

QBs FAVORITE QBs

Everybody has a favorite quarterback – even quarterbacks!

Asked who his favorite is, a guy chosen by many others – **MICHAEL VICK** – chooses **TOM BRADY**. “I like him because he seems like he is one of the coolest, calmest guys under pressure,” says Vick.

Some NFL QBs choose their favorite QBs:

QUARTERBACK	FAVORITE QB	WHY
Jason Campbell, Wash.	Steve McNair	“He’s always been my idol. I admire his toughness and all-around ability.”
David Carr, Houston	Brett Favre	“His energy rubs off on his teammates and it is obvious, just by watching him play, that he is one of the top quarterbacks to ever play the game.”
Jake Delhomme, Carolina	Tom Brady	“He doesn’t get too greedy. When the game is on the line, he makes the play.”
Rex Grossman, Chicago	Tom Brady	“Has led his team to three Super Bowl wins and that’s the ultimate goal.”
Peyton Manning, Ind.	Brett Favre	“No lead is ever safe when playing Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers.”
Matt Mauck, Denver	Brett Favre	“I like him for the toughness he shows and because of the extreme level that he competes on every time.”
Mike McMahon, Phila.	Brett Favre	“Because he’s Brett Favre.”
Steve McNair, Tenn.	Brett Favre	“Because of his toughness and the energy that he brings to the game.”
Jesse Palmer, NY Giants	Peyton Manning	“Because of how efficient he is, how well he executes his offense, up and down the field at a high tempo.”
Chad Pennington, NY Jets	Peyton Manning	“It’s almost as if he’s a step ahead of what the defense is going to do.”
Jim Sorgi, Ind.	Peyton Manning	“I admire his work ethic, his preparation, the hard work he puts into everything to get ready for gameday.”

QUARTERBACKS OF THE FUTURE

The success of quarterbacks such as **DAVID CARR**, **DAUNTE CULPEPPER**, **BYRON LEFTWICH** and **CARSON PALMER** can be directly attributed to high school and college offenses developing more sophisticated aerial playbooks, and blue-chip college recruits playing football year-round in summer leagues and camps.

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.”

Another trend that’s developing is high school quarterbacks graduating early from high school and enrolling in college so they’re able to participate in spring practice and games. This allows the youngster to get a jump start on these sophisticated playbooks and get a taste of going “live” on the field in front of tens of thousands of fans for the first time.

Brandt thinks that these factors are contributing to the influx of young NFL quarterbacks being more and more ready early in their career.

“Young guys like Palmer, Carr and Leftwich are coming in and playing right away because they stayed four years in college and have been throwing and studying football year-round since high school,” says Brandt.

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
Brody Croyle, Alabama	6-2, 204	“Has good athletic ability and a live arm. Father was also a player at Alabama.”
Bruce Gradkowski, Toledo	6-2, 210	“MAC has become fertile ground for NFL quarterbacks.”
Matt Leinart, Southern California	6-4, 224	“Great production and leadership.”
Reggie McNeal, Texas A&M	6-2, 202	“Has started since his freshman year. Has Michael Vick athletic ability.”
Charlie Whitehurst, Clemson	6-4, 223	“Father played quarterback in the NFL. Should have big senior year.”

BRANDT’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **BRETT ELLIOTT**, Linfield (Oregon); **TYLER EMMERT**, Carrol College (Montana); **OMAR JACOBS**, Bowling Green; **CHAD HENNE**, Michigan; **CHRIS LEAK**, Florida; **TYLER PALCO**, Pittsburgh; **DREW TATE**, Iowa; **VINCE YOUNG**, Texas.

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
Zach Frazer	6-4, 220	Mechanicsburg Area (Harrisburg, PA)	“Bigger pro-style passer who is a perfect blend for Charlie Weis’ offense.”
Demetrius Jones	6-3, 192	Morgan Park (Chicago, IL)	“Rifle arm with Vince Young-like ability.”
Mitch Mustain	6-3, 190	Springdale (Springdale, AK)	“Outstanding motion and release with good accuracy.”
Matthew Stafford	6-1, 210	Highland Park (Dallas, TX)	“Very efficient and technically sound.”
Tim Tebow	6-2, 225	Nease (Jacksonville, FL)	“Best all-around quarterback prospect in the class.”

LEMMING’S HONORABLE MENTIONS: **DAVID CONE** (Statesboro, GA), Statesboro HS; **TAYLOR POTTS** (Abilene, TX), Abilene HS; **JEVAN SNEED** (Stephenville, TX), Stephenville HS.