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## A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by Conosticator - 2008/03/31 22:20

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Monday, March 31, 2008

The Monday Morning Wash

Spring is once again in the air and there is a flurry of Spring sports activity going on over at Montlake. Not much news about football this past week, but that will soon change since Spring practice is about to get under way.

The Husky football team has a lot of new faces on the coaching staff, and hopefully that will help the defense rebound from the most dismal season in modern football history. On the offensive side of the ball most can't wait to see if Jake Locker is an improved passer. The game will obviously slow down for him this year, and while he will be throwing to a WR crew with little experience the talent level at that position is making a quantum leap. Keep an eye on newcomers Chris Polk, Anthony Boyles, and Devin Aguilar.

At RB with Rankin gone, the inside track on the starting tailback spot would logically fall to sophomore Brandon Johnson, who was Rankin's backup last year and is the most experienced tailback on the roster. Johnson showed a convincing flash of what he's capable of when he ran for 121 yards on 23 carries last season vs. California. The only other tailback on the team is fourth-year junior J.R. Hasty, who carried the ball six times last season. Two other tailbacks who redshirted the 2007 season will be given every chance to fight for playing time -- Willie Griffin and Brandon Yakaboski. For Hasty it is definitely do or die time, and it will take an eye opening performance this Fall to get him out of Ty's doghouse.

We all want to see improvement at TE. Gottleib should continue to improve as a blocker, but Izbicki should begin to challenge for the starting job after a year in the weight room. He just has more natural tools than the other guys. Johnnie Kirton will be studying in South Africa, so he will be missing Spring drills. We all of course are waiting for Kavario Middleton to arrive this fall.

The offensive line should continue to improve. By this Fall the Huskies should be close to where they need to be as far as depth, and experience go. They will be a little green behind the starting tackles as Fancher, and Armelin are only redshirts, so you hope that Habben, and Ossai can keep healthy. On the inside Garcia, Tolar, Bulyca, White-Frisbee, Shugert, Sedillo, and Rosborough match up well with great Husky lines of the past. Keep an eye on Shugert, he is a future star, and the future isn't that far away. Garcia should be the best center on the coast.

The bad news on the defensive side of the ball is the Huskies have to rebuild the defensive line. The good news of course is they are rebuilding perhaps the worst performing defensive line in the history of the school. Daniel Teo Nesheim is the only sure starter, all the other spots are up for grabs. The big question is whether Washington will go with a three man, or four man line? New DC Ed Donatell doesn't know for sure yet, but hints it will depend on the situation. He should have a better idea of what is going on after he evaluates the talent this Spring.

The LB's should be solid, and they represent one of the most experienced areas of the team. The question with these guys is health. They were walking wounded last year and it hindered their performance. Keep an eye on their health this Spring, I think that will be the key to their success.

The DB's lose some talent, but have a lot of new talent coming in the Spring and Fall. Wells will sit out the Spring rehabbing his knee, but will be back this Fall. Harris, and Forrester provide solid depth, and experience. That being said the improvement at the position will come if the young guys like Aiyewa, and Williams push the veterans to the side this Spring.

At CB Davenport will be the starter on one side with a free for all fight for the other side. Quinton Richardson is moving over from Safety, and if he breaks into the lineup the experiment could be a big deal because he can be an extra force shutting down the run. Going into Spring Murchison, McDowell, and Mosley have the most experience, and all three will get long looks.

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by lawman - 2008/04/01 00:31

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karma for this post in this long, bleak winter of an offseason....

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by Real.Men.Wear.Blue - 2008/04/01 08:32

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Looks like Willingham has his work cut out for him. Washington should have a decent offense, particularly if Locker can improve his passing. Although their running game should be marginal, Locker can keep the LBs and safeties honest with his own speed. Their O-Line looks to be decent, and the Huskies have a history of running good protection. Their defense looks to be the weak link again, though. Last year it was terrible. But they still have the BCS recruiting advantage, which will always attract solid athletes. But the Cougs should be able to exploit the Huskies' defense both on the ground and through the air.

I'm still not impressed with Willingham as a coach. He had one or two great years at Stanford, but his time at ND was awful. Rarely has someone done so little with so much talent. His recruiting was also very bad. He left the Irish completely depleted, which has added to Weis' misery. His teams are also not disciplined. If I'm a Huskie fan, I'm a little concerned for what the future holds (or more accurately, does not hold). Moreover, Bronco could beat up Ty any day of the week.

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by ProV1 - 2008/04/01 09:30

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Real.Men.Wear.Blue wrote:  
Bronco could beat up Ty any day of the week.

We have another T-shirt idea!

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by splitbamboo - 2008/04/01 09:40

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If I wrote that and then re-read it, I'd be really depressed. If I were a Husky fan reading that, I'd be really depressed.

As a Cougar fan, I'm stoked! Go Cougars!

