howell missed a matchup late in the 2021 season against Wofford, it was Criswell who played the first half before Maye came in at halftime. Maye finished with a 66.0 grade, and Criswell made enough plays with his legs to earn a 79.8 grade. Freshman quarterback Conner Harrell took snaps in the spring game but is not expected to compete for the job.

## 2021 UNC OFFENSE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## TE: BRYSON NESBIT

Despite being longtime NFL offensive lineman Jamar Nesbit's son, Bryson Nesbit was a late bloomer in the football recruiting process due to his proclivity for basketball. In fact, he didn't pick up padded football until his junior year of high school. Nonetheless, Nesbit quickly turned himself into a four-star recruit and is now a prime candidate to break out in 2022 after his true freshman campaign. He posted a 75.0 PFF grade in 2021 while generating 4.28 yards per route run, 8.3 yards after the catch per reception and hauling in both contested opportunities. The 6-foot-6, 245-pound tight end has a big, long frame and is an after-the-catch threat. Expect North Carolina to give him plenty of opportunities out at receiver to create even more mismatches.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: JOSH DOWNS

Downs was now-NFL quarterback Sam Howell's lone reliable pass-catcher in 2021. He saw a target on 30.2% of his routes, leading to 97 more passes coming his way than the team's next closest receiver. Downs didn't waver, finishing with an 83.4 receiving grade. The 2020 top-100 recruit is an explosive athlete who posted a 42-inch vertical as a junior in high school. Whether going up against single coverage or finding a hole against zone, he consistently got open last year. Downs' separation rate for the season placed in the 97th percentile among FBS wide receivers.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
81.4	2.80	9.0%	8.5	27
<b>19th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>112th</b>	<b>T-134th</b>	<b>T-9th</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: STORM DUCK

Across 530 snaps as a true freshman in 2019, Duck recorded a 78.7 PFF grade — a top-12 mark among Power Five true freshmen in the PFF College era (since 2014). That puts him in the company of several stars, including 2022 first-round picks Derek Stingley Jr., Kaiir Elam and Trent McDuffie and NFL talents Adoree' Jackson, Carlton Davis and Patrick Surtain II. Unfortunately, injury has halted Duck's progression since then. He played just 436 snaps the past two seasons combined but still shined when on the field. If fully healthy, Duck has star potential.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
58.7	56.5%	1.04	4.3%	3
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# KEY STARTERS

## CB: TONY GRIMES

Grimes is a 2022 breakout candidate with a sky-high ceiling. The former five-star recruit has been volatile in two years in Chapel Hill. In 2021, Grimes allowed 15 yards or less in eight of 13 games, but he surrendered 60 or more yards in the other five outings. He was also called for nine penalties on the season.

## DI: RAYMOND VOHASEK

Vohasek is a dependable nose tackle for the Tar Heels. He ranked third among ACC interior defensive linemen in run-defense grade for the 2021 season with a 76.7 mark — a career best by more than 10 grading points.

## DL: MYLES MURPHY

North Carolina knows it has a force against the run in Murphy. The 2020 four-star recruit posted a 74.7 run-defense grade in 2021, a top-five mark in the ACC. He owned the lowest negatively graded run-play rate among that group. The 6-foot-3, 305-pounder is still developing as a pass rusher, but expect some growth in 2022.

## OFFENSE

### OC: PHIL LONGO



RPOS



PLAY ACTION PASSING



QB RUNS

**37th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**9th**

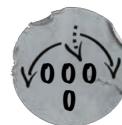
2021 EPA Per Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: TOMMY THIGPEN & CHARLTON WARREN



SIMULATED PRESSURES



BLITZ HAPPY

**105th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**106th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
15.3%	29.5%	44.0%	10.9%	26.1%	44.4%
<b>4th</b>	<b>66th</b>	<b>36th</b>	<b>94th</b>	<b>103rd</b>	<b>110th</b>

# NORTH CAROLINA ST WOLFPACK



- Head Coach  
**Dave Doeren**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**24 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.0**
- Chance to win ACC  
**8.4%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#64 NTL, #10 ACC**

The Wolfpack, who went 9-3 in 2021, will be led by quarterback Devin Leary once again. He is as consistent as it gets and a crisp deep passer, producing a single-game passing grade above 70.0 in 10 of his 12 starts last season and tying for third in the Power Five in big-time throw rate. Leary did lose his leading receiver, Emeka Emezie, but the Wolfpack still return several weapons — including veteran slot receiver Thayer Thomas and H-back Trent Pennix, who is just scratching the surface. The North Carolina State running back room is a bit of a concern after it lost its one-two punch from last season, but the passing offense should be able to carry the load just fine. There's also a lot of optimism on defense, with many returners in a secondary that helped the Wolfpack rank second in the ACC to only Clemson in EPA per play allowed in 2021.

## THE PORTAL

**1**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-59 OF 64 TEAMS)

**1,062**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(57 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.03**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(44 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

North Carolina State's floor is fairly high. If Devin Leary can take that next step and Clemson's offense continues to slump, the Wolfpack could challenge for the Atlantic crown.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**59th**

Sep. 3	@ East Carolina
Sep. 10	Charleston Southern
Sep. 17	Texas Tech
Sep. 24	Connecticut
Oct. 1	@ Clemson
Oct. 8	Florida State
Oct. 15	@ Syracuse
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 27	Virginia Tech
Nov. 5	Wake Forest
Nov. 12	Boston College
Nov. 19	@ Louisville
Nov. 25	@ North Carolina

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Return everyone in the secondary
- ✓ Good enough set of receivers
- ✓ Sturdy, reliable passing attack thanks to Devin Leary

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- RB went from strength to concern
- OTs are something to monitor

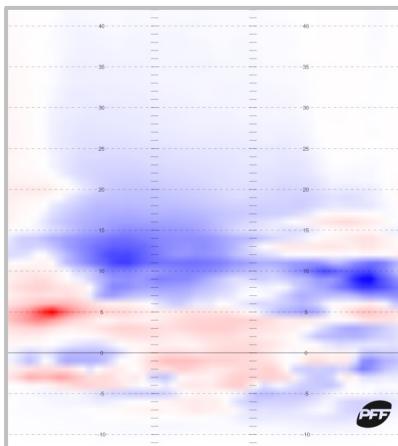
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: DEVIN LEARY

Leary has improved every year since taking over his first starts way back in 2019 as a redshirt freshman. Finally healthy for a full season in 2021, he broke out and stood out as one of the better quarterbacks in the conference. Leary does everything at an above average level. No individual trait wows you but put all together he is one of the better overall quarterbacks. His aversion to trying tight window throws, especially over the window is mitigated by his quick decision and accuracy when he puts the ball outside. That aversion to the middle of the field shows up in his turnover worthy play rate. He takes care of the football, gets the ball to his teammates and can find deep over the top throws when needed. His play helped get the team to 9-3 and any improvement could mean a big season for the Wolfpack.

### 2021 LEARY TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
84.6	6.8%	1.8%	22.9%	9.3
<b>20th</b>	<b>T-3rd</b>	<b>T-1st</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## TE: TRENT PENNIX

Pennix is a late-career breakout candidate for 2022, as he showed up as a traditional running back in 2018 before turning into an H-back for the Wolfpack. Pennix didn't become a featured piece of the Wolfpack's passing game until down the stretch of the 2021 season, and he showed he could take on any even larger role. In all, the 6-foot-3, 236-pound pass-catcher turned in a 76.9 receiving grade with 2.14 yards per route run and 10.6 yards after the catch per reception in 2021. He can scoot for his size, which enables him to be effective after the catch. Expect Pennix to be even more productive in 2022 as long as his health is in order (missed the spring recovering from surgery).

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## C: GRANT GIBSON

Gibson, a top bounce-back candidate in college football, broke out in 2020 when he posted 80.0-plus grades in both pass blocking and run blocking, joining Tyler Linderbaum as the only centers in the Power Five to accomplish the feat. Last season, Gibson's PFF grade fell over 10 grading points to 67.6. He was flagged a whopping 13 times — the most among all FBS centers. Despite the slump, the 6-foot-1, 305-pounder is still a natural at making backside cutoff blocks and has shined on outside runs in the North Carolina State system. Gibson owns the fourth-highest run-blocking grade among Power Five centers on outside zone runs since 2020.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
67.6	69.9	4.0%	37.7%	74.8
<b>40th</b>	<b>36th</b>	<b>57th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>21st</b>

RANK AMONG 74 P5 OTS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## LB: DRAKE THOMAS

Thomas is one of the most underrated off-ball linebackers in college football. The incoming senior's 80.2 overall grade in 2021 was a top-15 mark in the country. Thomas picked off three passes and broke up four others en route to a 73.3 coverage grade, but his best play came against the run, where he produced an 82.2 grade. He ranked in the top 10 nationally in both positively graded run play rate and tackles for loss or no gain (16). He's great at getting skinny around blockers and processes the game well. Don't be surprised if Thomas ends up one of the top linebackers in the country in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
80.0	81.8	73.3	16.2%	49
<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>131st</b>	<b>T-14th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 OFF-BALL LBS

# KEY STARTERS

## CB: TYLER BAKER-WILLIAMS

Baker-Williams has established himself as one of the best nickel backs in the country. Since 2019, the 6-foot, 209-pound defensive back ranks ninth in the Power Five in slot PFF grade. Baker-Williams also has been an excellent blitz weapon over that span, recording 24 pressures.

## CB: SHYHEIM BATTLE

Battle was one of the most improved outside cornerbacks of 2021. He took his 56.2 coverage grade from his 2020 redshirt freshman campaign to 78.4 last season — the fourth-best mark in the ACC. The 6-foot-2, 183-pounder allowed just 0.61 yards per coverage snap, ranking 10th in the Power Five.

## WR: THAYER THOMAS

Thomas, one of the safest slot receivers in the ACC, ranks fifth in the conference in slot receiving grade since 2020. The 6-foot, 197-pounder also ranks second among that group in slot receiving touchdowns across that span (14).

## OFFENSE

### OC: TIM BECK



**DROPBACK  
PASSING**

**49th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**88th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: TONY GIBSON



**DROP 8**

**26th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**6th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.5%	25.4%	40.2%	13.0%	35.7%	32.5%
<b>30th</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>72nd</b>	<b>40th</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>7th</b>

# PITTSBURGH PANTHERS



- Head Coach  
**Pat Narduzzi**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**14 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.5**
- Chance to win ACC  
**14.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#77 NTL, #14 ACC**

Let's address the elephant in the room: Pittsburgh suffered one of the offseason's biggest losses when star wide receiver Jordan Addison transferred to USC. Before that, the Panthers had aspirations of repeating as ACC Coastal champions after securing an effective replacement for quarterback Kenny Pickett in USC transfer Kedon Slovis. With Addison now gone, Pittsburgh's odds of getting back to the ACC title game have undoubtedly weakened, but it's not a pipe dream. The receiver room is in good enough shape despite the major loss. Jared Wayne is the eighth-most valuable returning ACC wide receiver from 2021, Gavin Bartholomew ranks second among returning ACC tight ends in 2021 receiving grade and Pittsburgh landed one of the top transfer receivers on the market in former Akron Zip Konata Mumpfield. And Slovis, who earned a 90.2 passing grade from a clean pocket in 2021, will play behind a good, experienced offensive line that returns every starter from last season.

## THE PORTAL

**7**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

**5,234**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(27 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.40**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(9 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Pittsburgh's chances of going back-to-back in the Coastal division took a massive blow when Jordan Addison transferred, but the Panthers' hopes aren't completely dead.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**60th**

Sep. 1	West Virginia
Sep. 10	Tennessee
Sep. 17	@ Western Michigan
Sep. 24	Rhode Island
Oct. 1	Georgia Tech
Oct. 8	Virginia Tech
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	Louisville
Oct. 29	@ North Carolina
Nov. 5	Syracuse
Nov. 12	@ Virginia
Nov. 19	Duke
Nov. 26	@ Miami FL

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Effective replacement at QB
- ✓ Advanced pass-rush
- ✓ Still a fine receiving room despite losing Jordan Addison

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- USC
- Coverage unit is weaker than normal

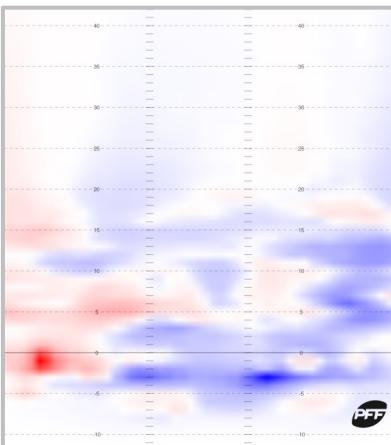
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: KEDON SLOVIS

Slovvis, a transfer from USC, has flashed more upside than Kenny Pickett did before his breakout 2021 campaign. He'll join forces with new offensive coordinator Frank Cignetti Jr., who was hired away from Boston College. His offense there was decidedly more vertical than what Slovis ran at USC, so the hope is that the Panthers can create more explosive plays to pair with what Slovis can do at the underneath level with his accuracy and decision making.

### 2021 SLOVIS TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
79.2	5.1%	3.5%	23.5%	9.0
<b>32nd</b>	<b>T-27th</b>	<b>T-42nd</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## LB: TYLAR WILTZ

Wiltz, who spent three years playing for the Missouri State Bears, is one of the players transferring from an FCS school into Power Five. The 6-foot-1, 219-pound off-ball linebacker was one of the most productive off-ball linebackers at the FCS level in 2021, as he racked up 52 defensive stops (tied for the ninth-most in the FCS) en route to an 82.6 PFF grade. He played with good balance and footwork, and he was one of the best tacklers in the FCS, as he missed a mere three tackles from 114 attempts. Waltz didn't look out of place in his lone game against a Power Five opponent in 2021 (Week 1 vs. Oklahoma State, 69.1 PFF grade) and should remain a productive player at Pitt.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: KONATA MUMPFIELD

Akron transfer Konata Mumpfield was expected to be a quality No. 2 option for Pittsburgh, but Jordan Addison's transfer means he'll be vying for the WR1 spot. While the jump from the Zips to the Panthers is steep in terms of competition level, the 2020 three-star recruit has the ability to make the move a seamless one. Mumpfield's separation rate against single coverage in 2021 stood at the 96th percentile among all FBS wide receivers, and he came up with 12 receptions in one-on-one situations with multiple steps of separation, tying for the 12th-most in the FBS. Already an advanced route-runner, Mumpfield is full of potential.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
77.4	1.67	6.0%	11.2	15
<b>62nd</b>	<b>T-202nd</b>	<b>147th</b>	<b>T-181st</b>	<b>T-121st</b>

RANK AMONG 334 FBS WRs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DL: CALIJAH KANCEY

Kancey earned PFF grades of 80.4 and 83.7 in the past two seasons, both of which ranked inside the top 10 among Power Five interior defensive linemen. Last season, he tallied 38 quarterback pressures — including nine sacks and 10 hits — en route to an 84.1 pass-rushing grade. The 6-foot, 275-pounder may not be the biggest interior defensive lineman, but he makes up for it with his quicks and advanced technique.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
83.7	77.3	84.1	11.0%	26
<b>5th</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>T-11th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

## KEY STARTERS

### CB: MARQUIS WILLIAMS

Williams is a valuable asset to head coach Pat Narduzzi's press quarters defense. He ranks sixth among ACC outside cornerbacks in coverage grade since 2020. The 5-foot-9, 175-pounder has accumulated 14 forced incompletions and 15 passing stops from the outside in that time, both top-five marks in the ACC.

### OT: CARTER WARREN

Warren has shown steady growth in each of his three seasons at Pittsburgh and is primed to take an even bigger step in 2022. He posted pass-blocking grades of 44.8, 68.9 and 76.6 over the past three years, the latest of which ranked 10th among 34 qualifying ACC tackles.

### EDGE: HABAKKUK BALDONADO

Baldonado has been a productive player throughout his Pittsburgh career. Since 2019, he's racked up 77 pressures — the second-most among returning ACC edge defenders — with 35 being either a sack or a hit.

#### OFFENSE

### OC: FRANK CIGNETTI JR



**PLAY ACTION  
PASSING**

**14th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

#### DEFENSE

### DC: RANDY BATES



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**



**MUG  
FRONTS**



**ZONE  
COVERAGE**

**52nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**5th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.9%	28.2%	45.8%	14.1%	30.9%	35.2%
<b>9th</b>	<b>55th</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>56th</b>	<b>24th</b>

# SYRACUSE ORANGE



- Head Coach  
**Dino Babers**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**80 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4.9**
- Chance to win ACC  
**0.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#69 NTL, #12 ACC**

Syracuse is set to employ a nasty run game between quarterback Garrett Shrader and running back Sean Tucker. Those two led Syracuse to the 11th-most efficient rushing attack in the Power Five a season ago, with each earning an 87.0-plus rushing grade. However, Shrader was exposed through the air, finishing as the lowest-graded ACC passer in 2021. Between him and a lackluster set of pass catchers and blockers, the Orange ranked in the bottom five among Power Five teams in successful pass rate. That won't change much, if at all, in 2022. Defensively, there's more to be excited about — especially with the outside cornerback duo of Garrett Williams and Duce Chestnut. The tandem ranked fourth among ACC outside cornerback pairings in coverage grade last season. Syracuse also returns one of the best off-ball linebacker rooms in the country. That group ranked first in the ACC in unit linebacker grade in 2021 and returns its best three players.

## THE PORTAL

7

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

1,316

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(56 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.29

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

(61 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Syracuse's bowl hopes are in question barring the passing attack being at least serviceable, which doesn't look likely.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**22nd**

Sep. 3	Louisville
Sep. 10	@ Connecticut
Sep. 17	Purdue
Sep. 23	Virginia
Oct. 1	Wagner
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 15	NC State
Oct. 22	@ Clemson
Oct. 29	Notre Dame
Nov. 5	@ Pittsburgh
Nov. 12	Florida State
Nov. 19	@ Wake Forest
Nov. 26	@ Boston College

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Rushing attack
- ✓ Good outside CB tandem
- ✓ Arguable the NO. 2 off-ball LB unit in the ACC

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Punting
- Throwing the ball
- Serious blocking woes

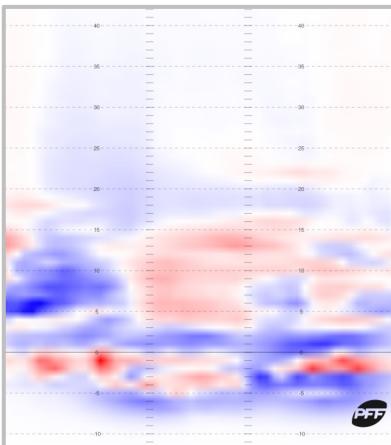
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: GARRETT SHRADER

Shrader started down the stretch for Syracuse, and while the results were mostly poor, his play style is something the Orange have been lacking at quarterback for a few years. Amid a poor offensive line, Shrader can at least make plays outside the pocket as a runner. He does have a clunky throwing motion that seems to affect his accuracy, but he boasts above-average arm strength. The Syracuse offense at its best will feature plenty of scrambles and deep balls from Shrader.

### 2021 SHRADER TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
73.9	3.6%	3.7%	32.7%	10.5
<b>T-44th</b>	<b>T-50th</b>	<b>T-47th</b>	<b>60th</b>	<b>T-14th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: DAMIEN ALFORD

Last year, head coach Dino Babers referred to Alford as "Bambi" — a young but promising individual who is full of potential. Babers said he knows the 6-foot-6, 211-pound wide receiver can be a big buck, but it just didn't come to fruition last year. Perhaps this year is the year Alford grows out of the "Bambi" label. Entering Year 3 with the Orange, Alford is working on using his frame more to his advantage while becoming a more physical, will-imposing receiver. He has the capability to develop into a dangerous downfield threat for Syracuse. Both of his receiving touchdowns in 2021 were deep targets over 20 yards downfield. Nonetheless, at the catch point, his dominance was sorely lacking, as he went 2-for-10 on contested opportunities.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## RB: SEAN TUCKER

Tucker is a true workhorse who grinds out every yard he possibly can. The 5-foot-10, 210-pound running back ranked fourth in the FBS last season in rushing yards over expected (+1.59) and leads all returning backs in yards after contact from last season (1,014). Tucker also averaged 10.8 yards per attempt on perfectly blocked run plays in 2021, second to only Braelon Allen among returning Power Five running backs. He's still developing the blocking and receiving aspects of his game, but even if those facets don't improve in 2022, Syracuse can count on him being one of the best pure runners in college football.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
81.1	17.8%	0.27	4.11	1.22
<b>31st</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>T-23rd</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>28th</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: DUCE CHESTNUT

Chestnut made his fair share of freshman mistakes in 2021, but he offset those with plenty of high-level plays, specifically when playing off-zone. The 2021 three-star ranked fourth among Power Five cornerbacks in passing stops from zone coverage (14). Chestnut's nine forced incompletions tied for third among ACC cornerbacks, with three being interceptions. Given he was a first-year player at the Power Five level, there's reason to believe the "bust" nature of his game from 2021 will be far less prevalent in 2022.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
74.0	56.9%	1.18	15.5%	16
<b>T-45th</b>	<b>89th</b>	<b>T-135th</b>	<b>33rd</b>	<b>T-4th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### LB: MIKEL JONES

Jones was the second-highest-graded off-ball linebacker in the ACC last season. The 6-foot-1, 220-pounder also finished third among that group in missed tackle rate (6.7%) and tied for fourth in defensive stops (44).

### CB: GARRETT WILLIAMS

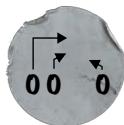
Only one active ACC cornerback has produced more PFF Wins Above Average since 2020 than Williams. His 20 passing stops from the outside are also the most in the conference in that timeframe. The 6-foot, 190-pounder does come with some boom-or-bust tendencies, but he is still a valuable piece for the defense.

### LB: STEFON THOMPSON

Thompson is a hybrid player who switches between outside linebacker and off-ball linebacker in any given game. And he's damn good at it. He posted a 74.2 pass-rush grade in 2021, featuring 28 total pressures, while ranking fifth among Power Five linebackers in missed tackle rate (4.9%).

### OFFENSE

#### OC: ROBERT ANAE



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**

**106th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: TONY WHITE



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**

**65th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank



**MUG  
FRONTS**

**61st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.6%	38.9%	33.3%	13.4%	33.1%	37.6%
<b>52nd</b>	<b>119th</b>	<b>121st</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>41st</b>	<b>42nd</b>

# VIRGINIA CAVALIERS



- Head Coach  
**Tony Elliott**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**68 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.0**
- Chance to win ACC  
**6.5%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#67 NTL, #11 ACC**

Virginia is set to field one of the most explosive passing attacks in college football. The Cavaliers ranked second among Power Five teams in percentage of passes resulting in a 15-plus yard gain last season (20.4%), and the quarterback who led them to that — Brennan Armstrong — along with his top three wide receivers — Keytaon Thompson, Dontayvion Wicks and Billy Kemp IV — all return for 2022. Armstrong is tied with Sam Hartman as the highest-graded returning ACC quarterback. Thompson, Wicks and Kemp all rank inside the top seven in 2021 receiving grade among returning ACC wide receivers. The one area that could spoil the offense's aspirations is the offensive line. While Armstrong can hold his own under pressure, Virginia's pass protection could be a liability. The Cavaliers lost all five starters from last year, with three transferring. Armstrong ranked 12th in the Power Five in the percentage of dropbacks spent under pressure last season (26.3%), and there's reason to think that's going to increase quite a bit given the overhaul upfront.

## THE PORTAL

7

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

2,854

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(45 OF 64 TEAMS)

0.05

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(33 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**Virginia's offensive firepower will ensure the team is no slouch. The Cavaliers will be a difficult opponent for any opponent in 2022.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**58th**

Sep. 3	Richmond
Sep. 10	@ Illinois
Sep. 17	Old Dominion
Sep. 23	@ Syracuse
Oct. 1	@ Duke
Oct. 8	Louisville
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 20	@ Georgia Tech
Oct. 29	Miami FL
Nov. 5	North Carolina
Nov. 12	Pittsburgh
Nov. 19	Coastal Carolina
Nov. 26	@ Virginia Tech

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Best WR corps in the ACC
- ✓ Vertical passing offense

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Gutted along the OL
- Shaky defensive front in either facet

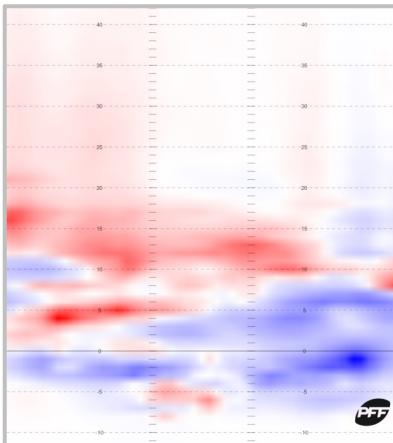
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: BRENNAN ARMSTRONG

There is a certain amount of “he just gets the job done” to Armstrong’s game. All he’s done is produce back to back 90+ grades as starter the last two years even though the wins haven’t come with the rise in offensive efficiency. Armstrong is quite unorthodox with his long, left-handed windup and his pocket presence isn’t quite that smooth. His accuracy is mid to lower tier in the FBS and if he can clean that up in 2022 he won’t have to rely on his big play capability too often. Accuracy issues aside, he has a strong arm and does throw well placed sideline deep ball. Armstrong can also scramble when necessary and packs a punch when defenders try to tackle him. Virginia receivers combined to lead the FBS in drops last year so with some positive regression, Armstrong’s stats might look even better next year.

### 2021 ARMSTRONG TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
91.8	6.7%	3.5%	22.3%	11.1
<b>T-4th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>T-42nd</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>7th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: LAVEL DAVIS JR

Davis was a prime breakout candidate for the 2021 season before a torn ACL in the offseason derailed that plan. Now healthy, the 6-foot-7, 220-pound wide receiver (yes, you read that correctly) will attempt to get back on the breakout path. Davis is a mismatch weapon due to his size and physicality, which help him consistently win the catch point. The 2020 three-star recruit caught seven of his 15 contested opportunities as a true freshman. Of his 20 receptions that year, 11 were deep passes over 20 yards downfield that collectively went for 371 yards and two scores. Davis tracks the ball well downfield but did have a bit of an issue with drops in his lone season on the field (20% drop rate).

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: KEYTAON THOMPSON

Thompson went from a quarterback at Mississippi State to a top-tier receiver at Virginia. The 6-foot-4, 210-pounder wins with his size and physicality. He broke 22 tackles on 78 receptions and caught 14 of his 25 contested opportunities in 2021. Thompson can also take carries out of the backfield and as a Wildcat quarterback. He produced seven explosive runs of 10-plus yards, broke 22 tackles and averaged 4.67 yards after contact per attempt on 39 designed runs in 2021. New Virginia offensive coordinator Desmond Kitchings — who was the Atlanta Falcons' running backs coach last year — won't be shy about utilizing Thompson's versatility, given his experience with Cordarrelle Patterson.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
85.5	2.54	8.2%	9.8	32
<b>8th</b>	<b>T-27th</b>	<b>T-104th</b>	<b>T-112th</b>	<b>5th</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: ANTHONY JOHNSON

Johnson, a Louisville transfer in 2021, ranked eighth among ACC cornerbacks in coverage grade in his debut year with the Hokies last season (75.7). The 6-foot-1, 195-pounder also tied for third in combined interceptions and pass breakups (nine). He does at times need to reel in his physicality, which earned him nine penalties in 2021, but there's no denying he can go one-on-one in single coverage with little issue. Johnson's 4.4 yards allowed per target in single coverage last season was the third-lowest mark in the ACC.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
68.6	47.1%	0.87	13.7%	4
<b>89th</b>	<b>T-21st</b>	<b>T-54th</b>	<b>49th</b>	<b>T-144th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## WR: DONTAYVION WICKS

Wicks ranks fourth among returning FBS wide receivers in yards per route run generated last season. The 6-foot-1, 205-pounder is a big-play weapon who turned 40.8% of his targets into a gain of 15-plus yards in 2021, the second-best rate in the Power Five.

## WR: BILLY KEMP IV

Kemp is an underneath weapon for the Cavaliers, with the team feeding him schemed touches year after year. The 5-foot-9, 175-pound receiver has 66 underneath receptions since 2019, third-most in the Power Five. And he ranks fourth among that group in PFF grade on such plays, too.

## LB: NICK JACKSON

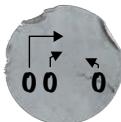
Jackson is seemingly always around the ball, amassing 15 more defensive stops than any other off-ball linebacker in the ACC since 2020 (94). And he's done that while posting the third-best missed tackle rate among the group (7%).

### OFFENSE

#### OC: DES KITCHINGS



RPOS



QUICK GAME PASSING



QB RUNS

**16th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**27th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JOHN RZINSKI



MAN COVERAGE

**107th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**108th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
17.9%	29.9%	47.3%	8.3%	25.2%	41.3%
<b>1st</b>	<b>72nd</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>126th</b>	<b>106th</b>	<b>85th</b>

# VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES



- Head Coach  
**Brent Pry**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**49 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.6**
- Chance to win ACC  
**3.6%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#34 NTL, #5 ACC**

Virginia Tech is entering a new era with first-year head coach Brent Pry. The team also welcomes in transfer quarterback Grant Wells, formerly of Marshall. Wells has been an inconsistent passer throughout his career, but his high-end moments are Power Five-caliber. His 34 big-time throws on non-play-action concepts since 2020 are tied for the sixth-most in the FBS. Wells does need several pass catchers to emerge to help his transition from the Power Five to the Group of Five, though. No one in the Hokies' receiver room has earned a receiving grade above 60.0 in a single season at the Power Five level. On the bright side, the offensive line looks to be in good shape. The unit ranked fifth in the ACC in offensive line grade and should rank similarly this fall.

## THE PORTAL

5

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

36

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(3,906 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.18

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

(58 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

The ultimate goal for Pry is to get the Hokies back to their top-level form of the Frank Beamer days, but for 2022, the aim is to just stay afloat and play in a bowl game.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**47th**

Sep. 2	@ Old Dominion
Sep. 10	Boston College
Sep. 17	Wofford
Sep. 22	West Virginia
Oct. 1	@ North Carolina
Oct. 8	@ Pittsburgh
Oct. 15	Miami FL
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 27	@ NC State
Nov. 5	Georgia Tech
Nov. 12	@ Duke
Nov. 19	@ Liberty
Nov. 26	Virginia

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ One of the better OLs in the ACC
- ✓ Fine at outside corner

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No run game
- Safeties/slot coverage could be leaky
- Need pass-catchers to emerge

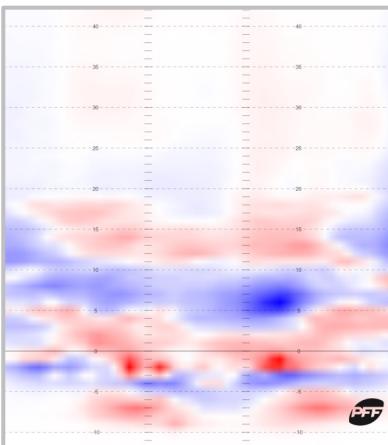
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: GRANT WELLS

It was an explosive start to Wells' career at Marshall with the Herd reeling off seven straight wins before succumbing at the end of the season to three straight losses. Wells understands the game very well and tries to throw with good timing as often as possible but is undone by poor accuracy. Underthrows, overthrows, throws too far in front and too far behind the receiver litter his tape. It's unfortunate because of how often he can find the open receiver. Moving up to the Power Five level — even though he didn't play a power five opponent at Marshall — should not affect his decision making because it's that good but if the accuracy does not improve, it will lead to more interceptions and incompletions than at the Group of Five level. He possesses some mobility to evade rushers but that's not his game.

### 2021 WELLS TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
74.9	5.8%	3.6%	28.0%	8.9
<b>69th</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>	<b>T-78th</b>	<b>80th</b>	<b>92nd</b>

RANK AMONG 129 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: DA'WAIN LOFTON

Virginia Tech needs some receivers to step up in 2022, and Lofton looks like a good candidate to do so, as the 5-foot-11, 190-pound slot receiver showed some growth as a reserve in his 2021 true freshman campaign. He earned a 78.4 receiving grade over his final two games with 2.92 yards per route run, a contested grab and two broken tackles. Lofton has the ability to sustain that level of production over the course of a whole season as a starter. While mainly a slot receiver thus far, look for Lofton to be used more creatively in 2022, as he has been lauded by the Hokies staff for his versatility.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## C: JOHNNY JORDAN

Jordan has never played a full year as a starter in his five-year college career, but he doesn't lack experience, seeing 1,668 career snaps across four seasons at Maryland and one at Virginia Tech. With multi-year starting center Brock Hoffman off to the NFL, Jordan will finally get his shot as a starter from beginning to end for the Hokies in 2022. Over the past two years, the 6-foot-1, 303-pounder has earned an 87.0 pass-blocking grade across 358 pass-blocking snaps while allowing just five pressures — none of which were sacks.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	True Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
68.7	82.4	2.0%	33.5%	66.6
<b>39th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>38th</b>	<b>T-42nd</b>

RANK AMONG 74 P5 OTS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: ARMANI CHATMAN

Chatman didn't stand out much in 2021 — a good thing for any cornerback. Serving as a rotational player for most of the year, the 5-foot-11, 205-pounder didn't allow more than 30 yards in any outing. Chatman gave up a mere 4.6 yards per target in single coverage, ranking fifth in the ACC for the season. That lockdown play made him the ninth-most valuable ACC cornerback of the 2021 campaign. He won't have an easy time replicating that in 2022 — especially after taking on a bigger job — but at a minimum, he won't be a liability on the outside.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
68.7	51.4%	0.56	8.6%	4
<b>88th</b>	<b>T-45th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>T-132nd</b>	<b>T-144th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## CB: DORIAN STRONG

Strong came to Blacksburg as a low-ranked three-star recruit in 2020, but he exceeded expectations from the get-go. The 6-foot, 174-pound cornerback ranks third in the ACC in total outside coverage snaps over the past two years, and his allowed first-down rate places fourth among that group (4%).

## OT: PARKER CLEMENTS

Clements had some bumpy moments when he took over the starting right tackle spot midway through 2021, but the 2020 three-star recruit still exceeded expectations — especially in the run game, where he earned a 75.0 grade that ranked 10th in the ACC. Keep an eye out for Clements taking a step forward in 2022.

## OT: SILAS DZANSI

Dzansi is stepping into a starting spot after years of being in and out of the lineup. Last season, he spent time at every spot along the offensive line except for center across his 493 snaps. Despite the constant movement, Dzansi was strong in the passing game with a 77.6 pass-blocking grade and no sacks or hits allowed.

## OFFENSE

### OC: TYLER BOWEN



**VERTICAL  
PASSING GAME**

**96th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**65th**

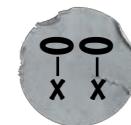
2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: CHRIS MARVE



**DIME  
PACKAGE**



**2-HIGH**

**80th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**110th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.4%	26.4%	41.5%	11.5%	29.5%	36.1%
<b>87th</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>63rd</b>	<b>77th</b>	<b>74th</b>	<b>29th</b>

# WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS



- Head Coach  
**Dave Clawson**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**34 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.3**
- Chance to win ACC  
**10.9%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#71 NTL, #13 ACC**

Wake Forest is once again poised to feature a strong passing offense in 2022. The Demon Deacons ranked fourth in the Power Five in passing efficiency for 2021, and the man who led them there — quarterback Sam Hartman — is back for 2022. He ran the team's patented long-mesh run-pass option (RPO) offense to great success. Because college football's illegal man downfield rules are more generous than the NFL's, RPOs can take longer to develop and be used to attack downfield. Wake Forest has a multitude of those plays built into its offense. Hartman tossed an FBS-leading 20 deep touchdowns in 2021 — eight of which came from an RPO. While he did lose wide receiver Jaquarii Roberson, Hartman has a strong receiving corps that features A.T. Perry, Ke'Shawn Williams and Taylor Morin. Perry, in particular, was the third-highest-graded player at the position in the ACC last season.

## THE PORTAL

<b>3</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>0.12</b>
PLAYERS GAINED	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED
(T-51 OF 64 TEAMS)	(42 OF 64 TEAMS)	(29 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

If Clemson's offense stagnates in 2022, Wake Forest is in prime position to take advantage and potentially win the ACC Atlantic.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**63rd**

Sep. 1	VMI
Sep. 10	@ Vanderbilt
Sep. 17	Liberty
Sep. 24	Clemson
Oct. 1	@ Florida State
Oct. 8	Army
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	Boston College
Oct. 29	@ Louisville
Nov. 5	@ NC State
Nov. 12	North Carolina
Nov. 19	Syracuse
Nov. 26	@ DUKE

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Have plenty of talent at WR
- ✓ Returning Sam Hartman at QB
- ✓ Pass-rush has some juice

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No difference maker in the backfield
- Corner depth

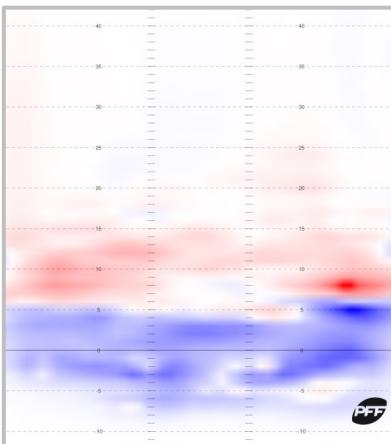
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: SAM HARTMAN

Hartman exploded onto the national scene with a terrific 2021 campaign that saw Wake Forest win their division behind a strong passing attack. The 'Deacs run one of the countries more unique RPO schemes and it helps compliment Hartman's ability. The RPO throws are made over the middle of the field by sucking up linebackers and allowing more room for the quarterback to throw balls in what would have been a more congested area. The dropback passing game acts as a counterweight where Hartman will throw generally outside in one on one scenarios. The team could use some more downfield passing to create explosive plays and that's what could take them back to the ACC title game in 2022.

### 2021 HARTMAN TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
91.8	6.1%	2.5%	27.7%	12.7
<b>T-4th</b>	<b>T-10th</b>	<b>T-21st</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>1st</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: KE'SHAWN WILLIAMS

Williams made the most of his time on the field as a reserve in his 2021 campaign, as the 2020 three-star recruit averaged just over 10 routes per game but finished with an 82.9 PFF grade and 2.83 yards per route run for the season. Williams is a high-quality route-runner, as he paces his routes well and makes crisp, sudden cuts to pair with good ball skills. Williams produced a separation rate that stood in the 95th percentile in the FBS last season, and his drop rate was a minimal 3.6%. He is also a threat after the catch, as he averaged 7.7 yards after the catch and broke seven tackles on 27 receptions in 2021.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: A.T. PERRY

Perry isn't a dynamic receiver, but the 6-foot-5, 206-pounder's physicality is a perfect fit for the Wake Forest offense. He bullies defensive backs at the line of scrimmage and along the route with his size and strength, helping him win downfield. Perry's 10 deep receiving touchdowns in 2021 tied with then-Pittsburgh wideout Jordan Addison for the most in the Power Five. No Power Five receiver went up against press coverage more than Perry in 2021 (230 routes). And most of the time, Wake Forest took advantage of the mismatch. He was targeted 30% of the time against press last year — the third-highest rate in the Power Five — and led that group of receivers in receptions (43), yards (783) and touchdowns (10) on such plays.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
82.6	2.66	11.3%	15.6	27
<b>14th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>133rd</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>T-9th</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: CAELEN CARSON

Carson is one of the most underrated players in the ACC. The 2020 three-star recruit has been nothing short of exceptional in his two years as a Demon Deacon, ranking third in coverage grade (81.4), fourth in catch rate allowed (46.7%) and second in yards per coverage snap allowed (0.72) among ACC cornerbacks. He reads routes exceptionally well and is rarely beaten downfield. The 6-foot, 190-pounder is a dark horse to get an All-American team nod if he can sustain that level of play while following opposing WR1s in 2022.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
73.4	48.7%	1.07	15.4%	2
<b>49th</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>T-103rd</b>	<b>T-34th</b>	<b>T-180th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## WR: TAYLOR MORIN

Morin was one of the five most valuable Demon Deacons in 2021 thanks to his impact as a receiver and returner. He didn't drop a pass in all but one game and caught 15 of his 23 contested opportunities. Morin did that while finishing as one of the 25 highest-graded return specialists nationwide.

## C: MICHAEL JURGENS

Jurgens went from a 31.1 pass-blocking grade in 2020 to a 77.6 mark in 2021. Frequent low snaps played a part in his poor 2020 grade, in addition to his pass sets, but he made great strides in both avenues in 2021.

## DI: KOBIE TURNER

Turner comes to Wake from Richmond, where he was an FCS All-American. Since 2019, his PFF grade ranks sixth among FCS interior defenders. The 6-foot-3, 285-pound transfer's 57 stops and 70 pressures over that span were both top-three marks among the group.

## OFFENSE

### OC: WARREN RUGGIERO



RPOS

VERTICAL  
PASSING GAMEGAP  
RUNS**7th**2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank**85th**2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: BRAD LAMBERT

ZONE  
COVERAGE**43rd**2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank**83rd**2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.2%	30.6%	51.5%	13.2%	31.2%	40.4%
<b>67th</b>	<b>78th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>37th</b>	<b>54th</b>	<b>75th</b>

B1G  
B1G  
B1G  
B1G



# ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI



- Head Coach  
**Bret Bielema**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**61 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.0**
- Chance to win B1G  
**2.3%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#46 NTL, #12 B1G**

Illinois will likely live and die by the run in 2022. The team ranked fourth in early-down run play rate among Power Five programs last year (60.8%). The Illini didn't find much success on the ground, but they do have the players to build up that facet of their offense. They produced the seventh-best run-blocking grade in the Power Five in 2021, and that should continue in 2022. Running back Chase Brown, the lone player to lead Illinois to any type of rushing success last season, also returns. At quarterback, Syracuse transfer Tommy DeVito steps in, although he owns just a 67.3 career passing grade and led the Orange to a bottom-tier success rate. Last year's Illini team ranked fourth in the Big Ten in coverage grade, but with safety Kerby Joseph and cornerback Tony Adams off to the NFL, there's reason to expect regression there.

## THE PORTAL

**6**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-37 OF 64 TEAMS)

**2,147**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(53 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.08**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(51 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Don't expect Illinois to score many points. The Illini will need to win by pounding the rock and through some defensive luck, which doesn't bode well for their bowl hopes.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**36th**

Aug. 27	Wyoming
Sep. 2	@ Indiana
Sep. 10	Virginia
Sep. 17	OFF
Sep. 22	Chattanooga
Oct. 1	@ Wisconsin
Oct. 8	Iowa
Oct. 15	Minnesota
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	@ Nebraska
Nov. 5	Michigan State
Nov. 12	Purdue
Nov. 19	@ Michigan
Nov. 26	@ Northwestern

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Well built zone rushing attack
- ✓ Sturdy set of off-ball LBs

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Still major questions at QB
- Coming to reality in the secondary

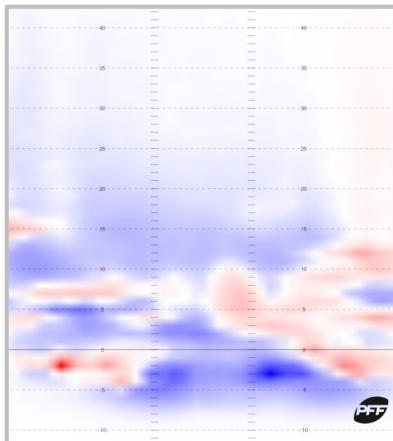
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: TOMMY DEVITO

A change of scenery and offense will probably be good for Devito. Playing in the super spread offense at Syracuse was not working. Coming to Champaign, he will get his taste of a more traditional offense under Bret Bielema and new offensive coordinator Barry Lunney Jr. Lunney Jr. has coached with Bielema before so we can expect a lot of under center and hard play action. Devito improved over his time as a decision maker but his accuracy — especially downfield — was a concern. The supporting cast never did Devito any favors and no quarterback who has played in the time frame at Syracuse as Devito has looked as good as him. He still needs a lot of protection to make the offense work smoothly.

### 2021 DEVITO TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
<b>XX</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>XX</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## LB: CALVIN HART JR

Hart transferred in from NC State — where he spent three years as a reserve — last offseason and was expected to be a starter for the Illini right away. And during his debut in their Week 0 matchup against Nebraska, it looked like Hart would be one of the most important players on the team. Unfortunately, the 6-foot-1, 230-pound off-ball linebacker tore his ACL, ending his 2021 campaign. Hart played 44 snaps before the season-ending injury and produced an 83.0 PFF grade on those reps, featuring one sack, one hit, four defensive stops and a fumble recovery for a touchdown. Now, the off-ball linebacker is fully healthy and has his eyes set on resuming what was expected to be a breakout campaign as a leader on the Illinois defense.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## RB: CHASE BROWN

Brown is the Illini's most important player, and it's not particularly close. He ended the 2021 season as the team's most valuable offensive player and is Illinois' most valuable returning player overall in 2022. Brown showed some boom-or-bust tendencies in 2021, with multiple elite-graded games above 90.0 mixed in with a few poor marks below 60.0. Consistency will be key for Brown in 2022, but the offensive line also needs to do its part as blockers. Even still, the 5-foot-11, 205-pound back averaged 5.7 yards on non-perfectly blocked run plays last year — a top-five mark in the FBS.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
81.0	17.1%	0.26	4.14	1.09
<b>32nd</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>T-26th</b>	<b>T-6th</b>	<b>32nd</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: DEVON WITHERSPOON

Witherspoon is eying a bigger 2022 campaign after three years of middling play with overall PFF grade in the mid-to-high 60s. His ability to get going in a hurry stands out as a key strength. He makes excellent flat-footed breaks from off-coverage, and that helped him tie for the third-most defensive stops among Big Ten cornerbacks in 2021 (19). That's not to say there isn't some inconsistency within Witherspoon's game, hence his average career grades.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
69.3	58.6%	1.25	10.3%	9
<b>T-79th</b>	<b>103rd</b>	<b>T-152nd</b>	<b>T-104th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### OT: ALEX PALCZEWSKI

Palczewski is one of the most experienced returning players in college football. He enters his sixth year with 3,429 snaps and over 50 starts to his name. At this point, it's known that Palczewski isn't strong in pass protection, but he's valuable in the run game. His 89.2 run-blocking grade in 2021 placed sixth among Big Ten offensive linemen, regardless of position.

### OT: JULIAN PEARL

Like most Illini linemen, Pearl's pass-blocking ability is inconsistent. His run-blocking, however, is sturdy. The 6-foot-6, 310-pound tackle posted a 74.5 run-blocking grade in 2021, with some of that production coming at guard.

### WR: ISAIAH WILLIAMS

Considering Williams pivoted from quarterback to wide receiver last offseason, his 73.2 receiving grade in 2021 is quite impressive. The 2019 four-star recruit is a dynamic athlete who can substantially build on his promising 2021 campaign. He's arguably one of the most underrated players in the Big Ten.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: BARRY LUNNEY JR



**ZONE RUNS**

**112th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**96th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: RYAN WALTER



**MAN COVERAGE**



**DROP EIGHT**

**45th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**77th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.0%	27.9%	40.3%	11.2%	29.6%	36.0%
<b>94th</b>	<b>51st</b>	<b>69th</b>	<b>88th</b>	<b>73rd</b>	<b>27th</b>

# INDIANA HOOSIERS



- Head Coach  
**Tom Allen**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**76 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4.8**
- Chance to win B1G  
**0.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#26 NTL, #5 B1G**

After posting its highest win percentage in over 50 years in 2020, Indiana put up a goose egg in conference play in 2021 despite starting the year as a consensus top-25 team. The Hoosiers are hopeful that their slew of transfer additions can step in and fix their offensive woes, but that's not something to count on. Former Missouri Tiger Connor Bazelak is the new starting quarterback, and while he is an accurate passer underneath, he doesn't have the arm to lead an explosive attack. As such, the Hoosiers may not improve on their second-to-last ranking in explosive pass rate in 2021. On a more positive note, Indiana is destined to bounce back in coverage with a healthy Tiawan Mullen and Jaylin Williams leading the way. That cornerback duo is one of the best in the Big Ten. Since 2019, they've combined for eight interceptions, 37 forced incompletions and 33 passing stops.

