

2009 FOOTBALL ON THE BCS BUBBLE



AT VIRGINIA

When: Sept. 12
Location: Charlottesville, Va.
Time: 2:30 p.m.



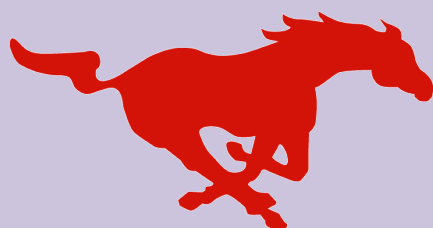
VS. TEXAS STATE

When: Sept. 19
Location: Fort Worth
Time: 6 p.m.



AT CLEMSON

When: Sept. 26
Location: Clemson, S.C.
Time: TBA



VS. SMU (Family Weekend)

When: Oct. 3
Location: Fort Worth
Time: 7 p.m.



AT AIR FORCE

When: Oct. 10
Location: USAFA, Colo.
Time: 6:30 p.m.



VS. COLORADO STATE (Clark Society)

When: Oct. 17
Location: Fort Worth
Time: 3 p.m.



AT BYU

When: Oct. 24
Location: Provo, Utah
Time: 6:30 p.m.



VS. UNLV (Homecoming)

When: Oct. 31
Location: Fort Worth
Time: 3 p.m.



AT SAN DIEGO STATE

When: Nov. 7
Location: San Diego, Calif.
Time: 3 p.m.



VS. UTAH

When: Nov. 14
Location: Fort Worth
Time: 6:30 p.m.



AT WYOMING

When: Nov. 21
Location: Laramie, Wyo.
Time: 1 p.m.



VS. NEW MEXICO

When: Nov. 28
Location: Fort Worth
Time: Noon

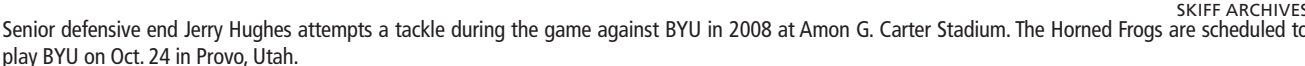


Season Breakdown: Long road to the top



Despite the embarrassing loss, Virginia is capable of much more than they showed and can't be overlooked, head

The Bobcats return 8 offensive starters from last year's team and should be loaded on offense, but the Horned Frog defense is the fastest they're likely to see all year. Bobcat senior quarterback Bradley George passed for more than 2,500 yards and 26 TDs last year, but this Horned Frog team won't be shaken at home. TCU wins, 49-14.



After two weeks to tune up the team, TCU will face its first major test Sept. 26. Wide receiver Jacoby Ford

SEE PREVIEW • PAGE 4

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FOOTBALL PREVIEW

QUARTERBACKS



Quarterback Andy Dalton prepares to throw the ball during the 2008 game against BYU at Amon G. Carter Stadium. Dalton, who is entering his third year as the starter, threw for 2,242 yards and 11 touchdowns during the 2008 season.

Dalton go-to guy for potential BCS run

By Austin Pearson
Staff Reporter

The Frogs will look to quarterback Andy Dalton to lead the team toward lofty expectations with leadership and poise in a balanced offense.

The Horned Frogs have redshirt junior Andy Dalton returning as he's entering his third year as the starter. Dalton returns after an excellent sophomore season where he threw for 2,242 yards with 11 touchdowns and only five interceptions. Dalton had a completion percentage of

“When you’re trying to be a leader you ask guys to do things, when you become older you tell guys to do things, and that’s really what he’s become.”

Gary Patterson
head coach

59.3 percent and he ran for 432 yards in 2008 with an average of 3.8 yards per carry and five touchdowns.

“When you’re trying to be a leader you ask guys to do things, when you become older you tell guys to do things, and that’s really what he’s become,” TCU head coach Gary Patterson said. “For us to be what we want

to be we need him to be a junior. He’s been a freshman or a sophomore, and so for us we need him to play well this year for us to uphold all the expectations that everyone has of us.”

Dalton has started 23 of the 24 games he has played in, but missed two games last year due to injury. He is second in career completions in school history with 404 and third all time in passing yards with 4,701. Dalton is a two-time bowl game Most Valuable Player and has the chance to join former West Virginia quarterback Pat White as the only quarterbacks in NCAA history to win four bowl games.

