

Ward Prime for NFL Competition

By Corey Brown
Ink Sports Columnist

Charlie Ward is an exceptional college quarterback.

The question most people are asking is whether or not he can

(Oklahoma) were true to this form, but the simple fact is all black quarterbacks have been labeled this way.

Too many times I hear of the intelligence of white quarterbacks like Joe Montana or John Elway

David Klinger.

Each of these QBs are similar in stature, but each have distinct styles to set them apart.

Ward stands alone in terms of the intangibles. While others might rely too heavily on having

a strong arm, Ward plays within his limitations and exerts extreme control.

Speaking of Sports

excel on the National Football League level.

Not only that, but people have given him the ultimate insult in saying that he might get drafted to play cornerback or some other position.

This statement both irritates and disturbs me.

Going back to the days of Johnny Walton in Philadelphia, black quarterbacks have always received a bad knock.

QB's like Jeff Blake (ECU) and Major Harris (West Virginia) have been viewed as only being able to function in an offense that utilized the option.

In actuality, Tony Rice (Notre Dame) and Charles Thompson

for their on-field execution.

Yet when Warren Moon or Randall Cunningham performs the same task it is because of "natural ability" or "pure athleticism."

For these reasons black quarterbacks have not been taken seriously.

Ward has a chance to help improve on this situation. Granted he may not be the tallest or have the strongest arm, but he has a tremendous amount of poise and coach Bobby Bowden stands firm behind the decisions Ward makes.

At 6 feet 2 inches tall, 190 pounds, Ward measures up to other NFL starting quarterbacks. Rick Mirer, Rodney Peete and

Despite the loss to Notre Dame, the play of Ward was solid. The play calling, on the other hand left much to be desired.

By being in the Florida State system, Ward is already better prepared than the average college quarterback, he has a firm grasp of pro-styled offenses already.

Statistically speaking, there have been better and more heralded QB's that have come out of college. Ty Detmer, Gino Toretta and Vinny Testaverde all received considerable hype, but where are they now? Testaverde is the only one who is, after years in the pros, finally looking decent.

What stands out as most frustrating, is that black QB's have



Ward has received the usual criticisms faced by black QB's of the past and present.

still not had an equal chance to perform. I mean I am a die-hard Pittsburgh Steeler fan and I have suffered through such "greats" as Mark Malone and Bubby Brister. Believe me, Ward can do no worse in the pros than these

two.

Now with all this I say, Ward can and will make his mark in the NFL. Not as receiver, not as a nickel back, but as a quarterback.

Unless of course he pursues a basketball career... Nah.

It's Tip-Off Time! College Basketball Preview

By TJ Stancil
Ink Staff Writer

Well, welcome to another edition of Black Ink Sports!

I know everyone is ready for the start of basketball season, especially behind the Heels' 1993 championship run.

The first official game for the Tar Heels was a victory Wednesday over Western Kentucky in the Pre-season National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

This year I expect our team to handily win the majority of their games en route to another title. (Despite the unexpected decision of Pat Sullivan to red-shirt this season.) We will see about that one, but here are my picks for the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) race:

1. North Carolina
2. Duke
3. Florida State
4. Georgia Tech

5. Maryland
6. Virginia
7. NC State
8. Clemson
9. Wake Forest

The Black Ink All-ACC (by position)
Player of the Year: James Forrest, Grant Hill (tie)

First Team:
Point guard- Cory Alexander, Virginia
Two guard- Bobby Sura, Florida State
Center- Eric Montross, North Carolina
Big Forward- James Forrest, Georgia Tech
Quick Forward- Grant Hill, Duke

Second Team:
Point guard- Travis Best, Georgia Tech
Second Guard- Randolph Childress, Wake Forest
Center- Sharone Wright, Clemson
Big Forward- Junior Burrough,

Virginia
Quick Forward- Martice Moore, Georgia Tech
Rookie of the Year: Jeff Capel, Duke (sorry, Stackhouse!)

Now, with the area interest out of the way, we can move on to national teams. There is a lot of parity this year, and about a dozen teams look strong enough to win it.

Arkansas will be back a year older and a lot stronger. California will also be older and smarter after a half season under new coach Todd Bozeman. UNC I've already mentioned, and Duke will seek a return to glory.

It's too early for me to analyze, so I'll go along with Street & Smith for now. But check my All-American teams:

Black Ink All-Americans (by position)

First Team:
Point Guard- Jason Kidd,

California
Two Guard- Billy McCaffery, Vanderbilt
Center- Eric Montross, North Carolina
Big Forward- Glenn Robinson, Purdue
Quick Forward- Grant Hill, Duke

Second Team:
Point Guard- Cory Alexander, Virginia
Second Guard- Lawrence Moten, Syracuse
Center- Othella Harrington, Georgetown
Big Forward- Deon Thomas, Illinois
Quick Forward- James Forrest, Georgia Tech

Street & Smith's Top Ten:
1. North Carolina
2. Arkansas
3. Louisville
4. Minnesota
5. Duke
6. California

7. Kentucky
8. Illinois
9. Virginia
10. Michigan

Well, a lot of predicting is good for basketball junkies, but nothing is proven until you hit the court. Take these predictions as guide, and not as law. At the end of the year, pick up this Ink, check my predictions, and if I'm big-time wrong, make me eat it.

The Final four will be in Charlotte this year, where I think the Tar Heels will win it in a close battle with either California, Arkansas, Michigan, or Duke, depending on the tournament brackets. Until next time, ya'll B-E-Z!!!

Peace to Corey "Black Ink Sports" Brown, Street & Smith's Basketball, ACC Poop Sheet, and