## THE PORTAL

**13**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(T-6 OF 64 TEAMS)

**5,081**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(29 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.31**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(63 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Indiana needs its offensive transfers to pan out. If the Hoosiers are to exceed expectations, it'll likely be because of safe offense and strong coverage play.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**6th**

Sep. 2	Illinois
Sep. 10	Idaho
Sep. 17	Western Kentucky
Sep. 24	@ Cincinnati
Oct. 1	@ Nebraska
Oct. 8	Michigan
Oct. 15	Maryland
Oct. 22	@ Rutgers
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	Penn State
Nov. 12	@ Ohio State
Nov. 19	@ Michigan State
Nov. 26	Purdue

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Secondary Primed for a bounce-back
- ✓ Improved ground game

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Far from explosive passing attack
- Trenches on both sides of the ball

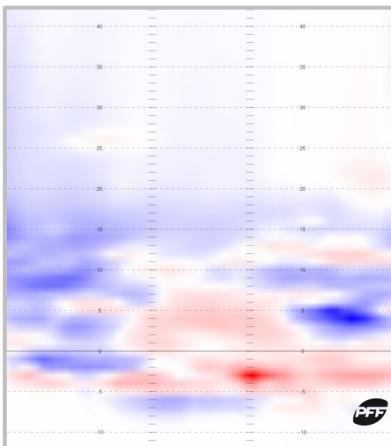
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CONNOR BAZELAK

2021 was supposed to be a breakout year for Bazelak at Missouri but by the end of the season he and the offense had completely come off the rails. In his last five games for Missouri, he didn't post a game grade higher than 60.0. Bazelak has a bad habit of floating passes right to the defense and it undoes some really good play in general. We've seen more than just flashes of above average play from him. He heads to Indiana where there is no reason to believe that he can't find his game once again. If the offensive line can protect him, we could finally see that breakout campaign we all expected just one year later.

### 2021 BAZELAK TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
67.8	2.7%	3.3%	31.9%	7.5
<b>T-56th</b>	<b>T-57th</b>	<b>T-40th</b>	<b>57th</b>	<b>T-63rd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: SHAUN SHIVERS

Among the slew of transfers IU brought in is former Auburn back Shaun Shivers. The 2018 four-star recruit was never the feature back as a Tiger, receiving 201 carries over his four years. That's going to change at Indiana, as the Hoosiers saw most of their backs depart this offseason. Shivers is one of the smallest players on the field at 5-foot-7, 189-pounds, but he's also one of the feistiest, as he packs a punch at his size and has no issue lowering his pads into defenders at full force. Shivers has been far better on gap runs through his career, averaging 5.8 yards per attempt on such runs (4.3 on zone concepts), breaking 0.25 tackles per attempt (0.1 on zone concepts) and averaging 3.5 yards after contact per attempt (2.4 on zone concepts). That could bode well for Walt Bell's offense.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: D.J. MATTHEWS JR

A breakout seemed imminent for Matthews with the Hoosiers in 2021 after he transferred in from Florida State, but a torn ACL cut his season short. Against Cincinnati in Week 3, he turned in an 85.6 PFF grade after catching five of six targets for 120 yards. He is a route salesman who is deadly on double moves. Matthews' separation rate was beyond the 90th percentile at the position in the FBS before he got hurt. The 5-foot-11, 160-pound slot receiver is also a seasoned punt returner. He took one of his four punt returns to the house last season and owns an 80.2 punt return grade for his college career. If he can get back to pre-injury form, Matthews can be a major weapon for Indiana.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
69.9	2.09	13.3%	11.5	4
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: TIAWAN MULLEN

Injury derailed Mullen's 2021 campaign, limiting him to only four starts and 227 snaps. When healthy, he's undoubtedly among the best at the position. The 5-foot-10, 175-pounder has inside-outside versatility and is a ferocious blitzer. Mullen is also the proud owner of the highest run-defense grade among cornerbacks since his true freshman campaign in 2019. In coverage, he consistently wins at the catch point, with a 20.6% forced incompleteness rate since 2019 — the second-best among active Power Five cornerbacks.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
61.1	62.5%	1.76	12.5%	5
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# KEY STARTERS

## CB: JAYLIN WILLIAMS

Williams has logged over 1,000 career coverage snaps and been sturdy throughout his college football tenure. His 82.2 coverage grade since 2018 is the eighth-best of 45 qualifying Big Ten outside cornerbacks.

## OT: LUKE HAGGARD

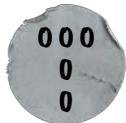
Haggard's 2021 season and 2020 debut year starting for Indiana were night and day. The JUCO product earned a 36.9 pass-blocking grade in 2020 but improved that mark to 66.0 in 2021 while making a major impact on the ground (74.7 run-blocking grade).

## SAF: DEVON MATTHEWS

Devon "Monster" Matthews is part of the heart and soul of Indiana football. He brings it in the box against the run (third among Big Ten safeties in box run-defense grade since 2020) and makes plays when roaming at deep safety (fourth in Big Ten in plays made on the ball at free safety since 2020).

### OFFENSE

#### OC: WALT BELL & ADAM HENRY



**PISTOL FORMATION**

**122nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**110th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: CHAD WILT



**ZONE COVERAGE**

**40th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
8.9%	39.1%	37.0%	9.2%	22.3%	37.3%
<b>126th</b>	<b>120th</b>	<b>95th</b>	<b>116th</b>	<b>119th</b>	<b>37th</b>

# IOWA HAWKEYES



- Head Coach  
**Kirk Ferentz**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**22 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.9**
- Chance to win B1G  
**5.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#30 NTL, #6 B1G**

Iowa personifies Big Ten football. Their games will often feature poor offense, few points and a lot of turnovers. Last year, the team's defense tied for the most turnovers forced in the Power Five (29), making up for an offense that ranked last in the Power Five in per-play efficiency. Quarterbacks Spencer Petras and Alex Padilla struggled to lead the way in 2021, and starting receivers Keagan Johnson and Nico Ragaini ranked 26th and 31st, respectively, among 31 qualifying Big Ten receivers in PFF grade. Despite losing three starting defensive backs, the Hawkeyes are still in good shape with their loaded linebacking corps and promising set of coverage players alongside veteran cornerback Riley Moss. Iowa's linebacker room was the seventh-highest-graded such unit in the Power Five last season.

## THE PORTAL

1

0

0.00

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-59 OF 64 TEAMS)

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(T-63 OF 64 TEAMS)

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

(39 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Iowa had a good run to the Big Ten title game in 2021, but they appear set to regress in 2022. A high forced turnover total won't be able to make up for bad offense this time.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**13th**

Sep. 3	South Dakota State
Sep. 10	Iowa State
Sep. 17	Nevada
Sep. 24	@ Rutgers
Oct. 1	Michigan
Oct. 8	@ Illinois
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ Ohio State
Oct. 29	Northwestern
Nov. 5	@ Purdue
Nov. 12	Wisconsin
Nov. 19	@ Minnesota
Nov. 25	Nebraska

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ One of the best LB corps in the country
- ✓ Playmakers at outside corner
- ✓ Run defense

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No passing game to speak of
- Not up to snuff in pass-protection

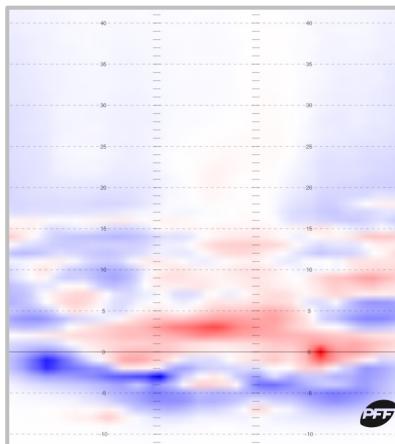
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: SPENCER PETRAS

The question for the Iowa coaching staff is whether they feel like Alex Padilla can give them a little bit more explosive play, especially in big games that they greatly lacked last year. With Spencer Petras the team knows what they are getting but the ceiling is not very high. Padilla came in for Petras as the former was injured in the back half of the season and had trouble completing balls but does have a nice arm. Padilla will at least try to hit receivers past the sticks although the throws don't always come off the way he'd want them to. Iowa has tended toward conservatism at the quarterback position so expect Petras to start the year but with a short leash.

### 2021 PETRAS TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
73.9	4.6%	3.0%	29.5%	8.7
<b>T-44th</b>	<b>T-37th</b>	<b>T-35th</b>	<b>48th</b>	<b>T-49th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: ARLAND BRUCE IV

Bruce has football in his blood due to being the son of the CFL's No. 11 all-time receiver and cousin of NFL Hall of Famer Isaac Bruce. The 2021 four-star recruit earned game action during his true freshman campaign and finished with a 70.3 PFF grade while generating 1.88 yards per route run. He made the most of his schemed touches, taking 10 "runs" for 65 yards and three touchdowns and 12 screens for 91 yards. Bruce hardly got much action outside of that due to the limitations at quarterback, but he did a good job of adjusting to off-target throws — three of his five receptions over 10 yards downfield were deemed inaccurate, according to PFF's ball-charting. Bruce's versatility could be huge to this Iowa offense in 2022.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## TE: SAM LAPORTA

LaPorta was one of the few bright spots in an underwhelming 2021 Iowa offense. He established himself as the most effective receiver on the roster, earning a team-leading 80.0 receiving grade. That mark was also good for 16th among qualifying FBS tight ends for the season. And despite lackluster quarterback play, LaPorta's 25 receptions past the sticks ranked fourth among Power Five tight ends in 2021.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
72.5	1.97	8.6%	8	52.2
<b>15th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>T-3rd</b>	<b>75th</b>

RANK AMONG 42 P5 TES RECEIVING, 99 BLOCKING

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: RILEY MOSS

Moss was bred for Phil Parker's zone defense and plays in it at a high level. The 2018 two-star recruit earned an 81.5 coverage grade last season. He has fantastic eyes in coverage, and his four interceptions, six pass breakups and seven passing stops from this past season back that up. That's not to say he isn't prone to getting caught out of position every now and then — the average gain of a reception against him last season went for 17.7 yards. Bringing more boom and less bust in 2022 is key.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
80.1	53.5%	1.13	11.6%	7
<b>17th</b>	<b>T-66th</b>	<b>T-122nd</b>	<b>T-81st</b>	<b>T-73rd</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## LB: JACK CAMPBELL

Campbell got his two lowest-graded games out of the way to start 2021 before finishing as a top-15 graded player in the Power Five from Week 3 on. His 972 snaps on the season were more than anyone else at the position, making his 85.1 tackling grade (10th in the Power Five) that much more impressive.

## LB: JESTIN JACOBS

Jacobs joined Iowa in 2019 as a lanky 6-foot-3, 190-pound linebacker. The four-star recruit played 71 snaps his first two years but carved out a role in 2021 after packing on over 40 pounds. He ranked 12th in grade in the Power Five through Week 7 before slipping a bit. He has the skill set to be a top-10 player in 2022.

## CB: JERMARI HARRIS

Harris was thrown into the lineup on various occasions in 2021 due to injuries within the starting unit, and he held up with little problem. He posted a 78.8 coverage grade with four interceptions, three pass breakups and eight passing stops. Now an expected starter, Harris will look to sustain that play.

## OFFENSE

### OC: BRIAN FERENTZ



**ZONE RUNS**

### 120th

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

### 120th

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: PHIL PARKER



**2-HIGH**

### 16th

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

### 19th

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
9.5%	29.8%	36.4%	11.3%	27.1%	38.2%
<b>121st</b>	<b>70th</b>	<b>103th</b>	<b>83rd</b>	<b>91st</b>	<b>46th</b>

# MARYLAND TERRAPINS



- Head Coach  
**Mike Locksley**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**52 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.7**
- Chance to win B1G  
**3.4%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#31 NTL, #7 B1G**

Maryland is one of college football's most slept-on teams heading into the 2022 season. The Terps are in great shape at both quarterback and wide receiver — two of the most important positions in the game. Quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa earned an elite 90.8 PFF grade last season and is eyeing another step forward. Head coach Mike Locksley told PFF he thinks Tagovailoa is the best quarterback in the Big Ten. Maryland will also welcome back wide receivers Dontay Demus Jr. and Jeshawn Jones after each missed more than half of 2021 with injuries, and they'll join rising star Rakim Jarrett. Only Ohio State and Michigan have a better set of starting wideouts than the Terps. What could hold this team back is its defense, which finished with the lowest grade in the Big Ten last season. The unit has serious concerns at every level heading into 2022.

## THE PORTAL

4

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-49 OF 64 TEAMS)

2,349

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(51 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.08

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(49 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

If everyone stays healthy, Maryland's offense can carry the team past the .500 mark and potentially into the top 25 at some point in the year.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

**STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:  
20th**

Sep. 3	Buffalo
Sep. 10	@ Charlotte
Sep. 17	SMU
Sep. 24	@ Michigan
Oct. 1	Michigan State
Oct. 8	Purdue
Oct. 15	@ Indiana
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	@ Wisconsin
Nov. 5	@ Penn State
Nov. 12	Wisconsin
Nov. 19	Ohio State
Nov. 26	Rutgers

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ One of the most underrated QBs in CFB
- ✓ Legit starting trio of WRs
- ✓ Sturdy OL in pass-protection

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Front 7 is on the weaker end
- Depth in the secondary

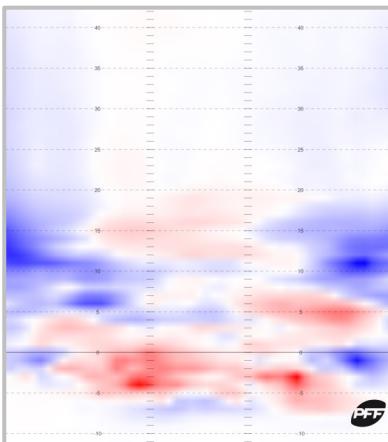
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: TAULIA TAGOVAILOA

In terms of processing plays exactly how they are drawn up in the playbook, Tagovailoa the Younger might be the best in college football. The efficiency of his footwork paired with the timing of when each read is supposed to come open is elite. He adds a bit of creativity to get certain routes open as well. If the Maryland defense can show up for the big games on the schedule and not force Tagovailoa to have to play from behind as early and by as much as the offense had to. He also shows a great ability to find tougher windows in the intermediate part of the field because he throws on time and understands how defenders early movements will affect the coverage as it unfolds. His anticipation is elite in that sense. A sneaky Heisman candidate.

### 2021 TAGOVAILOA TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
90.8	5.4%	3.1%	19.8%	7.6
<b>9th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>62nd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## SAF: DANTE TRADER

Trader has turned his attention to football after planning on playing two sports at Maryland. The Maryland safety was a three-star recruit in football but a five-star in lacrosse. Nevertheless, given Trader's play during his 2021 true freshman campaign, he could outplay his football recruiting status, as the 6-foot, 185-pound defensive back turned in a 74.6 PFF grade across 130 snaps. Trader was a solid tackler with just one miss on 15 attempts and made some impactful plays, including four defensive stops, one pass breakup and one quarterback hit. He is quick and unafraid to stick his nose into the fray. Trader is expected to take over a starting spot because Maryland has to replace both starting safeties.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: DONTAY DEMUS JR

Demus was on his way to star status last year before suffering a season-ending knee injury in Week 5. The 6-foot-3, 217-pound wide receiver will now look to continue that early-season success from 2021 in 2022 with no injury hiccups. Before getting hurt, Demus tallied 3.36 yards per route run and a 146.5 passer rating when targeted. He was shining as a deep threat, ranking in the top 10 nationally in 20-plus yard receptions (seven) and yards (279) through Week 5. Demus also averaged 9.9 yards after the catch and broke seven tackles on his 28 receptions for the year. With a clean bill of health, he can be one of the top receivers in the country.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
78.0	3.36	6.7%	9.0	12
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: DURELL NCHAMI

Nchami has been limited to just 288 snaps since 2019 because of injuries. When healthy, though, the 6-foot-4, 255-pound edge defender has produced a 92.8 pass-rush grade, a 27.7% pass-rush win rate and a 23.9% pressure rate. Nchami's performance against Rutgers in 2020 was one of the best performances PFF College has seen. He posted a 96.0 pass-rush game grade, which is second to only a Chase Young outing for the best single-game mark from a Power Five edge defender since 2014. Nchami can be an elite pass rusher if he stays healthy.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
79.0	79.2	80.1	19.4%	5
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## KEY STARTERS



### WR: RAKIM JARRETT

Jarrett has sky-high expectations for 2022. The 6-foot, 200-pound receiver was Maryland's second-highest-rated offensive recruit this century, behind only Stefon Diggs, and ranked 11th in the Big Ten in receiving grade for 2021. The now-third-year receiver has star potential this fall.

### OT: JAELYN DUNCAN

Duncan earned a top-10 PFF grade among Big Ten tackles last season, buoyed by 70.0-plus grades as a run blocker and pass blocker. He does have to limit penalties, though, with his 10 flags in 2021 being more than any other Big Ten tackle.

### OT: SPENCER ANDERSON

Anderson was the highest-graded pass blocker — regardless of position — in the Big Ten last year (86.6). And he got there while playing two positions: The 6-foot-5, 330-pounder started the first eight games at right tackle before kicking to center for his final five outings.

## OFFENSE

### OC: DAN ENOS & MIKE MILLER



SCREENS

**66th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**56th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: BRIAN WILLIAMS



MAN  
COVERAGE



BLITZ  
HAPPY

**95th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**76th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.1%	17.7%	36.7%	8.9%	26.5%	41.5%
<b>42nd</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>100th</b>	<b>121st</b>	<b>99th</b>	<b>88th</b>

# MICHIGAN WOLVERINES



Michigan's defense piloted the team to a Big Ten championship and a College Football Playoff berth in 2021. This year, the offense is likely going to be the key to the Wolverines remaining highly competitive. The group is headlined by speedy running back Blake Corum, who turned in an elite 91.1 rushing grade while serving as second fiddle to Hassan Haskins in 2021. Alongside him is pass-catching back Donovan Edwards, tight end Erick All and a deep receiving corps that includes Ronnie Bell, Andrel Anthony, Cornelius Johnson, A.J. Henning and Roman Wilson. As good as that arsenal of weapons is, Michigan needs to see improvements at quarterback. Cade McNamara was serviceable in 2021, but he couldn't put the team on his back. He has a limited arm that hinders the offense's downfield passing capabilities, and his 75.0 passing grade last season backs that up. On the other hand, true sophomore J.J. McCarthy — a former five-star recruit — has a ceiling that can place this team among the best in the nation.

## THE PORTAL

**2**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-56 OF 64 TEAMS)

**3,511**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(41 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.16**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(23 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Michigan can't defend its Big Ten title unless its starting quarterback produces at an elite level. The good news is that they have a signal-caller capable of doing so.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**41st**

Sep. 3	Colorado State
Sep. 10	Hawaii
Sep. 17	Connecticut
Sep. 24	Maryland
Oct. 1	@ Iowa
Oct. 8	@ Indiana
Oct. 15	Penn State
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	Michigan State
Nov. 5	@ Rutgers
Nov. 12	Nebraska
Nov. 19	Illinois
Nov. 26	@ Ohio State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Full arsenal of explosive weapons
- ✓ Sky-high potential at QB
- ✓ Secondary shouldn't skip a beat

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Edge rushers going to be a complete 180 from 2021
- New play-callers on both sides of the ball

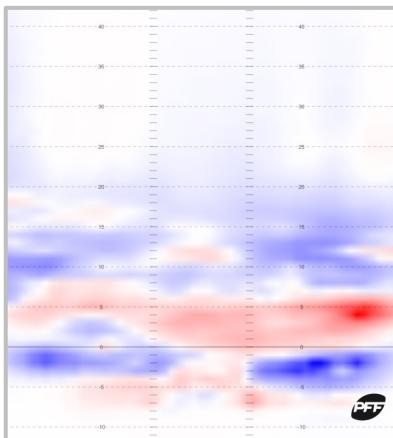
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CADE MCNAMARA / J.J. MCCARTHY

Even with quarterback Cade McNamara leading Michigan to its first Big Ten title under head coach Jim Harbaugh, J.J. McCarthy might end up as the 2022 Week 1 starter. McNamara is mostly consistent and shows off good accuracy, possessing a quick release and throwing the ball underneath very well. However, he lacks the ability to hit explosive plays downfield. That's where McCarthy's upside becomes intriguing. The younger quarterback would also give the Wolverines more flexibility in the designed run game, something they may be in need of if their backfield isn't as good as 2021's group. The debate comes down to a known floor in McNamara versus an unknown ceiling in McCarthy.

### 2021 McNamara Targets

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
77.4	4.9%	2.2%	22.8%	8.7
<b>37th</b>	<b>T-32nd</b>	<b>T-11th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>T-49th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: A.J. HENNING

There are several breakout candidates on this talented Wolverines team, but Henning is among the biggest. The 2020 fringe top-100 recruit has the skill set to be an elite, dynamic weapon for the Blue. Henning showed flashes on end-arounds and sweeps last season. He took nine end-arounds/reverses for 162 yards and two touchdowns and three sweeps for 39 yards. He also took a trick kick return to the house and averaged 9.4 yards per punt return across 29 such attempts. The 5-foot-10, 185-pound weapon is a slippery athlete and is a threat to convert a big gain anytime the ball is in his hands. Head coach Jim Harbaugh actually said during the spring that they envision a Deebo Samuel-esque role for Henning in 2022, including reps at running back. Henning is a pure gadget player until he can expand on his route tree, but either way, he's destined to be a valuable weapon to Michigan's offense in 2022.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## RB: BLAKE CORUM

While Corum's 2021 season finale against Georgia's vaunted run defense didn't go as he had hoped, it shouldn't take away from how dominant he was all year. He was one of four Power Five running backs with at least 100 carries who averaged at least 6.5 yards per attempt. Corum was also one of six in that group to accumulate at least four 50-plus yard runs. He possesses outstanding speed, which helped him to an impressive 91.1 rushing grade and the highest rushing yards over expectation (RYOE) mark last season. Corum is a candidate to be one of the most productive running backs of 2022 as he takes on an increased role following Hassan Haskins' departure to the NFL.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
89.0	15.3%	0.34	3.84	1.07
<b>10th</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>T-4th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: DJ TURNER

Turner handled a starting role for the first time in his Michigan career in Week 8 of 2021 and thrived from that point forward. His 80.7 coverage grade from that game onward ranked third-best among Power Five outside cornerbacks. And Turner did that despite playing a decent amount of press-man and facing the 13th-highest target rate among that group (17.4%). The 2019 four-star recruit allowed the fourth-lowest catch rate in the Power Five over that span (42%) en route to an 83.3 coverage grade.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
78.3	44.1%	1.07	15.3%	6
<b>25th</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>T-103rd</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>T-103rd</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## C: OLUSEGUN OLUWATIMI

Michigan replaces last year's starting center Andrew Vastardis with Oluwatimi, who posted the third-highest run-blocking grade at the position with Virginia in 2021. He and former Iowa star Tyler Linderbaum were the only Power Five centers to rank top five in both positively and negatively graded run-block rate.

## WR: RONNIE BELL

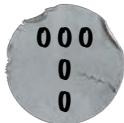
Bell missed almost all of 2021 due to injury and is eyeing a bounce-back campaign. When healthy in his four years at Michigan, the 6-foot, 192-pound receiver has been a productive after-the-catch threat, breaking 22 tackles and averaging 9.7 yards after the catch on 81 receptions.

## TE: ERICK ALL

All earned a 75.4 receiving grade in 2021, over 30 points higher than his 2020 mark. The best word to describe the 2019 four-star recruit's game is "grit." The 6-foot-4, 245-pound tight end looks to impose his will in the running game, recording five big-time run-blocks en route to a 76.4 run-block grade in 2021.

## OFFENSE

### OC: SHERRONE MOORE & MATT WEIS



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**GAP RUNS**

**20th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**17th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: JESSE MINTER



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**



**DROP 8**

**7th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

**31st**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.7%	31.0%	46.8%	11.0%	37.8%	34.7%
<b>82nd</b>	<b>83rd</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>92nd</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>19th</b>

# MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS



- Head Coach  
**Mel Tucker**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**17 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.5**
- Chance to win B1G  
**6.5%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#23 NTL, #4 B1G**

Despite having a four-game win total entering the 2021 season, per betting markets, Michigan State posted a 10-2 regular-season record. That said, the 2022 campaign may not be as kind to the Spartans. Losing workhorse running back Kenneth Walker III is a key reason, but the passing offense could also take a step back. The offense by design helped quarterback Payton Thorne quite a bit in 2021, with him finishing only near the middle of the Power Five in PFF grade, whereas Michigan State placed 13th overall in passing efficiency. Defensively, the Spartans will field a suspect coverage unit that allowed the second-most 15-plus yard pass plays in the Power Five in 2021 (91). Cornerback Chester Kimbrough's move from the outside to the slot and the addition of cornerback Ameer Speed, formerly of Georgia, are the X-factors of the unit.

## THE PORTAL

**8**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-21 OF 64 TEAMS)

**6,833**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(17 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.36**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(64 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

While Michigan State should get to a bowl in 2022, it likely won't be another New Year's Six game.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**19th**

Sep. 3	Western Michigan
Sep. 10	Akron
Sep. 17	@ Washington
Sep. 24	Minnesota
Oct. 1	@ Maryland
Oct. 8	Ohio State
Oct. 15	Wisconsin
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	@ Michigan
Nov. 5	@ Illinois
Nov. 12	Rutgers
Nov. 19	Indiana
Nov. 26	@ Penn State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Run defense discipline
- ✓ The return of the dynamic Jayden Reed

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Downtick in nearly every facet on offense from 2021
- Pass coverage still an issue

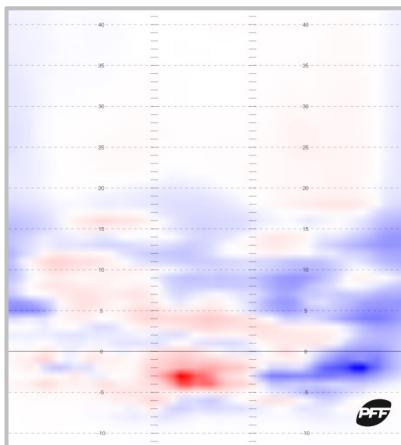
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: PAYTON THORNE

The advanced box score and film do not paint as rosy a picture for Thorne during the Spartans fantastic 2021 season as the record and traditional box score stats do. With the benefit of heavy playaction, an incredible run game and some well designed trick plays, the Spartans were able to get their offense clicking. Without those types of plays, it was more of a struggle. Thorne's processing can be erratic just as his timing and accuracy can be as well. Another year in the same system should help focus his vision on the defenders he needs to read. Deciphering safety rotations was another issue. He's not the most mobile but can escape the pocket at times and find some room to pick up first downs when needed. Thorne is still a work in progress but he's young and now has starting experience.

### 2021 THORNE TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
77.6	5.8%	2.8%	31.0%	9.8
<b>36th</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>T-30th</b>	<b>54th</b>	<b>T-23rd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: JALEN BERGER

Berger played in only three games last season at Wisconsin with a minor workload before being dismissed from the team. Now, the 2020 four-star recruit has his eyes set on bouncing back with Michigan State, where he will try to replace 2021 Doak Walker Award winner Kenneth Walker III. Berger did flash early in his college career, racking up 12 runs of 10 or more yards on 60 attempts in his 2020 true freshman campaign. While he hardly featured in the passing game, expect the Spartans to give him plenty of work as a receiver. Berger should lead a deep running back room that includes Colorado transfer Jarek Broussard, 2019 starter Elijah Collins and others.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: JAYDEN REED

Reed is one of the top returning deep threats in college football. He is fresh off top-five rankings among FBS wide receivers in 20-plus yard receptions (17) and touchdowns (eight). While the 6-foot, 185-pounder brings plenty of speed, his ability to track and adjust to the ball, along with winning at the catch point, is what helps make him a downfield threat. Reed hauled in eight of 13 contested deep targets last year and had three of his deep touchdowns come on inaccurate throws — both top-three marks in the FBS. And let's not forget he's also one of the best punt returners in the country (top three in punt return grade last year).

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
82.2	2.67	9.2%	13.2	27
<b>16th</b>	<b>T-15th</b>	<b>T-113th</b>	<b>T-40th</b>	<b>T-9th</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### DL: JACOB SLADE

The consistent Slade earned an 86.1 PFF grade for the Spartans last season, ranking third among Power Five interior defensive linemen. He also ranked in the top 10 nationally at the position in both pressures generated (40) and run stops (27) and was among six Power Five players at the position to earn grades above 75.0 as both a run defender and a pass-rusher.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
86.1	87.8	76.3	9.9%	30
<b>3rd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>5th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

# KEY STARTERS

## G: J.D. DUPLAINE

Duplain is one of the better returning pass-blocking guards in college football. He ranked seventh among FBS guards in pass-blocking grade a season ago with an 86.1 mark. He steadily improved from 2019 through 2021 and is one to watch to claim a first-team All-Big Ten spot this fall.

## CB: RONALD WILLIAMS

After being named a JUCO All-American, Williams joined Alabama in 2020 and then transferred to Michigan State in 2021. While he was far from a lockdown cornerback, the 6-foot-2, 185-pounder was still above average. He generated 0.07 PFF Wins Above Average, ranking 16th among Big Ten cornerbacks.

## DI: SIMEON BARROW

After opting out of his 2020 freshman season, Barrow was a surprise breakout in 2021. His 71.5 PFF grade last year ranked eighth among Big Ten interior defenders and is a top-three mark among those returning this fall. He and Jacob Slade are sneakily among the country's top interior tandems.

## OFFENSE

### OC: JAY JOHNSON



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**PLAY ACTION PASSING**



**ZONE RUNS**

**23rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**71st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: SCOTTIE HAZELTON



**MUG FRONTS**



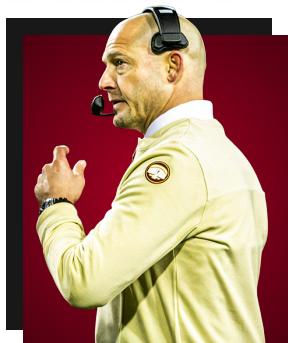
**ZONE COVERAGE**

**63rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.3%	22.9%	41.9%	10.4%	35.3%	40.8%
<b>37th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>56th</b>	<b>100th</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>77th</b>

# MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS



- Head Coach  
**P.J. Fleck**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**19 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.1**
- Chance to win B1G  
**8.8%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#49 NTL, #14 B1G**

Minnesota should be near-favorites for the Big Ten West in 2022 alongside Wisconsin and Purdue as opposed to having the fifth-best odds at many sportsbooks. Minnesota, a top-20 team in PFF's power ranking, is led by experienced quarterback Tanner Morgan, who enters his sixth year overall and fourth as a starter. Morgan may get a bit panicky when plays start to break, but he's led P.J. Fleck's offense to success when things go according to plan. On in-rhythm plays since 2019, Minnesota ranks fourth in the Power Five in passing efficiency, behind only Alabama, Ohio State and Oklahoma. The health of WR1 Chris Autman-Bell and running back Mohamed Ibrahim will be key for the Gophers in 2022. Both players were hindered by injuries last season, and each can be among the best at their respective positions in the Big Ten.

## THE PORTAL

**7**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

**3,753**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(40 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.17**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(21 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Minnesota is flying under the radar. Don't be surprised if the Big Ten West comes down to the battle for Paul Bunyan's Axe at Camp Randall in Week 13.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**57th**

Sep. 1	New Mexico State
Sep. 10	Western Illinois
Sep. 17	Colorado
Sep. 24	@ Michigan State
Oct. 1	Purdue
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 15	@ Illinois
Oct. 22	@ Penn State
Oct. 29	Rutgers
Nov. 5	@ Nebraska
Nov. 12	Northwestern
Nov. 19	Iowa
Nov. 26	@ Wisconsin

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Secondary can take them a long way
- ✓ Starting group of offensive skill position players

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Return just 1 starter on the OL
- Depth across the board on offense
- Can they rush the passer?

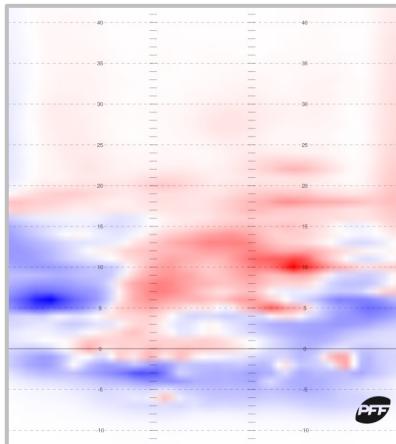
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: TANNER MORGAN

It was a bounce back year for Morgan at the helm of the Gophers offense. He returns for his sixth year of eligibility. Offensive coordinator Kirk Ciarrocca returns to Minnesota as well. That duo produced Morgan's best season, an 89.1 passing grade in 2019. No one throws more slants than Morgan who is unafraid of trying to fit balls into tight windows around linebackers. The RPO and play action elements help and have stayed consistent since Ciarrocca left for two years but finding better answers in the drop back game like in 2019 will help Morgan. He possesses great mechanics but could be a bit more accurate. Not a runner either.

### 2021 MORGAN TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
74.0	4.7%	4.0%	31.8%	11.7
<b>43rd</b>	<b>T-34th</b>	<b>T-56th</b>	<b>56th</b>	<b>T-4th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## OT: AXEL RUSCHMEYER

Just one starting offensive linemen returns to the Golden Gophers for 2022, so the unit needs others to step up. Replacing the experienced talent up front is a tall task, but the good news is Ruschmeyer is a promising candidate at left guard. The sixth-year senior played 10 snaps in his first three years combined before taking over a starting spot in 2020 and subsequently getting moved to a pure jumbo package player. The 6-foot-4, 305-pound lineman earned a 63.9 PFF grade across 382 snaps in 2020 but looked far better last season as the extra big man attached to the line en route to a 94.3 mark on 261 reps. His pass blocking is something to monitor given his lack of experience, but there's no denying his expected impact on the ground game. Ruschmeyer's 87.3 run-blocking grade and eight big-time blocks on just 214 reps last season are promising for his 2022 outlook.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### C: JOHN MICHAEL SCHMITZ

Schmitz, one of the more under-the-radar offensive linemen in the Big Ten over the past few years, enjoyed his best season yet in 2021. His 88.1 PFF grade ranked third-best among FBS centers, and he earned an 87.5 run-blocking grade while also not allowing a single sack or quarterback hit in pass protection. Since 2019, Schmitz has been the second-most valuable center in the Power Five — behind only Iowa's Tyler Linderbaum, now with the Baltimore Ravens. Schmitz has a real chance to take home the Rimington Trophy in 2022.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
88.5	81.3	1.7%	31.2%	87.5
<b>3rd</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>47th</b>	<b>5th</b>

RANK AMONG 74 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: JUSTIN WALLEY

Walley finished as PFF's highest-graded true freshman cornerback in coverage last season. He's still working on his eyes and feel for the college game, but the former three-star recruit has fluid hips and plays well beyond his years overall. Walley played double-digit coverage snaps in 10 games and allowed less than 15 yards in six of those outings. He broke up five passes, tallied an interception and forced a fumble in the process. Becoming less of a reactor will be key in Walley's development.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
75.5	54.0%	1.20	16.2%	6
<b>T-35th</b>	<b>71st</b>	<b>T-142nd</b>	<b>T-28th</b>	<b>T-103rd</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### SAF: JORDAN HOWDEN

Howden, who has played a significant role since his 2018 freshman year, enjoyed the best season of his career in 2021. His 76.3 PFF grade last year was double-digit grading points better than any other season. The former walk-on is the most valuable safety returning to the Big Ten.

### WR: CHRIS AUTMAN-BELL

Autman-Bell's expected 2021 breakout was hurt by a preseason injury that lingered into the season. But when on the field, he was in career form. The 6-foot-1, 215-pound receiver posted career bests in PFF grade (77.3) and yards per route run (2.58). Now healthy, Autman-Bell should flourish in 2022.

### TE: BREVYN SPANN-FORD

Spann-Ford went from being an exclusive blocker to an all-around tight end in 2021. After seeing just nine targets in three years, the 6-foot-7, 270-pounder handled 29 in 2021 and put up a 78.5 receiving grade. On 60 routes as an inline tight end, he caught 17 of 21 targets for 220 yards and a score.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: KIRK CIARROCCA



RPOS



GAP RUNS

**65th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**61st**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JOE ROSSI



ZONE COVERAGE

**17th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**34th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
10.7%	26.5%	46.1%	11.6%	31.6%	34.9%
<b>99th</b>	<b>40th</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>73rd</b>	<b>49th</b>	<b>21st</b>

# NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS



- Head Coach  
**Scott Frost**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**60 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.3**
- Chance to win B1G  
**3.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#41 NTL, #10 B1G**

Many tapped Nebraska the best 3-9 team of all time in 2021 due to the squad's numerous close finishes — every loss was by single digits. But that may have led to unreasonably heightened expectations for the Cornhuskers in 2022. Despite having the second-best odds to win the Big Ten West at several sportsbooks (24.9%), Nebraska comes in with the fourth-best chances in PFF's model (11.4%). The biggest worries are with the offensive line and how new quarterback Casey Thompson will handle the group. Last year, the Cornhuskers ranked dead last in the Power Five in pass-blocking grade by double-digit points, and their highest-graded player from that group — center Cam Jurgens — is off to the NFL. Thompson — a Texas transfer — has struggled under duress in the past. His 7.8% turnover-worthy play rate under pressure in 2021 was the sixth-worst mark in the Power Five.

## THE PORTAL

**14**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(5 OF 64 TEAMS)

**8,581**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(10 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.12**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(28 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

The Nebraska hype is getting out of control. A near-.500 record and a bowl berth — not the Big Ten West title — are reasonable expectations.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**18th**

Aug. 27	vs Northwestern
Sep. 3	North Dakota
Sep. 10	Georgia Southern
Sep. 17	Oklahoma
Sep. 24	OFF
Oct. 1	Indiana
Oct. 7	@ Rutgers
Oct. 15	@ Purdue
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	Illinois
Nov. 5	Minnesota
Nov. 12	@ Michigan
Nov. 19	Wisconsin
Nov. 25	@ Iowa

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Outside of DT, not much to worry about on defense.
- ✓ Decent pass-rush duo on the edge

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Pass-protection is in panic territory
- They no longer have a QB who can battle thru pressure

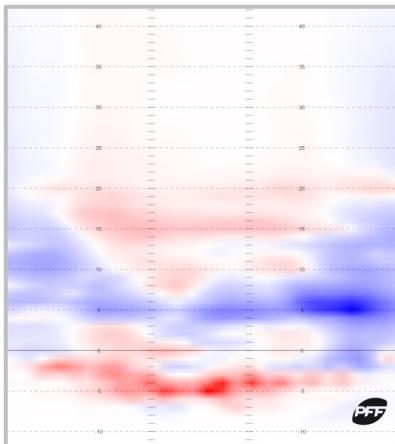
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CASEY THOMPSON

Casey Thompson transfers in from Texas where he started most of the second half of the season for the Longhorns. The 'Huskers going from Adrian Martinez to Thompson is a drastic change in the playstyle of their starting quarterback. Thompson moves well in the pocket and can run if necessary but he's a pocket passer and a very underrated one. When the pocket is clean he's very adept at getting through his progressions and finding the right receiver. Nebraska brought in former Pittsburgh offensive coordinator Mark Whipple to run their offense so it should fit Thompson more than the classic Scott Frost offense would have.

### 2021 THOMPSON TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
78.3	5.3%	3.8%	35.5%	9.8
<b>34th</b>	<b>T-20th</b>	<b>T-50th</b>	<b>64th</b>	<b>T-23rd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## LB: CHRIS KOLAREVIC

Replacing hybrid nickel JoJo Domann — who was drafted by the Indianapolis Colts — isn't going to be easy, but the Cornhuskers have a promising candidate in former Northern Iowa transfer Chris Kolarevic. He posted a strong 77.9 PFF grade while playing for the Panthers in 2019. When the coronavirus canceled his 2020 season, he made the move to Nebraska and played only on special teams and as a reserve inside linebacker for 2021. Despite having less than 50 career slot snaps to his name, the 6-foot-1, 230-pound defender will be moving to Domann's hybrid nickel job for 2022. His lack of experience in such a difficult role is a concern, but there is no denying Kolarevic has the same all-around athleticism that Jomann provided. Kolarevic was one of the top testers during Nebraska's offseason program in 2021 when considering size, which is why he is being trusted to take on the role.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: OMAR MANNING

Manning, a four-star recruit in the 2017 cycle, landed with TCU before transferring to Kilgore College. He eventually played his way into becoming a top JUCO prospect, and Nebraska was the lucky team to land him in 2020. The 6-foot-4, 225-pound receiver uses his massive, physical frame to his advantage. In 2021 for the Cornhuskers, Manning caught six of his eight contested opportunities and hauled in off-target passes with regularity. That aided in his top-five Power Five ranking in receiving grade on inaccurate but catchable targets. Manning caught all 14 such opportunities for 233 yards and two scores.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
69.0	1.73	7.1%	12.9	12
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: GARRETT NELSON

Nelson isn't the most gifted player from a physical tools standpoint, but he overcomes it. Between his instincts and ever-increasing knowledge of the game, the Cornhusker was a vastly improved pass rusher in 2021. He saw a double-digit grading swing in that facet, from 61.8 to 74.0. The 6-foot-3, 255-pound edge defender is also a playmaker against the run, ranking fifth among Big Ten edge defenders since 2020 in positively graded run play rate.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
69.8	66.8	74.0	10.2%	22
<b>82nd</b>	<b>98th</b>	<b>T-51st</b>	<b>T-100th</b>	<b>T-61st</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

# KEY STARTERS

## CB: OMAR BROWN

Brown dominated for Northern Iowa the past two years. Since 2020, the transfer ranked second in coverage grade (91.4) and first in yards per coverage snap (0.43) among FCS outside cornerbacks. And he didn't allow a single touchdown.

## LB: LUKE REIMER

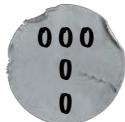
Reimer's numbers against the run and the pass vary greatly. He ranked second among Big Ten off-ball linebackers in coverage grade but 35th in run-defense grade last season. While he isn't expected to make massive improvements in the latter facet in 2022, he does need to get back to average.

## EDGE: CALEB TANNOR

Tannor was largely unproductive his first few years on the field for the Cornhuskers but started to show some progress in 2021. He turned in a 70.2 pass-rush grade, more than 11 points higher than his previous career best. Nebraska needs the 2018 four-star recruit to sustain that and then some this fall.

## OFFENSE

### OC: MARK WHIPPLE



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**VERTICAL PASSING GAME**

**21st**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**47th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: ERIK CHINANDER



**ZONE COVERAGE**

**36th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**59th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.2%	47.3%	40.2%	11.8%	31.2%	39.0%
<b>38th</b>	<b>127th</b>	<b>70th</b>	<b>70th</b>	<b>53rd</b>	<b>55th</b>

# NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS



- Head Coach  
**Pat Fitzgerald**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**83 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4.5**
- Chance to win B1G  
**0.5%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#48 NTL, #13 B1G**

The past four years were rife with volatility for Northwestern, a lot of which was because of quarterback turnover. The Wildcats experienced a new starter in each season, but they'll have a returner leading the way in 2022: Ryan Hilinski. The problem is, he's far from the best Northwestern has had at the position. In fact, he's one of the most limited passers in the country. The Wildcats ranked 59th in the Power Five in explosive pass play rate while producing the worst turnover-worthy rate in 2021. There may be star power along the offensive line, but the Wildcats won't be able to take full advantage of it. Defensively, there's going to be a ton of stress on the defensive backs. Outside of edge defender Adetomiwa Adebawore, getting after the quarterback could be a challenge for Northwestern after the team ranked second-to-last in the Big Ten in pass-rush grade in 2021.

## THE PORTAL

**3**PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-51 OF 64 TEAMS)

**983**CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(59 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.18**2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

(57 OF 64 TEAMS)



With Ryan Hilinski at quarterback, Northwestern's offense is going to be far too limited. Expect a season akin to that of last year as opposed to the Wildcats' 2020 top-10 year.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**14th**

Aug. 27	vs Nebraska
Sep. 3	OFF
Sep. 10	Duke
Sep. 17	Southern Illinois
Sep. 24	Miami OH
Oct. 1	@ Penn State
Oct. 8	Wisconsin
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ Maryland
Oct. 29	@ Iowa
Nov. 5	Ohio State
Nov. 12	@ Minnesota
Nov. 19	@ Purdue
Nov. 26	Illinois

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Strong OT duo
- ✓ Starting outside CBs have a high ceiling

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Very limited arm at QB
- Pass-rush is a one man show
- Stopping the run might be a chore

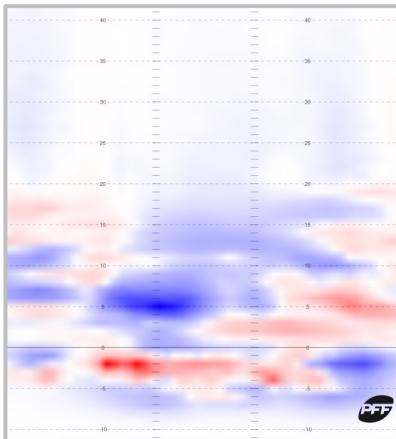
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: RYAN HILINSKI

The 2020 season seems to have been a mirage for the Wildcats. In the PFF college era (2014-) only once has a starting posted a passing grade above 75.0. That was Peyton Thorne's 78.6 in 2020. The 2021 season saw all three starters post passing grades below 60.0 with returning starter Ryan Hilinski at 47.4. He had massive trouble hitting open receivers. The decision making was not terrible but it also gets undone by the poor accuracy. Hilinski will compete with Brendan Sullivan for the starting spot as they make their way to Dublin for their season opener but it could be another long season.

### 2021 HILINSKI TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
49.3	1.1%	5.0%	34.9%	8.0
<b>67th</b>	<b>67th</b>	<b>64th</b>	<b>63rd</b>	<b>T-56th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: MALIK WASHINGTON

Washington was buried on the depth chart before showing some potential as a starter in 2021. Now, the Wildcats are expecting the 5-foot-9, 192-pound receiver to be their go-to option in the passing game. Washington may lack height, but he's strong and tough as nails. He caught nine of his 12 contested opportunities in 2021 while also breaking eight tackles on 43 receptions. And from Week 3 on, Washington didn't drop a single pass. Northwestern's limitations at quarterback aren't going to help him record monstrous numbers this fall, but the slot receiver is poised to make the most of the situation as he grows into a larger role.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### OT: PETER SKORONSKI

Northwestern thrust the then-true freshman Skoronski into its starting left tackle spot in 2019 following Rashawn Slater's sudden opt-out. Since then, he's easily been one of the best players at the position, and he will look to claim that top spot in 2022. Skoronski has posted a top-15 grade among Power Five offensive tackles in each of the past two years (81.4 and 83.8). That success runs in the family, too — his late grandfather, Bob Skoronski, is a member of the Green Bay Packers' Hall of Fame for his work as a tackle in the 1960s. Skoronski's size and top-tier athleticism are reminiscent of Slater — now with the Los Angeles Chargers — and he is following in Slater's footsteps from a college production standpoint, too.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
83.8	84.3	4.8%	42.7%	78.2
<b>16th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>79th</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>32nd</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: CAMERON MITCHELL

Playing in a defense that runs zone more than 80% of the time, Mitchell doesn't get a ton of ball production, but the PFF data shows just how smooth of an operator the Northwestern cornerback is. Last year, he tied for seventh among Big Ten cornerbacks in PFF grade. The 6-foot, 195-pounder allowed over 40 yards in a single game in just one of 12 starts on the year. Mitchell can hold his own in man coverage in high-leverage situations if needed, too. From man coverage since 2020, he has allowed five catches on 15 targets and 76 coverage snaps for 39 yards.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
75.5	65.5%	0.95	10.9%	7
<b>T-35th</b>	<b>164th</b>	<b>T-78th</b>	<b>T-95th</b>	<b>T-73rd</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## OT: ETHAN WIEDERKEHR

Wiederkehr is a subtle growth candidate for 2022 after his solid debut as a starting right tackle in 2021. The 2017 three-star recruit started only a handful of games at tackle before last season, yet he managed a 70.8 PFF grade for his 2021 campaign — 15th among 35 qualifying Big Ten tackles.

## SAF: COCO AZEMA

Azema lines up in the box more than anywhere else, but the 5-foot-11, 185-pound safety is at his best playing deep or in the slot. He is a sure tackler, regardless of position (six misses on 90 career attempts), but his PFF grade swings by double digits when isolating his box reps from every other position.