Backup quarterback Marcus Jackson has seen extensive playing time the past three seasons as he has played in 28 games and has started three of them. Last season Jackson threw for 372 yards with 3 touchdowns and two interceptions with a completion percentage of 56.5 percent. Jackson ran for 384 yards on 70 carries with four touchdown runs and a yards per carry average of 5.5.

He started two consecutive games last year, leading the Horned Frogs to victories over San Diego State and Colorado State.

Jackson was moved to safety for a brief time in the spring but the coaching staff decided to move him back to quarterback.

“We had depth problem in

the spring at safety,” Patterson said. “He did really well there but we felt like that we weren’t far along with our young quarterbacks to risk the chance of him not being the backup.”

Yogi Gallegos will likely be the third-string quarterback this season. He was the emergency third quarterback last season but was able to keep his redshirt and pick up experience while being on the road travel team.

Gallegos completed 60.5 percent of his passes for 2,401 yards and 15 touchdowns during his senior season at Irving High School.

Casey Pachall is a Rivals.com four-star recruit from Brownwood who enrolled in January and participated in spring drills. The coaching staff is unsure if Pachall will redshirt this season.

“We really don’t decide on a redshirt until about the sixth or seventh game of the season where it is about half way through because you don’t know about injuries or anything else that goes on,” Patterson said. “It was a very close battle, but he’s been out for almost seven days with flu so it’s one of those situations where he’s lost some ground and some time.”

Pachall turn downed offers from Florida, Michigan, Nebraska and Notre Dame to play for the Horned Frogs. He was rated as the No.9 dual-threat quarterback and was ranked as a top 250 player nationally by Rivals.

RUNNING BACKS

Strong corps could rotate

By Mary Sue Greenleaf
Staff Reporter

This year’s offense is returning with a strong group of running backs, head coach Gary Patterson said.

Patterson said that the Horned Frogs will probably run another running back by committee system this season with five backs who could rotate in.

“We feel like we have five backs that are guys that can be somebody that we can lead with,” Patterson said.

Among these is returning senior tailback Joseph Turner who led TCU last year in rushing yards with 577, as well as 146 carries and 11 touchdowns.

Another returner is senior tailback Ryan Christian.

Christian is a multipurpose player who can catch and play at wide receiver as well as return kickoffs, Patterson said.

In 2008, Christian had 30 receptions, 386 rushing yards,

“Ed Wesley will probably be your starter.”

Gary Patterson
head coach

and 841 all-purpose yards. He also had one solo tackle.

Ed Wesley, a redshirt freshman tailback from MacArthur High School in Irving, is expected to play a major role in the offense this season, Patterson said.

“Ed Wesley will probably be your starter,” Pat-

NUMBERS
577 Number of rushing yards Joseph Turner had last season.
30 Number of receptions Ryan Christian made last season.
72 Number of rushing yards Chris Smith had last season.

erson said.

Although there are two strong returning seniors, Patterson said he is confident in Wesley’s abilities and speed.

“He is one of our all-purpose backs,” Patterson said.

In addition to Wesley, Turner and Christian, there are other backs who Patterson says will rotate in this season.

Sophomore fullback Luke Shivers will rotate in this season and is a big back, Patterson said.

Shivers played in 12 games last season with six rushing yards on two carries, both resulting in touchdowns against UNLV and Air Force.

Senior tailback Chris Smith will also rotate in.

Smith had 72 rushing yards in 2008.

Patterson said that all five of these primary backs do different things and to expect to see things out of all five this season.

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FOOTBALL PREVIEW



Courtesy of ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS
Center Jake Kirkpatrick blocks for the offensive line in a game against Air Force last November.

Chemistry is key for line

By Mary Sue Greenleaf
Staff Reporter

Despite the loss of three-time All-Mountain West Conference center Blake Schlueter, this season's offensive line, with three returning starters, looks to be a major component for the success of the offense, said head coach Gary Patterson.

With the loss of Schlueter, the Horned Frog offense made adjustments and gained depth in the position of center. Junior Jake Kirkpatrick will start this season, Patterson said.

"If we're gonna be a good football team then Jake Kirkpatrick has to step up and be the guy," Patterson said. "The guys behind him have to step up and be who they are too."

