

... AND IN THE FUTURE?

With the success of quarterbacks like **DAVID CARR**, **DAUNTE CULPEPPER**, **BYRON LEFTWICH**, **CHAD PENNINGTON**, **TIM RATTAY**, and rookie **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**, smaller schools are now receiving visits from NFL scouts more than ever. In the last four years, there have been three first-round picks from the Mid-American Conference (Leftwich, Pennington, and Roethlisberger). The reason behind the success? Players are being developed quicker at all levels of the sport.

So says **GIL BRANDT**, who oversaw the Dallas Cowboys’ personnel department for 29 years and shares his gridiron knowledge on NFL.com. “Most high schools have now become predominantly passing teams,” says Brandt. “The extensive seven-on-seven high school summer leagues are producing more college quarterbacks than ever before.”

“In turn, the colleges are now passing much more. As an example, at Oklahoma, -- a traditional running team -- last year Heisman-Trophy quarterback **JASON WHITE** threw 40 touchdown passes. This has been very helpful in the development of quarterbacks who are now more ready to play at a high level than ever before.

Michigan, which has a long history of being a running team, has become a pass-oriented offense. Former Michigan quarterback **TOM BRADY** has won two Super Bowls in the last three years.”

Brandt thinks that NFL success of quarterbacks from mid-major conferences has given scouts even more confidence in the ability of these players to come in and play at a high level.

Who are among the best of some of these young college quarterbacks? Following are Brandt’s choices for the top five senior QBs in college today (listed alphabetically):

PLAYER	HT/ WT	BRANDT’S ANALYSIS
Charlie Frye, Akron	6-3, 227	“Could be fourth QB from M.A.C. to be drafted in first round in five years.”
David Greene, Georgia	6-3, 224	“Outstanding person. Great work habits. A four-year starter at Georgia.”
Dan Orlovsky, Connecticut	6-4, 220	“Has a big arm and athletic ability. Has been very productive on every level.”
Kyle Orton, Purdue	6-4, 217	“Smart, instinctive player. Grasps things quickly. Understands the game.”
Jason White, Oklahoma	6-2, 225	“Outstanding leader. Heisman Trophy winner. Can make big plays.”

BRANDT’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **TYLER EMMERT**, Carrol College (Montana); **MATT LEINART**, USC; **BRAD SMITH**, Missouri; **ANDREW WALTER**, Arizona State; **CHARLIE WHITEHURST**, Clemson.

The talent pool will only deepen with these five high school seniors, rated in order of talent by high school recruiting guru **TOM LEMMING**:

PLAYER	HT/WT	HIGH SCHOOL	LEMMING’S ANALYSIS
Greg Paulus	6-2, 180	Syracuse Christian (Syracuse, NY)	“A mix between Joe Montana and Brett Favre.”
Mark Sanchez	6-3, 210	Mission Viejo (Mission Viejo, CA)	“Classic drop back, pro-style quarterback.”
Ryan Perrilloux	6-4, 210	East St. John (Reserve, LA)	“Ahead of Donovan McNabb as a high school QB.”
Jonathan Crompton	6-4, 205	Tuscola (Waynesville, NC)	“Strong-armed kid.”
Jake Christiansen	6-1, 195	Lockport Township (Lockport, IL)	“Lefty with mobility that has won the big games.”

LEMMING’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **HARRISON BECK** (Clearwater, FL), Countryside HS; **JOSH PORTIS** (Taft, CA), Woodland Hills HS; and **DEREK SHAW** (Oceanside, CA), Oceanside HS.



NFL QUARTERBACKS – THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE BETTER THEY GET!

Not only are they better, they’re *bigger* too.

While this is undoubtedly one of the golden ages of quarterback play the NFL has ever experienced, the men lining up under center are also getting bigger and bigger.

Minnesota’s **DAUNTE CULPEPPER**, at 6-4, 260 pounds, is the second heaviest quarterback in the NFL – and also one of its best. Entering his sixth season, Culpepper excels with both his arm and his legs, averaging 22.5 touchdown passes per season as a starter while also rushing for at least 400 yards in four consecutive seasons.

“The world’s best athletes are playing quarterback,” says former NFL passer **SEAN SALISBURY**, now an ESPN analyst. “And some of those great athletes happen to be very large people.”

According to the NFL Record and Fact Book, in 1974, the average NFL quarterback weighed 204 pounds and was 6-2. Today, while the average height has remained consistent, the average weight has risen to 222 pounds. In 1974, 28.8 percent of quarterbacks (30 of 104) weighed less than 200 pounds, while today that figure is just 5.2 percent (seven of 133).

A look at the comparison of the heaviest quarterbacks from the 1974 and 2004 NFL Record and Fact Books:

<u>1974</u>				<u>2004</u>			
QB	TEAM	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	QB	Team	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
Dennis Shaw	St. Louis	6-2	230	Jared Lorenzen	NY Giants	6-3	288
Frank Kolch	Pittsburgh	6-4	225	Daunte Culpepper	Minnesota	6-4	260
Bobby Douglass	Chicago	6-4	225	Nathan Chandler	Buffalo	6-6	257
Mike Wells	Minnesota	6-5	225	John Navarre	Arizona	6-6	250
Marty Domres	Baltimore	6-4	222	Quinn Gray	Jacksonville	6-3	246