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by Hengst - 2008/04/01 10:02

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splitbamboo wrote:  
If I wrote that and then re-read it, I'd be really depressed. If I were a Husky fan reading that, I'd be really depressed.

As a Cougar fan, I'm stoked! Go Cougars!

I don't know, i think there's plenty to be excited about with Jake Locker at the helm. At least they'll have some exciting stuff to watch (may not always translate into wins, but some excitement nonetheless).

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by MLOdawgs - 2008/04/01 14:30

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All Husky fans are depressed, but Locker and some of the bright spots on the team help. After all, when you have 26 winning seasons in a row, then 5 of the worst losing seasons in school history, it tends to get depressing between game days. Ty and his staff have set a LOT of records at UW. First coach in the 118 year history to have three losing seasons in a row, first head coach to not get fired after three bad years, the DC gave up the most yards and points on his defense in school history, including the most rushing yards one week (vs. Oregon) and a week or two later gave up the most

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passing yards ever in a game (vs. Arizona).

We are stoked that Kent Baer is gone and Ed Donatell is here. I mean, it can't possibly be worse than what we suffered through with three years of Baers bend and then break defenses.

The exciting parts of the team are Locker and the new talent at the skill positions. The WR's and RB's are frosh/soph with little experience but their raw athletic talent is light years ahead of what we just got rid of due to graduation.

Locker is not as bad as the numbers indicate. His problem is a combination of things such as he admitted himself that he gets so excited and jazzed during the game he sometimes forgets to breathe and puts too much hot sauce on his passes. Some of you said he has a weak arm... that can't be further from the truth. He was the state baseball player of the year and was a baseball draft pick as a pitcher as he has a 90+ mph fast ball. His problem is touch, he sometimes throws perfect beautiful passes but other times he throw lasers that sail over the WR's heads. The other problem was the craptacular WR's. Russo and Reece have some talent, but they and the other 3 senior WR's dropped way too many passes and couldn't get open to save their lives. Part of that was because of Lockers cannon attached to his shoulder but it was also just WR's that were not very good.

The strength of the team on offense this year will be the offensive line which returns 4/5 starters and 7/8 who played last year and of course Locker who is a nightmare for defenses to scheme against. He had a lot of the freshman jitters and head scratching decisions last year so hopefully the game will slow down for him this year as it seemed to do as last year went on. On defense the strength is the linebackers, the weakness is the frosh defensive line as we return only one starter from last year, Teo-neisheim.

It was opposites last year. The offense started slow and got better as the year wen't on and the defense started good and just plain got worse every week, it was pathetic. The really frustrating part is Ty's history of being in the game the first half, making zero half-time adjustments, and then falling apart in the 2nd half. I can't tell you how many times our Dawgs were either in the lead, tied, or within a field goal at half time just to see the game completely implode in the 2nd half. Extremely frustrating.

If we had even a DECENT defense last year, we would have won quite a few games as our offense often put up points, but our defense didn't bother to show up at all. We lost a lot of leads that our defense couldn't hang onto for us. In fact, as the year went on and it got blatantly obvious just how pathetic Kent Baers defense was, Ty lost confidence in the defense to stop anything and started taking chances with the offense which resulted in idiotic game plans where Locker threw the ball 30 times (see Hawaii game) when all you had to do was look at the California and Stanford games where we ran the ball down their throats all game long. The strength of the team was the big offensive line and running down hill on people.

A lot of Husky fans think Ty is a moron, a good person, but a horrible head coach. He should be coaching high school teams. And then there are a few who are too young to remember Don James and what Washington football used to be. I mean Lambright got fired for what we would be giddy about right now if Ty could achieve the same. Neu had a couple great years and just six years ago we finished 3rd in the nation, so the dramatic collapse of the program is mind boggling.

Holy crap, did I just type that much? I should of opened my own blog!

Anyways I just wasted at least five minutes of work time so I have to go.

Here is the bright spots we expect this year:

Jake Locker 2007 Highlights:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMfiq9CXss8>

Udub Running game:  
Vs. California: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afy44jLiqMw&feature=related>  
Vs. Stanford: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mL96bfN0xEU&feature=related>

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**Re:A UW blogger talks about his team**

Posted by detmer4prez - 2008/04/01 14:57

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Wow. Thanks MLOdawgs for that insight without flaming. Karma to you.

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by rackem - 2008/04/01 15:19

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detmer4prez wrote:

Wow. Thanks MLOdawgs for that insight without flaming. Karma to you.

Ditto +1

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## Re:A UW blogger talks about his team

Posted by CavemanCougar - 2008/04/01 16:52

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Did I read they are rebuilding perhaps their worst defensive line ever? BYU is returning 3-4 starters on their offensive line? BYU will be an offensive power house. This SHOULD be an easy W for BYU.

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