Redshirt freshman James Fry is expected to back up Kirkpatrick at center, Patterson said.

Patterson said Kirkpatrick was injured early in camp this

summer but recovered and returned to start the season strong.

Senior Marshall Newhouse will start his third season as left tackle. Newhouse, cousin of former Dallas Cowboys full-back Robert Newhouse, made second-team All-MWC last season and has started the last 26 consecutive games at offensive tackle for the Frogs.

Junior Marcus Cannon and senior Nic Richmond are expected to alternate at right tackle, Patterson said.

"Nic Richmond, Marcus Cannon and Marshall Newhouse are three of our best players on our team," Patterson said. "They are one of our strengths of our offense."

Cannon was named All-MWC honorable-mention. Due to an injury last season, Cannon did not start against BYU and UNLV, but Richmond, who played in all 13 games last season,

stepped up and helped lead the Horned Frogs to victories.

At left guard, sophomore Kyle Dooley is returning after a season-ending injury in the UNLV game in 2008. As a former walk-on, Dooley started five consecutive games last season before his injury.

Josh Vernon will start at right guard. In 2008, Vernon played in 12 games and backed up the position of left guard.

Backing up the starters at guard are redshirt freshman Blaize Foltz and junior Zach Roth. Both Foltz and Roth redshirted last season.

Patterson said the line as a whole looked strong for the season with depth and experience.

"They have great chemistry but you don't really know about how well they come together until we see them in the first ball game," Patterson said.

PREVIEW

continued from page 2

big question mark coming in to the season. Adding Trotter to an already productive offense should make them respectable on that side of the ball.

The problem in Las Vegas has been the defense, which finished second to last in the Mountain West in total defense last year.

After BYU this could be a bit of a letdown game, but the Frogs wear down the Rebels' defense in the second half.

TCU wins, 33-21.

San Diego State

Under new head coach Brady Hoke, the Aztecs are in for a long rebuilding year in 2009.

After jumping out to a shocking 14-3 lead on UCLA last Saturday, San Diego State began playing like the team most expected on its way to a 33-14 loss. The Aztecs were woeful running the football (18 rushes for 39 yards) and were forced to put the game in the arm of sophomore quarterback Ryan Lindley.

Lindley might be a player to watch as he gets more experience, but his stat line (18-45, 238 yards, 2 TDs, 3 INTs) won't cause a whole lot of worry for now.

Last year's bottom-ranked defense returns with most starters back and a new coordinator in former New Mexico head coach Rocky Long. Long is installing his 3-3-5 defense this year, but it won't come without growing pains.

San Diego State won't be

much of a threat this year, but there is light on the horizon for the Aztecs.

TCU wins, 45-10.

Utah

Revenge is the name of the game here. After last year's disappointing three-point loss, the Utes will travel to Fort Worth in what should be a physical game.

New Utah quarterback Terrance Cain will have had plenty of time under center by the time he travels to Fort Worth, but this is an offense that returned only four starters. There will likely be at least a small drop off this year from last year's undefeated squad. However, if there is, they didn't look it in their opener.

The Utes beat Utah State 35-17 while piling up 519 yards of offense.

The Utah defense returns seven and should be strong again this year. Linebacker Stevenson Sylvester is the leader of the unit and is expected to have a big year. If he is unblocked, he will give the Frogs' offense fits.

The Frogs are glad to have the home field advantage in this one, and is also glad former Utah kicker Louie Sakoda has moved on. Utah is still a very tough match up, but not quite as scary as last year.

TCU wins, 24-17.

Wyoming

New Wyoming coach Dave Christensen is known for his offense at Missouri, but he may find he doesn't have the same success without Big 12 players.

The Cowboys beat FCS contender Weber State

29-22 on Saturday and put up much improved offensive numbers in their new spread, no huddle offense.

Wyoming is currently switching out quarterbacks and got decent play from both in week one. Its ground game also impressed as running backs Darius Terry and Alvester Alexander combining for 180 rushing yards.

The Cowboys return eight defensively and should be capable. Wyoming will play tough, but this is not its year.

TCU wins, 30-17.

New Mexico

After the Lobos lost their defensive specialist coach to San Diego State last November, and with only three starters returning on that side of the ball, New Mexico is in for a long year.