## CB: A.J. HAMPTON JR

Hampton plays a volatile game. While his 19.1% forced incompleteness rate ranked seventh among Power Five outside cornerbacks in 2021, his 4.3% explosive play rate allowed was the 10th-worst. He allowed 235 yards and two touchdowns against Purdue — that can't happen this fall.

## OFFENSE

### OC: MIKE BAJAKIAN



**DROPBACK  
PASSING**

**125th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**79th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: JIM O'NEIL



**ZONE  
COVERAGE**

**59th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**109th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
9.3%	31.4%	36.0%	8.9%	24.5%	43.2%
<b>122nd</b>	<b>85th</b>	<b>100th</b>	<b>120th</b>	<b>111th</b>	<b>101st</b>

# OHIO STATE BUCKEYES



Head Coach

**Ryan Day**

PFF Power Ranking

**3 OF 130**

Projected Win Total

**10.0**

Chance to win B1G

**32.3%**

2022 Recruiting Rank

**#4 NTL, #1 B1G**

Ohio State lost two wide receivers to the first round of the 2022 NFL Draft, but Columbus will still be home to one of the most explosive offenses in college football this season. The Buckeyes have top-five FBS returners at quarterback, wide receiver, running back and offensive line. Quarterback C.J. Stroud got off to a shaky start in 2021 before turning a big corner in Week 5. From that point forward, no signal-caller in the country earned a higher PFF grade, as he was far more accurate and more comfortable when things started to break down. Those inconsistencies may return in 2022, but that can't happen if Ohio State is to win the national title. Returning with Stroud is the best wide receiver in the FBS, Jaxon Smith-Njigba, who earned a 91.7 PFF grade in 2021. After that, there's a slew of promising breakout candidates at the position, including Marvin Harrison Jr., Julian Fleming and Emeka Egbuka.

## THE PORTAL

**2**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-56 OF 64 TEAMS)

**2,153**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(52 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.04**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(47 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Assuming the team's defense is not a liability, Ohio State's fate in 2022 lies in the hands of C.J. Stroud and his ability to play consistently well.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**16th**

Sep. 3	Notre Dame
Sep. 10	Arkansas State
Sep. 17	Toledo
Sep. 24	Wisconsin
Oct. 1	Rutgers
Oct. 8	@ Michigan State
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	Iowa
Oct. 29	@ Penn State
Nov. 5	@ Northwestern
Nov. 12	Indiana
Nov. 19	@ Maryland
Nov. 26	Michigan

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ QB1, RB1 and WR1 are all among the best in the country
- ✓ Best OL in the Big Ten
- ✓ Pass-rush has a ton of potential

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Overall defense won't be an overnight fix

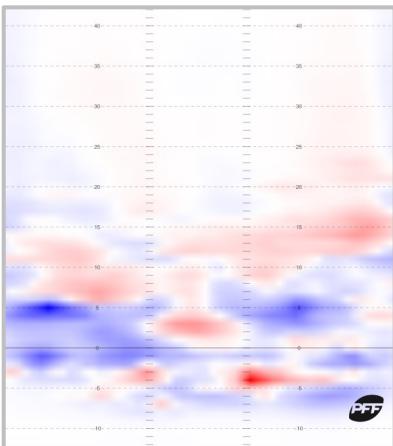
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: C.J. STROUD

What sticks out about Stroud, who will be a Heisman contender throughout the season, is that while he has a very strong arm, he's able to craft different types of throws. He can put different trajectories depending on the route and coverage in the intermediate part of the field and isn't afraid to attack the middle around linebackers and safeties. Stroud plays with a good base and is able to get throws off anytime in the route progression because of it. Creating a more rotational throwing posture could create more accurate outcomes — even though Stroud was already one of the more accurate quarterbacks in the country last season.

### 2021 STROUD TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
92.2	5.9%	2.5%	21.7%	10.0
<b>T-1st</b>	<b>T-12th</b>	<b>T-21st</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>T-19th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## EDGE: JACK SAWYER

Sawyer was one of the several five-star recruits to join the Buckeyes during the 2021 cycle. He hadn't played a down of football since 2019 after getting hurt and then opting out of the 2020 season to end his high school career. Sawyer played 101 pass-rush snaps as a reserve during his true freshman campaign at Ohio State and recorded 11 pressures en route to a 78.6 pass-rush grade. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound edge defender is explosive, powerful and more advanced than most his age. After the Buckeyes' spring game, head coach Ryan Day in his press conference highlighted Sawyer — along with fellow 2021 five-star recruit J.T. Tuimoloau — as a player who had a strong offseason and a candidate to be a "force" next fall. Sawyer could be the next Ohio State household name on the edge.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: JAXON SMITH-NJIGBA

Despite having two receivers join the NFL as first-round picks, Ohio State still rosters the best returning player at the position in college football. Shocking, right? Smith-Njigba's record-breaking Rose Bowl — in which he caught 15 passes for 336 yards and three touchdowns — helped him to a 91.7 PFF grade in 2021. Not only was that the top mark for the season, but it's also among the three best grades from a Power Five receiver in the past five years. Smith-Njigba also generated a 141.8 passer rating on his targets last year, the fourth-highest by a Power Five receiver with at least 100 targets since 2017. He has elite short-area quicks and ball skills, along with route-running ability that holds up to the Ohio State standard.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
91.7	4.01	5.9%	9.3	43
<b>1st</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>T-72nd</b>	<b>120th</b>	<b>1st</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: ZACH HARRISON

Several Ohio State players could take the defensive spotlight, but Zach Harrison prevails here. No returning Buckeye defender has generated more PFF Wins Above Average since 2020 than him. In that span, the 6-foot-6, 272-pound edge defender has earned a 90.5 pass-rush grade while recording a 19.4% pass-rush win rate. Although the 2019 five-star recruit boasts top production, his consistency is sorely lacking. He recorded zero pressures in two of his final four games in 2021.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
82.0	75.5	86.4	9.9%	27
<b>20th</b>	<b>34th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>106th</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

# KEY STARTERS

## RB: TREVEYON HENDERSON

Henderson was the top-ranked 2021 running back recruit, and he definitely looked the part. The Buckeye converted 18.6% of his carries into a gain of 10 or more yards — the eighth-highest rate among Power Five running backs. His five 20-plus yard touchdown runs also tied for second in that group.

## OT: DAWAND JONES

Jones is a monstrous tackle at 6-foot-8 and 360 pounds with a 7-foot-5 wingspan. The 2019 three-star recruit — who received several Division I basketball offers — earned a 90.6 run-blocking grade in 2021, the fourth-best mark among Power Five tackles. He also tied for fifth in big-time run blocks among that group.

## CB: DENZEL BURKE

Burke came to Ohio State as a four-star recruit who wasn't expected to play much in his first year after working primarily as a receiver in high school. Yet, he was forced into the lineup due to injuries at the position and held his own. He didn't allow a touchdown while notching one interception and breaking up nine balls on 64 targets.

## OFFENSE

### OC: KEVIN WILSON



**ZONE  
RUNS**

**2nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**3rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: JIM KNOWLES



**DROP 8**



**MAN  
COVERAGE**



**MUG  
FRONTS**

**49th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**64th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
17.2%	22.9%	51.5%	12.1%	32.4%	43.8%
<b>2nd</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>64th</b>	<b>47th</b>	<b>106th</b>

# PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS



- Head Coach  
**James Franklin**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**16 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.1**
- Chance to win B1G  
**5.9%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#6 NTL, #2 B1G**

Sean Clifford is once again leading Penn State's offense at quarterback, automatically capping the Nittany Lions' 2022 potential. While he can make plays with his legs when things start to break down, he isn't an effective passer. He owns single-season passing grades of 69.3, 60.9 and 68.6 since 2019. Those limitations will hinder the offense, but Clifford will at least have one of the strongest wide receiver tandems in the country. Returner Parker Washington and Western Kentucky transfer Mitchell Tinsley are both among the 15 most valuable returning wide receivers in the FBS from 2021. Defensively, Penn State's pass rush is likely to take a step back after losing an elite-graded player in Arnold Ebiketie, but the linebackers and secondary are in good shape. Returners Joey Porter Jr. and Daequan Hardy gave the Nittany Lions the third-highest-graded outside cornerback room in the Big Ten in 2021.

## THE PORTAL

3

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-51 OF 64 TEAMS)

2,485

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(47 OF 64 TEAMS)

0.51

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(7 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Expect Penn State's 2022 campaign to resemble 2021 — a good football team lacking the offensive juice to be a great football team.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**24th**

Sep. 1	@ Purdue
Sep. 10	Ohio
Sep. 17	@ Auburn
Sep. 24	Central Michigan
Oct. 1	Northwestern
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 15	@ Michigan
Oct. 22	Minnesota
Oct. 29	Ohio State
Nov. 5	@ Indiana
Nov. 12	Maryland
Nov. 19	@ Rutgers
Nov. 26	@ Michigan State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ One of the top coverage units in the Big Ten
- ✓ Still have a legit WR tandem

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Roller-coaster QB
- No consistent pressure generators

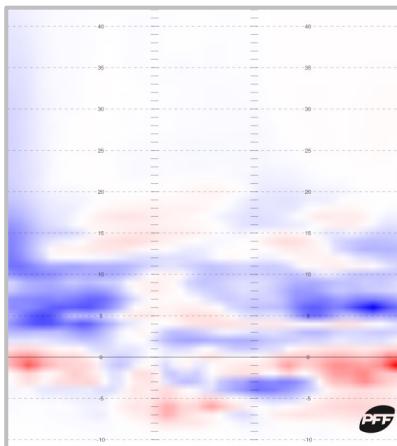
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: SEAN CLIFFORD

Having started now for three seasons going on four, Clifford has a grasp of how to read through all the concepts that are called for him. His issues are that he can become a bit jittery in the pocket which can cause his timing and footwork to become maladroit. He won't take the chance to throw into tighter windows which leads to more pressure and more shattered nerves. When he does throw, his accuracy can be underwhelming. He doesn't miss badly but receivers are constantly having to slow down or reach behind them to catch the ball. The accuracy gets him in trouble and he will need to improve in this area. Clifford possesses good touch but doesn't have a strong arm. With over 1000 pass attempts in his career already, this may be just who he is.

### 2021 CLIFFORD TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
70.5	4.6%	2.5%	29.0%	8.8
<b>49th</b>	<b>T-37th</b>	<b>T-21st</b>	<b>47th</b>	<b>T-47th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## G: LANDON TENGWALL

Penn State's top recruit of the 2021 cycle was none other than offensive lineman Landon Tengwall, who ranked 54th nationally. The 6-foot-6, 326-pounder got some action late in his true freshman campaign at left tackle and both guard spots. And he looked more like a seasoned veteran than a young, inexperienced offensive lineman. Tengwall earned an 81.9 PFF grade on 117 snaps, including a 79.4 mark in the run game and an 85.2 grade in pass protection. He has all the traits to be a special player for Penn State over the next couple of seasons and is one of the biggest breakout candidates in the country for 2022 as he takes over the starting left guard spot.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: PARKER WASHINGTON

Washington finished the 2021 season as one of the highest-graded non-draft-eligible wide receivers, with an 81.6 mark, and is now eyeing an elite PFF grade for 2022. He is strong and elusive after the catch, as his 16 broken tackles on 64 receptions can attest, but his hands and body control are the best attributes of his game. Washington is a natural at contorting his body to inaccurate throws — and sometimes snagging them with one hand. He dropped just two of his 86 targets in 2021, including none over his last eight games. Standing at 5-foot-10 and weighing in at 207 pounds, this Nittany Lion has All-American potential this fall.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
81.6	2.00	3.0%	9.1	21
T-17th	T-57th	T-23rd	T-125th	T-24th

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: JOEY PORTER JR

Porter ranked sixth among Big Ten cornerbacks in separation rate allowed last year, but he was also flagged more than anyone else (10 penalties in total, tied for most in the FBS). The 6-foot-2, 192-pound cornerback brings an alpha mentality and is quick to close when playing off, but he has to reel in his physicality while continuing to develop the rest of his game. Porter did show a high level of play to start last season (third-highest-graded cornerback in the Big Ten through Week 8), but that didn't last. Perhaps he can keep it going in 2022 — his third year starting.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
672	60.0%	1.01	7.3%	11
T-106th	T-109th	T-93rd	T-151st	T-23rd

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## WR: MITCHELL TINSLEY

Tinsley is a reliable receiver who brings physicality on a down-to-down basis. The former JUCO and Western Kentucky product earned a 79.9 receiving grade for the Hilltoppers in 2021 while catching 13 of 26 contested opportunities, dropping just 2.5% of catchable targets and breaking 17 tackles on 79 catches.

## CB: DAEQUAN HARDY

Hardy is an underappreciated piece of Penn State's defense heading into 2022. The 5-foot-9, 180-pound defensive back has quality slot coverage ability, evidenced by his fifth-ranked grade among 17 Big Ten qualifiers in 2021. He didn't allow a touchdown as a slot defender but did tally two interceptions and five forced incompletions.

## SAF: JI'AYIR BROWN

Brown came to the Nittany Lions in the 2020 JUCO cycle and broke out in his second year with the program. In 2021, he earned the eighth-best coverage grade among Big Ten safeties, buoyed by six interceptions and three pass breakups.

## OFFENSE

### OC: MIKE YURCICH



EMPTY

**64th**

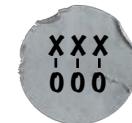
2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: MANNY DIAZ



SIMULATED  
PRESSURES



MAN  
COVERAGE



BLITZ  
HAPPY

**10th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**65th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.3%	30.0%	38.0%	12.3%	27.0%	36.4%
<b>89th</b>	<b>73rd</b>	<b>87th</b>	<b>57th</b>	<b>92nd</b>	<b>33rd</b>

# PURDUE BOILERMAKERS



- Head Coach  
**Jeff Brohm**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**35 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.7**
- Chance to win B1G  
**7.9%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#37 NTL, #9 B1G**

Keep an eye on Purdue in 2022, mainly because of quarterback Aidan O'Connell, who finished as the 13th-most valuable signal-caller in 2021 with an elite PFF grade on the year. The Boilermakers ranked second to only Ohio State in passing efficiency in the Big Ten last season with O'Connell at the helm. Having no David Bell (NFL) or Milton Wright (ineligible for 2022) to throw to isn't ideal, but the receiving unit isn't much of a concern — especially considering the additions of Iowa transfers Tyrone Tracy Jr. and Charlie Jones. There should be concern, however, with the backfield. Purdue ranked dead last in the Power Five in rushing efficiency in 2021, and that's not likely to improve much in 2022. Defensively, George Karlaftis' departure leaves a gaping hole along the front seven. The Boilermakers posted a bottom-five run-defense grade in the Power Five last year and could be in that territory once again in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

<b>7</b>	<b>4,622</b>	<b>0.07</b>
PLAYERS GAINED	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED
(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)	(33 OF 64 TEAMS)	(31 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

This is Purdue's best chance of winning the Big Ten West since realignment.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**54th**

Sep. 1	Penn State
Sep. 10	Indiana State
Sep. 17	@ Syracuse
Sep. 24	Florida Atlantic
Oct. 1	@ Minnesota
Oct. 8	@ Maryland
Oct. 15	Nebraska
Oct. 22	@ Wisconsin
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	Iowa
Nov. 12	@ Illinois
Nov. 19	Northwestern
Nov. 26	@ Indiana

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Downfield passing ability
- ✓ No more David Bell, but receiver isn't an issue

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Front 7 may be on the weaker end
- No run game to speak of

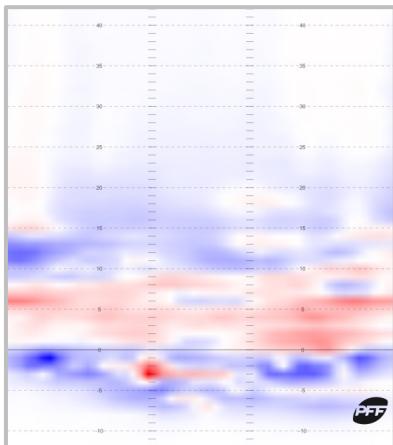
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: AIDAN O'CONNELL

Finally getting his chance to play big minutes in the Purdue offense, O'Connell broke out in 2021. He plays with timing and accuracy that suits the Boilermaker offense. When you consider the constraints put on him by that offense — namely the amount of quick game concepts run — his statistics, traditional and advanced, look even better. He's able to quickly find the right receiver and throw with accuracy. His arm strength is above average. Where he gets in trouble is not seeing certain zone defenders either underneath routes or robbing routes from depth. After mediocre 2019 and 2020 seasons where he could not hold on to the starting quarterback job, his improvement on being able to hit the limited amount of downfield shots when he was called to do it in 2021 allowed him to finally put a stranglehold on the starter spot.

### 2021 O'CONNELL TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
90.6	7.8%	3.5%	20.3%	8.6
T-10th	1st	T-42nd	8th	T-51st

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: TYRONE TRACY JR

Tracy came to Iowa as a running back recruit and flashed promise at receiver in 2019. The 5-foot-11, 201-pounder has a strong lower half and broke 14 tackles on 36 receptions that season while earning a 70.6 receiving grade and generating 2.26 yards per route run. He was unable to build on that in 2020 or 2021, though, due to a diminished role. Tracy caught only 28 passes in those two years and earned a collective PFF grade below 60.0. Now with Purdue, he is set to play his largest role yet while being used in versatile ways similar to Rondale Moore a few years ago. Purdue will just try to get the ball in his hands and watch him go to work.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## TE: PAYNE DURHAM

Durham took a major step last fall and hopes to build on that in 2022. He took his 48.8 PFF grade from 2020 to 72.9 in 2021 and also doubled his yards per route run year-over-year. The 2018 three-star does his best work when playing inline. There, the 6-foot-5, 255-pound tight end ranked third in the Power Five in receiving grade and fourth in yards per route run last season. A good chunk of that production working inline came underneath, like speed outs and slides.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
72.9	1.66	4.3%	4	67.0
<b>14th</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>T-16th</b>	<b>T-18th</b>	<b>26th</b>

RANK AMONG 42 P5 TES RECEIVING, 99 BLOCKING

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: CORY TRICE

Trice is a big cornerback coming off a season-ending injury. The 6-foot-3, 215-pounder looked to be kicking off his best season yet in 2021 before the injury derailed his momentum. In the two games he played in, Trice allowed four catches on 10 targets for 84 yards with three pass breakups. Over the course of his time in West Lafayette, Trice boasts an 89.2 career grade in run defense and just two missed tackles on 82 attempts. His recovery ability leaves something to be desired, but he can still be a productive cornerback in 2022.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
62.5	40.0%	1.71	30.0%	1
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# KEY STARTERS

## WR: CHARLIE JONES

Jones was set to be Iowa's most valuable returning player from 2021 before he opted to transfer to Purdue. He has flashed big-play ability as a receiver, but he really generates his value as a returner. Jones was one of three Power Five players with 70.0-plus grades as a kick and punt returner in 2021.

## C: GUS HARTWIG

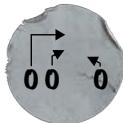
Only two returning Big Ten centers have produced more PFF Wins Above Average over the past two years than Hartwig. He may not be elite, but he's as stable as it gets. His 71.3 pass-blocking grade ranked 32nd of 72 qualifying Power Five centers in 2021.

## G: SPENCER HOLSTEGE

Holstege has quietly been one of the top pass-protecting guards in the Big Ten over the past couple of years. His pass-blocking grade among that group since 2020 ranks the fourth-best. In 2021, he played the most snaps at guard without a penalty in the FBS (937).

## OFFENSE

### OC: BRIAN BROHM



QUICK GAME  
PASSING



EMPTY

**17th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**127th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: RON ENGLISH & MARK HAGEN



ZONE  
COVERAGE

**34th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**55th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.7%	21.2%	45.1%	13.1%	37.0%	37.0%
<b>83rd</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>36th</b>

## RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS



- Head Coach  
**Greg Schiano**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**78 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4.7**
- Chance to win B1G  
**0.4%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#33 NTL, #8 B1G**

Rutgers fans are cautiously optimistic that Gavin Wimsatt — a 2021 four-star recruit — can break the team's streak of poor quarterback play, assuming he beats out incumbent Noah Vedral. Wimsatt did get some action as a freshman, but he turned in a lowly 29.6 PFF grade on 27 dropbacks in 2021. Rutgers as a whole ranked second-to-last in the Power Five in passing efficiency last year. If Wimsatt can't live up to expectations as the highest-ranked quarterback recruit in Rutgers history, the Scarlet Knights' offense could again be in trouble. On the other side of the ball, there's reason to believe the secondary will improve — with exception to the slot. Last year's Rutgers team ranked last in the Big Ten in coverage grade, but safety Avery Young and cornerback Max Melton will be boons to the unit in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

**6**PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-37 OF 64 TEAMS)

**6,793**CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(18 OF 64 TEAMS)**-0.01**2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(41 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Rutgers is slowly but surely turning things around. While the Scarlet Knights likely won't make a bowl in 2022, the future is bright.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**17th**

Sep. 3	@ Boston College
Sep. 10	Wagner
Sep. 17	@ Temple
Sep. 24	Iowa
Oct. 1	@ Ohio State
Oct. 7	Nebraska
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	Indiana
Oct. 29	@ Minnesota
Nov. 5	Michigan
Nov. 12	@ Michigan State
Nov. 19	Penn State
Nov. 26	@ Maryland

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Serviceable at outside corner
- ✓ WRs have potential to produce

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Slot coverage
- QB conundrum
- Offensive line is a huge wild card

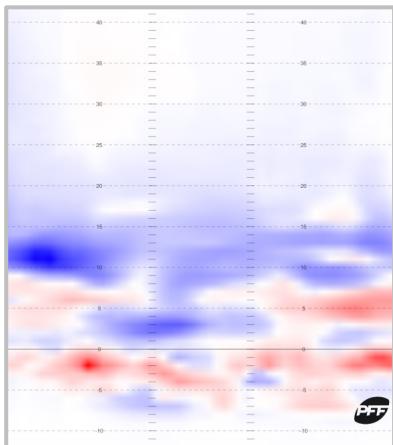
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: NOAH VEDRAL

Rutgers' 2021 offense with Vedral at the helm endured scheme and personnel limitations. Vedral can throw short but struggled to push the ball downfield. The results were not there beyond 10 yards, and neither was the volume of attempts. He does have a good grasp on the offense and there's still some room for improvement, but the highest-rated recruit in Rutgers history, Gavin Wimsatt, is waiting in the wings. Wimsatt played in the Scarlet Knights' bowl game last season, and although there wasn't much to write home about, his upside may be too significant to leave on the bench another year.

### 2021 VEDRAL TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
63.1	4.4%	3.3%	36.8%	7.7
<b>62nd</b>	<b>40th</b>	<b>T-40th</b>	<b>66th</b>	<b>T-59th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## CB: MAX MELTON

Max Melton — the brother of former Rutgers wide receiver and 2022 NFL Draft pick Bo Melton — flashed high-level playmaking ability in his 2021 true sophomore campaign. He picked off three passes while breaking up six others. Those boom plays were counteracted by a lot of mistakes, though. Melton allowed five touchdowns and 394 yards on the year. He did surrender one catch or less in half of his games, but he also gave up 16.4 yards a pop on completed passes. The 6-foot, 190-pound cornerback was the fourth-highest-graded player at the position in the Big Ten through Week 3, but a suspension derailed the hot start and caused him to miss a handful of games. Melton will now try to sustain that prior success and reel in the up-and-down nature of his play in single coverage as one of the leaders of Rutgers' defense.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: TAJ HARRIS

Harris comes to Rutgers as a transfer from Syracuse and will try to fill the void created by Bo Melton's departure. Harris' strengths and weaknesses are fairly well-defined — he has some serious issues tracking and catching the ball, but when it's in his hands, he can make defenders miss with ease. Since 2018, Harris ranks last in the Power Five on 10-plus yard targets in percentage of catchable targets caught (74.1%) and contested-catch rate (26.1%). At the same time, he ranks second among that group in broken tackles after the catch (49).

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
68.3	2.21	11.8%	10.3	2
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### SAF: AVERY YOUNG

Young seamlessly switched from cornerback to safety in 2021. He is excellent in run support as a box defender with his willingness and steady, under-control playstyle. The 6-foot-1, 205-pounder ranked fifth among Power Five safeties in run-defense grade in the box last season. His 15 run stops in that part of the field also ranked third among that group. Young may not be a ballhawk safety who racks up turnovers, but he fills a valuable role in Rutgers' run-defense unit.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
68.2	75.7	60.7	14.7%	24
<b>73rd</b>	<b>T-26th</b>	<b>119th</b>	<b>T-72nd</b>	<b>T-11th</b>

RANK AMONG 183 P5 SAFETIES

## KEY STARTERS

### OT: D.J. DIRENZO

Formerly with Sacred Heart, DiRenzo was one of the best FCS tackles in 2021. Last year, he was one of five FCS tackles to produce 80.0-plus PFF grades as a pass blocker and a run blocker. Three of the other four were taken in the 2022 NFL Draft.

### CB: KESSAWN ABRAHAM

Abraham went from playing just 99 snaps his first three seasons to being one of the most underrated cornerbacks in the Big Ten. He ranked second among outside cornerbacks in yards per coverage snap allowed (0.63) and didn't surrender a single touchdown in 13 games last season.

### WR: ARON CRUICKSHANK

Cruickshank looked vastly improved as a receiver in 2021 before an injury ended his season. Across six games, his PFF grade was up over 13 grading points year-over-year. The 5-foot-10, 170-pound weapon was still his dangerous self in the return game, headlined by one punt return score.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: SEAN GLEESON



GAP  
RUNS



QB  
RUNS

**124th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**89th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JOE HARASYMIAK



ZONE  
COVERAGE

**101st**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**51st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
7.9%	31.0%	32.3%	11.8%	31.2%	33.7%
<b>129th</b>	<b>81st</b>	<b>124th</b>	<b>69th</b>	<b>52nd</b>	<b>11th</b>

# WISCONSIN BADGERS



- Head Coach  
**Paul Chryst**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**18 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.3**
- Chance to win B1G  
**6.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#45 NTL, #11 B1G**

Wisconsin is known for winning with a dominant defensive front and a ground-and-pound offense. Unless quarterback Graham Mertz shows up as a different player, that will likely remain the case for 2022. The Badgers' defense endured a couple of key departures at off-ball linebacker, but given defensive coordinator Jim Leonhard's track record at developing the position, it isn't as big of a concern. There are also a slew of pass-rush weapons returning, including edge defender Nick Herbig and nose tackle Keeanu Benton. The Badgers led the Big Ten in pressure rate in 2021 and should do so again in 2022. Offensively, it's the Braelon Allen show. He was the third-highest-graded true freshman in 2021 and has superstar potential. Even with a good run game, it would be ideal if Mertz turned his play around. Wisconsin ranked 53rd in the Power Five in passing efficiency with him at the helm in 2021.

## THE PORTAL

**5**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

**4,986**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(31 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.25**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(14 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

If Graham Mertz improves even slightly, Wisconsin will be in prime position to reclaim the Big Ten West.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**30th**

Sep. 3	Illinois State
Sep. 10	Washington State
Sep. 17	New Mexico State
Sep. 24	@ Ohio State
Oct. 1	Illinois
Oct. 8	@ Northwestern
Oct. 15	@ Michigan State
Oct. 22	Purdue
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	Maryland
Nov. 12	@ Iowa
Nov. 19	@ Nebraska
Nov. 26	Minnesota

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Pressure Packages
- ✓ Stout rushing attack
- ✓ Revamped CB room via the portal

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Can't win at QB
- Pass-protection
- LB corps now what it once was

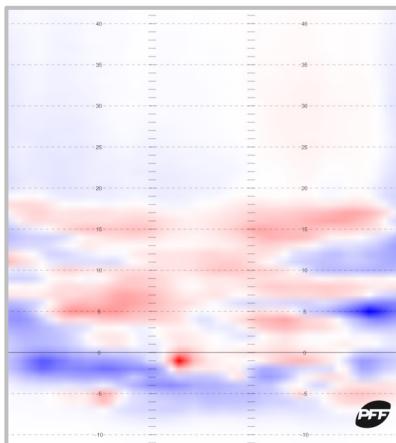
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: GRAHAM MERTZ

Mertz has not quite reached the highest envisioned after breaking onto the scene with an unreal first ever start against Illinois in 2020. His 2020 was plagued by injuries and then 2021 was inconsistent at best. He found a groove later in the season and that might lead to a better 2022 but that Illinois game is far in the rear view mirror. He has one game grade above 82.0 as a starter and it was the 92.8 score for that first start. He needs to be more decisive with the football and although the 2021 receiving corps and offensive line did let him down a bit, it's going to be up to him to find some more accuracy and decision making.

### 2021 MERTZ TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
65.5	4.3%	5.2%	26.0%	9.8
<b>59th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>	<b>66th</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>T-23rd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## SAF: JOHN TORCHIO

Torchio walked on at Wisconsin in 2018 and played just 116 snaps during his first three years as a Badger. He finally got quality time as a reserve in 2021, and now a late-career breakout seems to be in store as he takes on a starting job for 2022. Torchio earned an 83.2 PFF grade on 383 snaps last season. He posted an 86.2 mark in coverage, anchored by three interceptions. Those plays on the ball are no fluke — the 6-foot-1, 208-pound safety has natural processing ability. Torchio also held his own against the run in the box, recording eight defensive stops on 97 such snaps. The former walk-on is set to be an important piece to the secondary for 2022 and could be a key reason why the Badgers' defense remains stout.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: BRAELON ALLEN

The 2022 season should have been Allen's first year of college football, but he was able to get his feet wet early by reclassifying as a 2021 recruit. And despite being an inexperienced 17-year-old — who was expecting to play either safety or linebacker for the Badgers — Allen led all Power Five running backs in yards after contact per attempt (4.5) in 2021. The 6-foot-2, 238-pounder has strong contact balance and takes on defenders like a Mack Truck. Polishing his pass-catching chops is a priority for him heading into the fall, but regardless, Allen is a star in the making and should be in the conversation for the Doak Walker Award in 2022.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
80.9	16.8%	0.24	4.48	0.59
<b>33rd</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>71st</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: NICK HERBIG

Wisconsin defensive coordinator Jim Leonhard likes to dial up pressure in creative ways, which is why edge defender Nick Herbig served in a hybrid role in 2021, playing 208 pass-rush snaps and 153 coverage snaps at outside linebacker. At 6-foot-2 and 227 pounds, Herbig may not be the biggest edge defender, but he is agile, possesses good pop in his hands and brings an excellent pass-rush plan to the table. The 2020 top-150 recruit ended up with a 91.4 pass-rush grade, a 26.4% win rate and a 20.7% pressure rate for the 2021 season — all of which ranked as top-five marks in the Power Five. He's the top returning edge defender in the Big Ten.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
83.6	81.8	91.4	20.7%	36
<b>11th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>T-10th</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### CB: JAY SHAW

Shaw comes to Wisconsin after a career year at UCLA. His 83.5 coverage grade in 2021 was 16 points higher than his previous best. The 5-foot-11, 190-pound cornerback didn't start until the final five games but allowed just seven catches on 21 targets for 90 yards with two picks and two pass breakups in those contests.

### DI: KEEANU BENTON

Benton, a 6-foot-4, 317-pound nose tackle, is an advanced pass rusher. His 85.9 pass-rush grade at the position since 2019 leads the Power Five. The 2019 three-star recruit is all over the place in run defense, though. Since 2019, he ranks top 10 in positively graded run-play rate but bottom 10 in negatively graded play rate.

### OT: JACK NELSON

Nelson was a quality performer at guard in 2021, his first year as a starter in college. The 2020 four-star recruit ranked 13th among 31 Big Ten guards in PFF grade. Nelson is moving to his more natural position of left tackle for 2022 and could be one of the season's big breakout players at the position.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: BOBBY ENGRAM



**ZONE  
RUNS**

**107th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

#### TEAM IDENTIFIER

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate
10.2%	31.0%	36.5%

10.2%

31.0%

36.5%

**116th**

**82nd**

**102nd**

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JIM LEONHARD



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**

**4th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

#### TEAM IDENTIFIER

Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
15.9%	38.9%	30.2%

15.9%

38.9%

30.2%

**1st**

**12th**

**4th**

BIG 12

BIG 12

BIG 12



# BAYLOR BEARS



- Head Coach  
**Dave Aranda**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**15 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.2**
- Chance to win Big 12  
**17.2%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#36 NTL, #5 Big 12**

Baylor shocked the country in 2021 — the Bears began the year 80-to-1 to win the Big 12 Championship and ended up claiming the title en route to a Sugar Bowl victory. Offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes put on a playcalling masterclass and improved the offense from 61st in success rate in 2020 to 14th after joining in 2021. And he did this without a ton of star power. This year, Grimes will try to do the same with an, on paper, underwhelming group of players. Blake Shapen — who started the conference title game and earned a 78.3 PFF grade — will take over at quarterback. He will have a bottom-tier receiving unit but an elite offensive line and friendly offense to help make up for it. Baylor finished top five in the Power Five in both pass- and run-blocking grade in 2021, and that shouldn't change in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

<b>3</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>0.30</b>
PLAYERS GAINED	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED
(T-51 OF 64 TEAMS)	(50 OF 64 TEAMS)	(11 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Baylor isn't going to replicate what it did last year, but it still will be a competitive second-tier Big 12 team in 2022.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**45th**

Sep. 3	Albany
Sep. 10	@ BYU
Sep. 17	Texas State
Sep. 24	@ Iowa State
Oct. 1	Oklahoma State
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 13	@ West Virginia
Oct. 22	Kansas
Oct. 29	@ Texas Tech
Nov. 5	@ Oklahoma
Nov. 12	Kansas State
Nov. 19	TCU
Nov. 26	@ Texas

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Play calling support
- ✓ Best OL in the Big 12
- ✓ Getting pressure

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Unknown if the QB is more than a system guy
- Falling off in coverage

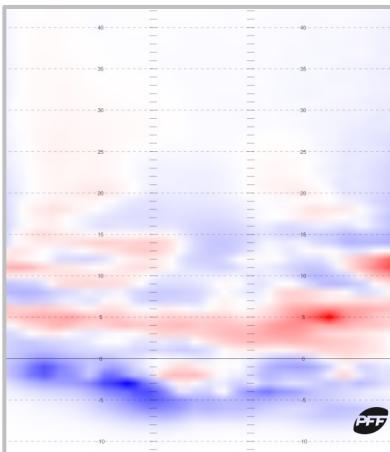
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: BLAKE SHAPEN

Shapen was always eventually going to be the guy for the Bears but after a late-season injury to starter Gerry Bohanon, Shapen played three games and looked impressive. With Bohanon returning for the bowl game and spring practice, there was a chance he would start again for Baylor but the coaching staff could not keep Shapen on the bench another year. Bohanon has since transferred after the coaching staff made Shapen the starter after the spring game. Shapen isn't the runner that Bohanon is but his floor feels much higher as a passer. Put him in the potential breakout candidates at the position going into 2022.

### 2021 BAYLOR OFFENSE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
75.7	5.6%	5.0%	15.4%	7.8
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: TAYE MCWILLIAMS

With Baylor losing its 2021 one-two punch at running back to the NFL, it'll be on McWilliams to ensure those losses go unnoticed. The 2020 four-star recruit handled only 17 carries in 2021 but racked up an absurd nine explosive runs of 10-plus yards along with five broken tackles en route to a 90.5 PFF grade. In all, he picked up 181 yards on those reps, with 112 coming after contact. McWilliams is a high-cut back yet can still fight through tackles. The 6-foot-1, 211-pounder does need to work on his receiving chops, but on the ground, he can take advantage of the space the Baylor offensive line and playcalling help open up, as he showed on a small workload last season.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### OT: CONNOR GALVIN

Baylor offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes' scheme significantly reduces stress on his offensive line, but Galvin fits the system like a glove and his production is still quite impressive. The 2018 four-star recruit earned a 91.2 pass-blocking grade in 2021 and allowed only three pressures in total. On true pass sets, he lost only five reps and earned the fourth-best pass-blocking grade in the Power Five. Galvin also committed just one penalty on 936 snaps in 2021. Don't be surprised if he performs at an all-around elite level in 2022.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	True Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
80.0	91.2	0.8%	24.1%	71.0
<b>T-23rd</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>134th</b>	<b>T-63rd</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### DI: JAXON PLAYER

Dave Aranda and company landed one of the top defensive players out of the transfer portal in Jaxon Player, who produced at a high level in four seasons with Tulsa. He earned PFF grades of 74.8 and 80.6 in 2018 and 2019, respectively, as a pure nose tackle before transitioning to a versatile role in 2020 and 2021 and posting PFF grades of 74.0 and 87.3. Despite playing more than 100 snaps at nose, defensive tackle and edge defender in 2021, Player managed to record an 85.0 grade as both a run defender and a pass rusher. His athleticism allows him to be such a versatile piece, and that's going to be valuable for Baylor's front in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
87.3	86.4	85.1	14.0%	24
<b>6th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>T-40th</b>

RANK AMONG 391 FBS DIS

# KEY STARTERS

## C: JACOB GALL

Gall sustained the top-tier form he displayed at Buffalo in 2020 with Baylor in 2021. Not only did he change competition levels, but he also pivoted positions — from guard to center. Gall's 83.3 PFF grade ranked ninth among FBS centers in 2021.

## DL: SIAKI IKA

Ika measures in at 6-foot-4 and 350 pounds — a true force to be reckoned with. His positively graded run-play rate ranked 17th among Power Five interior defensive linemen last season, while his 85.7 pass-rush grade ranked third.

## OT: KHALIL KEITH

Between Baylor's offensive scheme change and Keith moving from guard to tackle, the 6-foot-5, 329-pounder had a career year in 2021. His 91.7 PFF grade was over 35 points higher than his mark the year before. Keith's 11 big-time blocks trailed only Ikem Ekwonu for the most by a Power Five tackle.

## OFFENSE

### OC: JEFF GRIMES



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**PLAY ACTION**



**ZONE RUNS**

**52nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**28th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: RON ROBERTS



**SIMULATED PRESSURES**



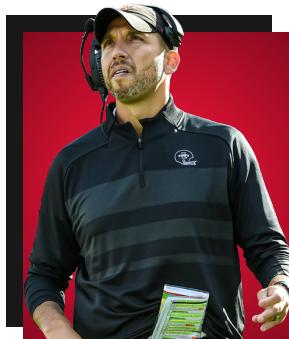
**MUG FRONTS**

**10th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.3%	20.1%	41.7%	14.6%	38.2%	36.8%
<b>64th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>59th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>34th</b>

# IOWA STATE CYCLONES



- Head Coach  
**Matt Campbell**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**33 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.1**
- Chance to win Big 12  
**9.1%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#39 NTL, #6 Big 12**

Quarterback Brock Purdy, tight end Charlie Kolar and running back Breece Hall were cornerstones of the Cyclones' offense for years. However, they all left for the NFL, so Iowa State has to hit the reset button, as it returns the fewer starters than any other Big 12 team. The pressure is on quarterback Hunter Dekkers — who posted a poor 45.0 passing grade from 37 dropbacks in 2021 — to make sure the wheels don't fall off. Along with him, there is quite a bit of pressure on the new starting outside corners T.J. Tampa and Myles Purchase. Tampa saw 24 targets in 2021 and allowed 15 catches for 210 yards and five touchdowns. On a more positive note, the safety room is in good shape, and the defense should have no issue generating pressure thanks to edge defender Will McDonald IV's — the third-highest pass-rusher in the Big 12 in 2021 — return, among others.

## THE PORTAL

3

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-51 OF 64 TEAMS)

2,841

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(26 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.08

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(50 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**Matt Campbell resecured Iowa State from the doldrum to bring the program to five straight bowl appearances. This year, the Cyclones will have to fight to keep that streak alive.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**48th**

Sep. 3	Southeast Missouri
Sep. 10	@ Iowa
Sep. 17	Ohio
Sep. 24	Baylor
Oct. 1	@ Kansas
Oct. 8	Kansas State
Oct. 15	@ Texas
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 27	Oklahoma
Nov. 5	West Virginia
Nov. 12	@ Oklahoma State
Nov. 19	Texas Tech
Nov. 26	@ TCU

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Getting pressure with 3
- ✓ Lost all 3-high safeties, but no worry for 2022

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Offensive reset
- Outside coverage could break the defense

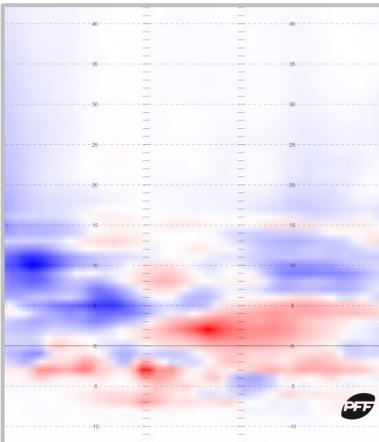
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: HUNTER DEKKERS

After four years of Brock Purdy, Iowa State will be looking to Dekkers to lead the offense in 2022. Dekkers was a four-star prospect in the class of 2020 listed as a dual threat. Although he did have a breakaway touchdown run on a zone read play last season, in his limited sample of passing snaps, he tended to stick around in the pocket and go through his progressions. His accuracy and arm strength are just about average right now. Losing Breece Hall and Charlie Kolar will not help settle the first year starting quarterback but there is potential.

## 2021 IOWA ST OFFENSE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## SAF: BEAU FREYLER

Safeties are key in Iowa State's defense, and the team lost all of its key guys at the position from last season. Freyler is a promising candidate to step up, though. Despite his three-star status as a true freshman, Freyler looked the part in 2021 as a reserve. He played 229 snaps and turned in a 75.1 PFF grade. The 6-foot-2, 205-pounder produced 12 defensive stops and 70.0-plus grades against the run and in coverage. He has great closing ability, attacks downhill with a vengeance and is disciplined in run fits. Head coach Matt Campbell referred to Freyler as an elite young talent during the middle of the 2021 season, and the safety could live up to that billing in 2022.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: XAVIER HUTCHINSON

Hutchinson wins with his ball skills and body control. The 6-foot-3, 210-pound receiver has a knack for making acrobatic catches — if the ball is in his vicinity, he's getting it. Hutchinson reeled in 95.1% of his catchable targets beyond the line of scrimmage in 2021, the fourth-highest rate in the Power Five. He also owns elite strength that shows at the catch point and when defenders attempt to arm-tackle him. Hutchinson has produced 17 contested catches and 27 broken tackles after the catch since 2020. He's one of the top possession receivers in the Big 12.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
83.9	2.55	3.5%	7.8	25
<b>11th</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>34th</b>	<b>T-140th</b>	<b>T-17th</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## EDGE: WILL MCDONALD IV

The 2021 season may have been McDonald's first year as a starter for the Cyclones, but he has always been a highly productive player. Over the past three years, the 6-foot-4, 245-pound edge defender has posted a 90.0 pass-rush grade, a 21.1% win rate and a 17.4% pressure rate on 550-plus rushes — all of which are top-five marks in the Big 12 in that span. And most of that production came from three-man rushes. McDonald's 2021 campaign was as consistent as it gets, with him tallying multiple pressures in every game played.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
69.5	47.3	85.3	16.8%	25
<b>85th</b>	<b>194th</b>	<b>T-14th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>T-44th</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

# KEY STARTERS

## SAF: ANTHONY JOHNSON

Johnson has been a steady, quality cornerback for Iowa State over the past four years, but he will be making the move to safety this fall. The 6-foot, 200-pounder has played 2,170 of his 2,553 snaps at outside cornerback since his 2018 freshman campaign, allowing a maximum of just 66 yards in a game over that span.

## G: TREVOR DOWNING

Downing allowed just eight pressures in 13 outings last year, none of which were a sack or a hit. Most of that production did come at guard, though, and he will be moving to center this fall. He started at center in the 2021 Cheez-It Bowl against Clemson, which was his second-lowest-graded game of the year.

## LB: COLBY REEDER

Reeder is jumping up from FCS-level Delaware to Iowa State for his seventh season of college football. Since moving to off-ball linebacker in 2020, the 6-foot-3, 235-pounder recorded an 84.3 PFF grade for the Blue Hens.

## OFFENSE

### OC: TOM MANNING



MOTION

**32nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**53rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: JON HEACOCK



SIMULATED  
PRESSURES



DROP 8



MUG  
FRONTS

**25th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**15th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
15.0%	28.2%	37.3%	14.3%	32.8%	39.5%
<b>6th</b>	<b>56th</b>	<b>93rd</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>44th</b>	<b>62nd</b>

# KANSAS JAYHAWKS



Head Coach

**Lance Leipold**

PFF Power Ranking

**126 Of 130**

Projected Win Total

**3.2**

Chance to win Big 12

**0.3%**

2022 Recruiting Rank

**#117 NTL, #10 Big 12**

Once again, Kansas ranked dead last in the Big 12 in almost every facet last season. Outside of its wild upset over Texas, there were no highlights to speak of.

Expectations are about the same this year, as PFF projects the Jayhawks for 3.2 wins while the betting market has them at 2.5. Head coach Lance Leipold enters Year 2 with the hope that some of the team's transfers can help turn this ship around — notably edge defender Lonnie Phelps, who was the 31st-most valuable player at the position in the FBS for Miami of Ohio in 2021. He will help Kansas' pass-rush be serviceable at best. The team's ground game — with dual-threat quarterback Jalon Daniels and a backfield Devin Neal in addition to transfers Ky Thomas and Sevion Morrison — could also be serviceable this year

## THE PORTAL

**11**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(T-12 OF 64 TEAMS)

**6,398**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(22 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.30**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(62 OF 64 TEAMS)



Every year it's asked, "can Kansas at least show some signs of a turnaround?" Given the shape of its roster, it's not going to be in 2022.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**23rd**

Sep. 2	Tennessee Tech
Sep. 10	@ West Virginia
Sep. 17	@ Houston
Sep. 24	Duke
Oct. 1	Iowa State
Oct. 8	TCU
Oct. 15	@ Oklahoma
Oct. 22	@ Baylor
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	Oklahoma State
Nov. 12	@ Texas Tech
Nov. 19	Texas
Nov. 26	@ Kansas State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Pass-rush is OK
- ✓ Good RB room

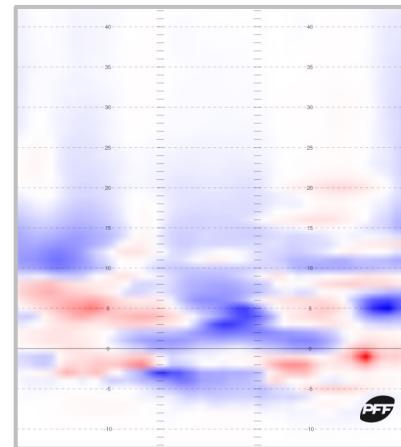
## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Outside Kenny Logan Jr, entire coverage unit is a problem
- QB position is little changed from what it's been
- Non-reliable OL

# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JALON DANIELS

Does Kansas have a quarterback? We have a sneaking suspicion that if Jalon Daniels played for anyone outside of Kansas he would be thought of as a legitimate top quarterback. His play after coming on late in the season was stunning including a magnificent victory over Texas. His decision making is quick and decisive and he has a strong arm with good accuracy. It's a small sample size given he started just the last three games of the year but he stood out. He can add to the ground game as well but he wants to stick in the pocket and throw the ball. If Kansas even wins four games, he should be nominated for the Heisman.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
78.3	6.6%	4.4%	21.0%	8.1
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## LB: CRAIG YOUNG

Young is a freaky athlete at 6-foot-3 and 223 pounds. He was pegged as a raw, positionless player coming out of high school before finding a spot at off-ball linebacker at Ohio State. He struggled to crack the lineup, and when he was on the field, he was boom-or-bust and looked very much a raw player. In 2021, Young played 138 snaps and recorded six pressures, six defensive stops, an interception and a pass breakup but also missed six tackles and gave up nine catches for 103 yards and a touchdown. After transferring to Kansas this past offseason, Young will look to round out his game and put his tools into action.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## OT: EARL BOSTICK JR

Bostick began his Kansas career in 2017 as a tight end. Six years later, he is anchoring the offensive line at left tackle. However, the 6-foot-6, 315-pounder endured an inconsistent 2021 season, his first full year at left tackle. He allowed one or zero pressures in over half of his outings yet also had a handful of poorly graded performances that impacted his season-long PFF grade — including a 0.0 pass-blocking grade against Coastal Carolina. Bostick isn't short on athletic ability, but his pass sets needed some major work last year. The Kansas staff is still confident he'll take a massive step forward in 2022. Only time will tell.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
58.1	56.4	4.4%	26.9%	56.2
<b>127th</b>	<b>T-122nd</b>	<b>69th</b>	<b>118th</b>	<b>129th</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## EDGE: LONNIE PHELPS

Phelps, a Miami (OH) transfer, is expected to make an immediate impact for Kansas in 2022. Despite starting just one game for the RedHawks last year, the edge defender produced at astronomical levels. His 30.5% pass-rush win rate was nearly three percentage points better than any other FBS edge defender last season. The 6-foot-3, 244-pounder has some serious juice and boasts advanced hands usage. Matching his 2021 production against better competition in the Power Five this fall won't be easy, but that's not to say Phelps can't still be a force right away.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
84.7	67.9	91.3	21.3%	22
<b>16th</b>	<b>172nd</b>	<b>T-9th</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>119th</b>

RANK AMONG 418 FBS EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### SAF: KENNY LOGAN JR

Logan, among the best safeties in the Big 12, ranked fifth in the conference in PFF grade last year. He has a nose for the football, evidenced by his 83 instances of being the first defender to contact in 2021 — the most among Big 12 safeties by 18.

### C: MIKE NOVITSKY

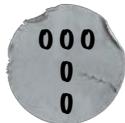
Novitsky wasn't as sharp in 2021 with Kansas as he was the year prior with Buffalo. His PFF grade dropped by nearly 25 grading points year-over-year, but there were still some positives. He didn't commit a single penalty last year and didn't allow a sack or hit. The 6-foot-5, 295-pound center is an improvement candidate for 2022.

### RB: DEVIN NEAL

Neal may not go above and beyond his duties, but he gets the job done. His carries netted close to flat zero expected points added (EPA) in 2021, and he didn't fumble across 159 attempts.

## OFFENSE

### OC: ANDY KOTELNICKI



**PISTOL  
FORMATION**



**QB  
RUNS**



**MOTION**

**83rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**125th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: BRIAN BORLAND



**2-HIGH**

**129th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
10.5%	28.8%	38.4%	9.0%	26.9%	55.1%
<b>106th</b>	<b>60th</b>	<b>85th</b>	<b>119th</b>	<b>94th</b>	<b>130th</b>

# KANSAS STATE WILDCATS



The rushing attack is going to carry the Wildcats as far as it can. Between running back Deuce Vaughn and Nebraska transfer Adrian Martinez, Kansas State might possess a dynamic designed run game. Nearly 48% of Vaughn's runs last year were deemed successful (i.e. had an EPA mark greater than zero). Martinez, meanwhile, has racked up 91 explosive runs of 10-plus yards in his time at Nebraska. He may not be the best passer from an accuracy and decision-making standpoint, but he can execute Kansas State's downfield play-action concepts. The defense is running thin at some spots but has quality starters at outside cornerback and upfront. Edge defender Felix Anudike-Uzomah and interior defender Eli Huggins were among the five most valuable players at their respective positions in 2021 while Ekow Boye-Doe has been ninth at cornerback since 2020.

## THE PORTAL

7

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

5,930

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(23 OF 64 TEAMS)

0.12

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(27 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**It would be a surprise if Kansas State didn't make a bowl game. However, given their quarterback situation, expect volatile outputs.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**35th**

Sep. 3	South Dakota
Sep. 10	Missouri
Sep. 17	Tulane
Sep. 24	@ Oklahoma
Oct. 1	Texas Tech
Oct. 8	@ Iowa State
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ TCU
Oct. 29	Oklahoma State
Nov. 5	Texas
Nov. 12	@ Baylor
Nov. 19	@ West Virginia
Nov. 26	Kansas

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Run game should give defenses fits
- ✓ Great defensive front
- ✓ Covering the outside

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Super thin at safety
- Decision-making/accuracy at QB
- Can the WRs be more than average?

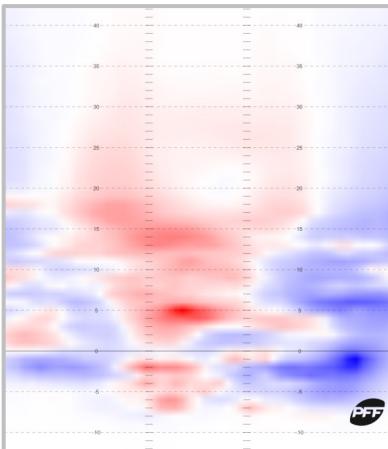
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: ADRIAN MARTINEZ

Martinez heads to Kansas State after four years as the starter at Nebraska. He has gotten better each season, improving his accuracy to where he can be a solid if unspectacular drop back passer. Still, his biggest asset are his legs and with former Wildcat quarterback Collin Klein becoming offensive coordinator for Kansas State a second time in 2022, Klein can devise a similar offense which made him one of the winningest quarterbacks in program history. Martinez has a clunky release and lacks some pop in his throws but he's played over 2500 snaps and Nebraska wasn't as bad as their record stated last season.

### 2021 MARTINEZ TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
76.8	4.7%	3.7%	30.4%	11.4
<b>39th</b>	<b>T-34th</b>	<b>T-47th</b>	<b>52nd</b>	<b>6th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## LB: WILL HONAS

Honas joined Kansas State from Nebraska this past offseason after missing all of 2021 due to injury. When healthy in 2020, the off-ball linebacker flashed his potential with a 71.7 PFF grade. He excelled against the run, where he earned a 76.4 grade. Honas was heavily utilized as a blitzer, rushing the quarterback 38 times in seven games, and he ended up with eight pressures — including three sacks. He's good at sorting through the trash between the tackles to make a play. Health is obviously something to monitor, but expect Honas to make an impact if he's at 100%.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## RB: DEUCE VAUGHN

Vaughn is a 5-foot-6 jitterbug who is one of the best ball-carriers and receiving backs in the country. His 91.1 overall PFF grade in 2021 was a top-three mark at the position in college football. Between his work as a runner and a receiver, Vaughn was responsible for 59 plays that resulted in a gain of 10 or more yards — the most among Power Five running backs. His 93.4 rushing grade for the season ranked second at the position, while his 78.8 receiving grade finished in the top 10. And he was the most valuable running back in the country for 2021, according to PFF Wins Above Average. Vaughn is arguably the best returning player in the Big 12 this fall.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
91.6	17.9%	0.21	2.97	1.94
<b>2nd</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>T-49th</b>	<b>54th</b>	<b>4th</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## EDGE: FELIX ANUDIKE-UZOMAH

The 6-foot-3, 255-pound Anudike-Uzomah was a three-star recruit in the 2020 class and ranked just 2,423rd nationally in the cycle, according to 247Sports Composite Rating. He rushed the passer only 34 times his first year on campus before earning an 89.9 pass-rush grade and racking up 43 pressures — and 13 sacks — as a starter in 2021. He improved against the run, too, earning an 86.9 run-defense grade over his final seven games.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
85.4	69.8	89.9	16.2%	36
<b>8th</b>	<b>T-71st</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>T-10th</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### OT: COOPER BEEBE

Beebe went from a middling 64.2 PFF grade in 2020 to an 85.4 mark in 2021. The 6-foot-3, 320-pound offensive lineman made few mistakes, as he ranked fourth among Power Five tackles in negatively graded run-block rate and allowed less than a pressure per game on average. He's a top-five returning tackle in the FBS.

### CB: EKOW BOYE-DOE

Boye-Doe has been one of the most underappreciated cornerbacks in the Big 12 since 2020. Over the past two years, he ranks third in coverage grade (81.1), second in passing stops (17) and second in yards per coverage snap allowed (0.76) among Big 12 outside cornerbacks.

### DI: ELI HUGGINS

Huggins had no issue going from playing two- and three-technique in 2020 to heads-up nose tackle in 2021. He ranked fifth in PFF grade among qualifying Power Five interior defensive linemen when playing heads-up nose last season.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: COLLIN KLEIN



QB RUNS

**43rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**63rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JOE KLANDERMAN



SIMULATED  
PRESSURES



DIME  
PACKAGE



DROP 8

**97th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**33rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.1%	39.2%	44.6%	14.0%	30.1%	39.5%
<b>69th</b>	<b>121st</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>67th</b>	<b>62nd</b>

# OKLAHOMA SOONERS



With a new staff and a lot of roster turnover, the Sooners have a wide range of possibilities in 2022. Quarterback Dillon Gabriel and the wide receiver room are going to be big pieces to the puzzle in determining how competitive this team can be. Gabriel will be reuniting with Jeff Lebby, who is now Oklahoma's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach after serving in the same role at Ole Miss from 2020 to 2021 and UCF in 2019. Gabriel has fantastic touch downfield, which has led to major passing success. He earned 80.3 and 90.4 passing grades as a true freshman and sophomore in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Lebby's offense won't ask Gabriel to do too much and will take advantage of the quarterback's strengths, as it consistently takes one-on-one vertical shots down the sideline when the defense is playing single-high.

## THE PORTAL

**13**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-6 OF 64 TEAMS)

**14,795**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(2 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.02**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(35 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

The Sooners have high expectations, as they're the favorite to win the Big 12. It wouldn't be a surprise if they did, but it also wouldn't be a shock if they underwhelmed, as well.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**43rd**

Sep. 3	UTEP
Sep. 10	Kent State
Sep. 17	@ Nebraska
Sep. 24	Kansas State
Oct. 1	@ TCU
Oct. 8	vs Texas
Oct. 15	Kansas
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 27	@ Iowa State
Nov. 5	Baylor
Nov. 12	@ West Virginia
Nov. 19	Oklahoma State
Nov. 26	@ Texas Tech

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ QB-OC (Gabriel-Lebby) connection
- ✓ Secondary is coming around
- ✓ No need to worry about OL

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Player/personnel turnover
- Coach Venables needs high level LBs, and they don't have them.

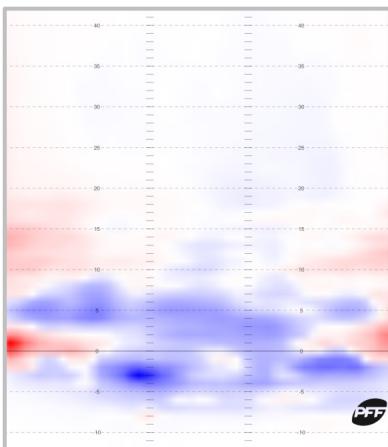
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: DILLON GABRIEL (2020 DATA)

Gabriel heads from UCF to Oklahoma where he will be reunited with offensive coordinator Jeff Lebby. Together at UCF in 2019, Gabriel had his breakout campaign grading at 81.4 before capturing a 90.9 grade in 2020 after Lebby had left for Ole Miss although the system under head coach and play caller Josh Heupel did not change. In his one year in Gus Malzahn's offense, Gabriel's grade fell to 76.1 in three games before a season ending injury. We'll never know whether Gabriel would have succeeded in Malzahn's offense but we do know he has succeeded doing what Lebby asks his quarterbacks to do. The quarterback has a strong arm, a lot of mobility and can create explosive offense downfield.

### 2020 GABRIEL TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
90.9	5.9%	2.3%	22.9%	11.6
<b>9th</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>T-11th</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>8th</b>

RANK AMONG 91 FBS QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: JALIL FAROOQ

Oklahoma lacks proven, high-quality wide receivers outside of Marvin Mims, but that's not to say other players won't step up. Former five-star recruit Theo Wease, Arizona State transfer LV Bunkley-Shelton and Jalil Farooq are all breakout candidates, although Farooq is arguably the most likely of the bunch to do so. The 2021 four-star recruit flashed as a freshman and shined in the spring. He is nimble for his size and has that extra gear that shows up after the catch. He caught just four passes for 69 yards in 2021, with 54 coming after the catch. Jeff Lebby will call plenty of screens, and Farooq can handle those underneath targets as well as the vertical shots the offense will be predicated on.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: MARVIN MIMS

Mims has yet to be a full-time starter, but his skill set and production are too good to ignore. Since 2020, Mims has turned 34.4% of his targets into a gain of 15 or more yards, the third-highest rate in the Power Five. The former four-star recruit has shown a knack for picking apart zone defense, leading the Power Five in touchdowns (12) against such coverages. Mims can provide a lot of value vertically, and for Jeff Lebby's offense, that's a rather important skill. He is going to be an integral piece for the Sooners in 2022.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
73.5	2.62	3.0%	17.6	17
T-51st	19th	T-23rd	7th	T-37th

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DL: JALEN REDMOND

There was no rust to Redmond's game in his return to the field in 2021 after he opted out of the 2020 season. He earned an 82.6 PFF grade as a key reserve in 2019 and a 78.4 mark across eight games in 2021, most of which he started. Redmond did miss some time midway through the season due to injury, but after his return in Week 9, his top-tier production remained. The 6-foot-2, 279-pound interior defensive lineman ranks eighth among 52 Big 12 interior defenders in negatively and positively graded play rate against the run for his career since 2018.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
78.4	74.6	76.0	15.7%	12
14th	22nd	19th	1st	T-104th

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

# KEY STARTERS

## OT: ANTON HARRISON

Harrison is coming off a year in which he ranked top five among Big 12 tackles in both pass-blocking grade and run-blocking grade. The 2020 four-star recruit turned in only one single-game pass-blocking grade below 70.0 in 13 games.

## SAF: JUSTIN BROILES

Broiles is the highest-graded returning slot cornerback in the Big 12. His 13 passing stops at the position in 2021 were the most in the conference and tied for fourth in the Power Five. To play in the slot, one has to be a crisp tackler, and Broiles certainly is — he missed just five of 60 attempts in 2021.

## SAF: KEY LAWRENCE

Lawrence was everywhere in 2021, going from the box to deep safety to the slot to even outside cornerback as the season wore on. The 2020 four-star recruit — a Tennessee transfer from a year ago — subsequently earned a solid 75.8 PFF grade. This year, he'll be a full-time safety, where he is destined to stand out.

## OFFENSE

### OC: JEFF LEBBY



**VERTICAL  
PASSING GAME**



**RPOS**



**PLAY  
ACTION PASSING**

**11th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**6th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: TED ROOF



**MUG  
FRONTS**



**ZONE  
COVERAGE**

**104th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**39th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.4%	27.3%	43.2%	14.8%	35.4%	38.7%
<b>18th</b>	<b>47th</b>	<b>43rd</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>51st</b>

# OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS



- Head Coach  
**Mike Gundy**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**9 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.4**
- Chance to win Big 12  
**18.0%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#29 NTL, #3 Big 12**

Oklahoma State reached the Big 12 Championship game in 2021 thanks to an elite defensive front that eliminated the run and pressured the quarterback consistently. The Cowboys may not be one of the best in the country in those areas this year, but they should remain strong. Headlining the returning Pokes on defense are edge defenders Tyler Lacy and Collin Oliver — both of whom are among the three highest-graded returning edge defenders in the Big 12. Cornerbacks Korie Black and Jabbar Muhammad and safeties Jason Taylor II and Thomas Harper need to step up this fall, and they all earned 70.0-plus coverage grades in their time on the field in 2021. The offense — specifically quarterback Spencer Sanders — will dictate the Cowboys' overall record in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

5

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

1,909

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(54 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.01

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(40 OF 64 TEAMS)

**Regression is in order for the Pokes this fall given the fluky nature of their 2021 season. Still, this is a competitive team that should throw eight to nine wins on the board.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

**STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:  
40th**

Sep. 1	Central Michigan
Sep. 10	Arizona State
Sep. 17	Arkansas Pine-Bluff
Sep. 24	OFF
Oct. 1	@ Baylor
Oct. 8	Texas Tech
Oct. 15	@ TCU
Oct. 22	Texas
Oct. 29	@ Kansas State
Nov. 5	@ Kansas
Nov. 12	Iowa State
Nov. 19	@ Oklahoma
Nov. 26	West Virginia

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Pass-rush is going to feast
- ✓ Naturals up front defending the run

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Still not good at QB
- Gutted secondary
- No pass-catching threats

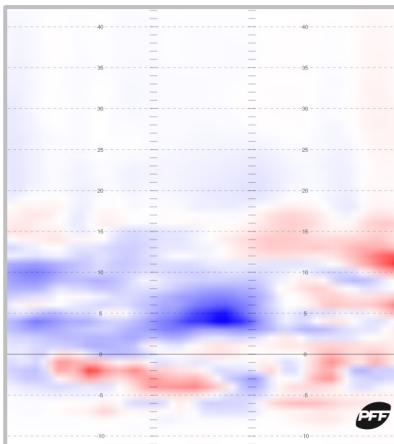
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: SPENCER SANDERS

It has been an up and down career for Sanders as a 'Poke but he finally found a groove in 2021 leading to one of their best ever win totals. His accuracy was spotty early on in his career but he's improved upon and adds a serious threat with his legs. He still has a nasty habit of throwing the ball to zone defenders but his turnover-worthy play rate dropped almost 3.5% from 2020 to 2021. Importantly, he's made strides as a dropback passer seeing his true dropback grade improve by 11 points after his first season starting and then 10 points the year after. Getting to 12 wins again will be difficult but if Sanders improves again the sky's the limit.

### 2021 SANDERS TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
84.5	4.7%	2.9%	24.3%	9.0
<b>21st</b>	<b>T-34th</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## CB: KORIE BLACK

Oklahoma State needs some breakouts in its secondary after key departures from the 2021 unit. And the Cowboys have a promising one at outside cornerback in Korie Black. Serving as a backup last season, the 6-foot, 185-pounder produced a 71.5 coverage grade. Black allowed just seven catches on 19 targets for 105 yards with two pass breakups on 137 coverage snaps. More impressive is that most of that production was from single coverage. Black could become one of the better Big-12 cornerbacks this fall as he continues to refine his game.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## G: HUNTER WOODARD

Woodard leads all Power Five guards in pass-blocking grade and pressure rate allowed since 2020. His strong mitts help him control opponents in the ground game, too. The 6-foot-5, 300-pounder tied for 11th among Power Five guards in big-time run blocks last year. Stunt recognition is one area that Woodard — and really the entire Oklahoma State offensive line — could stand to improve in, but regardless, he's reliable in the passing game. Don't expect him to lose many reps, even against stout competition, in 2022.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
71.8	84.5	1.7%	25.2%	69.0
<b>40th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>T-8th</b>	<b>138th</b>	<b>63rd</b>

RANK AMONG 161 P5 GS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## EDGE: COLLIN OLIVER

Oliver was an undersized true freshman at outside linebacker in 2021, although that didn't stop him from being one of the best first-year talents in college football. No Power Five true freshman edge defender earned a higher grade last year than the Oklahoma State Cowboy. A former high school track standout in the high jump and long jump, Oliver gives linemen fits with how he can fire off the ball. The scary part is that the 6-foot-2, 235-pound edge defender is only scratching the surface of his pass-rush potential.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
77.0	73.3	77.0	18.2%	21
<b>36th</b>	<b>43rd</b>	<b>T-36th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>T-71st</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

# KEY STARTERS

## EDGE: TYLER LACY

Lacy is a good enough pass rusher, but he does his best work in the run game. The 6-foot-4, 295-pound defensive end's 84.6 run-defense grade in 2021 ranked eighth among Power Five edge defenders and first among those in the Big 12.

## SAF: JASON TAYLOR II

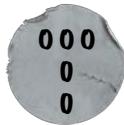
Taylor is coming off a Year 4 breakout. He played just 282 snaps his first three years on campus before taking on a starting job in 2021 and thriving in his box-centric role. The 6-foot, 215-pounder ranked sixth among Power Five safeties in PFF grade in the box in 2021.

## OT: PRESTON WILSON

Wilson will be on the move for the third straight year. After starting at left guard in 2020 and posting a 78.9 pass-blocking grade, the 6-foot-5, 295-pound lineman was moved to right tackle for the second half of 2021, where he finished with a 78.3 pass-blocking grade. Now, Wilson will look to continue that strong play at center in 2022.

## OFFENSE

### OC: KASEY DUNN



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**PLAY ACTION PASSING**



**ZONE RUNS**

**28th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**116th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: DEREK MASON



**SIMULATED PRESSURES**



**MUG FRONTS**



**MAN COVERAGE**

**12th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**1st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.5%	28.7%	44.6%	15.7%	36.6%	29.8%
<b>55th</b>	<b>58th</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>3rd</b>

# TCU HORNED FROGS



- Head Coach  
**Sonny Dykes**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**70 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**5.8**
- Chance to win Big 12  
**4.0%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#44 NTL, #8 Big 12**

It's no secret that TCU's defense was rough in 2021, as it ranked second-to-last in the entire Power Five in EPA per play against and also came finished 61st among that group in team defense grade. The Horned Frogs' lowly defensive play is likely going to remain in 2022. Fortunately, the offense has weapons to help make up for the defensive side of the ball, but it only matters if the quarterback can take advantage. Chandler Morris and Max Duggan are battling for the quarterback job in 2022. Duggan is perhaps the safer option due to his experience, but Morris has the higher ceiling, which he showed against Baylor last season (89.5 PFF grade for the game). Either way, there isn't a slam dunk option for the Horned Frogs. Whoever is under center — and it could be both of them — will have a nice receiving unit at his disposal — led by the big, athletic Quentin Johnston, who is a top-10 returning wide receiver nationwide.

## THE PORTAL

**15**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(4 OF 64 TEAMS)

**11,050**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(6 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.18**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(20 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

TCU is currently inside its worst three-year stretch of the century, and it's probably not going to get any better this year.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**37th**

Sep. 2	@ Colorado
Sep. 10	Tarleton State
Sep. 17	OFF
Sep. 24	@ SMU
Oct. 1	Oklahoma
Oct. 8	@ Kansas
Oct. 15	Oklahoma State
Oct. 22	Kansas State
Oct. 29	@ West Virginia
Nov. 5	Texas Tech
Nov. 12	@ Texas
Nov. 19	@ Baylor
Nov. 26	Iowa State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Rounded receiving room
- ✓ Designed run game
- ✓ Outside corner duo (if healthy) is decent

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Downfield accuracy at QB
- Front 7 is no Bueno
- Running thin at DB

# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CHANDLER MORRIS / MAX DUGGAN

After a poor first season starting for Max Duggan at TCU, the same slowed down for him in 2020 and he looked like he might take another leap in 2021. That didn't quite happen and a broken bone in his foot hampered his season. Chandler Morris transferred in and played in the middle part of last season. They battled it out in spring camp without a clear winner. Both quarterbacks are athletic but Duggan has a much higher ceiling as a runner. With a new coaching staff and new offensive coordinator Garrett Riley, either could get the nod with the new staff not tied to either player.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
79.4	6.3%	4.2%	25.0%	11.4
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## CB: NOAH DANIELS

Daniels has been a breakout candidate for years, with injuries derailing those hopes. The 2017 three-star recruit missed all of 2019, started just four games in 2020 before another season-ending injury and battled another ailment throughout 2021 that limited him to just six outings. But on 229 career coverage snaps, Daniels has posted a 28.9% forced incompletion rate en route to a 77.9 coverage grade. From an athletic tools standpoint, he is in freak territory. The 6-foot, 194-pounder is quick, strong and explosive — his 4.27-second 40-yard dash, 405-pound bench press and 400-pound hang clean back that up. He just has to stay healthy.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: QUENTIN JOHNSTON

Injuries kept Johnston from maximizing his production in 2021, but the 6-foot-4, 201-pound receiver was still effective when on the field. He finished with a 76.4 receiving grade across 61 targets in 2021, which included seven receptions, 185 yards and three touchdowns against Oklahoma. Johnston is tough to defend on go balls due to his frame and top-end speed. His 439 receiving yards since 2020 stemming from 9-routes are the second-most in the Power Five. Johnston's size and athleticism have also helped him average 7.7 yards after the catch per reception and break 25 tackles on 55 career receptions. TCU's quarterback situation and Johnston's health are going to be key in his development this fall. If he can get some accurate targets and stay on the field, expect him to blow up.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
76.0	2.60	5.7%	18.7	16
<b>43rd</b>	<b>T-21st</b>	<b>T-67th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: TRE'VIUS HODGES-TOMLINSON

Hodges-Tomlinson broke out in 2020 when he posted an 89.1 coverage grade with 14 pass breakups and a 32.7% catch rate allowed. The 2021 season wasn't as kind to the 5-foot-9, 177-pound cornerback, whose grade dropped by over 20 points after he allowed more big plays and made fewer plays on the ball. Hodges-Tomlinson still displayed impressive mirror ability and was usually there at the catch point. He allowed separation on just 21.3% of his targets in 2021, the best rate among Big 12 cornerbacks by nearly eight percentage points. Despite being smaller, Hodges-Tomlinson can produce at an elite level on the outside in 2022, as he did in 2020.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
66.7	51.1%	1.19	12.8%	5
<b>T-114th</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>T-140th</b>	<b>61st</b>	<b>T-119th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## IOL: STEVE AVILA

Avila is a versatile talent, but it's at center where he shines as one of the best players in the country. He was the eighth-highest-graded center in the Power Five last season. In the Big 12, only Baylor's Jacob Gall ranked higher.

## RB: KENDRE MILLER

Losing Zach Evans is a blow, but TCU is going to be fine at running back with Miller. Last season, Miller averaged 5.06 yards after contact per attempt and 2.68 rushing yards over expected — both of which would have been the best in the Power Five had he played enough to qualify.

## WR: TAYE BARBER

Barber has been in the receiving rotation ever since his 2018 freshman campaign, but 2021 was by far his highest-graded and most productive year. The 5-foot-9, 179-pound slot receiver generated 2.08 yards per route run and helped turn his targets into a 130.0 passer rating.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: GARRETT RILEY



**VERTICAL  
PASSING GAME**

**31st**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**51st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JOE GILLESPIE



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**



**MAN  
COVERAGE**



**DROP 8**

**128th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**124th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.5%	28.8%	46.5%	8.5%	26.3%	47.3%
<b>31st</b>	<b>62nd</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>123rd</b>	<b>103rd</b>	<b>123rd</b>

# TEXAS LONGHORNS



- Head Coach  
**Steve Sarkisian**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**27 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.6**
- Chance to win Big 12  
**8.3%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#5 NTL, #1 Big 12**

The Texas hype is back like it never left. With quarterback Quinn Ewers — one of the most highly-regarded recruits of this century — the Longhorns are hopeful to finally right the ship. He will have a set of weapons at his disposal that is not just the best in the Big 12 but also among the best in the country. True sophomore speedster Xavier Worthy and Wyoming transfer Isaiah Neyor are both among the 15 most valuable returning wide receivers from 2021. Alongside those two are a slew of high-upside receivers, including veteran leader Jordan Whittington, Alabama transfers Agiye Hall and Jahleel Billingsley, 2021 five-star recruit Ja'Tavion Sanders and true freshman Brenen Thompson. Then at running back, the Longhorns have one of the best duos in the country with Bijan Robinson and Roschon Johnson, who tied for second with each other in broken tackles per attempt (0.38) among Power Five backs in the entire PFF College era.

## THE PORTAL

**7**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

**3,078**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(44 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.25**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(13 OF 64 TEAMS)



If Quinn Ewers' on-field output matches the hype, Texas could have the best offense in college football. Even with a bad defense, that can get them pretty far.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**12th**

Sep. 3	Louisiana-Monroe
Sep. 10	Alabama
Sep. 17	UTSA
Sep. 24	@ Texas Tech
Oct. 1	West Virginia
Oct. 8	vs Oklahoma
Oct. 15	Iowa State
Oct. 22	@ Oklahoma State
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	@ Kansas State
Nov. 12	TCU
Nov. 19	@ Kansas
Nov. 26	Baylor

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Best set of skill players in the Big 12
- ✓ High-ceiling QB
- ✓ Optimism with the starting DBs

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- OL could hold back the offense
- Front 7 holding up vs the run
- Depth in the secondary

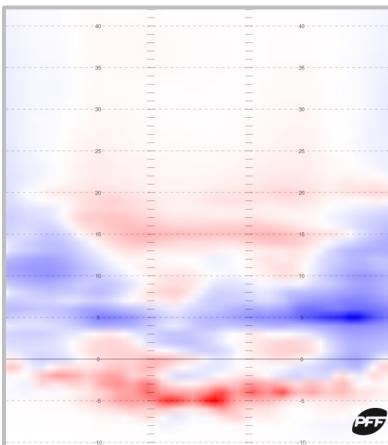
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: QUINN EWERS

Ewers spent one year at Ohio State in 2021, played two snaps, and is now off to Texas to start for the Longhorns in 2022. One of the more ballyhooed quarterback prospects in recent years, Ewers can attack all over the field with multiple arm angles and good power. In the Texas spring game we saw that he could throw the ball well on RPOs and one deep ball in particular. Steve Sarkisian has shown he can put his quarterback in good situations and even in his first year at Texas, the offense was not the issue. Hudson Card started last season for the Longhorns and could still win the job this year but was poor finishing with a 52.6 grade.

### 2021 TEXAS OFFENSE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## CB: RYAN WATTS

Among the spring standouts for Texas was cornerback Ryan Watts, a 2020 four-star recruit who transferred to the Longhorns after two seasons with the Ohio State Buckeyes. Watts logged only 85 coverage snaps with Ohio State, intercepting a couple of passes — mostly thanks to bad quarterback play — and allowing just 32 yards overall. The 6-foot-3, 205-pound cornerback possesses long arms and nice feet that help him at the line of scrimmage. Texas wants to play more press-man, and that's tailor-made to Watts' skill set. He'll need to improve his open-field tackling, but there's still reason to believe Watts breaks out as a starting outside cornerback for the Longhorns in 2022.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## RB: BIJAN ROBINSON

Robinson is one of the most elusive running backs PFF has ever seen. His career 0.38 broken tackles per attempt mark is the second-highest among Power Five running backs since 2014, the start of the PFF College era. That ability also shows up in the passing game, where he has shed 12 tackles and averaged 12.1 yards after the catch for his career. The 6-foot, 214-pound back brings legit route-running ability to Texas' offense, and he used it to generate a near-perfect 148.7 passer rating on his targets. He'll be right at the top of the preseason Doak Walker Award watch list.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
86.7	13.8%	0.41	3.94	1.36
<b>16th</b>	<b>48th</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>T-12th</b>	<b>T-17th</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## LB: DEMARVION OVERSHOWN

The data says Overshown has been underwhelming since his move to off-ball linebacker, specifically in the box as a run defender. Between his reads and lackluster — but improving — physicality, the 6-foot-4, 223-pound linebacker has a ways to go before being a sturdy player in that facet. The intrigue here has to do with Overshown's frame and tools. His 15 pressures tied for ninth among Big 12 off-ball linebackers, most of which came from chasing down quarterbacks on non-designed pass rushes. Again, he has a ton to work on in the run game and with taking better angles overall, but the high-end potential is there.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
44.3	30.4	61.4	20.2%	32
<b>T-163rd</b>	<b>180th</b>	<b>76th</b>	<b>166th</b>	<b>T-79th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 OFF-BALL LBS

# KEY STARTERS

## WR: XAVIER WORTHY

Worthy is a top-five receiver in the FBS. The 6-foot-2, 160-pound speedster was the go-to option for the Longhorns in his 2021 true freshman season, and that won't change in 2022. Worthy owned a 30.4% target rate from Week 6 on last year (sixth-highest among Power Five WRs), and he made the most of that workload with 2.88 yards per route run.

## WR: ISAIAH NEYOR

Neyor broke out in a big way with Wyoming in 2021 and will now be a key factor in Texas' passing game in 2022. His 85.5 receiving grade ranked 17th in the FBS last year. The 6-foot-3, 215-pounder is a big, downfield weapon. His seven deep touchdowns in 2021 tied for sixth-most.

## WR: JORDAN WHITTINGTON

Whittington was taking that next step in 2021 before injury got in the way. The 6-foot-1, 203-pound receiver was winning with physicality, breaking eight tackles on 26 receptions while averaging 6.5 yards after the catch. He also caught all four of his contested targets.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: KYLE FLOOD



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**PLAY ACTION PASSING**

**58th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**32nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: PETE KWIATKOWSKI & JEFF CHOATE



**SIMULATED PRESSURES**



**ZONE COVERAGE**

**103rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.7%	32.3%	44.5%	11.1%	23.9%	43.1%
<b>49th</b>	<b>89th</b>	<b>34th</b>	<b>90th</b>	<b>115th</b>	<b>99th</b>

# TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS



- Head Coach  
**Joey McGuire**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**66 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**5.5**
- Chance to win Big 12  
**3.6%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#43 NTL, #7 Big 12**

Texas Tech is coming off its first bowl victory since Kliff Kingsbury's first season as head coach back in 2013. Unfortunately, it may be tough to replicate that success in 2022, as the Red Raiders have some rather significant issues within their cornerback room — both on the outside and in the slot. Texas Tech ranked third-to-last in coverage grade a year ago and lost its highest-graded player from that group, DaMarcus Fields. Offensively, the Red Raiders have a strong wide receiver room that is headlined by Myles Price — the sixth-highest-graded Big 12 wide receiver in 2021. The question is: Can quarterback Tyler Shough clean up his decision-making woes? Shough has produced more turnover-worthy plays (15) than big-time throws (nine) in his collegiate career, as he's always struggled to read defenses and see defenders. If this is fixed, Texas Tech can surpass its 5.5-win total and claim a bowl berth, but it's not something to bank on.

## THE PORTAL

**13**

 PLAYERS  
GAINED

**9,250**

 CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(9 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.14**

 2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(55 OF 64 TEAMS)

(T-6 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**Texas Tech is a fringe .500 team unless Tyler Shough shows major growth in his game.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**25th**

Sep. 3	Murray State
Sep. 10	Houston
Sep. 17	@ NC State
Sep. 24	Texas
Oct. 1	@ Kansas State
Oct. 8	@ Oklahoma State
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	West Virginia
Oct. 29	Baylor
Nov. 5	@ TCU
Nov. 12	Kansas
Nov. 19	@ Iowa State
Nov. 26	Oklahoma

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Promising set of receivers
- ✓ One of the better safety duos in the Big 12

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- CB room is in panic territory
- Suspect decision-making at QB

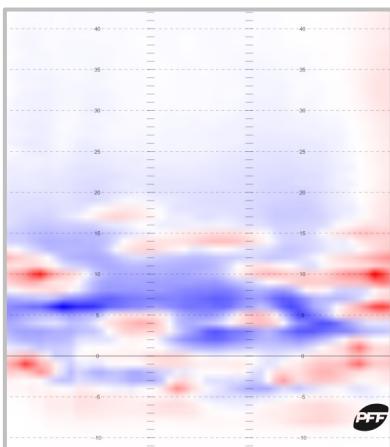
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: TYLER SHOUGH

Tyler Shough was supposed to be Justin Herbert's heir apparent at Oregon but his first year starting for the Ducks went very poorly and he transferred to Texas Tech. After just four starts he was benched after throwing a pick-6 against Texas midway through the second quarter in Austin although he was suffering from a broken collarbone from earlier in the game. He remains the odds on favorite to start again in Lubbock this season. There have been inconsistent stretches of good play from Shough but he's yet to put it all together. Improving his accuracy is the best way forward but there is no guarantee. He will be playing with a new offensive coordinator this season as Texas Tech has brought in Zach Kittley from Western Kentucky.

### 2021 SHOUGH TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
76.9	2.0%	2.7%	18.2%	9.0
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: JJ SPARKMAN

Sparkman's trump card is his big, long, physical frame. The 6-foot-4, 225-pound wide receiver wins with his catch radius, jumping ability and body control. He is going to get a big chunk of his production from 50-50 balls downfield or in the red zone as a result. Sparkman hauled in just seven catches for 86 yards and two scores in his first season on the field in 2021. Both of those touchdowns were on broken plays where the quarterback just put the ball in his vicinity and let the large target go up and get it. While he is limited in what he can offer, his skill set is enough to make him a productive player at the collegiate level.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: MYLES PRICE

Price may not be among the “game-changing” wide receivers in college football, but he is a productive slot receiver. Last season, Price ranked 15th in the Power Five in slot yards per route run (2.63). He’s at his best when running vertical from the slot, as the 5-foot-10, 180-pound Red Raider gathered 229 receiving yards on vertical routes from the inside in 2021, ranking 13th in the Power Five. Texas Tech also likes to use Price in the run game, and he converted four of his 15 designed runs into an explosive gain of 10-plus yards.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
77.0	2.46	7.5%	10.9	12
T-33rd	T-32nd	T-90th	T-87th	T-83rd

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## SAF: DADRION TAYLOR-DEMERSON

Taylor-Demerson took off down the stretch of 2021 — from Week 7 on, he was the sixth-highest-graded safety in the Power Five. The Texas Tech safety is a big-time playmaker as evidenced by his nine combined pass breakups and interceptions last year — a top-five mark in the Power Five. He may not be the most physically imposing player, but the 5-foot-11, 195-pound safety brings toughness to the field. Taylor-Demerson’s ceiling may not be much higher, but his leadership and reliability are desperately needed at Texas Tech.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
76.0	58.6	80.2	17.7%	13
T-26th	133rd	24th	T-110th	T-103rd

RANK AMONG 183 P5 SAFETIES

# KEY STARTERS

## EDGE: TYREE WILSON

Wilson was one of the most improved edge defenders in the Big 12 last season. The 6-foot-6, 275-pound edge defender raised his PFF grade by over 20 grading points year-over-year to 72.7 — the eighth-best mark in the Big 12 and fourth-best among returning players in 2022.

## SAF: MARQUIS WATERS

Waters missed almost all of his fifth college season and first year as a Red Raider in 2021 due to injury. The former Duke Blue Devil has played 2,639 career snaps, but most of that came in the box or deep (1,900 snaps) — not in the slot, where he is supposed to play more in 2022 (55.8 career slot coverage grade, 88.9 everywhere else).

## G: COLE SPENCER

Spencer comes to Texas Tech from Western Kentucky, where he established himself as a well-oiled machine. Across 3,117 career snaps, he has been a standout pass protector. Since 2019, Spencer owns a 91.8 pass-blocking grade (third in the FBS).

## OFFENSE

### OC: ZACH KITTLEY



**EMPTY**

**47th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**35th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: TIM DERUYTER



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**



**MAN  
COVERAGE**

**89th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

**116th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.2%	28.7%	44.4%	9.4%	27.3%	46.2%
<b>39th</b>	<b>59th</b>	<b>34th</b>	<b>114th</b>	<b>88th</b>	<b>114th</b>

# WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS



- Head Coach  
**Neal Brown**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**40 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**5.9**
- Chance to win Big 12  
**5.9%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#35 NTL, #4 Big 12**

West Virginia lost over half of its starters from last year's team, but the team isn't likely to be much worse than what it was in 2021. Having said that, the Mountaineers aren't likely to be any better, either. Their strongsuit resides along the offensive line, as it's one of the best in the Big 12, and every starter from 2021 is returning. Last year, the group joined Oklahoma and Baylor as the only units to rank in the top half of the Big 12 in both pass- and run-blocking grade. It'll provide new quarterback JT Daniels with ample clean pockets, which is important because the Georgia transfer's play will determine West Virginia's season. Defensively, the Mountaineers are solid across the board despite major turnover from 2021. Returning linebacker Lance Dixon alongside transfers Lee Kpogba and Jasir Cox could give West Virginia one of the top linebacking corps in the country.

## THE PORTAL

**10**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(17 OF 64 TEAMS)

**7,324**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(15 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.12**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(26 OF 64 TEAMS)



West Virginia is looking like the poster child for "average Power Five team" in 2022. It may not sound appealing, but it'll end in a bowl berth.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**21st**

Sep. 1	@ Pittsburgh
Sep. 10	Kansas
Sep. 17	Towson
Sep. 22	@ Virginia Tech
Oct. 1	@ Texas
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 13	Baylor
Oct. 22	@ Texas Tech
Oct. 29	TCU
Nov. 5	@ Iowa State
Nov. 12	Oklahoma
Nov. 19	Kansas State
Nov. 26	@ Oklahoma State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Talented OL
- ✓ DBs lack experience, but there's potential there
- ✓ Should be fine at LB

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Several key starters lost to the portal
- Lack of playmakers at WR

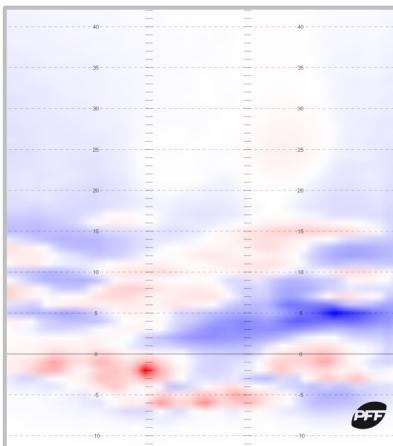
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JT DANIELS

It's time to hop right back on the JT Daniels hype train as he heads to his third college campus. Starting as a true freshman at USC in 2018 might have been too early for him as his skittish nature in the pocket meant he threw countless balls into coverage. He transferred to Georgia looking to win the starting job and while he never did fully, when he started games he looked much more composed than he did at USC. He's improved his timing and pocket presence and still have a live arm. After having been together for one start before a season ending injury in 2019, he will be reunited with offensive coordinator Graham Harrell in Morgantown.

### 2021 DANIELS TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
79.8	3.0%	1.9%	19.2%	6.6
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## OT: WYATT MILUM

Milum has the potential to be one of the best offensive linemen in college football. Just one year ago, Milum arrived to the collegiate ranks as a 2021 four-star recruit, but it didn't take long for him to see the field. The 6-foot-6, 291-pound tackle took over the starting right tackle spot midway through his true freshman year and closed out the season with a 74.2 pass-block grade. From Week 8 on, Milum was actually the seventh-highest-graded tackle in the Big 12. That's a rare level of production from a true freshman. This year, the Mountaineer will be moving over to the left tackle spot. He has never played LT in his football career, but there shouldn't be major concern with the pivot since he is a natural lefty, as noted by WVU's staff.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### G: DOUG NESTER

Nester's return back home to West Virginia has gone smoothly. After shining for Virginia Tech as an underclassman, the 2019 four-star recruit was one of the three highest-graded guards in the Big 12 for West Virginia in 2021, and he grew immensely as his year went on. From Week 8 on, Nester was the highest-graded guard in the Big 12 and ranked top-10 in the FBS in pass-block grade, featuring just three pressures in his final six games. It's reasonable to say some of the early season inconsistencies were a result of playing with an injured hand — in some outings, he had to wear a big cast. Nester can be even better in 2022 with full health.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
75.3	78.9	3.0%	30.9%	74.0
<b>T-27th</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>T-66th</b>	<b>103rd</b>	<b>37th</b>

RANK AMONG 161 P5 GS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: CHARLES WOODS

Woods has transitioned from FCS star at Illinois State to budding Power Five star at West Virginia. He took over an outside corner spot in Week 8 of 2021 — his first year in Morgantown — and legitimately locked down his side of the field. From that point on, Woods was the highest-graded corner in the Power Five. Over his last four games, in particular, the 5-foot-11, 193-pound corner didn't allow a single yard while intercepting one pass and breaking up two others. Woods is an outstanding zone corner who has the capability of being the best Big 12 defensive back in 2022.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
83.0	38.5%	0.51	23.1%	7
<b>T-10th</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>T-7th</b>	<b>T-73rd</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### DL: DANTE STILL

Stills went from playing mostly three-technique in 2020 to four- and five-technique in 2021, and his production took a slight hit. His PFF grade went from 84.2 to 71.5 year-over-year, and while the latter still ranked eighth in the Big 12, it wasn't up to his standard. Stills will be eyeing a bounce-back 2022 campaign.

### C: ZACH FRAZIER

There was a small learning curve for Frazier in 2021 as he made the move from guard to center, but he soon became one of the top players at the position. From Week 4 on, he was the ninth-highest-graded center in the FBS. It's fair to call Frazier a top-10 player at the position for 2022.

### LB: LANCE DIXON

Expect Dixon to take a big step forward in 2022. Last year — his first with West Virginia after transferring in from Penn State — Dixon showed flashes of his special tools, specifically in the postseason against Minnesota when he made his return from injury and posted a 77.9 PFF grade with six stops.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: GRAHAM HARRELL



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**

**72nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**66th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JORDAN LESLEY & SHADON BROWN



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**



**DIME  
PACKAGE**



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**

**70th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**11th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
10.2%	26.3%	39.7%	13.4%	25.1%	36.1%
<b>115th</b>	<b>38th</b>	<b>78th</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>107th</b>	<b>31st</b>

PAC 12  
PAC 12  
PAC 12



# ARIZONA WILDCATS



- Head Coach  
**Jedd Fisch**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**95 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4.9**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**2.3%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#22 NTL, #3 Pac 12**

Arizona is starting to trend in the right direction, and the transfer portal helped expedite the process. The Wildcats nabbed Washington State quarterback Jayden de Laura and UTEP wide receiver Jacob Cowing. Over the last couple of years, de Laura ranks third in the Pac-12 in passing grade. As for Cowing, he is the third-most valuable returning receiver from 2021. Those two should help Arizona climb out of its No. 56 passing efficiency ranking from last year. And don't rule out true freshman receiver Tetairoa McMillan and tight end Keyan Burnett — both of whom were four-stars recruits — from assisting in that as well. Despite these major additions, the top-to-bottom roster still has several weaknesses. Not to mention, relying on inexperience and transfers on offense could lead to growing pains and volatility.

## THE PORTAL

**5**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

**5,018**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(30 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.63**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(4 OF 64 TEAMS)



Year 2 of the Jedd Fisch era at Arizona ought to be a lot better than Year 1 in 2021. Still, the Wildcats have an uphill climb to make a bowl.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**50th**

Sep. 3	@ San Diego State
Sep. 10	Mississippi State
Sep. 17	North Dakota State
Sep. 24	@ California
Oct. 1	Colorado
Oct. 8	Oregon
Oct. 15	@ Washington
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	USC
Nov. 5	@ Utah
Nov. 12	@ UCLA
Nov. 19	Washington State
Nov. 25	Arizona State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Plucked a legit QB1 and WR1 from the portal
- ✓ New high-potential players

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Inexperience on offense
- Can't cover
- Not stable at OT

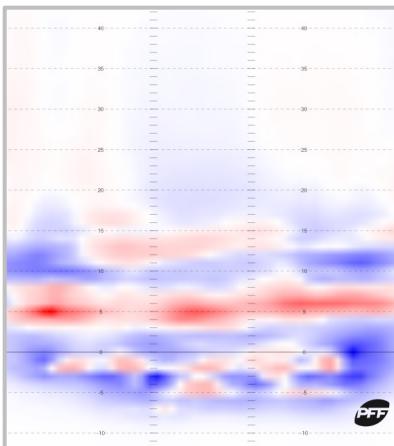
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JAYDEN DE LAURA

After impressing on the field for Washington State in two years starting as a freshman in 2020, de Laura heads south to Arizona. He's an aggressive thrower but he does read the field very well. His accuracy could use some work but he does have a big arm. Transitioning from Washington State's "run n' shoot" offense to Arizona's more style offense under Jedd Fisch and Brennan Carroll will be interesting. De Laura feels like the former offense makes more sense to him. Arizona quarterbacks targeted the middle of field and short of the sticks at an incredibly higher rate than Wazzu. They also play from under center at a much higher rate.

### 2021 DE LAURA TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
77.2	6.8%	4.0%	27.7%	10.0
<b>38th</b>	<b>T-3rd</b>	<b>T-56th</b>	<b>40th</b>	<b>T-19th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: TETAIROA MCMILLAN

McMillan is one of the few true freshmen listed as a breakout candidate in this preview guide. The 2022 No. 51 overall recruit is expected to be a key piece for the Wildcats right away. He'll help try to revive the offense alongside quarterback Jayden de Laura and wide receiver Jacob Cowing. McMillan wins with his ball skills at 6-foot-4 and 195-pounds. The reigning California Mr. Football has made a major impression during spring practices with this elite trait, and he's likely to crack a starting spot. Expecting top-tier output from McMillan right away is a stretch, but he looks like he could be among the rare group of first-year pass-catchers who are actually a reliable option.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: JACOB COWING

Only six FBS wide receivers earned a PFF grade above 90.0 in 2021, one of which was UTEP's Jacob Cowing, as the 5-foot-11, 170-pound slot receiver has been a prominent deep threat for the Miners in his three years with the program. His 32 receptions from passes thrown over 20 yards downfield since 2019 are the second-most in the FBS over that span. Numerous Power Five programs sought out Cowing's services when he entered the transfer portal, but Arizona came out on top. Now, Cowing will partner with Washington State transfer quarterback Jayden de Laura to help turn the Wildcats program around.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
90.3	3.82	8.0%	15.2	30
<b>6th</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>T-201st</b>	<b>T-40th</b>	<b>T-13th</b>

RANK AMONG 334 FBS WRs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: CHRISTIAN ROLAND-WALLACE

Roland-Wallace has been a dependable outside corner for three straight seasons. Since 2019, the 6-foot, 194-pound corner has produced a 79.7 coverage grade — a top-10 mark among qualifying Pac-12 corners over that span. He may not make many plays on the ball, but he's not going to allow a ton of big windows to throw into. Not to mention, he's a reliable tackler — he's missed just nine tackles on 118 attempts. Roland-Wallace's reliability is not likely to change in 2022, but the question is: Can he be more than that and take a big leap forward?