Texas A&M started the party last Saturday by ripping New Mexico in a 606 yard, 41-6 cleaning.

The Lobos moved to a more traditional 4-3 defensive scheme under new coach Mike Locksley, and while one game isn't nearly enough to judge, things certainly don't look good in Albuquerque.

Adding to their woes, the Lobos' ground game was horrendous. They carried the ball 24 times for 21 yards.

The only bright spot on the Lobos' season will be quarterback Donovan Porterie who was 29-40 for 210 yards and no interceptions. While much can change before the regular season finale, right now the Lobos are regressing.

TCU wins, 48-6 to close the season 11-1.

“Ring leader” Kerley helps head talented receiving group

By Chris Blake
Staff Reporter

During his senior year at Hutto High School, Jeremy Kerley's team was down at halftime to Waco Robinson in a first round playoff game. Kerley had the flu, but went to head coach Lee Penland at the intermission and said if the Hippos needed to put the ball in his hands on every play in order to win, then he would take it.

Penland did not give Kerley the ball every play and Hutto went on to lose the game 49-27, a year after falling in the state championship game to Tatum. Despite the loss, Penland said it was Kerley's willingness to take the team on his shoulders that stuck out.

"Greatest competitor I've ever been around," Penland said of Kerley, who will be used as a punt returner for the Frogs. "I've just never been around a guy who loved to play the game, who loved competing, who didn't like to lose and just practiced as hard as he could and was as competitive as Jeremy Kerley."

Kerley will not be asked to carry quite that much of a load this fall for the Horned Frogs,

since TCU has four of its top seven receivers back. Still it will be Kerley's versatility and competitive streak that provides a boost.

"He's definitely competitive; sometimes it hurts him with his size of body he gets banged up a little bit," head coach Gary Patterson said. "But one of the ball games last year on the goal line he had to run over somebody to score a touchdown, a big defensive lineman, and he did so."

His role for the Frogs, lining up just about everywhere on offense, is not the first time the junior from Hutto, Texas has been asked to play multiple positions. Penland said Kerley started at quarterback all four years of high school for the Hutto squad, expanding his duties to defensive back, kick returner, punt returner, punter and kicker as a senior.

"We played a team one time and (the opposing coach) after the game asked us, 'Are y'all going to make Kerley drive the bus home?' He did everything else but drive the bus," Penland said. "He was definitely the focal point and the ring leader."

Along with Kerley, the Frogs will return junior Jimmy Young,

who came 12 yards short of 1,000 receiving yards last season, which put him second on the school's single season list. Junior Bart Johnson will also be back after he caught 15 passes for 206 yards and a touchdown in 2008.

Despite losing Walter Bryant, who was third on the team in receptions a year ago, the team has a bevy of underclassmen ready to go, Patterson said. He named sophomore Antoine Hicks and true freshman Skye Dawson as other players who will play a part in the rotation at wide receiver.

Tight end is a position at which the Frogs graduated a big red zone target in Shae Reagan. Junior Evan Frosch is the only returning tight end who had a catch last season.

Patterson said the team will use a rotation of four tight ends this season as Frosch, sophomores Logan Brock and Luke Shivers, and redshirt freshman Corey Fuller will all see playing time.

With so many players set to rotate on offense, opposing defenses aren't the only ones that Kerley and the crew will keep off balance.

NUMBERS

95

Number of receiving yards last season

143

Number of rushing yards last season

3

Number of rushing touchdowns last season

"Since I've been here in '98 with the exception of maybe (LaDainian Tomlinson) and Basil Mitchell in the backfield together, to me overall this offense has more weapons than in any time since I've been here," play-by-play announcer Brian Estridge said.

With all the weapons, it is still Kerley who creates the most excitement.

"There were times last year when I thought to myself 'they need to get the ball in Kerley's hands' and I think this year that's not going to be a problem," Estridge said.



Courtesy of ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS
Junior wide receiver Jeremy Kerley had 11 receptions during the 2008 season and was the Frogs' sixth-leading rusher with 143 yards.

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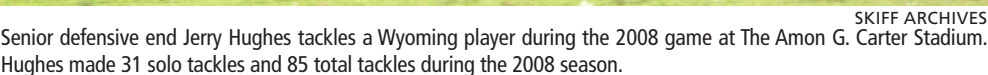
Linebackers still strong with loss

Because the Horned Frogs

Brock was a three time all-state selection at Copperas Cove High School and recorded 693 tackles in his career there, the school's all-time record by more than 400 tackles.