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
68.8	58.7%	1.01	8.7%	8
<b>T-85th</b>	<b>104th</b>	<b>T-93rd</b>	<b>T-130th</b>	<b>T-60th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### DI: KYONN BARS

Barrs took a massive step forward last fall, improving his 60.8 PFF grade from 2020 to 70.9 for 2021. He ranked top five among Pac-12 interior defensive linemen in both pressures generated (21) and defensive stops (23).

### CB: TREYDAN STUKES

Stukes walked on to the Wildcats roster in 2020 and showed plenty of promise in his first year on scholarship in 2021. He logged 221 coverage snaps last season and allowed 17 of his 37 targets to be caught for 217 yards, no touchdowns and six pass breakups.

### EDGE: JALEN HARRIS

Harris pieced together the best stretch of play in his career in the second half of 2021. From Week 8 on, the veteran Wildcat ranked 12th in run defense grade and 11th in pass-rush grade among Pac-12 edge defenders. Only time will tell if he can carry that into his sixth year in 2022.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: BRENNAN CARROLL



PLAY  
ACTION

**110th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JOHNNY NANSEN



BLITZ  
HAPPY



MUG  
FRONTS

**120th**

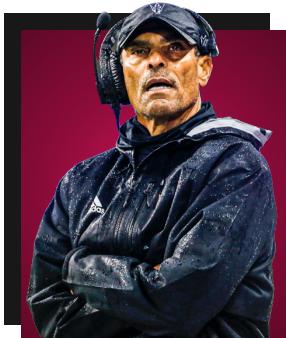
2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**69th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
10.9%	32.3%	35.2%	13.0%	29.9%	39.5%
<b>95th</b>	<b>91st</b>	<b>114th</b>	<b>43rd</b>	<b>68th</b>	<b>65th</b>

# ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS



- Head Coach  
**Herm Edwards**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**63 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.6**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**7.3%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#103 NTL, #12 Pac 12**

Despite gaining more than a dozen transfers, Arizona State lost more talent than it gained from the portal. Among those lost were five wide receivers — two of which were the team's leading pass-catchers at the position in 2021. The Sun Devils also lost quarterback Jayden Daniels but gained Florida's Emory Jones in what should be viewed as a lateral move, as both have their limitations as a passer but make up for it with their rushing impact. Taking out scrambles, ASU ranked 42nd in the Power Five in pass play efficiency in 2021. Given the losses, that's likely to trend downward in 2022. The ground game should be productive and help prevent the Sun Devils' offense from being entirely anemic. Along with Jones' impact at quarterback, Arizona State has a sturdy backfield with Wyoming transfer Xazavian Valladay and 2020 four-star Daniyal Ngata. Valladay helped Wyoming create the Mountain West's second-most efficient rushing attack in 2021 while Ngata is a breakout candidate.

## THE PORTAL

**13**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(T-6 OF 64 TEAMS)

**10,185**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(8 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.18**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(17 OF 64 TEAMS)



Outside of the COVID year, coach Herm Edwards has led ASU to a bowl each season, but that could change in 2022.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**65th**

Sep. 1	Northern Arizona
Sep. 10	@ Oklahoma State
Sep. 17	Eastern Michigan
Sep. 24	Utah
Oct. 1	@ USC
Oct. 8	Washington
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ Stanford
Oct. 29	@ Colorado
Nov. 5	UCLA
Nov. 12	@ Washington State
Nov. 19	Oregon State
Nov. 25	@ Arizona

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Running the ball
- ✓ Losing Lole is not ideal, but the DL is still fine

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Several top talents lost to the portal
- Super thin at receiver
- Backend might crumble

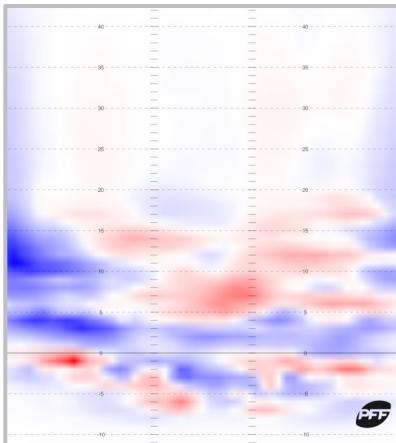
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: EMORY JONES

2021 was supposed to be breakout year for Jones at Florida taking over from Kyle Trask. He looked good in the time he was given off the bench backing up Trask in 2019 and 2020, albeit in a small sample size. Becoming the starter in 2021, he looked out of sorts throughout the season. He produced just two passing game grades above 80.0 — against Samford and Vanderbilt. His decision making was supposed to be his best asset but it faltered too many times last season. A change of scenery might work in favor of Jones but Arizona State's program health is not very good right now.

### 2021 JONES TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
80.5	2.8%	4.0%	32.0%	97
<b>28th</b>	<b>56th</b>	<b>T-56th</b>	<b>58th</b>	<b>T-28th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: ANDRE JOHNSON

Johnson looks to be the next man up after the Sun Devils saw multiple key receivers depart this offseason both to the NFL and via the transfer portal. In fact, the 6-foot-3, 206-pound wideout is the team's leading returning receiver with 186 yards last season. Needless to say, it's not an ideal situation for Arizona State, but there's at least potential still on the roster with Andre Johnson, Chad Johnson Jr. and Elijah Badger. Andre Johnson in particular has the traits to be the team's downfield threat in 2022. Three of the big-bodied receiver's 13 career receptions have been deep targets. The size and tracking ability is what helps him win here.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## G: LADARIUS HENDERSON

Henderson has "late bloomer" written all over him, as he didn't pick up the sport until his junior year of high school before immediately producing eye-popping results to make him a three-star recruit. Despite being relatively raw and just 17 years old as a true freshman, he took over the starting left tackle spot in 2019. To no surprise, Henderson struggled and finished the year with a 43.5 PFF grade. Fast forward to now, and he looks like one of the best guards in the Pac-12 with even further room to grow, as Henderson ranked eighth among 32 qualifying Pac-12 guards in pass-block grade last season.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
70.8	78.3	2.3%	36.3%	68.5
<b>48th</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>T-62nd</b>	<b>71st</b>

RANK AMONG 161 P5 GS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DI: NESTA JADE SILVERA

ASU was gutted by transfers, and their biggest loss was arguably defensive lineman Jermaine Lole; however, the good news is that the Sun Devils replaced him with former Miami Hurricane Nesta Jade Silvera. The 2018 No. 54 overall recruit is a high-effort, nimble big man who can shed blocks with ease. Over the last two seasons, the 6-foot-2, 306-pound interior defensive lineman ranked top five among those at the position in the ACC in both run defense and pass-rush grade.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
73.9	76.3	68.2	8.2%	24
<b>T-25th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>62nd</b>	<b>50th</b>	<b>T-16th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

## KEY STARTERS

### SAF: KHOURY BETHLEY

Bethley comes to ASU from Hawaii, where he was a versatile playmaker. The 5-foot-10, 200-pound transfer played 182 snaps on the edge, 500 in the box, 73 at free safety and 266 in the slot in 2021. He was at his best rushing the passer — he recorded 28 pressures from 119 rushes en route to an 85.3 pass-rush grade.

### LB: MERLIN ROBERTSON

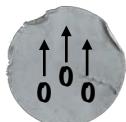
Robertson has a wealth of experience playing in a hybrid job for the Sun Devils. In fact, no returning defender in 2022 has played more Pac-12 football than the 6-foot-3, 240-pound linebacker, who has logged 2,488 snaps over the last four years. He's a strong tackler with 23 misses from 257 attempts over the past four seasons.

### RB: XAZAVIAN VALLADAY

Valladay transferred in from Wyoming, where he was the lead back over the past few years. The 6-foot, 198-pound back has been a strong producer on gap scheme runs as Wyoming's starting RB — he sits in the 62nd percentile nationally in gap rushing grade since 2019.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: GLENN THOMAS



BUNCH

**60th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**22nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: DONNIE HENDERSON



MAN  
COVERAGE

**29th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**41st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.6%	28.8%	45.2%	12.4%	29.7%	39.8%
<b>53rd</b>	<b>61st</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>55th</b>	<b>70th</b>	<b>67th</b>

# CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS



- Head Coach  
**Justin Wilcox**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**74 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.4**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**5.6%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#60 NTL, #8 Pac 12**

Cal is eying a bounce-back bowl berth in 2022 after falling short in 2021. To lead the charge, the Golden Bears plucked quarterback Jack Plummer out of the portal from Purdue. He isn't necessarily a quarterback who will win Cal games, but he won't lose them, either. Plummer, who owns a 71.9 passing grade for his career, throws a catchable ball but doesn't create explosive plays. Throw in the thin receiving room (just one wide receiver returning that recorded over 60 yards in 2021), and there's reason to think this offense will be sluggish. The defense carried the load in 2021, ranking third in the Pac-12 in team-defense grade and fifth in EPA allowed per play. The Golden Bears can do the same this fall with Safety Daniel Scott — the third-most valuable Pac-12 safety of 2021 — leading the way. Alongside him is outside cornerbacks Collin Gamble and Lu-Magia Hearns III — both of whom earned 70.0-plus coverage grades in 2021.

## THE PORTAL

<b>6</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>-0.22</b>
PLAYERS GAINED	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED
(T-37 OF 64 TEAMS)	(39 OF 64 TEAMS)	(60 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Cal will try to thrive as a low-scoring, defensive team in 2022. And while the defense is good, it's not elite and may not be able to carry the team to a bowl.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**69th**

Sep. 3	UC Davis
Sep. 10	UNLV
Sep. 17	@ Notre Dame
Sep. 24	Arizona
Oct. 1	@ Washington State
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 15	@ Colorado
Oct. 22	Washington
Oct. 29	Oregon
Nov. 5	@ USC
Nov. 12	@ Oregon State
Nov. 19	Stanford
Nov. 25	UCLA

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Underrated secondary
- ✓ LB corps fixing to go from liability to strength

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Not an explosive offense at all
- Jeremiah Hunter is the lone bear in the receiving room

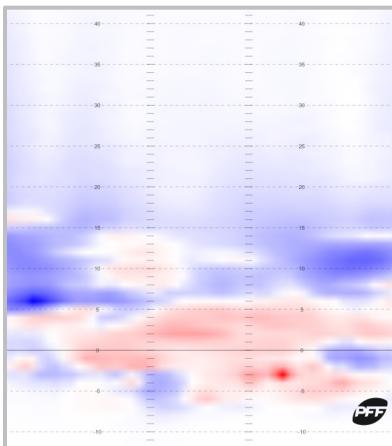
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JACK PLUMMER

Plummer was Purdue's starting quarterback for the first four games of 2021 but was benched as the offense scored just 13 points in their third and fourth game, respectively. Plummer tends to work in the underneath areas of the field pretty well but finding explosive plays is going to be based on scheme more than anything. In the same Purdue offense, Aidan O'Connell — who replaced Plummer — graded out almost 30 points higher when he took over after the Illinois game. He will compete with Kai Millner, a four-star recruit in the class of 2021 and Zach Johnson, a three-star recruit in the class of 2020 but Plummer has the experience to claim the job.

### 2021 PLUMMER TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
61.7	2.3%	1.4%	18.3%	5.5
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## EDGE: ORIN PATU

Patu is entering his fourth year as a Cal Golden Bear, and it'll be his first in a substantial role. The 2019 three-star recruit has just 67 snaps to his name. Despite playing such a small amount, Patu showed that he knows how to rush the passer. He has several ways to win and did so last year when he produced eight pressures on 27 pass-rushes for the season. The big issue within his game is the lack of power. The 6-foot-4, 240-pound edge defender — who showed up to Cal a hair over 200 — was moved around pretty easily in his limited time on the field. While that will limit his ceiling, it won't completely prevent him from being a productive player.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## OL: BEN COLEMAN

Coleman was recruited as a defensive tackle but shifted to offensive guard after arriving on campus in 2019 and is now making the transition to left tackle for 2022. The 6-foot-4, 325-pound lineman has just one year of starting experience at the collegiate level (2021), and he far exceeded expectations, as he was one of seven Pac-12 guards who posted a 70.0-plus grade as both a pass- and run-blocker. Coleman can get a little out of control at times, but he has good footwork and is advanced in pass protection for his experience level. Considering his father started over 100 games in the NFL, this shouldn't come as a surprise.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
71.9	80.0	2.8%	36.3%	71.9
<b>39th</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>53rd</b>	<b>T-62nd</b>	<b>43rd</b>

RANK AMONG 161 P5 GS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## SAF: DANIEL SCOTT

Scott enters his sixth year at Cal coming off a breakout campaign. After playing just 322 snaps in his first four years with the team from 2017 through 2020, the 6-foot-2, 205-pound free safety emerged as one of the Golden Bears' best players in 2021, as he ranked 18th among those in the Power Five in coverage grade playing deep safety. Scott's tackling is less than ideal, but he trusts his reads and consistently makes plays. His veteran aura and leadership are significant given the lack of experience behind him in a thin safety room.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
81.8	60.5	87.9	19.8%	22
<b>12th</b>	<b>T-124th</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>T-142nd</b>	<b>T-21st</b>

RANK AMONG 183 P5 SAFETIES

# KEY STARTERS

## LB: JACKSON SIRMON

Sirmon left Washington after four years to play for his father — defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach Peter Sirmon — at Cal. He won't offer much from a coverage standpoint, but he is a sturdy player against the run, as Sirmon's 70.4 run defense grade since 2020 ranks sixth in the Pac-12.

## WR: JEREMIAH HUNTER

Hunter got his first taste of collegiate action in 2021, and he showcased the ability to be a big-play threat for Cal. Serving in a reserve job, the 6-foot-2, 200-pound wide receiver posted a 79.3 PFF grade and 2.94 yards per route run while picking up 11 explosive receptions of 15-plus yards on the year.

## C: MATTHEW CINDRIC

Last year was Cindric's first full year at center after spending most of his first few years at guard, and he looked even better in the new job. The 6-foot-4, 295-pound center posted a 71.0-plus grade as a pass- and run-blocker.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: BILL MUSGRAVE



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**

**80th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: PETER SIRMON



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**

**66th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**48th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.8%	30.6%	41.6%	11.6%	29.1%	47.6%
<b>79th</b>	<b>79th</b>	<b>62nd</b>	<b>75th</b>	<b>77th</b>	<b>124th</b>

# COLORADO BUFFALOES



- Head Coach  
**Karl Dorrell**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**93 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4.1**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**2.3%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#47 NTL, #5 Pac 12**

Colorado is in a tough spot, as it wasn't a good team in 2021 and lost its best players. Its seven-most valuable players from last year all departed, and three of the top five transferred to a rival Pac-12 program. At quarterback, JT Shroud or Brendon Lewis will try to prevent the Buffs from owning one of the least efficient offenses in the country, but given what each has shown until this point, they're likely stuck at the bottom. Last year's Lewis-led offense ranked fourth-to-last in the Power Five in offensive efficiency. The current state of virtually every position is in a rough spot, especially the offensive line, which ranked fifth-to-last in grade among Power Five teams in 2021 and lost its two highest-graded players. Colorado had decent outside coverage in 2021, but there's reason to believe that a step back is in order after losing both starters to the portal.

## THE PORTAL

<b>7</b>	<b>5,102</b>	<b>-0.04</b>
PLAYERS GAINED	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED
(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)	(28 OF 64 TEAMS)	(45 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

A bowl appearance is almost out of the question for Colorado, as the team is going to be fighting just to win a few games.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**39th**

Sep. 2	TCU
Sep. 10	@ Air Force
Sep. 17	@ Minnesota
Sep. 24	UCLA
Oct. 1	@ Arizona
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 15	California
Oct. 22	@ Oregon State
Oct. 29	Arizona State
Nov. 5	Oregon
Nov. 11	@ USC
Nov. 19	@ Washington
Nov. 26	Utah

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Decent linebackers
- ✓ Great special teams unit, if that means anything

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Lethargic on offense
- Pass-blocking close to panic territory
- Can they cover?

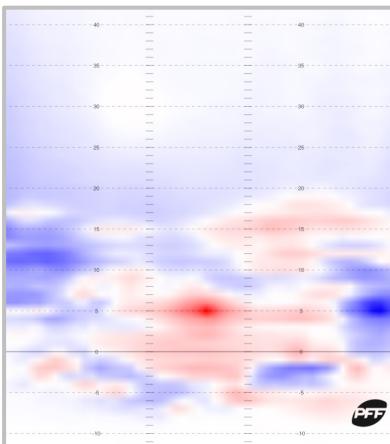
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: BRENDON LEWIS / JT SHROUT

The Buffaloes will decide between incumbent starter Brendon Lewis and JT Shroud. The latter transferred to Colorado from Tennessee in 2021 but didn't see any playing time. Lewis played the whole season but results were not very good. He finished the season only grading above 75.0 on one occasion — against the lowly Arizona Wildcats. The accuracy, arm strength and decision making are all below average. New offensive coordinator Mike Sanford will bring a heavy dose of RPOs to Boulder and that could help stabilize the passing attack with whoever ends up playing quarterback. The Buffaloes were near the bottom of the entire country in play action and RPO rate last season.

### 2021 LEWIS TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
69.7	2.5%	1.8%	25.8%	6.8
<b>52nd</b>	<b>63rd</b>	<b>T-1st</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>66th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## CB: NIKKO REED

Outside corner was a strength for the Buffs in 2021, but they lost two starters to other Pac-12 programs. It'll be tough for Reed — entering his true sophomore season — to sustain the level of play that was there, but he's capable of getting close to that in 2022. The 5-foot-10, 175-pound corner saw some action outside down the stretch of his freshman year. Reed allowed eight of his 18 targets to be caught across 102 coverage snaps for 128 yards and a score. The thin frame and overall tackling form is an issue (he missed six of 15 attempts in 2021), but he did pack on some weight and has the movement skills to make up for it. Reed also is expected to be a returner for Colorado — the lone return he saw as a freshman he ended up taking 104 yards to the house.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: R.J. SNEED

Sneed transferred to the Buffs after five years with the Baylor Bears. He isn't the most dynamic player, but the 6-foot-1, 203-pound receiver can be a physical and reliable possession receiver for Colorado, which is in dire need of just that, as Sneed has caught over 60% of his career contested opportunities (20 of 33). Over the last three years, he has hauled in 93.4% of his catchable targets beyond the line of scrimmage, which is the highest mark in the Power Five among receivers with at least 150 targets in that span. Sneed is a low-ceiling but high-floor wide receiver and that's perfectly fine.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
64.4	1.91	6.1%	8.7	15
<b>T-111th</b>	<b>T-66th</b>	<b>T-74th</b>	<b>132nd</b>	<b>T-53rd</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### SAF: ISAIAH LEWIS

Lewis went from playing predominantly in the slot in 2020 to mostly free safety in 2021, and his production plummeted. His PFF grade year-over-year fell nearly 15 grading points. Despite being at his best in the slot, Colorado will lean on Lewis' positional flexibility in 2022, especially given the nature of the team's secondary, as the unit saw three starters transfer out to other Power Five programs. Colorado will need the 6-foot, 205-pound safety to not only bounce back but also get accustomed to wearing many hats.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
58.7	65.8	54.4	8.9%	12
<b>T-139th</b>	<b>83rd</b>	<b>152nd</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>T-117th</b>

RANK AMONG 183 P5 SAFETIES

# KEY STARTERS

## LB: JOSH CHANDLER-SEMEDO

Colorado swooped in and snagged Chandler-Semedo out of the portal. He is fresh off a year in which he tied for fourth among Big 12 off-ball linebackers in defensive stops (45). Over the last three years, Chandler-Semedo produced the fourth-best PFF grade among Big 12 linebackers.

## TE: BRADY RUSSELL

Russell is looking to build off his 2021 campaign that showed vast improvement as a receiver. He is a major after-the-catch threat, as he broke 14 tackles and averaged 9.1 yards after the catch on 25 receptions in 2021.

## EDGE: TERRANCE LANG

Lang will be eyeing a bounce-back year in 2022. The 6-foot-7, 285-pound edge defender showed growth in the 2020 COVID-shortened season by turning in a 75.2 PFF grade, but that mark fell to 47.8 in 2021. He actually produced fewer pressures and stops last year than in 2020 despite playing nearly twice as many snaps.

## OFFENSE

### OC: MIKE SANFORD



DROBACK  
PASSING

**113th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**118th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: CHRIS WILSON



MAN  
COVERAGE

**89th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**78th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
9.6%	43.3%	34.1%	9.8%	26.9%	43.9%
<b>119th</b>	<b>125th</b>	<b>118th</b>	<b>111th</b>	<b>90th</b>	<b>107th</b>

# OREGON DUCKS



It's a new era of Oregon football with head coach Dan Lanning leading the charge, and expectations are high out of the gate, as the market is flirting with nine wins for the Ducks in 2022. Auburn transfer quarterback Bo Nix's output will play a massive role in whether the Ducks hit that win total or fall flat. PFF's statistics show the latter is more likely, as the 6-foot-3, 214-pound quarterback is coming off a 76.6 passing grade in 2021 — his highest of his career by over 10 points — but displayed shaky decision-making again. In the receiving room, Nix will be relying on inexperienced talents, as Oregon's potential starting trio are all true sophomores with minimal experience, though the Ducks do have some long-term promise at the position. Quarterback and receiver are really the only major areas of concern surrounding the Ducks in 2022, as they are formidable elsewhere, especially on defense. Coach Lanning is going to take full advantage of Oregon's special interior defensive line and linebacking corps.

## THE PORTAL

8

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-21 OF 64 TEAMS)

7,559

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(XX OF 64 TEAMS)

0.21

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(15 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

The receiver room will have to develop sooner rather than later and Bo Nix will have to change his ways in order for Oregon to sneak into the Rose Bowl.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**31st**

Sep. 3	vs Georgia
Sep. 10	Eastern Washington
Sep. 17	BYU
Sep. 24	@ Washington State
Oct. 1	Stanford
Oct. 8	@ Arizona
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	UCLA
Oct. 29	@ California
Nov. 5	@ Colorado
Nov. 12	Washington
Nov. 19	Utah
Nov. 25	@ Oregon State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Monstrous interior DL
- ✓ OL is a strong unit
- ✓ High-ceiling corners

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No pass-catching threats
- QB isn't going to elevate the players around him
- Can the bad tackling improve?

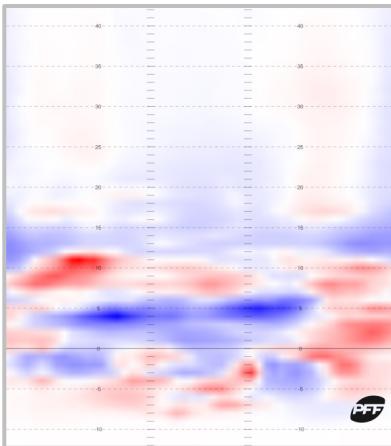
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: BO NIX

His career did not pan out at his father's alma mater like Nix had hoped but he did improve each season and was solid in 2021. His accuracy has improved and when he plays on time, he looks like a very good quarterback. Going into his fourth season and now in a weaker defensive conference, we could see a breakout performance. Chances are a few teams on the Ducks schedule will get "Nix'ed" where his scrambling and arm strength make up for his decision making enough to light a defense on fire for 60 minutes. His play in 2021 was not as bad as his reputation and Oregon should be cautiously optimistic.

### 2021 NIX TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
78.5	5.0%	3.8%	26.7%	9.0
<b>33rd</b>	<b>T-29th</b>	<b>T-50th</b>	<b>35th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## LB: JUSTIN FLOWE

Flowe came to Eugene with high expectations as Oregon's second-highest-rated recruit in history behind only Kayvon Thibodeaux. But he only played a couple of snaps during his true freshman campaign due to a meniscus injury. Flowe was a prime breakout candidate last season as he gained full strength, but another injury suffered early in the year limited him to just one game in 2021. Fast forward to the present and Flowe is still working his way back to 100%. In the lone full game, the off-ball linebacker was able to play in — Week 1 against Fresno State last year — Flowe was rather inconsistent. He did have a couple of run stops en route to a 75.0 grade in the facet, but also allowed 68 yards and a touchdown in coverage. The durability is clearly a concern, but there's no denying his potential when healthy.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### OT: TJ BASS

Bass pivoted from guard to tackle midway through 2021, and while the 2020 top-25 ranked JUCO recruit experienced some volatility in pass protection, his standout run-blocking remained. Bass finished with a 90.5 run-block grade and ranked top 30 among all Power Five offensive linemen regardless of position in negatively and positively graded run play rate — the latter is something only four others accomplished for the year. Additionally, Bass was still decent in pass protection, allowing just 14 pressures en route to a 74.0 grade in that facet. It's not known whether Bass will be at tackle or guard in 2022, but regardless, if he can improve his pass sets, he can be one of the premier FBS offensive linemen.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	True Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
86.0	74.0	3.1%	42.2%	90.5
<b>9th</b>	<b>49th</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>5th</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### LB: NOAH SEWELL

The Sewell family, once again, has one of the best players in college football. After Penie dominated the offensive side of the ball, Noah is now wreaking havoc on defense. The Oregon off-ball linebacker takes on blocks with a vengeance and is a fearful blitzer, racking up 34 pressures from 98 pass-rushes while earning an 88.6 pass-rush grade in 2021. He has freaky athleticism at 6-foot-3 and 251 pound, but Sewell's tackling needs to be cleaner. Having said that, no one has a higher ceiling at the position, and he ought to be in the running for the Butkus Award at the end of the season.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
71.5	69.3	59.0	17.9%	37
<b>26th</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>T-88th</b>	<b>146th</b>	<b>T-53rd</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 OFF-BALL LBS

# KEY STARTERS

## DI: BRANDON DORLUS

Dorlus deserves more love, as he's one of the top 10 returning interior defensive linemen in the country. He is coming off a 2021 season in which he finished as one of college football's five most valuable interior defensive linemen with 0.29 PFF wins above average (WAA) generated.

## DI: POPO AUMAVAE

Aumavae is a monster interior defender at 6-foot-4, 305-pounds who is going to be a force in 2022 due to his violent hands and power to pair with good quickness for his size. He turned in a 74.8 run defense grade and 82.0 pass-rush grade in 2021 and could become an elite interior defender in 2022.

## CB: CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ

Oregon stole a quality cover corner away from Pac-12 foe Colorado in Gonzalez, as the 6-foot-2, 200-pound transfer ranked 11th of 39 qualifying Pac-12 cornerbacks in coverage grade for the Buffaloes in 2021 (72.4).

### OFFENSE

#### OC: KENNY DILLINGHAM



EMPTY

**53rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: TOSH LUPOI



ZONE  
COVERAGE

**86th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**94th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.4%	25.7%	50.8%	10.0%	35.4%	46.9%
<b>58th</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>106th</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>119th</b>

# OREGON STATE BEAVERS



- Head Coach  
**Jonathan Smith**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**56 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.1**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**8.8%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#56 NTL, #6 Pac 12**

Oregon State smashed expectations last year. The market expected the Beavers to finish near the bottom of the Pac-12 with a 4.5 win total, but the Beavers came out with seven victories and a bowl berth. This year, the market might be underrating the Beavers again. The offense — thanks to an elite offensive line and decent play from quarterback Chance Nolan — was a surprise in 2021, as Oregon State ranked fifth in the Power Five in success rate for the season. The offensive line was a top-five graded unit in the Power Five in 2021, and it have a shot at doing so again in 2022. Nolan was a PFF First-Team All-Pac 12 honoree in 2021 after leading the conference in passing grade. Defensively, the Beavers have one of the best safety units in the conference with Kitan Oladapo and Alton Julian leading the way, but winning up front and covering on the outside are two areas to monitor.

## THE PORTAL

1

311

0.00

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-59 OF 64 TEAMS)

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(62 OF 64 TEAMS)

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

(37 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Oregon State has the ability to replicate its 2021 success in 2022, finishing a hair above .500 en route to a bowl berth.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**66th**

Sep. 3	Boise State
Sep. 10	@ Fresno State
Sep. 17	Montana State
Sep. 24	USC
Oct. 1	@ Utah
Oct. 8	@ Stanford
Oct. 15	Washington State
Oct. 22	Colorado
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 4	@ Washington
Nov. 12	California
Nov. 19	@ Arizona State
Nov. 25	Oregon

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Nasty offensive line
- ✓ Better at QB than most think
- ✓ One of the best safety rooms in the Pac-12

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Getting pressure up front
- Volatility at corner

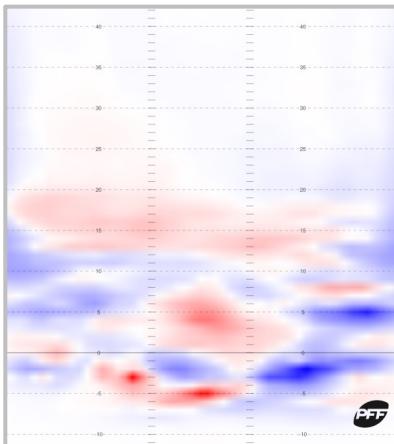
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CHANCE NOLAN

One of the more underrated passers in college football, Nolan led the Beavers offense to their best offensive season in the PFF college era (2014-). He may look unorthodox; playing on his toes, his release can be long and the arm strength is not elite but he gets the ball to where it's supposed to go on time and accurately. It's not the easiest system either with Nolan having to read through progressions consistently. He really stands out throwing to the intermediate areas of the field where he can put good touch on the ball and layer throws to his receivers in stride. Accuracy in the shorter areas isn't as good and that's where the slow release can get him throwing behind receivers. He makes up for the lack of arm strength by throwing on time when he wants to take a shot down the field.

### 2021 NOLAN TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
84.7	5.0%	2.3%	22.4%	10.5
<b>T-18th</b>	<b>T-29th</b>	<b>T-15th</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>T-14th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## SAF: ALTON JULIAN

Julian started out looking like a breakout player for the 2021 season before a season-ending knee injury in Week 8. Through his 325 snaps until that point, the JUCO product owned a 78.7 PFF overall grade and an 86.0 mark in coverage. Julian was limited for most of the offseason, and there is some concern about recovering from injury. But if he can come back to 100%, the Oregon State safety looks poised to continue on the breakout path. Julian has the read-react ability to be a playmaker. Before getting hurt, he totaled five passing stops, three forced incompletions and an interception.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### OT: JOSHUA GRAY

From a pass-blocking standpoint, Gray is as inconsistent as it gets. In 2021, he turned in five sub-35.0 single-game pass-block grades but also recorded five single-game marks above 75.0. On the other hand, the 6-foot-4, 300-pound left tackle's run-blocking is consistent and a big piece of what makes Oregon State's offensive line special. Gray produced seven big-time blocks en route to the No. 24 positively graded run-block rate among 273 qualifying FBS tackles in 2021, as he thrives in the Beavs' outside zone-centric run game due to his athleticism.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
77.5	53.5	6.9%	45.1%	85.9
<b>T-31st</b>	<b>132nd</b>	<b>132nd</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### SAF: KITAN OLADAPO

Oladapo is coming off a breakout year for the Beavers, as he turned into a consistent, versatile safety. He didn't have a single outing sub-60.0 grade in a single game in 2021, something that is difficult to do at the position. And he did that playing over 200 snaps in the box, slot and at deep safety. The 6-foot-1, 209-pound former walk-on tied for second nationally at the position in total pass breakups (seven). Oladapo has the kind of do-it-all safety skill set that helped him finish as the Pac-12's second-most valuable safety in 2021 and will make him an All-Conference first-team candidate in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
73.6	64.1	77.5	13.6%	20
<b>T-36th</b>	<b>T-94th</b>	<b>T-30th</b>	<b>60th</b>	<b>T-34th</b>

RANK AMONG 183 P5 SAFETIES

## KEY STARTERS

### CB: ALEX AUSTIN

Austin could take a step forward in 2022 after developing a ton throughout 2021. He posted a couple of bumpy performances to start last season, but from Week 5 on, he was one of the best in the conference, as Austin ranked sixth among Pac-12 cornerbacks in coverage grade from that point forward.

### LB: OMAR SPEIGHTS

Speights is an inconsistent player — hence the middling 58.3 PFF grade — but he undoubtedly has a high ceiling. Heading into 2022, his run defense is arguably the best aspect of his game, as his 65.6 run defense grade tied for 10th among 29 qualifying Pac-12 linebackers.

### G: MARCO BREWER

Brewer is a menace in the run game, as he posted a 93.3 run-block grade in 2021, the third-best in the Power Five regardless of position. The 6-foot-4, 304-pound guard totaled 13 big-time blocks, which were the second-most in the Pac-12 despite ranking 42nd in total run-blocking snaps.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: BRIAN LINDGREEN



**PLAY ACTION  
PASSING**



**ZONE  
RUNS**

**41st**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**12th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: TRENT BRAY



**MAN  
COVERAGE**



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**

**99th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

**92nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.7%	35.8%	49.4%	11.1%	28.5%	51.3%
<b>48th</b>	<b>109th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>91st</b>	<b>80th</b>	<b>127th</b>

# STANFORD CARDINAL



- Head Coach  
**David Shaw**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**84 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**5.0**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**2.5%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#19 NTL, #2 Pac 12**

Stanford is near the top of the Power Five in returning production from 2021. Unfortunately, a good chunk of that production wasn't good, but there's reason to believe that growth is on the way. All eyes will be on quarterback Tanner McKee, who has received a wealth of hype this offseason. In order for him to live up to the hype, he needs to improve dramatically, especially with his deep ball and when under pressure (finished with a bottom five grade in the Power Five in both categories last year). One thing that went against him in 2021 was injuries plaguing his top pass-catchers, as wide receivers Brycen Tremayne and Michael Wilson both missed over half of the year due to injury. When healthy, those two, alongside tight end Benjamin Yurosek and wide receiver Elijah Higgins, provide McKee with one of the better supporting casts in the Pac-12. Throw in running back EJ Smith's potential breakout, and there's plenty of reason to expect growth from the Cardinal in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

1

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-59 OF 64 TEAMS)

2,378

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(49 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.21

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(59 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

If McKee exceeds his lofty expectations, Stanford can get back on the bowl track, but both PFF's model and the markets aren't confident in that occurring.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**27th**

Sep. 3	Colgate
Sep. 10	USC
Sep. 17	OFF
Sep. 24	@ Washington
Oct. 1	@ Oregon
Oct. 8	Oregon State
Oct. 15	@ Notre Dame
Oct. 22	Arizona State
Oct. 29	@ UCLA
Nov. 5	Washington State
Nov. 12	@ Utah
Nov. 19	@ California
Nov. 26	BYU

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Wealth of experience on offense
- ✓ Promising breakout at RB
- ✓ Growth along the OL

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Liability in run defense
- Very few on defense that can be counted on

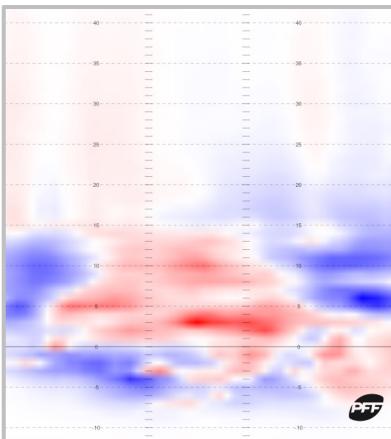
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: TANNER MCKEE

Mckee is a sneaky pick to a top selection in next year's NFL draft. He has tools but will need to refine his play on the field to really stand out this season. Where he's the most dangerous — and maybe the best in the country — is throwing over the middle of the field especially in the seam. He's as good as anyone at finding these soft spots between zone coverage in the hardest area to hit on the field. His delivery can be clunky at times and this can lead to some late balls sometimes. His play — and his receivers' play — against man coverage needs to be better as well. He does trust his receivers to go up and make plays for him on the sideline.

### 2021 MCKEE TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
69.0	5.0%	3.9%	24.2%	8.0
<b>T-53rd</b>	<b>T-29th</b>	<b>T-52nd</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>T-56th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: E.J. SMITH

E.J. Smith is the son of one of the greatest running backs of all time, Emmitt Smith. After flashing on a small sample his first two years with the Cardinal, E.J. looks poised to make a name for himself in 2022. The 2020 four-star recruit produced an 81.2 rushing grade on his 26 carries in 2021 while totaling 14 broken tackles, five explosive runs of 10-plus yards and 4.62 yards after contact per attempt on that limited sample. He showed excellent vision, patience and elusiveness as a runner. Smith was also fairly productive in the pass game with 1.31 yards per route run. Don't be surprised if the Stanford running back ends up being the most productive ball-carrier on the West Coast in 2022 — he has that kind of potential.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## TE: BENJAMIN YUROSEK

Yurosek broke out in a major way in 2021 — his second year in the collegiate ranks — as he improved as the season progressed and, from Week 5 on, ranked 11th nationally among tight ends in receiving grade (83.0). The only other non-draft-eligible tight ends who earned higher marks were Georgia's Brock Bowers and Notre Dame's Michael Mayer. Yurosek may not be dynamic, but he makes up for it with his body control and reliability over the middle of the field. Despite lacking top-end speed, he still thrives when working the seams due to his physical nature. The 6-foot-5, 232-pound tight end led the FBS in seam receptions (10) and yards (240) in 2021.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
74.4	1.90	6.7%	8	43.3
<b>13th</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>T-18th</b>	<b>T-3rd</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 42 P5 TES RECEIVING, 99 BLOCKING

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: KYU BLU KELLY

Kelly is coming off a career year from a PFF grading standpoint due to his limited performance when covering the slot. Despite playing just four snaps in the slot prior to 2021, Kelly took on 108 reps inside during last season — mostly coming in three different games — and earned an 82.0 PFF grade on those reps. For reference, that is over 20 grading points higher than his grade on the outside for 2021. There's a reasonable argument to be made that the 6-foot-1, 186-pound corner belongs in the slot given what he has shown on the outside up until this point.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
66.9	57.8%	1.54	10.9%	11
<b>T-111th</b>	<b>94th</b>	<b>194th</b>	<b>94th</b>	<b>T-23rd</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### WR: BRYCEN TREMAYNE

Tremayne appeared to be improved in 2021 before injury shut his season down in Week 5. Up until that point, he was the seventh-highest-graded receiver in the Pac-12. The 6-foot-4, 205-pound receiver is a big, physical red-zone threat, as Tremayne caught a red zone touchdown in each of his five games in 2021.

### OT: WALTER ROUSE

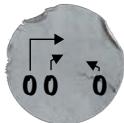
Rouse rounded out his game last season, posting career-best marks in both the pass and run game. He was one of seven Pac-12 tackles who earned a 70.0-plus grade as a pass- and run-blocker in 2021.

### G: BRANSON BRAGG

Bragg was breaking out in 2021 before getting injured toward the end of the year. The 2019 four-star recruit posted a 77.7 pass-block grade in nine games with just four pressures allowed from 301 pass-block snaps. He did that while playing some guard and tackle in a few games.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: TAVITA PRICHARD



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**

**89th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**109th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: LANCE ANDERSON



**MAN  
COVERAGE**

**100th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**127th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.4%	25.2%	35.3%	8.5%	24.0%	44.2%
<b>59th</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>111th</b>	<b>122nd</b>	<b>114th</b>	<b>109th</b>

# UCLA BRUINS



UCLA brought in some of the most underrated talents from the transfer portal. At the same time, the Bruins lost a slew of key players to other programs, including cornerback Jay Shaw and edge defender Mitchell Agude. Headlining the Bruins' additions are cornerback Azizi Hearn, off-ball linebacker Darius Muasau and edge rushing brothers Gabriel and Grayson Murphy. All four rank top-10 nationally among returning players at their respective position in PFF WAA generated in 2021 but will be making the jump from a Group of Five to Power Five conference. The offense is headlined by running back Zach Charbonnet, who was the seventh-most valuable running back nationally in 2021. Dorian Thompson-Robinson returns at quarterback for one final ride, and he will provide value on the ground, but at this point, it's well known he is a limited passer. DTR posted a 74.1 passing and 85.7 rushing grade in 2021.

## THE PORTAL

**12**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(11 OF 64 TEAMS)

**10,475**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(7 OF 64 TEAMS)

**1.20**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(2 OF 64 TEAMS)



UCLA will be a good team that earns a bowl invitation in 2022, but the Bruins are a firm tier below the top of the conference unless DTR takes an unexpected step forward.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**85th**

Sep. 3	Bowling Green
Sep. 10	Alabama State
Sep. 17	South Alabama
Sep. 24	@ Colorado
Sep. 30	Washington
Oct. 8	Utah
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ Oregon
Oct. 29	Stanford
Nov. 5	@ Arizona State
Nov. 12	Arizona
Nov. 19	USC
Nov. 25	@ California

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Established transfer class
- ✓ Potent rushing attack

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Shaky passing
- The portal giveth, the portal taketh away

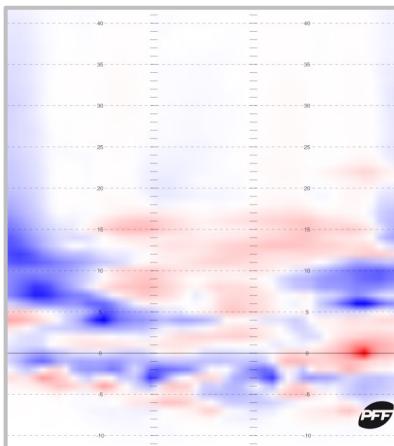
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: DORIAN THOMPSON-ROBINSON

It took some time but “DTR” finally had his breakout season. Since starting his first game all the way back in 2018, he had never posted a seasonal grade above 66.5. After almost 700 pass attempts through the 2020 season, it was believed that Thompson-Robinson’s ceiling had already been hit but he improved at a massive rate in 2021 and if he can just improve by 10% this year, UCLA could be a real problem in the PAC-12. Last year, Chip Kelly’s scheme did do some of the heavy lifting in the passing game but DTR calmed his feet down, became slightly more accurate and stopped forcing balls into coverage. He used his legs when nothing was open down the field and he still possesses a cannon for an arm. His rushing grade of 85.7 was fifth highest in the country last year among returning quarterbacks.

### 2021 T.-ROBINSON TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
85.2	4.9%	2.6%	27.5%	10.6
<b>T-16th</b>	<b>T-32nd</b>	<b>T-24th</b>	<b>37th</b>	<b>13th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## DI: JACOB SYKES

Among the many transfers UCLA pulled in from the portal, Sykes is coming across the country from Harvard. The 6-foot-3, 275-pound defensive tackle was an Ivy league standout after producing an 84.8 PFF grade in 2021, making a significant dent against the run and pass. He was top-five in the conference in both run-defense (87.8) and pass-rush grade (74.1) last year en route to first-team All-Ivy league honors. Sykes is quick and light on his feet, making him a weapon on stunts and slants. It's going to be difficult for the Harvard transfer to sustain that level of play at the Power Five level, but Sykes has the capability to produce like one of top interior defenders in the Pac-12.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## RB: ZACH CHARBONNET

Charbonnet was one of the five most valuable running backs during the 2021 college football season, and his 91.9 rushing grade was the third-highest in the FBS. In addition, the Michigan transfer ranked top five nationally in missed tackles forced per attempt (0.34) and was one of four running backs in the Power Five who finished with at least 200 carries and zero fumbles. He's a big, elusive and trustworthy back who should be considered the consensus top returning player at the position on the West Coast.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
89.4	15.2%	0.34	3.50	0.78
<b>8th</b>	<b>34th</b>	<b>T-4th</b>	<b>T-28th</b>	<b>51st</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## LB: DARIUS MUASAU

Muasau is fresh off a breakout season at Hawaii, where he finished among the most productive off-ball linebackers at the Group of Five level. Muasau ranked 15th nationally in defensive stops this past year (51) and led the group in forced fumbles (five). His blitzing ability, in particular, is exceptional — Muasau racked up 37 pressures from 131 rushes en route to a 91.5 pass-rush grade. Watching him attack downhill is a sight to see. His new team, UCLA, owned the highest blitz rate in the Pac-12 by over eight percentage points (48%) last season, but that may not remain with a new defensive coordinator in town. Either way, the Bruins were wise to bring in Muasau.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
76.7	71.6	57.6	18.4%	51
<b>24th</b>	<b>62nd</b>	<b>222nd</b>	<b>T-300th</b>	<b>T-21st</b>

RANK AMONG 394 FBS OFF-BALL LBS

## KEY STARTERS

### CB: AZIZI HEARN

Hearn was one of the top cornerbacks to enter the transfer portal this past cycle. Playing for Wyoming in 2021, the 6-foot-1, 202-pound corner was a true shutdown player, as the only other FBS cornerback who allowed fewer yards per coverage snap on the outside than Hearn (0.36) was 2021 top-five pick Sauce Gardner (0.22).

### EDGE: GRAYSON MURPHY

Grayson Murphy was one of the most productive edge defenders in the transfer portal. He posted a 91.2 pass-rush grade while racking up 54 total pressures.

### EDGE: GABRIEL MURPHY

Gabriel Murphy — the twin brother of Grayson — was also an elite pass-rusher for North Texas in 2021 and will try to be the same for UCLA in 2022. He turned in a 91.4 pass-rush grade for the Mean Green last season, ranking 15th among all FBS edge defenders.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: NONE



GAP RUNS

**36th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**7th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: BILL MCGOVERN



BLITZ HAPPY

**56th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**98th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.6%	28.4%	46.4%	10.7%	26.6%	46.0%
<b>50th</b>	<b>57th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>98th</b>	<b>98th</b>	<b>112th</b>

# USC TROJANS



USC will be a case study for all major programs in 2022. How will these ultra-talented transfers mesh together? Will the lack of continuity be an issue? Those are just a couple of questions that will be answered this year. There's no denying that from a pure talent standpoint, the Trojans can make a title run. New quarterback Caleb Williams is fresh off breaking Trevor Lawrence's record for the best single-season PFF grade by a true freshman quarterback while new WR1 Jordan Addison was the second-most valuable receiver in the Power Five last year and is the reigning Biletnikoff Award winner. Those two alone can help elevate USC to new heights, but there are even more transfer additions to aid them in doing so — such as former Oklahoma wide receiver Mario Williams (PFF's No. 6 returning wide receiver), former Oregon running back Travis Dye (14th-most valuable running back of 2021) and former Arizona State linebacker Eric Gentry (named to PFF All-True Freshman Team in 2021) just to name a few.

## THE PORTAL

**20**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(1 OF 64 TEAMS)

**13,121**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(3 OF 64 TEAMS)

**1.57**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(1 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

The 2022 USC Trojans personify the boom-or-bust label. They have College Football Playoff potential, but things could go south considering the team's lack of experience together.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**53rd**

Sep. 3	Rice
Sep. 10	@ Stanford
Sep. 17	Fresno State
Sep. 24	@ Oregon State
Oct. 1	Arizona State
Oct. 8	Washington State
Oct. 15	@ Utah
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	@ Arizona
Nov. 5	California
Nov. 11	Colorado
Nov. 19	@ UCLA
Nov. 26	Notre Dame

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Lincoln Riley's aura
- ✓ Best QB-WR connection on the west coast
- ✓ Returns a special interior OL

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Risk of transfers not meshing
- Ton of talent in the secondary, but they could be volatile to start

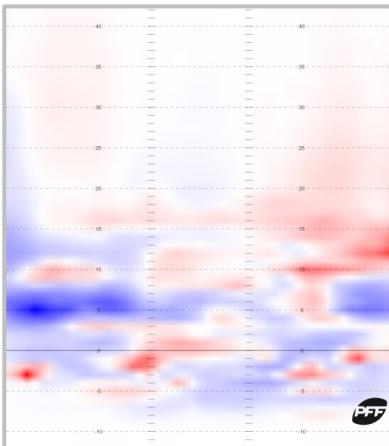
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CALEB WILLIAMS

Williams follows Lincoln Riley from Norman to Los Angeles looking to sustain the success he had coming off the bench in 2021 as a Sooner. The freshman struggled in games against the top defenses and performed at an elite level against the ones that weren't. He had a 58.4 grade against Big 12 defenses who had a negative EPA/play over the season and a 95.6 grade against the Big 12 defenses who allowed a positive EPA/play over the season. Still, it was a good season from a freshman considering — and this helps Spencer Rattler's case as well — the surrounding talent was nowhere near the usual Oklahoma levels.

### 2021 WILLIAMS TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
91.3	6.6%	2.6%	27.9%	11.8
<b>7th</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>T-24th</b>	<b>41st</b>	<b>3rd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## EDGE: KOREY FOREMAN

Foreman was the No. 2-rated overall recruit in the 2021 class behind only Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers. The USC edge defender saw limited action as a true freshman but showed why he was such a promising recruit in the first place. He generated 11 pressures and produced a 73.0 PFF grade across 113 total snaps. The 6-foot-5, 265-pound true sophomore has the frame and an excellent blend of both speed and power. Like with any young player, it takes some tuning and building up his arsenal in order to take that next step. With Drake Jackson now off to the NFL, Foreman will be expected to anchor USC's defensive line along with Tuli Tuipulotu. Perhaps the most exciting aspect is that the five-star is now being coached by Shaun Nua, who comes from Michigan after developing Aidan Hutchinson into one of the best edge rushers in the country.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### WR: JORDAN ADDISON

USC pulled the best non-quarterback from the transfer portal by bringing in former Pitt wide receiver Jordan Addison, who handled a heavy workload in his 2021 campaign by averaging 10 targets per game. The 6-foot, 175-pound receiver undoubtedly seized the opportunity, earning an 87.6 receiving grade and the Biletnikoff Award. The 2022 true junior primarily has worked from the slot, where he led the country in touchdowns in 2021 (12), but he's also been a threat on the outside despite his thin stature. Addison's 3.33 yards per route run from out wide in 2021 ranked third among Power Five wide receivers. Concentration drops are just about the only flaw within his game, which is why he is a star receiver.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
88.8	2.94	9.9%	12.4	40
<b>4th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>121st</b>	<b>T-60th</b>	<b>2nd</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: TULI TUIPULOTU

Tuipulotu was a breakout player in his second year of college football in 2021, as the 6-foot-4, 290-pound defensive end posted 79.0-plus grades against the run and as a pass-rusher last season. Just like his older brother Marlon — a former Trojan and current Philadelphia Eagle — Tuli has big-time power behind his hands while displaying consistent hand placement and block recognition. He has been and will continue to be a consistent, all-around force at defensive end for USC.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
82.6	79.0	79.8	10.8%	24
<b>16th</b>	<b>T-18th</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>T-76th</b>	<b>T-47th</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### G: ANDREW VORHEES

Vorhees should be considered one of the best linemen in college football, as the 6-foot-6, 320-pound lineman is a technician and well-oiled machine. He is fresh off a year in which he earned a grade above 90.0 as both a pass- and run-blocker, and he did that while moving from left guard to left tackle midway through.

### WR: MARIO WILLIAMS

Williams provided surefire hands for Oklahoma as a true freshman in 2021 and will try to do the same for USC in 2022. He was one of five Power Five wide receivers who received at least 40 targets but dropped zero. The 5-foot-9, 186-pounder will form one of the best WR duos in the nation with Jordan Addison.

### SAF: CALEN BULLOCK

Bullock displayed high-level playmaking traits as a true freshman in 2021 and is a candidate to become elite in 2022. The 6-foot-3, 180-pound safety intercepted a couple of passes and broke up four others en route to a 72.3 coverage grade this past year.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: JOSH HENSON



**PLAY ACTION  
PASSING**

**57th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**42nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: ALEX GRINCH



**MAN  
COVERAGE**

**122nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**102nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.2%	24.0%	46.3%	11.7%	29.0%	44.1%
<b>65th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>72nd</b>	<b>78th</b>	<b>108th</b>

# UTAH UTES



- Head Coach  
**Kyle Whittingham**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**10 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.4**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**22.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#38 NTL, #4 Pac 12**

Utah has playoff aspirations for 2022 after last year's Pac-12 Championship season. The team looked much better once quarterback Cameron Rising took over the keys to the offense. Despite taking just seven dropbacks over his first three years with the team — two of which were turnover-worthy plays by PFF's charting — he broke out in 2021 and was one of the West Coast's best quarterbacks. Rising earned an 88.3 PFF grade from Week 6 on last year, sporting an impressive 18-to-six big-time throw to turnover-worthy play ratio in the process. He has one of the best tight-end duos in the country at his disposal with Brant Kuithe and Dalton Kincaid — who ranked fourth and seventh, respectively, on PFF's top returning tight ends list. While Rising can get Utah to a New Year's Six Bowl, there is a reasonable question to ask if he can get them into the CFP when the team needs him to.

## THE PORTAL

**5**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

**3,118**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(43 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.05**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(32 OF 64 TEAMS)



Rising is going to have to go from great to elite in order for Utah to sniff the CFP. If he remains the same, that's fine — the Utes will still be damn good.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE: **61st**

Sep. 3	@ Florida
Sep. 10	Southern Utah
Sep. 17	San Diego State
Sep. 24	@ Arizona State
Oct. 1	Oregon State
Oct. 8	@ UCLA
Oct. 15	USC
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 27	@ Washington State
Nov. 5	Arizona
Nov. 12	Stanford
Nov. 19	@ Oregon
Nov. 26	@ Colorado

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Complementary tight ends
- ✓ Workhorse at running back
- ✓ Dependable on the backend

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Down bad at wide receiver
- Can Cam Rising win with his arm when the team needs him to?

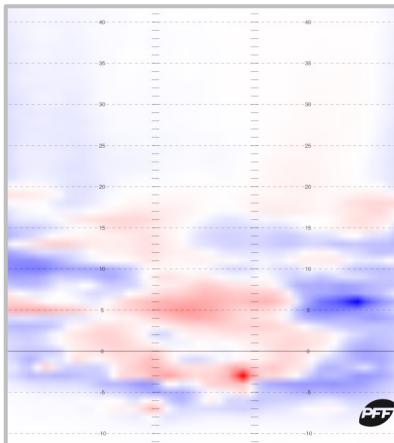
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CAM RISING

Coming into the season as the backup, Rising helped stabilize the Utes entire offense when he was given the chance to start relatively early in the season. He plays quarterback on time which makes up for his lack of physical gifts. With that said, he is a capable runner both as a scrambler and on designed runs. Still, his biggest strength is getting to the right receiver at the right time. His turnover worthy play rate was among the lowest in the country last season. He throws the ball well over the middle of the field. The weakness in 2021 was pushing the ball downfield but Rising plays with good enough timing that as long as he doesn't wait on deep routes, he can still get the ball there.

### 2021 RISING TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
84.7	5.9%	1.9%	23.3%	9.3
T-18th	T-12th	7th	19th	T-33rd

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## SAF: COLE BISHOP

Placing expectations on true freshmen is always risky, especially for an incoming three-star like Cole Bishop was a season ago. Needless to say, it was quite the surprise to see him take over a starting spot down the stretch of 2021 and look like a senior. His run fits, overall play recognition and ability to take on blocks was special in that short time on the field as a freshman. Bishop ended up with a 90.7 run-defense grade and 14.5% positively graded run play rate, both of which were the highest among Power Five safeties. He also tallied up three sacks as a blitzer from Week 10 on, the most at the position nationwide. The next step is to round out his coverage play. Maybe he has already broken out, but I'd argue that he can take his play to another level and become a household name outside of the state of Utah.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### TE: BRANT KUITHE

It's borderline whether Kuithe should even be labeled a tight end, as he doesn't have the prototypical tight end size at 6-foot-2 and 230 pounds in addition to running well over half of his routes from the slot or split out wide. At the end of the day, Kuithe is playing in-line tight end on just over 50% of his total snaps. Kuithe's athleticism, route-running, run-after-catch ability and overall production make an intriguing player who could break out this season. He has now earned a receiving grade above 75.0 for four straight seasons. Kuithe broke 15 tackles and averaged 6.1 yards after the catch on 50 receptions in 2021.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
77.6	2.25	12.3%	4	58.9
<b>10th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>33rd</b>	<b>T-18th</b>	<b>50th</b>

RANK AMONG 42 P5 TES RECEIVING, 99 BLOCKING

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: CLARK PHILLIPS III

Phillips took a massive step forward midway through his 2021 campaign —over his last six games, the 2020 No. 51 overall recruit was the highest-graded outside corner in the country, allowing 0.34 yards per coverage snap in that time. He finished the season with nine pass breakups, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and 14 passing stops. The 5-foot-10, 185-pound corner has some legit leaping ability and quickness. His processing speed shined down the stretch for Utah, which is a big reason why Phillips is hands down the top returning corner on the West Coast who is capable of reaching elite status in 2022.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
74.6	63.2%	1.16	12.6%	14
<b>40th</b>	<b>141st</b>	<b>T-130th</b>	<b>63rd</b>	<b>T-8th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## RB: TAVION THOMAS

Thomas emerged in the midst of the 2021 season to produce at one of the highest levels in the Pac-12. Among running backs in the conference, Thomas ranked second in broken tackles per attempt (0.3), third in yards after contact per attempt (3.8) and tied for first in explosive runs (36). He's a Doak Walker Award candidate.

## TE: DALTON KINCAID

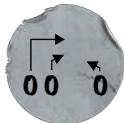
Kincaid — a transfer from San Diego in 2020 — earned an 83.2 receiving grade for the Utes in 2021, and his ability to win at the catch point was a key reason why. The 6-foot-4, 242-pound tight end's ball skills stand out, as he caught seven of his nine contested opportunities and didn't drop any of his 45 targets.

## OT: BRAEDEN DANIELS

Daniels' pass-protection is a wild ride, but the guard-turned-tackle is hands down one of the best run-blockers in the conference. His 89.1 run-block grade in 2021 was a top-five mark among all offensive linemen — regardless of position — in the Pac-12.

## OFFENSE

### OC: ANDY LUDWIG



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**



**ZONE  
RUNS**

**15th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**26th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: MORGAN SCALLEY



**MAN  
COVERAGE**

**48th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**44th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.7%	25.7%	49.4%	12.7%	34.8%	38.8%
<b>26th</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>50th</b>	<b>33rd</b>	<b>53rd</b>

# WASHINGTON HUSKIES



Last year's Washington offense was lethargic. With Kalen DeBoer now as the head coach and Michael Penix Jr. at quarterback, that won't be the case in 2022 if the Indiana transfer can stay healthy. The former Hoosier impressed when starting in 2019 and 2020 despite enduring one of the worst offensive lines in the country. Among 76 Power Five quarterbacks in that span, Penix ranked fourth in big-time throw rate (8.3%), 22nd in turnover-worthy play rate (2.8%) and 15th in passing grade (85.4). At the same time, he is on a run of four straight season-ending injuries. His health will be key for Washington in 2022. Additionally, the Huskies need both edge defender Zion Tupuola-Fetui and off-ball linebacker Edefuan Ulofoshio to remain healthy as well, as both players are top-10 at their respective positions nationally when healthy but have been plagued by injuries. And due to losing all three starting cornerbacks, the Huskies need those playmakers up front.

## THE PORTAL

8

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-21 OF 64 TEAMS)

8,404

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(11 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.10

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(53 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Washington has a wide range of outcomes due to durability concerns. If it can stay relatively healthy, this team will get back on track.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**51st**

Sep. 3	Kent State
Sep. 10	Portland State
Sep. 17	Michigan State
Sep. 24	Stanford
Sep. 30	@ UCLA
Oct. 8	@ Arizona State
Oct. 15	Arizona
Oct. 22	@ California
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 4	Oregon State
Nov. 12	@ Oregon
Nov. 19	Colorado
Nov. 26	@ Washington State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Finally have a big armed QB that can create explosive plays
- ✓ Productive off-ball LBs

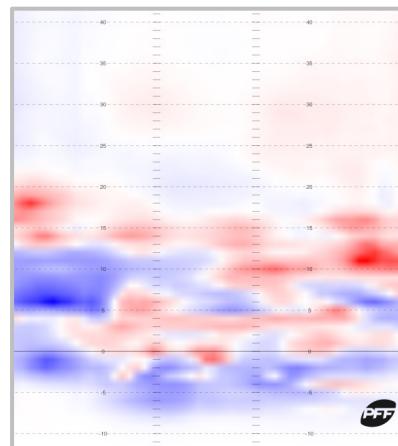
## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Important players with brutal medicals
- CB room reset

# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: MICHAEL PENIX JR

2021 was supposed to be the year Michael Penix Jr. announced himself to the world. But despite two previous successful years starting for Indiana, things didn't quite pan out in Year 3. Penix, now with Washington, still has a chance to break out. He displayed poor execution in 2021, but his process is good enough to believe that he can iron out those issues and produce at a high level. Staying healthy after a shoulder injury limited him to five games last season is paramount to Penix returning to his 2019 and 2020 form.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
69.7	4.1%	4.4%	28.8%	10.8
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: JALEN MCMILLAN

McMillan has the traits to be the downfield playmaker for the Huskies. He didn't appear ready quite yet during his first year consistently on the field in 2021, but now looks like the time for the 2020 four-star recruit. Last year, McMillan earned just a 68.7 receiving grade for the season and his struggles were mostly due to the lack of physicality in his game. Still, he showed the long speed and ability to shake single coverage. Those traits are helping to make McMillan a strong breakout candidate for the upcoming season. His grade against single coverage ranks second among returning Pac-12 wide receivers in 2021. Again, getting stronger along the route and at the catch point will be key for McMillan this fall, but those issues are rather typical for a younger player.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### OT: JAXON KIRKLAND

Kirkland was able to obtain clearance from the NCAA to come back to Washington for a sixth and final season, which is great news for whoever is under center for the Huskies given the left tackle's track record at keeping the quarterback clean. Outside of a hiccup performance against 2021 No. 2 overall pick Aidan Hutchinson last season, Kirkland has been a strong pass-protector. Since 2020, the 6-foot-7, 310-pound tackle ranks 23rd of 160 qualifying Power Five tackles in pass-block grade, and among those in the Pac-12 conference over that span, he comes in at No. 4. Kirkland has the mirror ability to stymie most of the edge defenders he will face in 2022.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
74.9	75.6	3.6%	43.8%	70.5
<b>44th</b>	<b>T-36th</b>	<b>48th</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>67th</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### LB: EDEFUAN ULOFOSHIO

Even though he has played less than 300 snaps in each of the last three seasons, Ulofoshio has more than proven to be one of the best at the position. He began as a walk-on in 2018, eventually earning playing time down the stretch in 2019, and he shined (210 snaps in the last five games). From there, he was limited to only four games in 2020 due to the pandemic and played six games in 2021 due to injury. He owns a 90.3 career PFF grade across 743 snaps with an 82.0-plus grade as a run defender, pass rusher and coverage defender. Ulofoshio has attempted 148 tackles over that duration and missed only seven. Unfortunately for Ulofoshio and Washington, the off-ball linebacker will miss at least a few games of the 2022 season due to another injury that was suffered during conditioning, but head coach Kalen DeBoer is hopeful he can return for a portion of the year.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
73.2	71.9	66.3	3.6%	18
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# KEY STARTERS

## EDGE: ZION TUPUOLA-FETUI

Tupuola-Fetui enters 2022 as a huge wild card as he continues to recover from multiple injuries, including an Achilles injury, from a year ago. When healthy enough to play since 2020, he has produced a 91.0 pass-rush grade and 24.8% win rate. He has game-wrecking ability with his power and bull-rush if healthy, but that's a big if.

## DI: TULI LETULIGASENOA

Letuligasenoa is coming off a year in which he was the fourth highest-graded interior defensive lineman in the Pac-12, and his 22 defensive stops also came in at No. 4 among that group. The Husky is one of the best run-defending interior defenders in the Pac-12, whether he be at nose or three-technique defensive tackle.

## SAF: ASA TURNER

Turner was forced into a bigger role midway through 2021 and seized the opportunity. Playing exclusively free safety, the 6-foot-3, 205-pound defensive back was the Pac-12's highest-graded safety after Week 5 in 2021. He has the potential to be one of the country's best safeties in 2022.

## OFFENSE

### OC: RYAN GRUBB



**ZONE  
RUNS**

**98th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**123rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: WILLIAM INGE & CHUCK MORRELL



**MAN  
COVERAGE**

**2nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**113th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.4%	29.9%	46.7%	10.6%	30.4%	36.9%
<b>88th</b>	<b>71st</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>99th</b>	<b>62nd</b>	<b>35th</b>

# WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS



- Head Coach  
**Jake Dickert**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**54 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.6**
- Chance to win Pac 12  
**6.8%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#61 NTL, #9 Pac 12**

Washington State enters 2022 with relatively low expectations, but they could be surpassed depending on the performance of Incarnate Word transfer quarterback Cameron Ward. The new Cougar was stuck at the FCS level out of high school due to playing in a "Wing T" system, so Ward essentially had to learn the basics of playing quarterback at Incarnate Word. His top-tier tools earned him the opportunity in the first place, and he proceeded to win the Jerry Rice Award and was an FCS All-American. Ward is an excellent athlete with top-notch arm talent and can deliver throws from a variety of arm angles, but he also has a fumbling issue and needs to refine his decision-making process. All of that shows in his big-time throw-to-turnover-worthy play ratio (23-to-23) in 2021. Now, Ward is trying to refine his skill set in what is called the "Coog Raid."

## THE PORTAL

8

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(T-21 OF 64 TEAMS)

7,119

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(16 OF 64 TEAMS)

0.03

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(34 OF 64 TEAMS)



**Washington State's 2022 fate lies in Ward's hands. If he can develop sooner rather than later, this team can make things interesting.**

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**64th**

Sep. 3	Idaho
Sep. 10	@ Wisconsin
Sep. 17	Colorado State
Sep. 24	Oregon
Oct. 1	California
Oct. 8	@ USC
Oct. 15	@ Oregon State
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 27	Utah
Nov. 5	@ Stanford
Nov. 12	Arizona State
Nov. 19	@ Arizona
Nov. 26	Washington

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Sneaky good at DB
- ✓ High-upside QB

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Reliable beef along the interior DL
- Rough run game

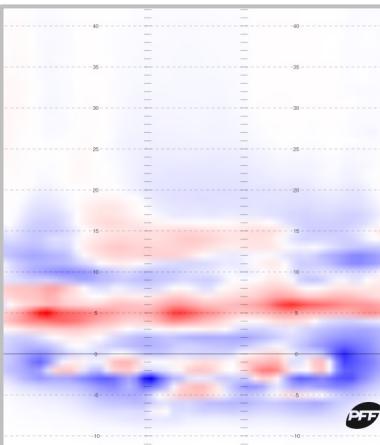
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CAMERON WARD

Ward is one of the more fascinating quarterback transfers of 2022. At Incarnate Word last season, he threw for the third-most yards and most touchdowns in the FCS. He can unleash rocket throws from anywhere on the field and with bodies around him, and his accuracy is above average. Ward will have to cut down on his turnover-worthy plays, but he is definitely an FBS-caliber quarterback. He is a good runner, as well, but tends to use his legs to create plays with his arm rather than in the ground game. Under offensive coordinator Eric Morris, Ward will be running the same offense as he did at Incarnate Word.

### 2021 WASHINGTON ST TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
66.9	3.8%	3.5%	N/A	8.2
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: LINCOLN VICTOR

Victor was a phenom at quarterback for Union High School in Washington but made the move to receiver at Hawaii due to his size. He spent his first two years as a Rainbow Warrior as a reserve, seeing just 111 total routes. The 5-foot-9, 180-pounder then decided to walk-on at Washington State and ended up earning a scholarship after several flashes in his 2021 campaign. Victor turned in a 74.0 receiving grade and 2.33 yards per route run on 35 targets and 127 routes. The slot receiver's releases and route-running would make one think he's been a pass-catcher his entire life. Cameron Ward and Victor could be the QB-WR connection to breakout that many didn't see coming.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### OL: JARRETT KINGSTON

After multiple years of standout pass-protection at guard, Kingston will be making the move to tackle for Wazzu in 2022. We did get a taste of the 6-foot-5, 300-pound lineman at left tackle in last year's Tony the Tiger Bowl against Central Michigan, but his performance was a bit underwhelming, as Kingston finished with a 55.3 pass-blocking grade and four hurries allowed. Over the course of his collegiate career at guard, he produced an 83.9 pass-block grade that featured 17 pressures allowed across 694 pass-block snaps. There's plenty of reason to expect some volatility from Kingston as he makes the move to tackle, but he shouldn't be an issue for quarterback Cam Ward.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
60.5	74.9	3.8%	41.5%	53.0
<b>124th</b>	<b>38th</b>	<b>94th</b>	<b>34th</b>	<b>T-151st</b>

RANK AMONG 161 P5 GS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: RON STONE JR

It doesn't matter if it's a run or pass play — Stone is a true playmaker on the edge. Among Pac-12 edge defenders in 2021, the 6-foot-3, 240-pound Cougar ranked third in pressures generated (43) and first in defensive stops (41). The all-around edge possesses good lateral quickness and burst to go out and make a play at any given time. Stone has professional bloodlines as the son of Ron Stone Sr. — a two-time All-Pro offensive lineman at the NFL level. He's also a very vocal leader on the Cougars defense, which is evident when watching the team play.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
81.3	83.0	73.1	14.1%	41
<b>22nd</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>56th</b>	<b>33rd</b>	<b>T-4th</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### CB: ARMANI MARSH

Marsh is one of the best slot corners in the country, as he ranked top three among Power Five defensive backs in slot coverage grade last season while leading the entire country in slot passing stops with 19. Wazzu is clearly in good hands in the slot, which is an extremely valuable position in football.

### SAF: JORDAN LEE

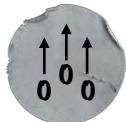
Wazzu plucked Lee — one of the best safeties at the Group of Five level — from the portal. The Nevada product owned an 81.4 PFF grade last year, ranking 19th among all FBS safeties. He's not afraid to get dirty in the box, as his 35 stops (tied for sixth) and five forced fumbles (most) in 2021 can attest.

### LB: DAIYAN HENLEY

Henley joined Jordan Lee in transferring from Nevada to Washington State. The 6-foot-1, 220-pound off-ball linebacker established himself as one of the best coverage players at the position in 2021, as he earned an 85.5 coverage grade, ranking seventh among all FBS off-ball linebackers.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: ERIC MORRIS



BUNCH

**77th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**73rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: BRIAN WARD



ZONE  
COVERAGE

**40th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**45th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.3%	27.1%	40.2%	13.0%	30.1%	39.1%
<b>35th</b>	<b>46th</b>	<b>72nd</b>	<b>44th</b>	<b>66th</b>	<b>60th</b>

SEC  
SEC  
SEC  
SEC  
SEC



PFF

# ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE



- Head Coach  
**Nick Saban**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**1 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**11.2**
- Chance to win SEC  
**48.1%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#2 NTL, #2 SEC**

Alabama will remain a national title contender in 2022 thanks to Bryce Young, who is the best quarterback in college football. Nonetheless, Alabama's offensive line is the only thing holding the Crimson Tide back from being the slam dunk favorite. Last year's unit produced the lowest pass-blocking grade (65.5) by an Alabama offensive line in the PFF College era by double-digit grading points. That mark was good for 10th in the SEC, and the Crimson Tide lost their highest-graded player from the group — tackle Evan Neal. Young might be the best off-script and pressure-playmaking quarterback in the country, but that's not a sustainable way to win. If Alabama's offensive line doesn't improve — and it's not looking great — Young will need to be Superman for the Crimson Tide on a weekly basis. Even with the issues upfront, PFF's model gives Alabama a 36.7% chance of winning the College Football Playoff — the highest in the country by nearly 13%.

## THE PORTAL

**5**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

**5,018**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(30 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.62**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(4 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Unless the offensive line is a true liability, it's going to be hard for any team in the country to stop Bryce Young and Alabama.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**29th**

Sep. 3	Utah State
Sep. 10	@ Texas
Sep. 17	Louisiana-Monroe
Sep. 24	Vanderbilt
Oct. 1	@ Arkansas
Oct. 8	Texas A&M
Oct. 15	@ Tennessee
Oct. 22	Mississippi State
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	@ LSU
Nov. 12	@ Ole Miss
Nov. 19	Austin Peay
Nov. 26	Auburn

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Bryce Young
- ✓ Will Anderson Jr
- ✓ Secondary likely will be night-and-day from 2021

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- OL is going to be a major issue
- Proven depth of the receiving room

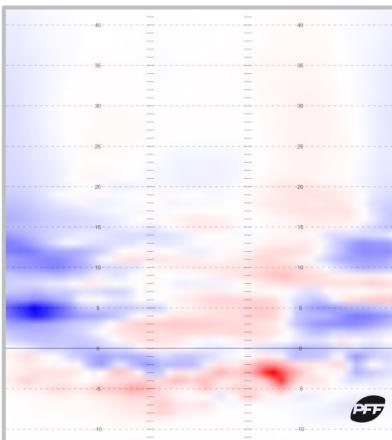
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: BRYCE YOUNG

After sitting on the bench in his first year in Tuscaloosa, Bryce Young did not disappoint in his first year starting for the Tide winning the 2021 Heisman Trophy. He processes the game at an exceptional level even as a young first year starter. His low rate of negatively graded dropbacks — 11.5% — can be used as a proxy for his elite processing. He's going to find the right receiver more often than not and put the ball in his hands accurately. He can also find the hot route and trust his pre-snap read enough that he knows when the right route is coming open and will bypass routes in his progression that he knows won't be coming open. The timing could be a smidge better and his feet can get a tad out of sorts, two things to look for improvement in the offseason.

### 2021 YOUNG TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
92.2	6.3%	2.0%	20.8%	9.0
T-1st	9th	8th	9th	T-41st

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: JERMAINE BURTON

Burton comes to Tuscaloosa from Athens, Georgia, where he spent the last couple of seasons playing for the Dawgs. The 2020 top-100 recruit was thrust into a starting spot right away but wasn't spectacular with a 62.4 receiving grade and 1.58 yards per route run. The 6-foot, 200-pound pass-catcher showed growth in 2021, improving those marks to 72.1 and 2.38 on the year. Despite the lackluster production as an underclassman, he has the traits to be a reliable big-play threat for the Tide. Burton has elite burst and long speed (he clocked a 4.43 40-yard coming out of high school), good hands and is a true route salesman. Since 2020, he owns a separation rate that stands at the 91st percentile nationally. Last year at Georgia, 245 of his 497 yards and four of his five touchdowns were from vertical routes. Playing with elite quarterback Bryce Young can help Burton unlock his full potential.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: JAHMYR GIBBS

Gibbs was the most valuable running back in the ACC as a part of Georgia Tech's backfield in 2021 and is now going to try to accomplish the same feat in the SEC with Alabama. The 5-foot-11, 200-pound back earned that honor last season thanks to his elite pass-catching ability — his 91.5 receiving grade was the highest among all FBS running backs this past season. Gibbs was no slouch in the run game, either, earning a solid 86.2 rushing grade. In addition, Gibbs also produced a top-10 return grade. It goes without saying that he is a dynamic weapon who is destined for stardom with the Crimson Tide.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
88.4	13.3%	0.24	3.29	3.03
<b>11th</b>	<b>51st</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>	<b>T-40th</b>	<b>1st</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: WILL ANDERSON JR

There's no more dominant player returning to college football than Anderson, as the 6-foot-4, 243-pound edge rusher is a high-level playmaker who ranked top-five at his position in tackles for loss or no gain against the run (15) and positively-graded run play rate this past season. Additionally, his 81 quarterback pressures also led all players regardless of position. The former five-star recruit earned a 79.1 PFF grade as a true freshman (2020) and 89.8 as a sophomore (2021), which is rare to see at that age, especially in the SEC. He has checked all the boxes, but Anderson's dominance comes down to his technical superiority over his opponents. Opposing offenses will be doing everything they can to scheme away from him in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
89.8	89.6	83.2	18.1%	53
<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>1st</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### CB: ELI RICKS

Alabama grabbed the top cornerback in the FBS out of the transfer portal in Ricks, who hails from LSU. Before his injury-riddled 2021 season, Ricks produced at a high level as a true freshman. In 2020, Ricks played a high dose of man coverage like a veteran, ranking first in the Power Five in man coverage grade.

### SAF: JORDAN BATTLE

Battle is fresh off a 90.0 grade in 2021 that ranked second in the FBS. In 2020, Battle was the highest-graded safety in the conference (80.9). Needless to say, his decision to forgo the NFL in favor of another season at Alabama was quite a surprise, but the Crimson Tide should benefit in a big way this upcoming season.

### CB: BRIAN BRANCH / MALACHI MOORE

These two come as a package deal since they play the same position (STAR). Branch and Moore have led Bama to the No. 2 slot coverage grade in the SEC since 2020. They both can be moved around, which allows Coach Nick Saban them to get them on the field at the same time in 2022, but regardless, the Tide are in good hands.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: BILL O'BRIEN



RPOS



ZONE RUNS

**5th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**74th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: PETE GOLDRING



SIMULATED PRESSURES



DIME PACKAGE



MUG FRONTS

**28th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**8th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.6%	33.9%	53.5%	13.5%	32.5%	31.8%
<b>15th</b>	<b>100th</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>46th</b>	<b>5th</b>

# ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS



- Head Coach  
**Sam Pittman**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**23 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.6**
- Chance to win SEC  
**1.2%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#28 NTL, #13 SEC**

Arkansas football broke a slump in 2021, shattering their preseason 5.5 win total with an 8-4 regular-season record. This preseason, the Razorbacks' expectations are as high as they have been in nearly a decade. Optimism reigns supreme because the offense is led by jumbo dual-threat quarterback KJ Jefferson, who earned a 79.0-plus grade as both a passer and runner. With his running ability, a backfield led by Rocket Sanders and a physical offensive line, offensive coordinator Kendal Briles should have one of the top rushing attacks in the SEC. Arkansas ranked sixth in rushing success rate in the conference in 2021, and it should finish even higher in 2022. However, not having Treylon Burks to lean on in the passing game is a major concern. Defensively, coordinator Barry Odom will have a stout coverage unit once again. Last year's unit ranked fifth in the SEC in success rate allowed and not much is changing in 2021.

## THE PORTAL

**9**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-18 OF 64 TEAMS)

**5,663**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(25 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.18**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(19 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Arkansas won't be easy to beat and should cruise to a bowl in 2022, but expecting the Razorbacks to be better than last year is lofty.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**3rd**

Sep. 3	Cincinnati
Sep. 10	South Carolina
Sep. 17	Missouri State
Sep. 24	vs Texas A&M
Oct. 1	Alabama
Oct. 8	@ Mississippi State
Oct. 15	@ BYU
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	@ Auburn
Nov. 5	Liberty
Nov. 12	LSU
Nov. 19	Ole Miss
Nov. 25	@ Missouri

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Physical run game
- ✓ Complete OL
- ✓ Great crop of safeties for the 3-2-6 defense

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No Treylon Burks? That's a problem
- Don't expect the DL to be fierce in the pass-rush

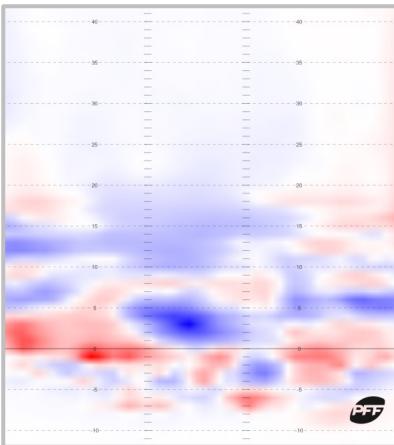
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: K.J. JEFFERSON

With his somewhat languid playing style, Jefferson does not look like he's ever exerting any energy but he continually gets the job done. After looking a little out of place in limited action during the 2019 and 2020 seasons, Jefferson was given the starting spot in Arkansas for 2021. The quarterback was protected schematically with a high play action, RPO and sideline throw rate but Jefferson still excelled. He can maneuver around in the pocket and when he takes off he can both run by defenders or run through them if necessary. He throws with nice touch although his velocity could improve. Jefferson could be in for a big year.

### 2021 JEFFERSON TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
87.0	5.7%	2.4%	23.8%	9.0
<b>13th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>T-18th</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: RAHEIM SANDERS

As a recruit, Raheim Sanders was viewed as either a possible linebacker, wide receiver or running back. The 6-foot-2, 225-pound former four-star actually came to Arkansas as a receiver before ending up in the backfield. Head coach Sam Pittman likes all of his skill position weapons to have size, and they wanted Sanders — also known as "Rocket" — to bring that to the running back room. His pass-catching chops shined out of the backfield as a true freshman in limited action, earning an 81.2 receiving grade. Sanders' rushing wasn't nearly as good, but he did display quality vision for a young player. He earned a 74.2 rushing grade on 114 attempts in 2021. Despite having the physicality and elusiveness, it was very much inconsistent, as evidenced by his low broken tackle total (19). That will be an area of emphasis this fall.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### C: RICKY STROMBERG

Stromberg — a three-year starter — is coming off his highest-graded season (76.3) at Arkansas, as he was one of nine Power Five centers who finished with double-digit big-time run blocks in 2021. Consistency, however, has been an issue. In 2021, he finished in the middle of the pack among Power Five centers in negatively graded run-block rate, recorded eight penalties overall and finished with a good-not-great 72.3 pass-blocking grade despite not being used a ton of true pass sets. That being said, Stromberg has the traits to take the jump to the top tier at the position in 2022 with the help of his all-around athleticism and killer instinct in the run game.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
76.3	72.3	3.3%	19.6%	78.9
<b>T-17th</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>43rd</b>	<b>70th</b>	<b>15th</b>

RANK AMONG 74 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### SAF: JALEN CATALON

Catalon is back for one more year after a sluggish start and a season-ending injury midway through 2021, which ended with a lackluster 61.7 PFF grade in six games. Nonetheless, in 2020, the Arkansas safety was one of the biggest breakouts at the position, as the 2019 four-star recruit displayed excellent vision and impressive tackling power. Catalon finished with a 79.4 PFF grade for that season, ranking second in the SEC and 10th in the Power Five. The 5-foot-10, 200-pound defensive back will be eyeing a bounce-back campaign in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
61.7	56.6	64.5	20.3%	9
<b>T-115th</b>	<b>T-138th</b>	<b>T-98th</b>	<b>146th</b>	<b>T-137th</b>

RANK AMONG 183 P5 SAFETIES

# KEY STARTERS

## LB: BUMPER POOL

Pool tied for eighth among all FBS off-ball linebackers in defensive stops last season (56) while ranking 240th in snaps played (501), equating to 8.6 snaps played per stop — the lowest in the FBS and nearly 13 snaps lower than the FBS average. Now, that's what we call having a nose for the ball.

## G: BEAUX LIMMER

Limmer displayed a ton of promise in 2021 — his first full season starting for the Razorbacks. The 6-foot-5, 300-pound guard was a bit inconsistent, but he still managed to finish as the third highest-graded guard in the SEC. Don't be surprised if he claims the No. 1 spot in 2022.

## G: BRADY LATHAM

Latham is a stout pass-protector — from Week 6 on in 2021, he owned an 88.6 pass-block grade, the highest among SEC guards by nearly seven grading points. If he can round out his run blocking, Latham will comprise one of the nation's best guard duos with Limmer.

## OFFENSE

### OC: KENDAL BRILES



RPOS



PLAY ACTION PASSING



ZONE RUNS

**34th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**52nd**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: BARRY ODOM



DIME PACKAGE



DROP 8

**57th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**50th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.3%	28.0%	38.7%	11.3%	30.2%	34.5%
<b>34th</b>	<b>52nd</b>	<b>83rd</b>	<b>81st</b>	<b>65th</b>	<b>18th</b>

# AUBURN TIGERS



- Head Coach  
**Bryan Harsin**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**31 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.2**
- Chance to win SEC  
**0.6%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#20 NTL, #9 SEC**

Year 1 of the Bryan Harsin era last season was a rocky ride that got even bumpier after the season. The Tigers are hopeful that bumpy ride is behind them, but given the nature of their roster and schedule, it might not be. Texas A&M transfer Zach Calzada is expected to be the starting quarterback, but his ability to be more than an average quarterback is in question. He struggled to produce in the pure passing game and held onto the ball when in doubt last year. Without play-action in 2021, he posted a middling 68.1 grade. Throw in the wide receiver room, and the concerns loom larger. The Tigers lost their highest-graded receiver to the portal — Kobe Hudson — and don't return a single wide receiver that even sniffed the top half of the SEC in PFF grade in 2021. The running back room has Tank Bigsby and Jarquez Hunter and is one of the best in the conference, but it can only do so much.

## THE PORTAL

<b>9</b>	<b>4,635</b>	<b>0.43</b>
PLAYERS GAINED (T-18 OF 64 TEAMS)	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED (32 OF 64 TEAMS)	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED (8 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Auburn will need several players in its passing offense — including QB Zach Calzada — to break out in order to exceed its projected six wins for 2022.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**1st**

Sep. 3	Mercer
Sep. 10	San Jose State
Sep. 17	Penn State
Sep. 24	Missouri
Oct. 1	LSU
Oct. 8	@ Georgia
Oct. 15	@ Ole Miss
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	Arkansas
Nov. 5	@ Mississippi State
Nov. 12	Texas A&M
Nov. 19	Western Kentucky
Nov. 26	@ Alabama

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Disruptive pass-rush
- ✓ Loaded backfield

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Lost a lot of depth to the portal
- Uncertainty at QB
- Lack of receiving threats is scary

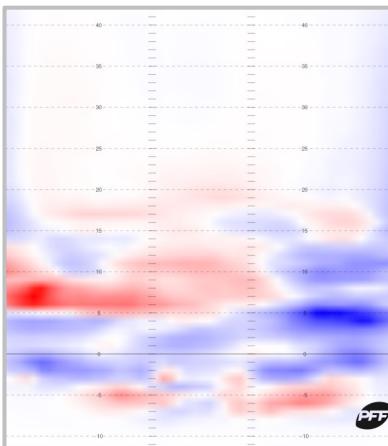
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: ZACH CALZADA

From Texas A&M's upset victory over Alabama with Calzada at the helm to the end of the 2021 season, Calzada ranked sixth among all Power Five quarterbacks in PFF passing grade. He should be the expected starter at Auburn in a group that also includes TJ Finley and Oregon transfer Robby Ashford. Over the second half of the season, Calzada looked calmer in the pocket, played on time and threw the ball accurately. He doesn't have the strongest arm but throws with nice touch especially on deep throws where made a ton of plays hitting receivers in stride. One of the more underrated passers in college football right now.

### 2021 CALZADA TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
80.8	5.5%	2.9%	30.4%	9.2
<b>27th</b>	<b>T-17th</b>	<b>T-33rd</b>	<b>51st</b>	<b>T-35th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## OT: KILIAN ZIERER

Zierer just picked up the game of football five years ago in Germany. After a move to the states, a stint at College of Canyons and a torn ACL in 2020 — his first year with Auburn — the 6-foot-7, 312-pounder is eyeing a breakout campaign in 2022. Zierer logged 339 snaps last season coming off his significant injury and was inconsistent across the board. He turned in a serviceable 64.4 pass-block grade but a poor 46.8 run-block grade. There were technical issues all over Zierer's game in both facets in that limited time, but he did have the flashes, and there's no denying the tools he possesses. He checks the length/frame and athleticism boxes with ease. Zierer has only scratched the surface and has the capability of anchoring the Auburn offensive line in 2022.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: TANK BIGSBY

Bigsby will be looking for a bounce-back season in 2022 after a disappointing true sophomore season in 2021, as he went from generating 0.24 wins above average (WAA) in 2020 to -0.08 this past season. For reference, that's the difference between the 96th and 25th percentile among FBS players at the position. A shift in offensive philosophy under the new regime could have played a part in that, as Bigsby buttered his bread on zone concepts in 2020, but he went from running zone concepts on 76% of his runs in 2020 to just 52% in 2021. The Auburn star is going to clearly be a workhorse considering the state of the Tigers' offense around him, giving him a good shot at top-tier production.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
81.8	14.7%	0.21	3.13	0.95
<b>29th</b>	<b>41st</b>	<b>T-49th</b>	<b>49th</b>	<b>42nd</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### DL: COLBY WOODEN

Wooden beefed up to be more of an interior rusher (nearly 50 pounds added since his freshman year and 15 pounds added since 2020), and the transition has paid dividends. The 6-foot-5, 284-pounder improved his pass-rush grade from 69.0 as an edge defender in 2020 to 80.6 as an interior defensive lineman in 2021. Wooden already has some advanced traits at his disposal with his hand usage, leverage and strength. If he continues to get bigger while gaining more experience inside, he should only improve from his 2021 campaign that ended in him being the seventh-highest-graded interior player in the SEC.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
80.2	67.9	80.6	12.1%	37
<b>11th</b>	<b>T-58th</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>1st</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

## KEY STARTERS

### EGE: DERICK HALL

Auburn can count on Hall getting after the quarterback. Since 2020, the 6-foot-3, 251-pound edge defender owns an 86.6 pass-rush grade, 19.2% win rate and 15.5% pressure rate — all of which are top-three marks among at the position in the SEC.

### EDGE: EKU LEOTA

Leota's new form came out once he transferred from Northwestern to Auburn last offseason, posting an 72.3 pass-rush grade and 16.3% win rate. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound edge defender started a handful of outings and was a key cog in Auburn's edge defender rotation in 2021.

### CB: NEHEMIAH PRITCHETT

Pritchett is eyeing a bounce-back campaign in 2022 as he focuses on the outside. After emerging as one of the SEC's best outside corners in 2020 (77.3 coverage grade), he was moved into a role where he bounced between the slot and outside in 2021. He looked far from his old form, finishing with a disappointing 52.8 coverage grade.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: ERIC KIESAU



MOTION

**85th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: JEFF SCHMEDDING



SIMULATED  
PRESSURES



MAN  
COVERAGE



MUG  
FRONTS

**78th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**14th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.6%	26.2%	41.0%	13.5%	35.5%	37.7%
<b>85th</b>	<b>37th</b>	<b>64th</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>43rd</b>

# FLORIDA GATORS



- Head Coach  
**Billy Napier**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**25 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.3**
- Chance to win SEC  
**0.8%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#17 NTL, #7 SEC**

The future is bright for the Gators with new head coach Billy Napier at the helm, but patience is key. Immediate success for a program in Florida's shoes isn't easy to obtain, but that's not to say it's impossible. If quarterback Anthony Richardson breaks out, Florida can exceed their PFF projected six-win total. However, that is a big if. Richardson has out-of-this-world tools, but the former four-star recruit was incredibly raw in his short time on the field in 2021, which is why he posted negative PFF WAA this past season. His processing and decision-making will need to improve in order for him to obtain immediate success. And defensively, the Gators will need significant improvement from last year's unit, which ranked dead last in coverage grade among SEC teams. The good news is that a turnaround looks likely from a group led by rising star cornerback Jason Marshall Jr.

## THE PORTAL

**6**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-37 OF 64 TEAMS)

**3,763**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(38 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.33**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(10 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Florida will go as far as Richardson takes them. The belief is he is going to be a breakout star, but that's not assured at this point.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**9th**

Sep. 3	Utah
Sep. 10	Kentucky
Sep. 17	South Florida
Sep. 24	@ Tennessee
Oct. 1	Eastern Washington
Oct. 8	Missouri
Oct. 15	LSU
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	vs Georgia
Nov. 5	@ Texas A&M
Nov. 12	South Carolina
Nov. 19	@ Vanderbilt
Nov. 26	@ Florida State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Defense could be one of the most improved units in CFB
- ✓ Effective run game with Anthony Richardson and the backfield

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Decision-making at QB is suspect
- Lack dynamic pass-catching weapons

# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

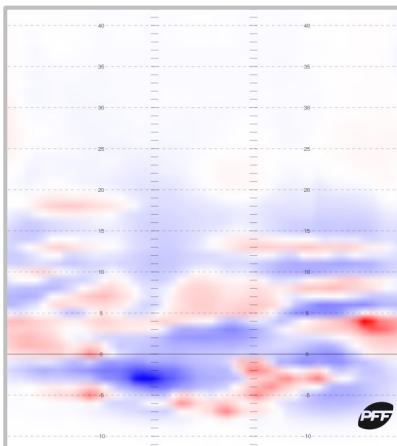
## QB: ANTHONY RICHARDSON

After flashing in limited opportunities in 2021, Richardson looks to take over as starter for the Gators this season. His upside is limitless but that does mean a lot of projecting forward. He is a natural runner and thrower of the football but we still haven't seen him have to drop back and read out a defense consistently. When he plays on time, he can throw the ball with a flick of the wrist and it sails but playing on borrowed time means sometimes he can underthrow when he's late to routes. There is so much to like about Richardson but time will tell if he can handle everything that goes into being a starter and having to be consistent down to down. His 8.3 yards per carry was second in the entire FBS last year.

### 2021 RICHARDSON TARGETS

Below Avg.

Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
74.8	6.2%	6.5%	34.0%	12.5
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## EDGE: PRINCELY UMANMIELEN

Umanmielen was among the small-sample-size darlings of 2021. The former four-star recruit saw 125 pass-rush opportunities as a reserve during his 2020 true sophomore campaign and notched an 83.5 pass-rush grade and 19.2% win rate. The 6-foot-4, 260-pound defensive lineman is versatile with good length and pop in his hands. Now a true junior, Umanmielen has the tools to become one of the top pass-rushers in the SEC as he takes on a starting job opposite Brenton Cox Jr. on the edge. Stringing everything together consistently and expanding on his pass-rush moves/plan are the keys for him to get there in 2022.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## G: O'CYRUS TORRENCE

Torrence followed Billy Napier from Louisiana — where he was a three-year starter — to Florida this offseason. He was thrown into the fire as a true freshman in 2019 and has since become one of the premier players at the position, as Torrence has recording 80.0-plus pass-blocking grades for three straight seasons while only allowing 17 pressures across 1,146 pass-blocking snaps in that span — none of which has resulted in a sack. Going from 420 pounds in junior high to one of the best interior linemen in college football, Torrence has had an excellent story thus far in his career. He received some SEC interest late in his high school recruiting process but decided to stick with the Ragin' Cajuns. After a few years in Louisiana, the 6-foot-5, 332-pound guard will get to show he belongs in the SEC.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	True Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
88.2	84.8	1.3%	23.5%	89.4
<b>4th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>T-5th</b>	<b>274th</b>	<b>T-6th</b>

RANK AMONG 316 FBS GS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DL: GERVON DEXTER

Dexter could progress into an elite player in 2022, as the 6-foot-6, 303-pound interior defensive lineman posted a 75.8 pass-rush grade, 24 pressures and a 13.5% pass-rush win rate in 2021. When playing zero- or one-technique, Dexter recorded an 84.6 pass-rush grade — the fifth-best in the FBS. He's reminiscent of Javon Kinlaw at South Carolina due to his physical gifts in addition to needing to improve his skill and technique. With a little bit of polish to pair with his length and strength, the 2020 five-star recruit can be an All-American in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
72.3	67.6	75.8	10.6%	27
<b>T-36th</b>	<b>65th</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>T-9th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P DIS

# KEY STARTERS

## CB: JASON MARSHALL JR

Marshall opened his 2021 true freshman campaign with a couple of rough outings, but he played at an advanced level after those were out of the way. From Week 3 on, the five-star recruit earned a 78.6 coverage grade while allowing only 10 catches from 30 targets for 93 yards. He can be one of the best cornerbacks in the country in 2022.

## EDGE: BRENTON COX JR

Cox has been a consistent, all-around outside linebacker for Florida after transferring from Georgia. The 2018 five-star ranks sixth among 40 qualifying SEC edge in PFF grade since 2020 while owning an 80.0-plus grade against the run and as a pass-rusher in that span, joining Will Anderson Jr. as the only other returning SEC edge to accomplish that feat.

## LB: VENTRELL MILLER

Miller is out for blood after missing almost all of 2021 due to injury. The 6-foot-1, 226-pound off-ball linebacker has been productive throughout his collegiate career at Florida, as he owns a 76.6 PFF grade and ranks sixth in the SEC in snaps played per defensive stop (13.8) in that span.