Hughes steps up leadership

Hughes came to TCU from Sugar Land, Texas as an all-district running back out of Austin High School, but the coaches switched him to defensive end when he arrived at the university. The gamble paid off his junior year: On top of being named to



The award is based on a culmination of coaches, media and fan voting. Students can vote for Hughes via text messaging and at SeniorCLASSAward.com in

The younger guys stepped up in the summertime during workouts and two-a-days

Junior DE Wayne Daniels recorded his first sack in a 48-7 win at SMU in 2008, and eight of his 11 tackles during the season were solo tackles. Sophomore DT Ross Forrest and junior NT Kelly Griffin also played in 11 of 13 games last season. However, with the loss of experienced starters, the defensive line will rotate eight to 11 players, Patterson said.

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2009 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

CONFERENCE PREVIEW



TONY GUTIERREZ / AP Photo

Oklahoma defensive end Auston English , left, and safety James Winchester (86) sack BYU quarterback Max Hall, center, in the second half Saturday in Arlington. BYU won 14-13.

Mountain West champion will face tough opposition

By Doug Alden
AP Sports Writer

The Mountain West Conference title has spent all but one of the last six years in the state of Utah. TCU's 2005 championship was the only one since 2003 not won by Utah or BYU. The Horned Frogs came painfully close to winning another last year, but a mistake-filled fourth quarter allowed Utah to rally for a 13-10 win and go on to an MWC title and an unbeaten season.

The league is coming off a frustrating offseason. Repeated pushes for changes in the Bowl Championship Series were unsuccessful despite the MWC having the only unbeaten team in major college football last season. Utah holds the nation's longest winning streak, which reached 14 when the Utes beat Alabama 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl. The Utes finished No. 2 in the final AP poll and revived a campaign for change, but coach Kyle Whittingham says that argument ends with the new season.

"That's really not my arena to lobby and politick for something," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "That's something for our commissioner, our president and the athletic directors to debate. I just need to try to continue to win games."

The Utes became the fifth straight conference champion to go 8-0 in the league, a streak that started with Utah's unbeaten Fiesta Bowl team of 2004.

TCU was 8-0 in 2005, then BYU won back-to-back titles by going 16-0 through 2006 and 2007. Utah regained the crown last year, but is missing three-year starting quarterback Brian Johnson and All-American kicker Louie Sakoda. Defensive standouts Paul Kruger and Sean Smith left school early for the NFL.

"Every year is a new set of circumstances," Whittingham said.

BYU

Key players: QB Max Hall, Sr.; RB Harvey Unga, Jr.; TE Dennis Pitta, Sr.; DE Jan Jorgensen, Sr. Returning starters: 4 offense, 8 defense.

Hall passed for 3,957 yards and 35 touchdowns last fall, but will be missing his favorite target. BYU's two-year unbeaten streak in the Mountain West ended last year with losses to TCU and Utah — two teams that have to visit Provo this fall. ... Unga needs 841 yards to tie Curtis Brown's career rushing record. ... BCS hopes will begin or end with the season opener against Oklahoma at the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium.

Utah

Key players: RB Matt Asiata, Sr.; LB Stevenson Sylvester, Sr.; DE Koa Misi. Returning starters: 4 offense, 7 defense.

Utah has the nation's longest winning streak at 14 straight games. The Utes return from their unbeaten run through 2008 without an experienced quarterback to replace three-year starter Brian Johnson. Coach Kyle Whittingham also has new coordinators on both offense and defense after losing three assistants.

Air Force

Key players: QB Tim Jefferson, So.; RB Asher Clark, So.; DB Reggie Rembert, Jr. Returning starters: 5 offense, 6 defense.

After an 8-2 start, the Falcons fizzled with two losses to end the regular season and a 34-28 loss to Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl. With a year of experience, the young Falcons could make another push if they can pull off an upset or two.

Colorado State

Key players: QB Grant Stucker, Sr.; RB John Mosure, Jr.; LB Mychal Sisson, So. Returning starters: 7 offense, 5 defense.

The Rams were the biggest surprise of the league a year ago under new coach Steve Fairchild, who guided his alma mater to a 7-6 finish capped

by a win over Fresno State in the New Mexico Bowl. ... The Rams have a difficult schedule with games at BYU and TCU, but do get defending champion Utah at home.

New Mexico

Key players: QB Brad Gruner, So.; QB Donovan Porterie, Sr.; WR Chris Hernandez, Jr.; LB Clint McPeck, Sr. Returning starters: 8 offense, 3 defense.

New coach Mike Locksley left his post as offensive coordinator at Illinois for his first head coaching job after Rocky Long stepped down. The Lobos passed for all of four touchdowns last season.

UNLV

Key players: QB Omar Clayton, Jr.; WR Ryan Wolfe, Sr.; LB Jason Beauchamp, Sr. Returning starters: 6 offense, 8 defense.

After winning two games in each of coach Mike Sanford's first three seasons, the Rebels exploded for five victories last year.

San Diego State

Key players: QB Ryan Lindley, So.; RB Atiyah Henderson, Sr.; LB Luke Laolagi, Sr. Returning starters: 8 offense, 7 defense.

The Aztecs have a new coach in Brady Hoke, who took Ball State to consecutive bowl games in his last two seasons with the Cardinals. The Aztecs averaged 19 points last season and allowed an average of 37.

Wyoming

Key players: QB Karsten Sween, Sr.; QB Dax Crum, Jr.; LB Gabe Knapton, So.; S Chris Prosinski, Jr. Returning starters: 7 offense, 8 defense.

After helping lead Missouri to the Big 12 championship game the past two seasons, Dave Christensen will try to revive Wyoming. The Cowboys finished their last season under coach Joe Glenn at 4-8, just 1-7 in the conference to tie for last with San Diego State — the MWC team Wyoming beat last season.

NCAA 10 good for Frog gamers

By Travis L. Brown
Sports Editor

Most preseason college football polls placed the Horned Frog football team at No. 17 in the nation. There is, however, one poll that few account for but that many put stock in each year. It's also the only poll that the college football fan must purchase to access. This ranking system is the NCAA Football franchise from EA Sports.

This year, TCU comes in at No. 19 in the virtual nation, the best rank TCU has been awarded by EA in several years. Just as it is in the real Amon G. Carter Stadium, this representation of the Frogs is led by a much improved and more reliable Andy Dalton at quarterback. Dalton's play making ability and speed are greatly improved in NCAA 10 compared to the '09 offering and gamers will find his heightened ability to throw on the run a valuable asset.

TCU's impact players, or players who have the most game-changing ability, include defensive end Jerry Hughes, halfback Joseph Turner and cornerback Rafael Priest. Hughes was selected a virtual All-American by EA and is the top rated player on the Horned Frog squad with a 94 overall rating.

EA gave TCU a B overall rating in NCAA 10, with a B offense and a B- defense.

The most impressive addition to the TCU playbook in NCAA 10 is the addition of TCU's sneaky Wild Frog formation found listed as "Wild Frog" under the Shotgun package. With a little pre-play tweaking the gamer can drop Jeremy Kerley back in shotgun and send Dalton out wide for the two to connect on an option pass.

A few new aesthetic features were added to TCU in NCAA 10, the most obvious being the addition of the new Dutch Meyer Athletic Complex & Abe Martin Academic Enhancement Center to Amon Carter Stadium. Also, NCAA 10 provides the gamer the ability to customize each team's uniform and offers TCU's black jerseys worn at home in 2008 against BYU and in TCU's bowl game against Boise State.

EA's new offering, NCAA 10, hit stores July 14. This newest version offers new features like Season Showdown, where the gamer can select a school to play for and each game they play tallies points toward the ultimate goal of being the best represented school in the nation. Also new to the NCAA franchise is Teambuilder mode, where the user can go

For an NCAA 10 simulation of the upcoming Frogs game, check dailyskiff.com.

online and create their own school and players, and can even upload their own logos to put on uniforms and the field.

Vast improvements were made this year in the career Road to Glory mode, where gamers take one created player through their entire college career in quest of a National Championship and a Heisman Trophy. This year, through a partnership with ESPN, reporter Erin Andrews chronicles the career of the created player using highlights generated in game play. Her commentary is assisted by ESPN college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit.

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