## OFFENSE

### OC: ROB SALE



RPOS



PISTOL FORMATION



ZONE RUNS

**54th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**37th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: PATRICK TONEY & SEAN SPENCER



SIMULATED PRESSURES

**61st**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**87th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.7%	26.8%	40.5%	11.2%	31.4%	37.4%
<b>12th</b>	<b>44th</b>	<b>67th</b>	<b>86th</b>	<b>50th</b>	<b>39th</b>

# GEORGIA BULLDOGS



Head Coach

**Kirby Smart**

PFF Power Ranking

**2 OF 130**

Projected Win Total

**11.0**

Chance to win SEC

**37.1%**

2022 Recruiting Rank

**#3 NTL, #3 SEC**

Kirby Smart's Bulldogs finally did it, as they dethroned Alabama to claim the national title. Now the question shifts from can they win the CFP to can they repeat? According to PFF's model, it's certainly possible. In fact, the Bulldogs are second (23.8% chance) to only the Crimson Tide as favorites to win it all in 2022. Their defense lost a slew of talent to the NFL, but they are still chock full of physically gifted specimens. Interior defensive lineman Jalen Carter, edge defender Nolan Smith, nickel Tykee Smith, cornerback Kelee Ringo and safety Christopher Smith are all top-10 returning players at their respective positions in PFF's eyes. Georgia's offense is headlined by a special tight end room that is headlined by Brock Bowers, Arik Gilbert and Darnell Washington. The Bulldogs have playmakers on that side of the ball, but the big question resides at the quarterback position: Can Stetson Bennett be more than a game manager?

## THE PORTAL

**0**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(64 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(T-63 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.00**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(38 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Bennett has to show he can carry the team when it needs him to in order for Georgia to have a shot at repeating in 2022.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**44th**

Sep. 3 vs Oregon

Sep. 10 Samford

Sep. 17 @ South Carolina

Sep. 24 Kent State

Oct. 1 @ Missouri

Oct. 8 Auburn

Oct. 15 Vanderbilt

Oct. 22 OFF

Oct. 29 vs Florida

Nov. 5 Tennessee

Nov. 12 @ Mississippi State

Nov. 19 @ Kentucky

Nov. 26 Georgia Tech

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ The best TE room PFF has seen
- ✓ Defense is still littered with physically gifted humans
- ✓ Pass-rush going to be lethal again

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- High ceiling, but low floor at WR. Durability has been an issue
- QB too reliant on offensive ecosystem

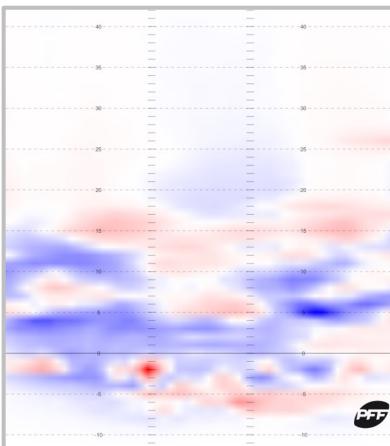
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: STETSON BENNETT

The National Championship winning quarterback is a "sum of all parts" player where no individual piece of his game is overtly impressive but put together he becomes an interesting complimentary piece for Georgia. He runs the offense like a point guard and allows the team to run a bevy of concepts and formations because he will target any area of the field and the offense can add quarterback designed runs because his running ability is a little underrated. He possesses above average accuracy with above average arm strength and his playing days might not extend beyond this coming season but he does give Georgia a floor as they try to repeat as National Champions.

### 2021 BENNETT TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
83.8	5.5%	3.5%	19.5%	10.3
<b>23rd</b>	<b>T-17th</b>	<b>T-42nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>16th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: ARIAN SMITH

Smith is a legitimate track star. In addition to his football duties, he's also a member of the Bulldogs track and field squad who earned first-team All-American honors in the 4x100-meter relay and clocked a wind-aided 10.10-second 100m last year. That speed has made him a big-play threat in his short Georgia career. Despite running only 16 routes over the past couple of years, the 6-foot, 185-pound receiver has hauled in four deep receptions for 182 yards and three touchdowns. Injuries have hindered his development, but he can become one of the most dangerous pass-catchers in the country with a clean bill of health.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## TE: BROCK BOWERS

Bowers was in the conversation to be the best tight end in college football despite being a true freshman this past season. This year, as a true sophomore, he's quite easily the best returning tight end in college football, as he earned a 91.7 PFF receiving grade in 2021 while generating 3.14 yards per route run. This is a level of production we've never seen from a true freshman — and a level rarely obtained by any player at the position. His speed, explosiveness and ball skills are all in elite territory. Bowers is already a college football star and has the chance to piece together a historic career if he can sustain the pace he has already set.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
92.1	3.01	3.4%	8	74.1
1st	2nd	T-13th	T-3rd	10th
RANK AMONG 42 P5 TES RECEIVING, 99 BLOCKING				

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DL: JALEN CARTER

Georgia is losing a boatload of elite talent along its defensive front, but the team does return the clear-cut best interior defensive lineman in the country, as Carter — a 2020 five-star recruit — earned an 89.7 pass-rush grade that tied for first in the Power Five last season. The 6-foot-3, 310-pound interior defensive lineman also tied for first among that group in pass-rush win rate (18.5%) and finished second in pressure rate (13.4%). He was also one of the best performers against the run, as he posted the highest positively graded run play rate in the country by over four percentage points. Carter has a whole lot of power in his game and is “Exhibit A” of a special talent.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
85.3	79.8	90.0	13.4%	21
4th	9th	1st	2nd	T-33rd
RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS				

## KEY STARTERS

### TE: ARIK GILBERT

Gilbert didn't play a down with Georgia in 2021 due to personal reasons. The 6-foot-5, 248-pound tight end is back now though, and if the spring is any indication, he will be used often in 2022. In 2020 with LSU, Gilbert was one of the five most valuable SEC tight ends as a true freshman, so there's no denying he is an elite talent.

### SAF: TYKEE SMITH

Smith recorded the third-best slot coverage grade in the FBS over his true freshman and sophomore seasons as the "spear" in West Virginia's defense. He then transferred to Georgia last offseason, but injury prevented him from helping out the Bulldogs during their national title run. If healthy in 2022, he'll be one of the best players on Georgia's defense.

### EDGE: NOLAN SMITH

After spending a couple of years as a reserve, Smith finally stepped into a starting job in 2021 and looked like the player many were expecting when he came to Athens. The 2019 No. 1 overall recruit's play recognition, athleticism and technique in the run game are special, which is why he earned an impressive 90.3 run defense grade last year.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: TODD MONKEN



**PLAY ACTION  
PASSING**

### 6th

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

### 18th

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: WILL MUSCHAMP & GLENN SCHUMANN



**ZONE  
COVERAGE**

### 1st

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

### 9th

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.6%	18.3%	46.2%	13.0%	34.9%	35.8%
<b>14th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>45th</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>26th</b>

# KENTUCKY WILDCATS



- Head Coach  
**Mark Stoops**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**11 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.0**
- Chance to win SEC  
**3.0%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#14 NTL, #5 SEC**

Will Levis is one of the most polarizing quarterbacks in the country — he eats bananas with the peel on, puts mayonnaise in his coffee and is a dynamic athlete with an insane release. The final point is the reason why he is pegged as a top prospect in next year's draft class. That said, there's a reasonable argument to be made that Levis' hype is a bit premature, as he needs to emphasize fully utilizing his arm talent in 2022. The Kentucky quarterback will have a sturdy rushing attack around him due to running back Chris Rodriguez Jr.'s return. No SEC rushing offense generated a higher success rate in 2021 than Kentucky, and expectations are that it will be close to the same in 2022. This team's biggest concern is on the defensive side of the ball, specifically at cornerback. Carrington Valentine is the only returning Wildcat cornerback who has significant experience, and he earned a sub-60.0 PFF grade in 2021. That's an issue.

## THE PORTAL

**6**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-37 OF 64 TEAMS)

**6,567**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(21 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.28**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(12 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Even if Levis is overhyped at quarterback, Kentucky's offense can carry the team in 2022. Nonetheless, don't be shocked if this team regresses a smidge from 2021.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:  
**26th**

Sep. 3	Miami OH
Sep. 10	@ Florida
Sep. 17	Youngstown State
Sep. 24	Northern Illinois
Oct. 1	@ Ole Miss
Oct. 8	South Carolina
Oct. 15	Mississippi State
Oct. 22	OFF
Oct. 29	@ Tennessee
Nov. 5	@ Missouri
Nov. 12	Vanderbilt
Nov. 19	Georgia
Nov. 26	Louisville

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Run game
- ✓ Stout interior OL
- ✓ Revived WR room via the portal

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Regressing in pass-protection
- Corner is close to panic territory
- Not a juicy pass-rush

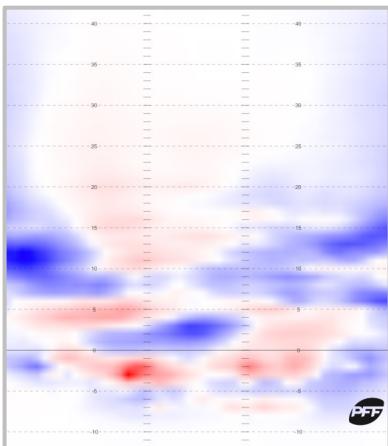
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: WILL LEVIS

Levis has one of the best releases in college football right now. His mechanics are the culmination of a "new" type of biomechanic teaching for quarterbacks. He is a rotational thrower instead of a classic linear thrower and it helps him create power without much of a "backswing" or "follow through". In his first year starting in a relatively difficult dropback passing system under offensive coordinator Liam Coen, Levis performed well. It took time to get him settled but from the Florida game on he looked much better. His eyes can be a little off and his accuracy isn't always perfect but there are few players who look better at the position when they are calmly working through progressions than Levis. Still a lot to work on, down to down consistently being number one, but the ceiling is very high.

### 2021 LEVIS TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
90.8	4.1%	2.6%	22.9%	9.5
T-10th	T-46th	T-24th	17th	T-31st

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## DI: JUSTIN ROGERS

Rogers was the premier recruit of Kentucky's 2020 class and will now be taking over Bully Ball McCall's spot at nose tackle for 2022. The former top-60 recruit saw some action last year when McCall was out, and Rogers showed the potential he has against the run. The 6-foot-3, 336-pound breakout candidate earned a 20.4% positively graded run play rate in 2021, which would have been a top-10 mark among SEC interior defensive linemen if he had enough reps to qualify. Rogers' lacks any juice in the pass-rush, but his impact against the run will prove to be valuable, serving as the heads-up nose in Kentucky's "tite" front.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## RB: CHRIS RODRIGUEZ JR

Rodriguez is a 5-foot-11, 224-pound bowling ball down, and his 4.06 yards after contact per attempt average for his career backs that up. Last season, Rodriguez wasn't as strong as his 2020 campaign — he was a top-three graded player at the position (92.4) — largely because of fumbles, as the Kentucky Wildcat fumbled six times in 2021, tying for the most in the FBS. There's plenty of reason to expect that mark to regress more toward the mean in 2022, and Rodriguez still ranks fourth among all active running backs in value generated over the last two years. He has the chance to be one of the most important players at the position in the nation next season.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
85.2	16.5%	0.25	3.94	0.37
<b>22nd</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>T-31st</b>	<b>T-12th</b>	<b>78th</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## SAF: TYRELL AIJAN

Kentucky saw several key defensive backs depart since the conclusion of 2021, leaving sixth-year safety Tyrell Ajian to provide the veteran presence the unit needs. The 6-foot, 190-pound safety is coming off his second year as a starter for the Wildcats, which ended in a 74.7 PFF grade, ranking sixth at the position in the SEC. Ajian doesn't have the skillset to be a playmaker in the box, but he does have deep-slot versatility, as he allowed four first downs from 82 slot coverage snaps with three forced incompletions and three passing stops. When playing free safety last season, Ajian recorded an 87.9 coverage grade.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
74.7	55.3	82.2	19.0%	6
<b>32nd</b>	<b>T-146th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>T-133rd</b>	<b>T-167th</b>

RANK AMONG 183 P5 SAFETIES

# KEY STARTERS

## WR: TAYVION ROBINSON

Robinson is a trustworthy slot receiver, as the Virginia Tech transfer rarely drops passes while thriving at adjusting to balls downfield. He's only dropped two of his 127 targets since 2020 while hauling in 93.1% of his catchable non-screen targets since 2020, the fourth-best among Power Five receivers.

## G: KENNETH HORSEY

Horsey wasn't playing up to snuff in his debut year as a starter in the 2020 shortened season, but he flipped the script in 2021, improving his 59.5 PFF grade in 2020 to 74.1 in 2021. The latter being the fourth-best in the SEC.

## EDGE: J.J. WEAVER

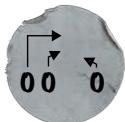
Weaver is a quality hybrid edge defender for the Wildcats against the pass. He was one of four SEC edge defenders that logged over 200 pass-rushes and over 60 coverage snaps in 2021, and the 6-foot-5, 241-pound edge defender finished with a 69.8 grade in each facet.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: RICH SCANGARELLO



**PLAY ACTION  
PASSING**



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**

**39th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**21st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: BRAD WHITE



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**



**ZONE  
COVERAGE**

**25th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

**69th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.0%	24.3%	53.5%	12.2%	26.4%	39.0%
<b>45th</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>61st</b>	<b>100th</b>	<b>55th</b>

# LSU TIGERS



- Head Coach  
**Brian Kelly**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**20 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.5**
- Chance to win SEC  
**1.1%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#12 NTL, #4 SEC**

The college football world enjoyed poking fun at head coach Brian Kelly this offseason for his newly developed southern twang and recruiting tactics, but the new LSU head coach may get the last laugh. He pieced together an intriguing, slept-on roster since his arrival with a slew of talented transfers. No team in the Power Five gained more career snaps from the portal this past cycle than LSU. The Tigers added four cornerbacks with over 950 career snaps to their name a piece, two of which — Jarrick Bernard-Converse and Mekhi Garner — are the most valuable returning outside cornerbacks in the FBS since 2020. Those defensive backs will join one of the strongest front-sevens in the SEC. On offense, the team's quarterback depth is the big topic of conversation. None are superstar talents, but the Tigers have options between Myles Brennan, Garrett Nussmeier and Arizona State transfer Jayden Daniels.

## THE PORTAL

**13**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-6 OF 64 TEAMS)

**15,129**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(1 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.83**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(3 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

With the defense in a good place, consistency at quarterback and star receiver Kayshon Boutte's health will be the deciding factor in LSU's fate this fall.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**7th**

Sep. 3	vs Florida State
Sep. 10	Southern
Sep. 17	Mississippi State
Sep. 24	New Mexico
Oct. 1	@ Auburn
Oct. 8	Tennessee
Oct. 15	@ Florida
Oct. 22	Ole Miss
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	Alabama
Nov. 12	@ Arkansas
Nov. 19	UAB
Nov. 26	@ Texas A&M

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Nasty front 7
- ✓ Revamped secondary via the portal
- ✓ Depth at QB

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- OL could be dicey
- Backfield likely going to be inefficient on the ground again

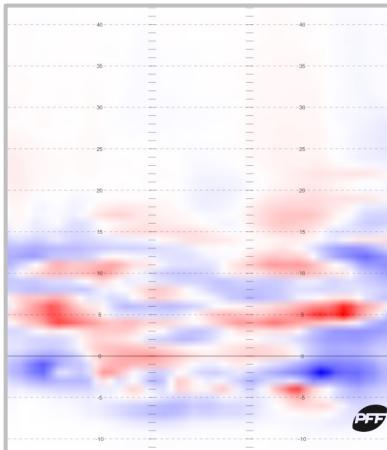
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: MYLES BRENNAN (2020 DATA)

The Tigers are in the midst of an open quarterback competition, although Myles Brennan is the projected starter. Brennan patiently waited to helm LSU's offense back in 2020 and lasted only three games — albeit solid performances — before an injury derailed his campaign and an offseason injury cost him all of 2021. Instead of transferring, he returned to LSU when the starting role opened up following Max Johnson's transfer. LSU also invited former Arizona State quarterback Jayden Daniels to transfer and compete for the job. The third member of the quarterback trio is Garrett Nussmeier, who was a four-star recruit in the 2021 class.

### 2021 CINCINNATI OFFENSE TARG.

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
87.5	7.5%	0.7%	18.9%	9.7
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## DI: MAASON SMITH

The 6-foot-6, 298-pound interior defensive lineman was a five-star recruit of the 2021 class and immediately made an impression on the LSU coaching staff — so much so that he became a key part of the rotation and eventually took over a starting spot before an injury kept him out at the end of the season. Smith's size-athleticism combination was evidently different last year, but it was also easy to see how raw he was. Outside of his three-sack performance against McNeese State in Week 2 — which ended in a 90.9 pass-rush grade — Smith didn't make much of an impact as a true freshman, posting a 57.2 PFF grade across 354 snaps. Playing with leverage at his size was a constant issue, as was his repertoire in the pass-rush: If it wasn't his club/arm over, Smith was just trying to outdo the opposition with his physical gifts.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: KAYSHON BOUTTE

Boutte played in just six games in his 2021 true sophomore season before suffering a season-ending injury. If he can stay healthy next fall, the former five-star recruit will give Jaxon Smith-Njigba a run for his money for the Biletnikoff Award in 2022. His acceleration and toughness have helped him accrue a 77.1 receiving grade during his time in Baton Rouge, as he's unafraid to make plays over the middle of the field and is showing continuous growth with his releases and overall route-running. Boutte has seen a good amount of press coverage when on the outside, and he's mostly come out on top, as his 2.49 yards per route run and 134.3 passer rating when targeted against press since 2020 ranks sixth and second, respectively, among Power Five wide receivers in that span.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
75.8	2.27	7.5%	10.4	9
<b>44th</b>	<b>T-41st</b>	<b>T-90th</b>	<b>T-97th</b>	<b>T-116th</b>

RANK AMONG 158 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## DI: JAQUELIN ROY

Roy took a massive step forward in his 2021 true sophomore campaign, as the 2020 top-50 overall recruit posted an 81.2 PFF grade — nearly 30 points higher than his true freshman mark. He produced some of the most eye-popping pass-rush reps among interior defensive linemen in the country, as the 6-foot-4, 297-pound posted seven different pass rushes that receive a raw +1.5 PFF grade, which tied for the most in the Power Five last year. Most of those came courtesy of his menacing club-to-arm-over move. Roy will help form one of the most talented defensive lines in the country in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
81.2	68.6	89.6	11.3%	18
<b>9th</b>	<b>52nd</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>T-50th</b>

RANK AMONG 182 P5 DIS

## KEY STARTERS

### EDGE: B.J. OJULARI

LSU returns one of the most productive SEC edge rushers in Ojulari. In his 2021 true sophomore year, the 2020 top-100 recruit ranked third in the SEC in total pressures generated (54), and he recorded multiple pressures in all but one game. The scary part is that Ojulari isn't close to his ceiling, yet.

### LB: MICAH BASKERVILLE

Baskerville put together a night-and-day 2021 campaign compared to his first season as a starter in 2020, as he improved his PFF grade year-over-year by over 25 points to 71.8, which ranked sixth among SEC off-ball linebackers. He may not be the most gifted player, but his understanding of the game makes up for it.

### EDGE: ALI GAYE

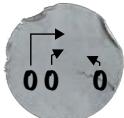
Gaye was unable to build on his stellar 2020 campaign in 2021. In 2020 — his first with LSU after a stint in JUCO — he posted an 83.4 pass-rush grade, ranking fourth in the SEC. The 6-foot-6, 250-pound edge defender only played in four games in 2021 before injury struck, but he posted 20 pressures in that short time.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: MIKE DENBROCK



RPOS



QUICK GAME PASSING

**76th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**84th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: MATT HOUSE



SIMULATED PRESSURES

**77th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**60th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
10.9%	28.1%	37.7%	12.8%	33.7%	41.4%
<b>96th</b>	<b>54th</b>	<b>89th</b>	<b>46th</b>	<b>39th</b>	<b>87th</b>

# MISSISSIPPI REBELS



Lane Kiffin named himself the "Portal King" after the work he and his staff did in the transfer market. Given the fact Ole Miss added more career win shares than any other program in the country from the portal, he can keep that name with honor. The Rebels' offense will feature almost exclusively transfers. The running back tandem of Zach Evans (TCU) and Ulysses Bentley IV (SMU) gives Ole Miss one of the best backfields in the country. Additionally, tight end Michael Trigg (USC) is one of the biggest breakout candidates of the fall. Kiffin also brought in quarterback Jaxson Dart from USC and many expect him to step in as the starter. While still possible, there's a chance the job actually goes to Luke Altmyer, who earned a 59.6 PFF grade in his lone full-game appearance in 2021. Dart wasn't overly impressive in his 2021 freshman campaign, as he displayed suspect decision-making, which also showed up during the spring in Oxford. Luckily, whoever ends up winning the job will be operating in one of the most quarterback-friendly offenses in the country.

## THE PORTAL

**17**

PLAYERS  
GAINED  
(2 OF 64 TEAMS)

**12,826**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(4 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.52**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(6 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

As long as the quarterback position follows the script, Ole Miss should remain an explosive, competitive team.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**15th**

Sep. 3	Troy
Sep. 10	Central Arkansas
Sep. 17	@ Georgia Tech
Sep. 24	Tulsa
Oct. 1	Kentucky
Oct. 8	@ Vanderbilt
Oct. 15	Auburn
Oct. 22	@ LSU
Oct. 29	@ Texas A&M
Nov. 5	OFF
Nov. 12	Alabama
Nov. 19	@ Arkansas
Nov. 24	Mississippi State

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Cleaned up in the transfer portal
- ✓ One of the best RB tandems in college football
- ✓ Very QB-friendly offense

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- DL isn't up to SEC standards
- Lack of playmakers at wide receiver

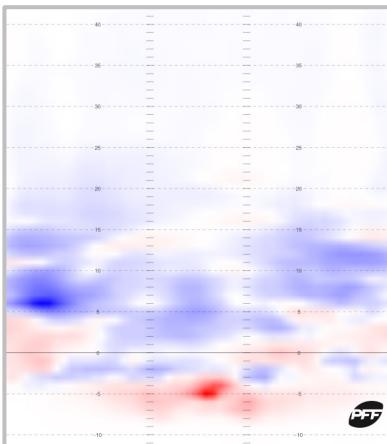
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: LUKE ALTMAYER

Jaxson Dart comes to the 'sip by way of USC after taking over from Kedon Slovis near the end of the last season. He will compete with Luke Altmyer for the starting quarterback job. Dart showed a good command of the USC offense last season with above average accuracy and arm strength. He could do well in the more simplified Lane Kiffin system. When Altmyer came off the bench last season at Ole Miss, he struggled. There are massive accuracy concerns. Dart was the better quarterback on film in 2021 but the situations around when Altmyer was forced into action should be noted. Our pick would be Dart.

## 2021 MISSISSIPPI TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## TE: MICHAEL TRIGG

Trigg was one of Lane Kiffin's star signings out of the transfer portal. The 2021 four-star recruit began his career at USC, where he hoped to play for the football and basketball teams (he actually had multiple hoops offers from big Division I programs). But after a disappointing true freshman season that ended in injury and a regime change, Trigg lands in Oxford. The 6-foot-4, 245-pound tight end earned a 54.2 receiving grade across 75 routes last season, and while there were some missteps on his part, he still showed the flashes of what he can be. He averaged 7.4 yards after the catch on seven receptions and caught three of his five contested opportunities. Oh, and don't forget about his willingness to block — an underrated aspect of his game.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: ZACH EVANS

Evans had a roller coaster recruitment process — at one point, he signed with Georgia, but he eventually landed at TCU, a program that wasn't even on his radar to start. Now, the talented five-star is taking his skillset to Ole Miss. This past season at TCU, Evans averaged 7.3 yards per carry, 4.8 yards after contact per attempt, 29 explosive (10-plus yards) runs and 40 broken tackles from 146 carries. He also made an impact as a receiver, recording 1.81 yards per route run. The former Horned Frog is an exceptional all-around athlete and should be one of the more valuable transfer additions from this offseason.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
85.0	18.5%	0.28	4.30	1.78
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### LB: TROY BROWN

Brown displayed top-notch coverage ability at off-ball linebacker for Central Michigan and now will try to do the same for Ole Miss. The 6-foot-2, 218-pound linebacker has made eye-widening plays on the ball over his career, as his 33 passing stops, 14 combined forced incompletions and interceptions, and 94.1 coverage grade since 2019 all rank top three among FBS off-ball linebackers. This addition for Ole Miss was one of the most under-the-radar pulls from the transfer portal during this cycle.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
87.5	78.0	91.6	14.7%	34
6th	27th	1st	216th	127th

RANK AMONG 394 FBS OFF-BALL LBS

## KEY STARTERS

### SAF: ISHEEM YOUNG

Young impressed in his two years on the field for Iowa State and has since taken his talents to Ole Miss. His run defense and tackling, in particular, have shined regardless of where he's aligned on the field. For his career, Young has recorded a 90.3 run defense grade, missed only 12 of his 129 attempts and forced five fumbles.

### SAF: A.J. FINLEY

Finley has been the most valuable Ole Miss defender, according to PFF wins above average (WAA), since 2020. His 81.7 PFF grade when playing free safety over that span is the third-best in the SEC. The 6-foot-2, 200-pound safety has recorded five interceptions and six forced incompletions at deep safety since 2020.

### CB: DENATRE PRINCE

Prince is coming off a breakout campaign for the Rebels, as he grew his coverage grade double-digit points year-over-year to 80.8 in 2021 — a top-10 mark among SEC cornerbacks. Prince was relatively stingy, allowing 15 yards or less in over half of the games he played.

## OFFENSE

### OC: CHARLIE WEIS JR & J. DAVID BAKER



RPOS



PLAY ACTION PASSING



ZONE RUNS

**42nd**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**23rd**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: CHRIS PARTRIDGE & MAURICE CRUM



SIMULATED PRESSURES



DIME PACKAGE

**118th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.6%	27.4%	36.8%	10.2%	30.5%	41.2%
<b>28th</b>	<b>48th</b>	<b>84th</b>	<b>104th</b>	<b>61st</b>	<b>83rd</b>

# MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS



Head Coach

**Mike Leach**

PFF Power Ranking

**21 OF 130**

Projected Win Total

**6.7**

Chance to win SEC

**1.0%**

2022 Recruiting Rank

**#27 NTL, #12 SEC**

Accuracy is key in Mike Leach's offense, and luckily, it has one of the most pinpoint passers in the country, as quarterback Will Rogers tied for the lowest uncatchable pass rate on throws beyond the line of scrimmage last season among returning Power Five quarterbacks. He's going to effectively distribute the ball in the Bulldogs' pass-happy offense, but he does need to get better outside the offense's structure. The big question is: Can Mississippi State's receiving room be more than average? The Rebels have the players that can get the job done on scripted throws and when navigating space, but they don't have anyone that consistently thrive on their own. Their highest-ranked receiver in PFF WAA generated last season was Makai Polk (20th), who is now in the NFL.

## THE PORTAL

**8**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-21 OF 64 TEAMS)

**2,445**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(48 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.12**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(54 OF 64 TEAMS)



Mississippi State can dink-and-dunk its way to a bowl game, but the Rebels aren't equipped to make major noise in college football's most difficult conference.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**4th**

Sep. 3	Memphis
Sep. 10	@ Arizona
Sep. 17	@ LSU
Sep. 24	Bowling Green
Oct. 1	Texas A&M
Oct. 8	Arkansas
Oct. 15	@ Kentucky
Oct. 22	@ Alabama
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	Auburn
Nov. 12	Georgia
Nov. 19	ETSU
Nov. 24	@ Mississippi

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Accuracy at QB
- ✓ Deep set of CBs
- ✓ Solid pass-protection

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Receiving room is lackluster at-best
- DL isn't as productive as it should be

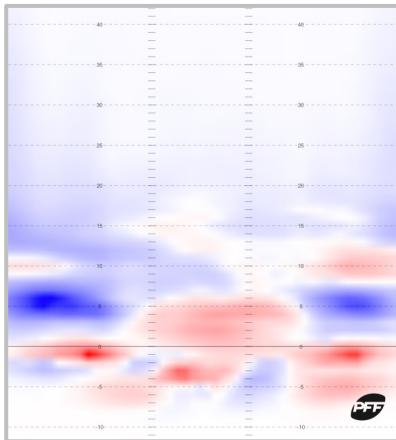
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: WILL ROGERS

After taking the starting quarterback role from KJ Costello midway through last season, Rogers was able to put a full offseason as the Bulldog starting quarterback to use in a big way this year. With an offensive line that went from weakness to strength he was able to stand in the pocket and get through his progressions. Knowing that most teams showed some sort of 3-man rush with zone coverage behind it, Rogers calmly found backside receivers in space in the intermediate part of the field time and again. His arm strength is about average but his accuracy is very good. Not a scrambler as he looks to throw as often as possible but he's nimble enough to avoid pressures. A calming presence for the offense that was needed after the hectic start to the Mike Leach tenure in Starkvegas two seasons ago.

### 2021 ROGERS TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
88.4	3.8%	1.8%	19.5%	6.3
<b>12th</b>	<b>49th</b>	<b>T-1st</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>67th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## CB: DECAMERION RICHARDSON

Defensive coordinator Zach Arnett was happy to say that Richardson had the best spring of any Bulldog defender this year. Richardson was a late riser in the recruiting ranks in 2020, getting bumped up thanks to his tall, long frame and track speed. And after serving as a backup to Martin Emerson, Richardson will now take over a starting spot at outside corner. He didn't do anything monumental in his limited time on the field and hasn't even made a play on the ball yet, but the early returns on his 210 snaps last season were promising. The 6-foot-2, 195-pound corner posted a 71.6 PFF grade a season ago.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### C: LAQUINSTON SHARP

Sharp is one of the best pass-protecting centers in the country, as the Mississippi State Bulldog led all SEC centers in pass-blocking grade for the 2021 season. From Week 5 onward, Sharp produced the second-best pass-block grade in the country while allowing just two pressures — neither of which were a sack or a hit — in nine games. And while the ground game isn't a featured piece in Starkville, Sharp can hold his own there. His positively graded run-blocking rate ranked in the 96th percentile among FBS centers. The former JUCO product will bring much-needed veteran stability to the Bulldogs' offensive line in 2022.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
76.6	83.8	1.2%	19.2%	73.8
<b>16th</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>T-1st</b>	<b>71st</b>	<b>22nd</b>

RANK AMONG 74 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: EMMANUEL FORBES

Forbes is a boom-or-bust corner, but he makes enough plays to be a valuable asset to the Mississippi State defense. The 6-foot, 180-pound corner racked up 32 defensive stops in 2021 (21 against the pass, 11 against the run) — not only did that lead every outside corner in the nation, but it was also 11 more than any other Power Five corner. Nonetheless, Forbes is also a volatile defender, as he can get jumpy and be either slow to react during route breaks or flat-out bust his coverage, which is why he allowed 518 yards and five touchdowns last season.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
78.0	62.0%	1.23	7.0%	21
<b>26th</b>	<b>129th</b>	<b>T-146th</b>	<b>155th</b>	<b>1st</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### G: KAMERON JONES

Jones made the move from tackle to guard in 2021 and really elevated his game. After a couple of rough outings to start the year at left guard, the 6-foot-5, 305-pound Bulldog rounded into form. From Week 3 on, Jones' 82.2 pass-block grade ranked second among SEC guards.

### RB: JO'QUAVIOUS MARKS

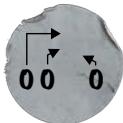
Receiving matters more than rushing at running back in Mike Leach's offense, and Marks has proven to be a quality pass-catcher out of the backfield. His 78.7 receiving grade last year ranked 12th of 45 qualifying FBS backs.

### WR: JADEN WALLEY

Walley is a natural at finding space against zone coverage, as he's obtained 671 yards since 2020 against zone coverage, the most among all SEC wide receivers in that span. The slot receiver is also shifty once the ball gets in his hands — his 32 broken tackles since 2020 also lead the SEC.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: NONE



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**

**59th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**44th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: ZACH ARNETT



**DROP 8**

**72nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**26th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
11.9%	18.3%	47.5%	11.2%	30.9%	42.9%
<b>76th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>85th</b>	<b>57th</b>	<b>97th</b>

# MISSOURI TIGERS



- Head Coach  
**Eli Drinkwitz**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**39 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.5**
- Chance to win SEC  
**0.7%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#15 NTL, #6 SEC**

Missouri managed to get into the bowl picture in 2021, but it may not replicate that success in 2022. The Tigers have some intriguing pieces on offense that could elevate the team, as they have a promising receiving corps with 2021 five-star receiver Luther Burden, sophomore breakout candidate Dominic Lovett and weapon Tauskie Dove. They also have one of the top tackle tandems in the country (when healthy) in Javon Foster and Hyrin White. Unfortunately, they also have one of the most underwhelming quarterback situations in the Power Five. There's a chance the team starts Sam Horn — a non-early enrollee true freshman — at quarterback, assuming he doesn't leave for the MLB (would play both football and baseball at Mizzou if not). Brady Cook and Tyler Macon are also candidates for the job, but those two combined have dropped back less than 100 times in their careers while showing limitations when they were on the field.

## THE PORTAL

**11**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-12 OF 64 TEAMS)

**6,600**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(20 OF 64 TEAMS)

**-0.04**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(46 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Missouri has a bowl-berthing supporting cast, but the lack of talent at the quarterback position may be just enough to take the Tigers out of the competition altogether.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**32nd**

Sep. 1	Louisiana Tech
Sep. 10	@ Kansas State
Sep. 17	Abilene Christian
Sep. 24	@ Auburn
Oct. 1	Georgia
Oct. 8	@ Florida
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	Vanderbilt
Oct. 29	@ South Carolina
Nov. 5	Kentucky
Nov. 12	@ Tennessee
Nov. 19	New Mexico State
Nov. 25	Arkansas

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ High-level talent at WR
- ✓ One of the better tackle tandems in the SEC
- ✓ Have a thicc, elite kicker

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- QB is going to be an issue
- Run defense
- There are some good DBs, but depth is a concern

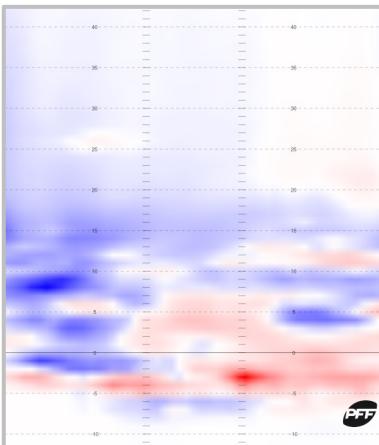
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JACK ABRAHAM

Jack Abraham transfers in from Southern Mississippi via one year at Mississippi State as a backup. He has the most experience of the potential group of starting quarterbacks. Bryan Cook played the bowl game for the Tigers last year and looked impressive at times. He threw the ball really well in the seams and has a nice quick release. Tyler Macon also played some snaps last season and would give the offense some more dynamism on the ground. Even with the Abraham transferring late in the offseason — mid May — there still should be a good competition and Cook is the player with the most upside.

## 2021 MISSOURI OFFENSE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: LUTHER BURDEN

Pegging a true freshman to break out in Year 1 is always risky because it's rare to see first-year players come in and produce at a quality level right away, regardless of their recruiting background. Burden looks like a rare exception, though. The 2022 No. 3 recruit could be the cornerstone of Eli Drinkwitz's offense this season after shining in the spring game, where he put his all-around skill set on full display. The 5-foot-11, 210-pound receiver has advanced ball skills and can swiftly get in and out of his breaks. But at the end of the day, quarterback play will dictate just how much Burden — and teammate Dominic Lovett — can shine in 2022.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### OT: JAVON FOSTER

Mizzou runs an outside zone-centric ground game that's reliant on the blockers' aggression and athleticism, both of which Foster has displayed. The 6-foot-5, 297-pound left tackle was a lean, mean, run-blocking machine for the Tigers in his first year as a starter in 2021, and that won't be much different in 2022. His positively graded run block rate last year stood in the 93rd percentile among FBS tackles, and he finished the year with an 82.8 run-blocking grade — the highest mark among returning SEC tackles. His pass sets were shaky in 2021, but given it was his first year as a starter, it's reasonable to expect improvement there in 2022.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	True Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
80.9	69.6	3.9%	27.8%	82.8
<b>20th</b>	<b>T-68th</b>	<b>57th</b>	<b>114th</b>	<b>T-18th</b>

RANK AMONG 153 P5 OTS

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: KRIS ABRAMS-DRAINE

Abrams-Draine came to Missouri as a wide receiver before flipping to the defensive side of the ball near the end of 2020. He played only 27 snaps in his first year on campus — nine on offense and 18 on defense — before winning the starting nickel spot in 2021, when he broke out. Abrams-Draine earned an 83.0 PFF grade in his debut season starting at the position and allowed under 30 yards in 10 of his 13 games. In addition, he racked up three interceptions and nine pass breakups. He even started at outside corner against Vanderbilt and allowed nine yards while breaking up two passes. The 5-foot-11, 177-pound defensive back returns as one of the top slot corners and best-kept secrets in the SEC.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
83.0	58.1%	1.22	23.3%	7
<b>T-10th</b>	<b>99th</b>	<b>145th</b>	<b>T-5th</b>	<b>T-73rd</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### DI: JAYDEN JERNIGAN

Missouri landed an underrated player in the portal in Jernigan, who transferred in from Oklahoma State. The 6-foot-1, 285-pound interior defensive lineman was the Big 12's highest-graded player at the position for the 2021 season while serving as a key rotational piece.

### EDGE: ISAIAH MCGUIRE

McGuire's transition from the interior in 2020 to 6/7-technique edge defender in 2021 paid big dividends. The 6-foot-4, 266-pound Tiger improved his PFF grade by 17 points year-over-year. He is an impactful pass-rusher on the edge but is an even better run defender, as his 28 run stops ranked third among SEC edge defenders in 2021.

### SAF: JAYLON CARLIES

Carlies moved from outside corner to free safety last season and found success, as the 6-foot-3, 204-pound safety hauled in four interceptions, helping him to an 81.4 coverage grade on the year (tied for fourth among SEC safeties). His tackling and rush defense, however, are still a work in progress.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: NONE



**PISTOL  
FORMATION**

**70th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**58th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: BLAKE BAKER



**MAN  
COVERAGE**

**121st**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**119th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
9.8%	20.8%	44.8%	12.3%	37.3%	46.3%
<b>118th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>60th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>115th</b>

# SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS



- Head Coach  
**Shane Beamer**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**44 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.6**
- Chance to win SEC  
**1.1%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#25 NTL, #11 SEC**

South Carolina is one of the most intriguing teams in the country this year. After having one of the worst quarterback situations in the country in 2021, the Gamecocks have one of the best in 2022 thanks to former Oklahoma Sooner Spencer Rattler's arrival. Despite the public narrative surrounding the transfer quarterback, Rattler has been one of the top passers in the country when on the field. In fact, he owns the highest passing grade in the country since 2020. Alongside him comes tight end Austin Stogner, who also transferred from Oklahoma, and wide receiver Juice Wells, who joins transferred in from James Madison. Both players were among the best at their respective positions in the transfer portal, and they join wide receiver Josh Vann and tight end Jaheim Bell as the key weapons at Rattler's disposal. The Gamecocks' pro-style offense should improve mightily from their second-to-last passing efficiency ranking last season.

## THE PORTAL

**9**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-18 OF 64 TEAMS)

**8,250**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(12 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.18**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(18 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

South Carolina may not be a College Football Playoff contender, but they can certainly play spoiler throughout the season.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**11th**

Sep. 1	Georgia State
Sep. 10	@ Arkansas
Sep. 17	Georgia
Sep. 24	Charlotte
Oct. 1	South Carolina State
Oct. 8	@ Kentucky
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	Texas A&M
Oct. 29	Missouri
Nov. 5	@ Vanderbilt
Nov. 12	@ Florida
Nov. 19	Tennessee
Nov. 25	@ Clemson

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Program-changing transfer class
- ✓ Most improved QB situation in college football
- ✓ Top-tier outside corner duo

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- OL is really, really rough
- Defensive front is middling
- Rushing offense

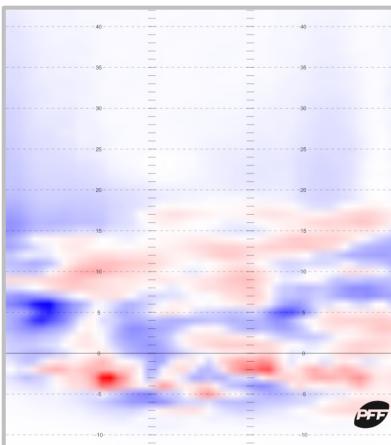
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: SPENCER RATTLER

2021 could not have gone worse for Rattler who started the season as one of the Heisman front runners and ended it on the bench. Considering the Sooners offense looked much smoother after his benching does not reflect kindly on Rattler. In 2020, many of Rattler's big plays came outside the pocket as he was not yet comfortable throwing consistently in structure and his play style did not change but the big plays outside of structure did. He went from a 91.3 grade to 77.9 grade on plays where he left the pocket. He also forced more throws into coverage when he was in the pocket.

### 2021 RATTLER TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
86.1	1.5%	3.6%	19.5%	7.8
<b>T-14th</b>	<b>T-65th</b>	<b>46th</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>58th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## EDGE: JORDAN BURCH

Burch was a top-10 recruit in the 2020 class who chose to stay home in Columbia over several powerhouse programs. The 6-foot-6, 275-pound edge defender has all the tools one could dream of, but he's been a raw, unproductive player as a backup in his underclassman years. He's played 530 snaps in his career, turning in a 66.3 PFF grade. He lacks any kind of pass-rush arsenal, though he's reportedly been honing in on that this spring. Burch has flashed his physical gifts — like on special teams, where he consistently blows up blockers, and on his Week 1 pick-six last season against EIU when he showed jaw-dropping juice for his size. With Kingsey Enagbare off to the NFL, it could be Burch's time to shine.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### TE: JAHEIM BELL

Bell made a lot of noise in South Carolina's bowl win over UNC. Despite running only seven routes, the 6-foot-3, 230-pound tight end hauled in five passes for 159 yards and two scores while also taking a counter run for a 20-yard gain. He posted a 95.1 PFF grade for the game, making it one of the best tight-end performances in the PFF College era. In 2021, Bell was ultra-productive despite only running 134 routes for the season. He received 41 total targets and generated 3.64 yards per route run. Bell saw mostly underneath targets and did his part by adding value after the catch, as he picked up 11.8 yards after catch per reception while breaking 13 tackles. With a stable quarterback situation, expect Bell to greatly improve his weekly production in 2022.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
85.6	3.67	3.2%	1	58.7
<b>4th</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>T-37th</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 42 P5 TES RECEIVING, 99 BLOCKING

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: CAM SMITH

Smith was one of the unsung heroes of the 2021 season, as he allowed multiple catches in just two of his 11 games this past year. In all, he gave up only 15 catches from 32 targets for the entire season. Of those 15 catches, 10 went for a first down, which is fewer than the number of plays he made on the ball (12). Smith — a top 150 recruit in the 2019 class, according to 247Sports' composite — earned an 89.7 coverage grade in 2021 across his 217 coverage snaps. He is an intelligent player who has big-time playmaking ability that could set him up for an All-American campaign this fall.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
88.4	46.9%	0.89	28.1%	9
<b>3rd</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>T-57th</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>T-41st</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### TE: AUSTIN STOGNER

Stogner was in the midst of a breakout in 2020 before suffering an injury in Week 10 that led to a staph infection, and he failed to regain form in 2021. Before the 2020 injury, Stogner owned an 87.3 receiving grade while recording a 15-plus yard gain on 32% of his target, Both of which ranked top five among FBS tight ends.

### WR: ANTWANE WELLS JR

Wells comes to South Carolina from James Madison, where he was dominant. Over the last two years, the transfer wide receiver was one of the five most valuable players in the entire FCS, according to PFF wins above average (WAA). Expect Wells and Spencer Rattler to be one of the top receiver-passing tandems in the SEC.

### WR: JOSH VANN

Vann made a complete 180-degree turn in 2021 and is eyeing another step forward in 2022. After owning single-season PFF grades in the low 50s from 2018 through 2020, the receiver produced a 72.0 mark in 2021. He was responsible for 19 15-plus yard receptions for the year — 14 more than any other wide receiver on the roster.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: MARCUS SATTERFIELD



MOTION

**103rd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**108th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: CLAYTON WHITE



BLITZ  
HAPPY

**5th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**101st**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.3%	35.4%	35.9%	11.4%	32.6%	40.2%
<b>62nd</b>	<b>106th</b>	<b>107th</b>	<b>80th</b>	<b>45th</b>	<b>74th</b>

# TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS



- Head Coach  
**Josh Heupel**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**32 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**6.5**
- Chance to win SEC  
**0.6%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#18 NTL, #8 SEC**

The early returns of the Josh Heupel era are promising, as Tennessee surpassed its preseason win total in Year 1 last season and now has the expectation to exceed that in 2022. Quarterback Hendon Hooker, who operated Heupel's quarterback-friendly offense with high efficiency, will be returning. Once he took over as the starter in Week 3, Tennessee proceeded to be the third-most efficient passing attack in the SEC, behind only Alabama and Georgia. Alongside Hooker is downfield threat Cedric Tillman — the most valuable returning wide receiver in the SEC — and other playmakers with breakout potential, such as speedy receiver Jalin Hyatt. Not only is the passing offense cooking in Knoxville, but the run game — with Hooker and running back Jabari Small — is also a load to handle. Tennessee led the Power Five in touchdowns from option runs in 2021 (17). Tennessee's defense is underwhelming, but with its offense, the Volunteers should still clear the .500 mark.

## THE PORTAL

7

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-27 OF 64 TEAMS)

1,372

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

(55 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.02

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

(43 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

If you like points, be sure to tune into Tennessee this fall — both the Volunteers and their opponents should be putting up plenty.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**8th**

Sep. 1	Ball State
Sep. 10	@ Pittsburgh
Sep. 17	Akron
Sep. 24	Florida
Oct. 1	OFF
Oct. 8	@ LSU
Oct. 15	Alabama
Oct. 22	UT Martin
Oct. 29	Kentucky
Nov. 5	@ Georgia
Nov. 12	Missouri
Nov. 19	@ South Carolina
Nov. 26	@ Vanderbilt

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Josh Heupel's explosive, up-tempo, spread passing attack
- ✓ Option run game with Hooker and Small

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- OL is teetering towards being a liability
- No stability in the coverage unit

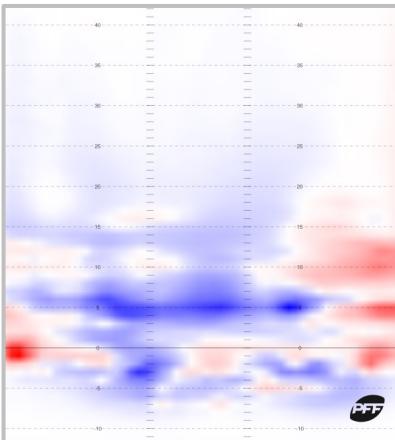
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: HENDON HOOKER

Hooker might be the perfect quarterback for Josh Heupel's explosive offense. Not asked to perform a lot of intricate reads, Hooker can just use his big arm to launch rockets down the field. Importantly, he can almost just flick the ball out even surrounded by pressure and push it downfield. Hooker does have some accuracy issues especially underneath where he still tries to rocket balls into his receivers. Adding some touch could help. Either way, the offense is set up to use his arm for explosive deep shots multiplied by him being a threat in the run game. Heupel will get people open beyond 20 yards and it's Hooker's job to hit them.

### 2021 HOOKER TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
84.4	5.6%	2.1%	23.2%	9.9
<b>22nd</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>T-9th</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>22nd</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: JALIN HYATT

Hyatt was expected to make a leap in 2021, but an early-season injury robbed him of his starting spot and limited his playing time. He managed just a 57.6 receiving grade and averaged 1.31 yards per route run — both worse than his marks as a freshman in 2020. Now, the 6-foot, 180-pound receiver is back to full health and poised to make the leap in his 2022 true junior campaign. The former four-star has speed to burn — he reportedly clocked a sub-4.35 40-yard dash — and that's something head coach Josh Heupel covets in his offense. Hyatt also worked on his lack of physicality by packing on over 15 pounds this past offseason.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: JABARI SMALL

Small hasn't been and likely never will be a running back who's going to play above expectation. He doesn't have the strong lower half to churn out yards after contact nor is he elusive. Nevertheless, while Small may not be that creative runner, he's as reliable as it gets. The 5-foot-11 and 206-pound back will get the Volunteers the yardage that's blocked while taking care of the ball, which is why his runs garnered a 46.6% success rate last year and Tennessee ranked top-10 in that metric among Power Five teams in 2021. Small sits in the 70th percentile in perfectly blocked yards per carry last season, as well (8.6).

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
77.6	16.4%	0.14	2.67	0.69
<b>47th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>T-77th</b>	<b>68th</b>	<b>T-59th</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### EDGE: BYRON YOUNG

Young was one of the top players to come out of the JUCO cycle in 2021 and ended up in Knoxville, where he lived up to the hype. The 6-foot-3, 243-pound edge defender finished with a 70.0-plus grade against the run, as a pass-rusher and in coverage. Young plays with incredible leverage that is paired with burst and strength, making him a force to handle in any facet. He ended his first year as a Volunteer as the SEC's ninth-highest-graded edge defender. Expect Young to improve that ranking in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
76.9	76.4	70.3	12.7%	24
<b>37th</b>	<b>32nd</b>	<b>T-73rd</b>	<b>52nd</b>	<b>T-47th</b>

RANK AMONG 200 P5 EDGES

# KEY STARTERS

## EDGE: TYLER BARON

Baron was a key part of the Vols' pass-rush rotation in 2021, as the 6-foot-5, 260-pound outside linebacker earned a 77.2 pass-rush grade last season — 11th-best among SEC edge defenders. Even if he's stuck in a committee approach again this fall, expect Baron to make an impact.

## LB: JEREMY BANKS

Banks is always around the ball and ready to make a play. Banks ranked third among all the Power Five linebackers in being the first defender to contact (89 plays).

## WR: CEDRIC TILLMAN

Both Hendon Hooker and Tillman made major strides in 2021. From Week 5 on, Tillman ranked third among SEC wide receivers. He also generated 3.15 yards per route run in that span and caught 12 of 14 contested chances. The 6-foot-3, 215-pound receiver's improvement makes him one of the top returning receivers in the SEC.

## OFFENSE

### OC: ALEX GOLESH



RPOS



VERTICAL PASSING GAME



PLAY ACTION PASSING

**29th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**29th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: TIM BANKS



2-HIGH

**75th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**74th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.2%	28.9%	44.6%	11.2%	29.2%	43.6%
<b>41st</b>	<b>63rd</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>87th</b>	<b>75th</b>	<b>105th</b>

# TEXAS A&M AGGIES



- Head Coach  
**Jimbo Fisher**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**6 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.9**
- Chance to win SEC  
**2.4%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#1 NTL, #1 SEC**

Texas A&M has one of the most talented rosters in the country, as a lot of the talent that enabled the Aggies to rank third in the SEC behind Georgia and Alabama in non-quarterback PFF WAA will be returning, which includes running back Devon Achane and slot corner Antonio Johnson, who are both among the best players in the entire country, regardless of position. The Aggies are young on offense, but their offensive line has an elite ceiling. Additionally, their receiving room could be one of the few in the country that has a productive true freshman with five-star Evan Stewart. The team's 2022 output comes down to the quarterback position. Haynes King or Max Johnson will be given the keys to a difficult Jimbo Fisher offense, and they'll need to deliver. King — a dual-threat — has just 45 career dropbacks to his name while Johnson took over 440 at LSU in 2021; however, he struggled to the tune of a 67.8 PFF grade.

## THE PORTAL

**2**

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-56 OF 64 TEAMS)

**1,026**

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(58 OF 64 TEAMS)

**0.13**

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(25 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Texas A&M is simply a quarterback away. That phrase is often thrown around loosely, but in the case of the 2022 Texas A&M Aggies, it's a perfect description.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**10th**

Sep. 3	Sam Houston
Sep. 10	Appalachian State
Sep. 17	Miami FL
Sep. 24	vs Arkansas
Oct. 1	@ Mississippi State
Oct. 8	@ Alabama
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ South Carolina
Oct. 29	Mississippi
Nov. 5	Florida
Nov. 12	@ Auburn
Nov. 19	Massachusetts
Nov. 26	LSU

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Electric set of playmakers on off.
- ✓ Secondary could be one of the best in CFB
- ✓ High-quality OL

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- No one stepping up at QB
- Young, inexperienced DL

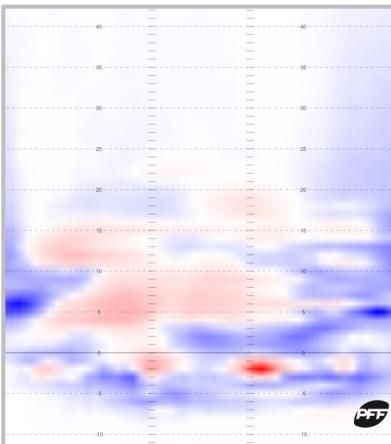
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: MAX JOHNSON

Even though it did not work out at LSU, don't count out Johnson just yet. The LSU offense put Johnson in some tough situations and certainly he would have liked to play better within those confines but the environment did him no favors. LSU threw the ball a lot and played "4 open" formations as much as possible. Most route concepts existed over the dangerous middle of the field and it caused Johnson to hold on to the ball longer than he would have wanted. This lead to high sack and fumble numbers. An Aggie offense predicated more on play action and outside shots down the field will help Johnson get back on track because he does possess a live arm and can't snap the ball out quickly. He didn't show off his legs much but that was a selling point of his game coming out of high school.

### 2021 JOHNSON TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
67.8	3.6%	4.2%	24.5%	9.5
T-56th	T-50th	60th	26th	T-31st

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## C: BRYCE FOSTER

Foster was a top-100 recruit in the 2021 class and was thrown into the fire right away, taking over as the starting center as a true freshman. He struggled with consistency in pass protection, but he was solid in the run game, finishing his first year with a 73.0 run-blocking grade, and his 83.9 run-blocking grade from Week 7 on ranked ninth among Power Five centers. Foster also won a Texas state title in shotput and recently posted the sixth-best distance in Texas A&M history. The 6-foot-5, 325-pounder isn't just a phone-booth power player either — he has exceptional movement skills for a man his size. His footwork and leverage improved as last year went on, but the biggest area of improvement is his blitz and stunt recognition, which should come with more reps.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: DEVON ACHANE

Achane is an explosive play waiting to happen in the A&M backfield. Last year, he converted 20.8% of his runs into 10-plus-yard gains and 37.7% into a first down or touchdown, which ranked second and fourth overall, respectively, among Power Five backs. Considering Achane is also an All-American track star for Texas A&M, his big-play ability shouldn't be much of a surprise. He has the same impact as a kick returner, where he took one return to the house, and as a receiver, where he owns an 82.0 career grade. Achane has even further room to grow as a receiver, and if he shows that polish in 2022, he could challenge to be the No. 1 running back in the nation.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
90.3	20.8%	0.28	4.02	1.85
<b>5th</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>6th</b>

RANK AMONG 84 P5 RBs

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: ANTONIO JOHNSON

Covering the slot is difficult — a defensive back has to be smart and quick while also profiling as a physical tackler ready to defend extra space — but no one in college football is better at doing it than Johnson. The 6-foot-3, 200-pound defensive back posted top-three rankings in the Power Five in both slot passing stops (14) and yards per slot coverage snap (0.58) in 2021. He blew up plays underneath, as he used his length to his advantage and rarely let anything get by him. Overall, Johnson earned an 87.4 PFF grade for the 2021 season — not too shabby for a true sophomore.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
87.4	66.1%	0.55	1.6%	16
<b>4th</b>	<b>170th</b>	<b>T-6th</b>	<b>210th</b>	<b>T-4th</b>

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## WR: AINIAS SMITH

Smith is a dynamic weapon for the Aggies, as the running back turned wide receiver turned in a 70.9 receiving grade in 2021 and was one of the best punt returners in the country. He ranked fourth in the FBS and first in the SEC in punt return grade for 2021.

## SAF: DEMANI RICHARDSON

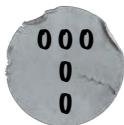
Richardson has been one of the best safeties in the SEC over the last couple of years, as he ranks sixth among SEC safeties in PFF grade since 2020. The 6-foot-1, 210-pound Aggie's tackling is also near the top of that pack, as he ranks second among SEC safeties in missed tackle rate since 2020 (8%).

## CB: TYREEK CHAPPELL

Chappell was thrown into the fire as a three-star true freshman in 2021. He took on a starting job in Week 5 and proceeded to be one of the best underclassmen outside cornerbacks in the country. From Week 5 on, Chappell produced the ninth-best coverage grade in the SEC. Look for a jump in 2022.

## OFFENSE

### OC: DARRELL DICKEY



**PISTOL FORMATION**



**ZONE RUNS**

**88th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**38th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: D.J. DURKIN



**SIMULATED  
PRESSURES**



**ZONE  
COVERAGE**



**DROP 8**

**7th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**32nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
12.3%	35.5%	39.8%	12.6%	27.3%	34.2%
<b>63rd</b>	<b>107th</b>	<b>76th</b>	<b>51st</b>	<b>89th</b>	<b>13th</b>

# VANDERBILT COMMODORES



- Head Coach  
**Clark Lea**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**105 Of 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**4.0**
- Chance to win SEC  
**0.1%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#32 NTL, #14 SEC**

Vanderbilt has struggled over the last three years — since 2019, the team has gone 5-28 with just one SEC victory. Last year, the Commodores ranked inside the bottom two among SEC teams in every facet outside of rushing. This year, only modest growth — if any — should be expected. Assuming running back Re'Mahn Davis is healthy, they should produce close to average efficiency on the ground. Quarterback Mike Wright also can add value on the ground, as the athletic quarterback produced a 71.4 rushing grade in 2021 with 11 explosive runs. From a passing standpoint, though, neither Wright nor Ken Seals has shown any reliability. Vanderbilt finished with the third-worst team passing grade in 2021 among Power Five teams. Defensively, the Commodores don't return a single player that generated more value than average in 2021, according to PFF WAA, which doesn't bode well for 2022.

## THE PORTAL

5

PLAYERS  
GAINED

(T-42 OF 64 TEAMS)

4,342

CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED  
(34 OF 64 TEAMS)

-0.14

2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED  
(56 OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Vanderbilt was never a one-year turnaround for head coach Clark Lea and Co., as they still have a long path ahead in their quest to become a competitive team.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**2nd**

Aug. 27	@ Hawaii
Sep. 3	Elon
Sep. 10	Wake Forest
Sep. 17	@ Northern Illinois
Sep. 24	@ Alabama
Oct. 1	OFF
Oct. 8	Mississippi
Oct. 15	@ Georgia
Oct. 22	@ Missouri
Oct. 29	OFF
Nov. 5	South Carolina
Nov. 12	@ Kentucky
Nov. 19	Florida
Nov. 26	Tennessee

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Rushing attack won't be too bad as long as Re'Mahn Davis is healthy

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Prepare for passing woes
- Thin everywhere on defense

# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: KEN SEALS

Ken Seals started last season before giving way to Mike Wright with incoming freshman AJ Swann expected to also compete for the starting job. No matter who starts something must change within the offensive scheme. Joey Lynch is officially the new offensive coordinator but he did call plays last season. They cannot continue to try to throw short of the sticks and expect any type of efficient offense. They do not have the offensive line, quarterback or receivers to handle that sort of offense. Both quarterbacks had stretches where they played relatively well when called upon to start. Wright adds more dynamism but less accuracy. Seals has a slow release but is more accurate.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
55.0	2.6%	4.3%	28.1%	7.7
<b>66th</b>	<b>T-59th</b>	<b>T-61st</b>	<b>44th</b>	<b>T-59th</b>

RANK AMONG 67 P5 QBs

## BREAKOUT PLAYER

## WR: JAYDEN MCGOWAN

McGowan may just be a three-star true freshman, but the Commodores are thin at wide receiver, and he was the talk of spring camp. The team's top three wide receivers from last season are no longer there, and head coach Clark Lea said they believe McGowan's speed can be a factor for them in 2022. The 5-foot-8, 180-pound receiver — who won the South Carolina 4A 100m state championship last year (10.61s) will be used in creative ways just to get the ball in his hands, and rightfully so. There haven't been many playmakers out of Vandy of late, but McGowan could emerge as one.

## OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### RB: RE'MAHN DAVIS

Davis was a freshman sensation for Temple back in 2019 when he posted an 84.8 rushing grade. That, however, wouldn't hold for the COVID-shortened 2020 season, as his rushing grade fell over 20 grading points year over year. Davis still made the jump to the Power Five level by joining Vanderbilt last offseason, and through his first few games, it looked like the 5-foot-9, 205-pound back was getting close to old form. Unfortunately, injury prevented a bounce-back year, so he is now eyeing 2022 to actually bounce back. Davis really stood out in inopportune situations last year for the Commodores. He displayed good pacing and elusiveness that led to 3.39 yards after contact, 12 broken tackles and 4.6 yards per carry on non-perfectly blocked run plays.

PFF Grade	Explosive Run Rate	Missed Tackles Forced/Attempt	Yards After Contact/Attempt	Yards Per Route Run
76.8	11.4%	0.27	3.39	0.71
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### CB: JAYLEN MAHONEY

Mahoney looked like a rising cornerstone for Vanderbilt during his 2019 true freshman campaign, as he was the SEC's fourth-highest-graded slot corner that season. However, instead of building on it, Mahoney struggled. The 5-foot-11, 191-pound defensive back saw his coverage grade tank over 20 grading points down to 52.1 in 2020, and his 2021 campaign wasn't much different. Having said that, he did show a proclivity for evading blockers before hunting down screens and ball carriers underneath, as Mahoney tied for second among SEC corners in run stops (10) and tied for sixth in underneath passing stops (eight).

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
61.8	72.1%	1.88	2.9%	8
T-155th	201st	213th	T-202nd	T-60th

RANK AMONG 219 P5 CBS

# KEY STARTERS

## OT: BRADLEY ASHMORE

Ashmore's ability to hold his own in pass-protection is suspect, but he can make a sizable impact in the run game. He earned a 72.0 run-block grade in 2021, ranking 14th of 35 qualifying SEC tackles.

## WR: WILL SHEPPARD

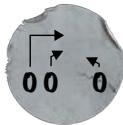
Sheppard has yet to show he can effectively win one-on-one against single coverage, but he does generate value after the catch due to his elusiveness. His 14 broken tackles tied for 15th in the Power Five despite ranking 67th in total receptions at 43.

## TE: BEN BRESNAHAN

Bresnahan is looking to go back to his 2020 form on the receiving front after a disappointing 2021. His receiving grade year-over-year went from 69.8 to 52.6. The 6-foot-4, 243-pound tight end does have strong hands, as he has caught 13 of his 17 contested chances while dropping just one pass since 2020.

## OFFENSE

### OC: JOEY LYNCH



**QUICK GAME  
PASSING**

**119th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**97th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: NICK HOWELL



**BLITZ  
HAPPY**



**DROP 8**



**No.  
3**

**116th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

**115th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
8.5%	33.9%	33.0%	9.1%	16.4%	36.0%
<b>127th</b>	<b>99th</b>	<b>122nd</b>	<b>117th</b>	<b>129th</b>	<b>27th</b>

INDEPENDENT  
INDEPENDENT  
INDEPENDENT



# BYU COUGARS



BYU has sustained little turnover from last year's 10-3 team. It did lose its most valuable player from a year ago — running back Tyler Allgeier — but even with that, the Cougars have a lot of productive players returning. And while losing Allgeier is crushing, they did add Cal transfer back Christopher Brooks — who earned an 89.0 rushing grade in 2021 — to replace him. Headlining the returning players are quarterback Jaren Hall and wide receiver Puka Nacua — a connection that generated a 128.0 passer rating in 2021. Both players earned an 84.0-plus grade on the year and have the capability to be one of the top QB-WR tandems out west in 2022. That is unless Hall's durability becomes an issue again. Fortunately, the BYU quarterback does have the advantage of playing behind one of the best offensive lines in all of college football. Tackle Blake Freeland and guard Clark Barrington are both top-10 players at their respective positions with the other starters not too far behind.

## THE PORTAL

**4**  
PLAYERS  
GAINED

**2,103**  
CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

**0.01**  
2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

## THE BOTTOM LINE

BYU plays five P5 programs in 2022. Don't be surprised if the Cougars play spoiler and beat a few of those teams, as their offense has the juice to beat teams from better conferences.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**56th**

Sep. 3	@ South Florida
Sep. 10	Baylor
Sep. 17	@ Oregon
Sep. 24	Wyoming
Sep. 29	Utah State
Oct. 8	vs Notre Dame
Oct. 15	Arkansas
Oct. 22	@ Liberty
Oct. 28	East Carolina
Nov. 5	@ Boise State
Nov. 12	OFF
Nov. 19	Dixie State
Nov. 26	@ Stanford

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ One of the most experienced rosters in CFB
- ✓ OL is looking elite
- ✓ The Jaren Hall to Puka Nacua connection

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Durability at QB
- Probably not going to have much of a pass-rush

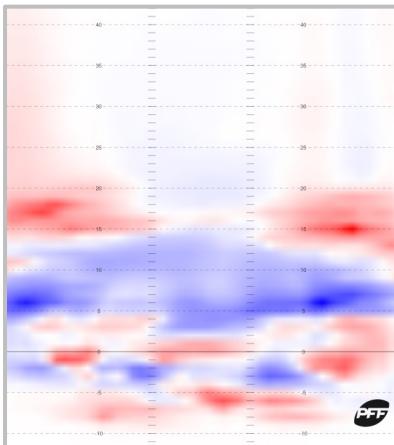
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JAREN HALL

Hall took over for second overall pick Zach Wilson after his tremendous 2020 campaign and the Cougar offense didn't miss a beat. Even losing offensive coordinator Jeff Grimes last offseason, the offense stayed mostly similar. The ball is kept mostly to the outside and their tall receivers are used to make plays in single coverage situations. If you squint there is some Zach Wilson to Hall's game. He can move around and make plays although the ball doesn't jump out of his hand like Wilson. His decision making is very good and when he's protected — by one of the best offensive lines in the country — he is a threat every time he takes the snap.

### 2021 HALL TARGETS

Below Avg. Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
89.2	6.7%	2.1%	24.2%	11.7
<b>18th</b>	<b>T-14th</b>	<b>T-17th</b>	<b>40th</b>	<b>T-11th</b>

RANK AMONG 129 FBS QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## OT: KINGSEY SUAMATAIA

Suamataia has all the tools to be one of the top linemen in college football. However, the 6-foot-6, 317-pound tackle was unable to crack the starting lineup in the weeks he spent on the Oregon roster in 2021 and eventually left mid-year. He transferred to BYU — a short drive away from where he grew up in Utah — where he is expected to see playing time sooner than he would have with the Ducks. The 2021 No. 36 recruit is expected to be the starting right tackle for the Cougars in 2022.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## OT: BLAKE FREELAND

Freeland was one of 2021's best pass protectors. The 6-foot-8, 305-pound tackle didn't allow a multi-pressure game en route to a 91.6 pass-blocking grade — not too shabby from a three-star recruit who was 50 points lighter and didn't even play offensive line in high school. He was an all-state selection in basketball and track-and-field in high school, as well, and that athleticism shows up on the field. Between Freeland, Oregon transfer Kingsley Suamataia and brothers Clark and Campbell Barrington, BYU has one of the best offensive lines in the country.

PFF Grade	Pass-Block Grade	Pressure Rate	Trues Pass Set Rate	Run-Block Grade
81.6	91.6	1.2%	23.7%	76.3
<b>30th</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>281st</b>	<b>T-62nd</b>

RANK AMONG 302 FBS OTS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: KALEB HAYES

Hayes was one of the most productive corners in college football last year with 11 total pass breakups in 13 games thanks to his ability to defend the vertical route tree. His transitions are smooth, and he almost didn't get beat a single time last year for a downfield shot. Hayes was targeted over 20 yards downfield 18 times in 2021 and allowed just one to be caught while forcing seven incompletions, which formed the third-lowest catch rate allowed on deep targets in the FBS (5.6%).

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
71.8	48.2%	1.11	19.6%	2
<b>T-114th</b>	<b>54th</b>	<b>T-190th</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>T-358th</b>

RANK AMONG 439 FBS CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### WR: PUKA NACUA

Nacua is a big-play, vertical threat, as the 6-foot-1, 210-pound wide receiver ranked top-20 in deep receptions (13) and yards (488) nationally in 2021. He takes on physicality with ease and has been strong at the catch point, going 16-for-24 on career-contested chances.

### RB: CHRISTOPHER BROOKS JR

Brooks is coming off a career-high 89.0 rushing grade in 2021, when he averaged 3.3 yards after contact per attempt and broke 33 tackles from 116 carries. The 6-foot-1, 235-pound back isn't a breakaway threat, but he is reliable (zero fumbles on 380 carries) and will fill the void left by Tyler Allgeier.

### G: CLARK BARRINGTON

Barrington ranked top 10 among FBS guards in PFF grade last season while recording an 84.0-plus grade as a pass- and run-blocker. Only two others were able to accomplish the latter last season. The 6-foot-6, 302-pound Cougar played 876 snaps and recorded zero penalties. He's a top-10 returning guard nationwide.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: AARON RODERICK



VERTICAL  
PASSING GAME



PISTOL  
FORMATION



PLAY ACTION  
PASSING

**8th**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**8th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: ILAISA TUIAKI



MAN  
COVERAGE



MUG  
FRONTS



DROP 8

**91st**

**91st**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**96th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
15.0%	18.2%	46.3%	11.1%	24.1%	43.2%
<b>7th</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>89th</b>	<b>113th</b>	<b>102nd</b>

# CENTRAL FLORIDA KNIGHTS



- Head Coach  
**Gus Malzahn**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**51 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**7.3**
- Chance to win AAC  
**11.9%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#52 NTL**

Between its coverage ability and rushing, UCF won't be an easy team to face in 2022. Last year, the Knights' secondary finished as the No. 21 ranked coverage unit in PFF grade, and they return every key contributor from that group, giving them one of the top defensive back rooms in the country heading into 2022. Offensively, the Knights' running back trio that led the team to a top-25 rushing attack last season in terms of EPA per rush generated will return as well. UCF also brought in quarterback John Rhys Plumlee, who is only going to add to that rushing success. The Ole Miss transfer posted 35 explosive runs from 179 career carries while averaging 6.9 yards per attempt. Expect Plumlee, a quarterback turned receiver who is going back to the signal-caller spot at UCF, to see plenty of touches even if he isn't the starter. The only thing missing from this team is a reliable downfield arm, as both Plumlee and UCF's other QB Mikey Keene have as many turnover-worthy plays as big-time throws for their careers.

## THE PORTAL

**11**  
PLAYERS  
GAINED

**5,065**  
CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

**0.01**  
2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

## THE BOTTOM LINE

UCF probably isn't winning the AAC in its final year before jumping to the Big 12, but the Knights will be highly competitive — just like they were in 2021.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

**STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:  
108th**

Sep. 1	South Carolina State
Sep. 9	Louisville
Sep. 17	@ Florida Atlantic
Sep. 24	Georgia Tech
Oct. 1	SMU
Oct. 8	OFF
Oct. 13	Temple
Oct. 22	@ East Carolina
Oct. 29	Cincinnati
Nov. 5	@ Memphis
Nov. 12	@ Tulane
Nov. 19	Navy
Nov. 26	@ South Florida

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Depth in the secondary
- ✓ Fixing to have dynamic run game
- ✓ WR shouldn't be an issue despite losing Jaylon Robinson

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Downfield passing ability at QB
- Off-ball linebacker

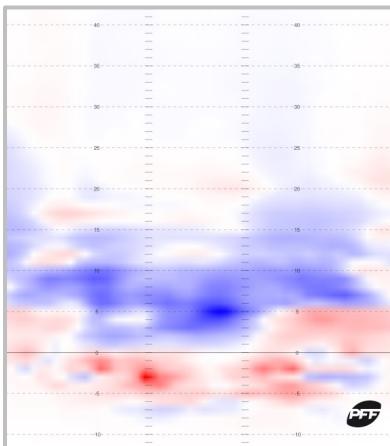
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: JOHN RHYS PLUMLEE

It feels like it's been a while but way back after the 2019 season, Plumlee started as a freshman for Ole Miss and looked good only for Lane Kiffin to come in that offseason and return Matt Corral to the starting quarterback role. Plumlee was shuttled around to different positions but gets a chance to play quarterback again in Orlando. He should fit Gus Malzahn and Chip Lindsey's offense as we've seen what that scheme can do for running quarterbacks and what Plumlee can do in a quarterback running scheme like with Rich Rodriguez in 2019. Incumbent starter Miley Keene returns as well although he did not impress taking over from Dillon Gabriel early on in the season.

## 2021 UCF OFFENSE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 129 FBS QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## SAF: KOBY PERRY

Some may the former FCS transfer has already broken out, but the FBS level is a completely different ballgame. Playing for Austin Peay, the 6-foot, 174-pound safety was one of the most productive players at the position. He racked up 35 defensive stops last year, tying for the fourth-most by an FCS safety. He did that with a position switch mid-year, as he went from playing close to the line of scrimmage to mostly a free safety. The latter is where he fits best, given his thin frame and explosive traits.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: RYAN O'KEEFE

O'Keefe is a satellite player — if he gets the ball in space, there's a chance he takes it to the other end of the field. UCF used the 5-foot-10, 175-pound receiver extensively on reverses last year, and O'Keefe seized the opportunity, taking seven of his 13 runs for an explosive run (10-plus yards) while churning out nine broken tackles and 180 yards after contact. O'Keefe's skill with the ball in his hands shows up as a receiver, as he has gathered 30 broken tackles and 7.9 yards after the catch from 113 career receptions. He's the prime example of an underneath weapon in the passing game. Of his 86 receptions in 2021, 49 were either a screen, slide or jet sweep.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
77.0	2.10	5.5%	6.8	16
<b>T-65th</b>	<b>T-111th</b>	<b>T-132nd</b>	<b>T-314th</b>	<b>T-98th</b>

RANK AMONG 334 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## CB: DAVONTE BROWN

Brown broke out in a big way last season, as he improved his 63.2 coverage grade from his 2020 true freshman season to an 84.0 mark in 2021. The 6-foot-2, 185-pound corner logged over 400 coverage snaps last season and didn't allow a single touchdown while intercepting one and breaking up seven others. He plays the catch point well due to his length and excels in man coverage. Brown's 2021 man-coverage grade ranked seventh among all FBS corners. On such reps, he allowed just five catches from 20 targets for 56 yards.

PFF Grade	Catch Rate Allowed	Yards Per Cover Snap	Forced Incompletion Rate	Passing Stops
82.3	54.2%	0.67	18.8%	8
<b>20th</b>	<b>T-141st</b>	<b>T-27th</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>T-94th</b>

RANK AMONG 439 FBS CBS

## KEY STARTERS

### CB: COREY THORNTON

Thornton has the ability to be a lockdown corner. As part of the rotation in 2021, he allowed 0.54 yards per coverage snap when on the outside — the 11th-best mark in the FBS. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound corner forced more incompletions (five) than catches allowed (four) on 10-plus yard targets.

### WR: KOBE HUDSON

Hudson reunited with head coach Gus Malzahn after transferring in from Auburn, where he broke out in 2021, as the 6-foot-1, 199-pound former four-star recruit ranked sixth among SEC wide receivers in receiving grade. He ranked seventh among the same group in slot yards per route run (2.32).

### EDGE: TRE'MON MORRIS-BRASH

Morris-Brash hasn't been a full-time starter in his three years with UCF, but he's proven to be an effective pass-rusher. Across 513 career pass-rushes, he's produced an 82.6 pass-rush grade. The edge defender showed vast improvement against the run in 2021 with an 81.8 grade in the facet — a career-high by over 14 grading points.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: CHIP LINDSEY



MOTION

**82nd**

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

**11th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: TRAVIS WILLIAMS



MAN  
COVERAGE



MUG  
FRONTS

**85th**

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
13.3%	20.8%	37.6%	12.2%	29.7%	37.9%
<b>36th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>90th</b>	<b>62nd</b>	<b>70th</b>	<b>45th</b>

# CINCINNATI BEARCATS



- Head Coach  
**Luke Fickell**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**12 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.7**
- Chance to win AAC  
**29.4%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#42 NTL**

Cincinnati's historic 2021 team was gutted by the NFL, as the Bearcats had to replace well over half of their stout defense and multiple key players on offense — including quarterback Desmond Ridder. Regression is in order from last year's team, but it still should be one of the top Group of Five teams in the country. Despite the losses on defense, the unit should remain a top unit in 2022, as it is headlined by an elite linebacking corps featuring brothers Ivan and Deshawn Pace — the first and third most valuable FBS linebackers in 2021 who are returning this fall. Offensively, some worry about the passing game under either 2020 four-star Evan Prater or transfer Ben Bryant, but they'll have some legitimate weapons in wide receiver Tre Tucker, tight end Josh Whyle and more. Cincinnati ranked 19th nationally in passing success rate in 2021 and is likely to regress from that mark in 2022.

## THE PORTAL

<b>5</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>1.06</b>
PLAYERS GAINED (XX OF 64 TEAMS)	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED (XX OF 64 TEAMS)	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED (XX OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Cincinnati broke the standard in 2021, but this year, the Bearcats won't be as accomplished, and they'll have a challenger or two for the AAC title.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE: 103rd

Sep. 3	@ Arkansas
Sep. 10	Kennesaw State
Sep. 17	vs Miami OH
Sep. 24	Indiana
Oct. 1	@ Tulsa
Oct. 8	South Florida
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ SMU
Oct. 29	@ Central Florida
Nov. 5	Navy
Nov. 11	East Carolina
Nov. 19	@ Temple
Nov. 26	Tulane

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Uber-talented LB corps
- ✓ Good enough receiving unit
- ✓ Finally, they have a reliable kicker

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- QB position may not be stable
- NFL gutted their defense
- Pass-protection against the big dogs

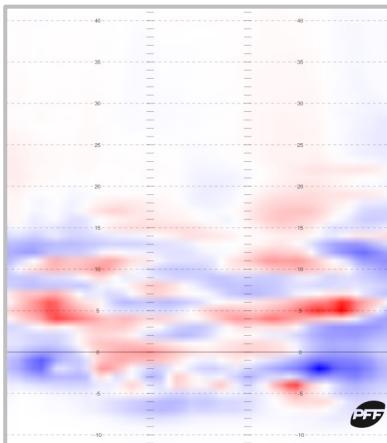
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: EVAN PRATER

Prater is a long 6-foot-5 quarterback who got the first action of his career coming off the bench in blowout Bearcat victories last season. Prater is the highest ranked recruit over the last ten years of Cincinnati football. He was a 4-star ranked 174th nationally in the class of 2020 according to 247 sports so there are high expectations for him. Offensive coordinator Mike Denbrock heads to LSU but is replaced by quarterback coach and former Bearcat quarterback himself Gino Gidugli so there should be an easy transition for the offense and Prater. Ben Bryant, fresh off one season as EMU's starting quarterback returns to Cincinnati to compete for the job as well.

## 2021 CINCINNATI OFF. TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: COREY KINER

Kiner is coming back home to Ohio after one year at LSU. The 2020 Ohio Mr. Football and four-star recruit is a stocky 5-foot-10, 213-pounder — and he is not an easy player to bring down. He broke 24 tackles on 79 attempts last year, breaking through arm tackles easily. Kiner doesn't have long speed like former Cincinnati back Jerome Ford, so there isn't going to be a spike in explosive runs, but he's still capable of being a dominant back for the Bearcats.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: TRE TUCKER

Tucker has only started a few games at wide receiver in his three-year Cincinnati career, but he should be a full-time starter in 2022. Despite not being a featured piece, opposing defenses already know that Tucker will be a problem, as the 5-foot-9, 175-pound receiver is a nimble, ultra-fast player who also possesses running back-esque contact balance after the catch. Over the course of his 60 career receptions, Tucker has broken 21 tackles while averaging 7.9 yards after the catch. He's been productive all throughout his career, posting 2.50 career yards per route run. Tucker's size is going to limit him to a certain extent, but it won't stop the slot receiver from being a big-play threat in 2022.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
76.7	2.38	5.6%	9.3	11
<b>T-072nd</b>	<b>T-69th</b>	<b>T-132nd</b>	<b>T-257th</b>	<b>T-200th</b>

RANK AMONG 334 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## LB: IVAN PACE JR

Pace won PFF's 2021 MAC Defensive Player of the Year playing for Miami of Ohio. Now, he returned to his hometown to play for the Bearcats alongside his brother Deshawn Pace, who posted a 75.3 PFF grade last season. Ivan stepped into a starting job for the first time in 2021 with the RedHawks and recorded an 88.3 PFF grade. He was a weapon regardless of role but stood out as a blitzer, where he earned a 91.2 pass-rush grade while totaling 19 pressures from 46 rushes, which he paired with an 88.6 coverage grade and 78.7 run-defense grade. He's a top-10 off-ball linebacker in the nation.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Coverage Grade	Missed Tackle Rate	Defensive Stops
83.0	74.6	82.7	10.6%	57
<b>11th</b>	<b>T-40th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>91st</b>	<b>7th</b>

RANK AMONG 394 FBS OFF-BALL LBS

# KEY STARTERS

## LB: DESHAWN PACE

Pace took on a starting job for the first time with no issue in 2021, when he displayed an impressive all-around game, producing a grade above 74.0 against the run, as a pass-rusher and in coverage. The only other returning off-ball linebacker to accomplish that in 2021 was Deshawn's brother and now teammate, Ivan.

## LB: TY VAN FOSSEN

Van Fossen looked like a breakout candidate entering 2021, and he lived up to that billing, as his 73.3 PFF grade ranked eighth among AAC off-ball linebackers. If Van Fossen can build on that development, he will help give UC one of the best off-ball linebacker rooms in the country.

## EDGE: MALIK VANN

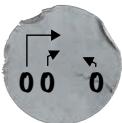
Vann was off to a strong start last year before an injury slowed him down. Through his first eight games of the year, Van owned a 77.3 PFF grade that ranked fourth in the AAC at his position. If healthy, there's no denying the 6-foot-4, 275-pound edge defender is one of the top defensive linemen in the AAC.

## OFFENSE

### OC: GINO GUIDUGLI



RPOS



QUICK GAME PASSING



QB RUNS

## 40th

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

## 13th

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

## DEFENSE

### DC: MIKE TRESSEL



MAN COVERAGE



MUG FRONTS



DROP 8

## 9th

2021 EPA Per  
Pass Rank

## 18th

2021 EPA Per  
Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.9%	23.3%	39.8%	13.1%	44.0%	34.4%
<b>8th</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>76th</b>	<b>38th</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>14th</b>

# HOUSTON COUGARS



- Head Coach  
**Dana Holgorsen**
- PFF Power Ranking  
**28 OF 130**
- Projected Win Total  
**8.7**
- Chance to win AAC  
**27.9%**
- 2022 Recruiting Rank  
**#50 NTL**

Head coach Dana Holgorsen told PFF that he thinks Houston is on track to do what Cincinnati has done in recent years. While a lot would have to go right for the Cougars in order to sniff the College Football Playoff, it's certainly a plausible scenario. Both PFF and the market project that Houston will finish with around nine wins for the 2022 season, but it wouldn't be a shock to see the Cougars eclipse that mark. They have the quarterback, elite wide receiver and supporting cast to surprise a lot of people this year. The Clayton Tune-Nathaniel Dell connection is one of the best in college football—in fact, both players rank seventh or higher at their respective position in PFF wins above average (WAA) generated from last season. Throw in the improved depth at wide receiver, and there's reason to believe Houston will be far better than its 2021 group that ranked 25th nationally in passing efficiency.

## THE PORTAL

<b>9</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>0.03</b>
PLAYERS GAINED (XX OF 64 TEAMS)	CAREER FBS SNAPS GAINED (XX OF 64 TEAMS)	2021 FBS WIN SHARES GAINED (XX OF 64 TEAMS)

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Houston has the fixings to dethrone Cincinnati to become the best Group of Five program and AAC champion before making the jump to the Big 12 in 2023.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**120th**

Sep. 3	@ UTSA
Sep. 10	@ Texas Tech
Sep. 17	Kansas
Sep. 24	Rice
Sep. 30	Tulane
Oct. 7	@ Memphis
Oct. 15	OFF
Oct. 22	@ Navy
Oct. 29	South Florida
Nov. 5	@ SMU
Nov. 12	Temple
Nov. 19	@ East Carolina
Nov. 26	Tulsa

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ Insanely deep along the OL
- ✓ Returns an elite-graded QB from 2021
- ✓ The electric WR Nathaniel Dell

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Lost playmakers at corner
- RB Alton McCaskill's torn ACL in the spring
- Interior OL could be an issue

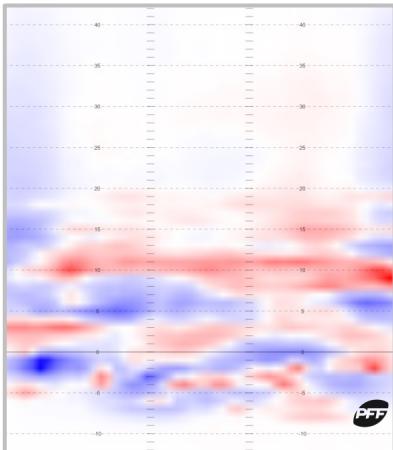
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: CLAYTON TUNE

Tune's first start for the Cougars came in 2018, and he's improved every season since. A promising 2020 campaign, his first as a Day 1 starter, led to high expectations for 2021. And now we're here, a season removed from Tune being the second-highest-graded Group of Five quarterback. He completely understands where to go with the football and is very accurate. While he doesn't possess the strongest arm, he can still get the ball downfield. He's also able to make plays outside the pocket with his arm. It could be another big season for Houston and Tune.

### 2021 TUNE TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
90.8	5.6%	2.7%	21.6%	9.5
<b>T-13th</b>	<b>T-39th</b>	<b>T-40th</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>T-61st</b>

RANK AMONG 129 FBS QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## RB: BRANDON CAMPBELL

Disaster struck for Houston last spring when running back Alton McCaskill, one of the team's best offensive players, went down with a torn ACL. McCaskill earned an 81.1 rushing grade in 2021 and led the AAC in breakaway runs of 15-plus yards with 19. It's unknown when he'll be able to make his return, but he'll likely miss most of the 2022 season. USC transfer and former four-star recruit Brandon Campbell will help ensure the rushing offense stays on track with McCaskill on the sidelines. Campbell handled only 12 carries in his freshman campaign with the Trojans yet turned three of those into an explosive run of 10-plus yards, with 41 of his 53 yards coming after contact.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WR: NATHANIEL DELL

Dell is extremely underrated, as the 5-foot-10, 155-pound Cougar is an electrifying talent with elite foot quicks and explosiveness. Dell is one of four returning FBS wide receivers who generated at least 35 explosive receptions of 15-plus yards in 2021. He also has the necessary suddenness to excel as a run-after-catch threat. Last year, his 19 broken tackles after the catch tied for 12th in the FBS. Dell isn't just winning with his traits, either — he's a technician who has no problem getting open against single or press coverage despite being a bit thin. He posted top-20 marks in both separation rate against single coverage and yards per route run against press in 2021.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Average Depth of Target	15+ Yard Receptions
88.3	2.84	10.8%	11.2	35
<b>10th</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>T-265th</b>	<b>T-181st</b>	<b>T-7th</b>

RANK AMONG 334 P5 WRS

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## EDGE: DEREK PARISH

Parish has been nothing but productive in his time on the field for Houston, as he's played 1,403 snaps in his five-year career and owns an 87.4 run defense and 88.8 pass-rush grade in that timeframe. The 6-foot-2, 245-pound edge defender also has earned a single-season PFF grade above 80.0 in each of the last three seasons. Parish may be undersized, but he makes up for it with consistent and skillful hands. He's as sturdy as it gets at the position and is destined to be a productive force for the Cougars once again in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
84.1	83.8	82.4	14.8%	21
<b>20th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>T-55th</b>	<b>T-51st</b>	<b>T-137th</b>

RANK AMONG 418 FBS EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### DI: ATLIAS BELL

Bell was a reserve for the 2021 season, but he made the most of his opportunities when on the field. In fact, he finished 16th among interior defensive linemen in PFF grade for the year. Bell's 15.2% pass-rush win rate ranked top 15 among that group, joining former teammate Logan Hall.

### EDGE: D'ANTHONY JONES

Despite not having a single career start to his name, Jones has proven to be a productive pass-rusher. The 6-foot-2, 270-pound edge defender has posted a 90.4 pass-rush grade, 23.8% pass-rush win rate and 20.2% pressure rate from 239 career pass-rush reps.

### LB: DONOVAN MUTIN

Mutin is one of the best run-stuffers in the country. The 6-foot, 230-pound Cougar ranks second among FBS off-ball linebackers in run defense grade and positively graded play rate against the run since 2020. His coverage ability improved in 2021, as his grade in the facet went from 59.6 to 77.3 year-over-year.

### OFFENSE

#### OC: NONE



GAP RUNS

**25th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**67th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: DOUG BELK



MAN COVERAGE



DIME PACKAGE

**3rd**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**23rd**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.2%	29.6%	43.0%	14.6%	42.2%	27.5%
<b>19th</b>	<b>67th</b>	<b>45th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>2nd</b>

# NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH



Notre Dame is in tip-top shape at virtually every other position other than quarterback and wide receiver. While the Fighting Irish have one of college football's best tight ends in Michael Mayer — the second-most valuable tight end from 2021 who is returning this fall — the wide receiver room is a bit thin. Avery Davis and Joe Wilkins Jr. are the veterans of the group, but neither has ever turned in a 70.0-plus single-season PFF grade. Luckily, former four-star Lorenzo Styles Jr. does look like a promising breakout candidate after generating over two yards per route run as a true freshman in 2021. Quarterback Tyler Buchner will take over the keys to the offense. He is a weapon in the designed run game, but his passing ability is still suspect, as he turned in a 48.9 passing grade from 38 dropbacks in 2021. If multiple wideouts and Buchner step up in 2022, this team could make a lot of noise this year.

## THE PORTAL

**2**  
PLAYERS  
GAINED

**1,449**  
CAREER FBS  
SNAPS GAINED

**-0.04**  
2021 FBS WIN  
SHARES GAINED

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Marcus Freeman is setting up Notre Dame to contend in the years to come, but patience is key. The Fighting Irish won't be a juggernaut in 2022, but they'll be a competitive team.

## 2022-23 SCHEDULE

### STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE:

**34th**

Sep. 3	@ Ohio State
Sep. 10	Marshall
Sep. 17	California
Sep. 24	@ North Carolina
Oct. 1	OFF
Oct. 8	vs BYU
Oct. 15	Stanford
Oct. 22	UNLV
Oct. 29	@ Syracuse
Nov. 5	Clemson
Nov. 12	vs Navy
Nov. 19	Boston College
Nov. 26	@ USC

## BIGGEST STRENGTHS

- ✓ OL = back to the ND standard
- ✓ Several players on defense with All-American potential
- ✓ Mobile QB

## BIGGEST WEAKNESSES

- Thin wide receiver room
- Inexperienced passer

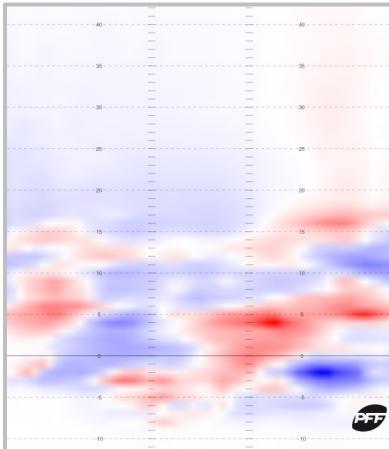
# QUARTERBACK SPOTLIGHT

## QB: TYLER BUCHNER

Buchner was a four-star recruit in the class of 2021. He was thrown into action in spots during the 2021 season but his heaviest usage came in the Virginia Tech game where he looked like a true freshman. Luckily, even with head coach Brian Kelly moving to LSU, Notre Dame keeps its offensive coordinator Tommy Rees so Buchner won't have to learn an entirely new offense this offseason. The quarterback also has the benefit of being a very capable runner on quarterback designed run schemes. Drew Pyne, who also played sparingly in 2021, will also compete for the starting quarterback spot.

## 2021 NOTRE DAME OFF. TARGETS

Below Avg.  Above Avg.



PFF Grade	Big Time Throw Rate	Turnover Worthy Play Rate	Uncatchable Pass Rate (Beyond LOS)	Average Depth Of Target
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

RANK AMONG 129 FBS QBS

# BREAKOUT PLAYER

## OT: BLAKE FISHER

Fisher was the No. 1-ranked recruit out of Indiana in the 2021 class and earned a starting job right away as a true freshman. Unfortunately for him and the Irish, he suffered a meniscus injury in his first game wearing the Golden Dome, causing him to miss the regular season. However, he was able to make a return for the Fiesta Bowl, where he earned a respectable 70.5 PFF grade across 91 snaps. The 6-foot-6, 335-pounder moves exceptionally well for a man his size and possesses a strong punch. Unlike most at his age, he displayed advanced technique and processing in his short time on the field as a true freshman. Notre Dame has been known for being "OLU," and Fisher has the chance to establish himself as the next great blocker up front for the Irish as he starts at right tackle this fall.

# OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## TE: MICHAEL MAYER

Mayer was Notre Dame's passing offense's engine in 2021, and that's not changing in 2022 due to the Irish's lack of pass-catching weapons. Mayer was responsible for more combined first downs and touchdowns than any other pass-catcher on the roster last season, as the 2020 five-star recruit also racked up more such plays than any other Power Five tight end. Mayer ran well over half of his routes from the slot or out wide, making his 82.0 receiving grade for the year that much more impressive. The true sophomore's 15 explosive plays in the slot or out wide tied for the most in the FBS by a tight end. His physical traits are off the charts, and he showed a lot of growth last season as a receiver, as he was more comfortable setting up defenders and became a weapon on option routes. If anyone is challenging Brock Bowers for the John Mackey Award, it's Mayer.

PFF Grade	Yards Per Route Run	Drop Rate	Contested Catches	Run-Block Grade
80.6	1.99	4.1%	13	64.7
<b>12th</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>79th</b>

RANK AMONG 69 FBS TES RECEIVING, 203 BLOCKING

# DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## EDGE: ISAIAH FOSKEY

The former two-way high school player has developed into one of the most promising edge defenders in the country. A 2019 four-star recruit, Foskey went from a 63.5 PFF grade as a key reserve in 2020 to an 80.7 mark in 2021. The 6-foot-5, 260-pound edge defender has the length, athleticism and play strength to excel in 2022. His technique vastly improved last year, but he still has further room to grow. Notably, he needs to further refine his pass-rush repertoire. Foskey is also capable of dropping into coverage and playing off-ball linebacker in addition to being a key special teamer. He could be an elite player for the Fighting Irish in 2022.

PFF Grade	Run Defense Grade	Pass-Rush Grade	Pressure Rate	Defensive Stops
80.7	78.9	77.5	11.6%	35
<b>41st</b>	<b>T-30th</b>	<b>84th</b>	<b>T-141st</b>	<b>26th</b>

RANK AMONG 418 FBS EDGES

## KEY STARTERS

### SAF: BRANDON JOSEPH

Notre Dame has a former All-American to replace another All-American in Kyle Hamilton, as Joseph — who transferred from Northwestern — exploded in 2020 with an 88.5 coverage grade (top-three in the FBS). He took a minor step back in 2021 — particularly in run defense — but was still strong against the pass with a 77.2 coverage grade.

### C: JARRETT PATTERSON

Mr. Clean should seek out a partnership with Patterson because their brand's name is the perfect representation of his game. Bucketing him with Power Five centers in 2021, Patterson ranked third in negatively graded run-block rate and first in pass-blocking grade. He has yet to allow a sack on over 1,300 career pass-block snaps.

### DI: JAYSON ADEMILOLA

Ademilola enters his fifth year in the collegiate ranks and is coming off the most productive season of his career. He turned in a grade above 73.0 against the run and as a pass-rusher, joining just 26 other FBS interior defensive linemen to accomplish that feat for the year.

## X'S AND O'S

### OFFENSE

#### OC: TOMMY REES



GAP RUNS

**27th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**76th**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

### DEFENSE

#### DC: AL GOLDEN



MAN COVERAGE



BLITZ HAPPY



MUG FRONTS

**8th**

2021 EPA Per Pass Rank

**53rd**

2021 EPA Per Run Rank

Explosive Play Rate	Pressure Rate Allowed	3rd Down Conversion Rate	Havoc Rate	Pressure Rate	3rd Down Conversion Rate
14.0%	26.1%	42.5%	12.7%	34.7%	32.6%
<b>22nd</b>	<b>36th</b>	<b>49th</b>	<b>48th</b>	<b>35th</b>	<b>9th</b>