

NAMES TO KNOW-BIG 12

Baylor Bears

Top Play: WR R.J. Sneed

Potential Bust: QB Gerry Bohanon

Sleeper: RB Abram Smith

Impact Transfer: n/a

Dynasty Prospect: RB Jordan Jenkins

Fantastic Freshman: QB Kyron Drones



Gerry Bohanon took the lead late in spring ball and is now considered the favorite by some to start for Baylor in 2021, and it makes sense given his dual-threat abilities which will be needed behind a porous offensive line that was one of the worst in the country last season. Zach Wilson had 70 rushing attempts in 2020, 50 of which were designed run plays, and I'd suspect we see that number grow if Bohanon winds up getting the nod with his skillset. 100 rushing attempts would be an outlier, though, with OC Jeff Grimes calling plays if looking back over the last seven years. Jacob Zeno, the favorite to begin spring ball, is the better passer of the two options and will have his chance this summer to unseat Bohanon. Baylor gets Texas State, Texas Southern and Kansas to begin the year so QB1 here has potential value before being a cut candidate after diving into Big 12 play.

If being honest, I firmly believe that regardless of who starts this season, they're just keeping the seat warm for **Kyron Drones** who was one of my favorite prospects to watch this offseason. *"Drones drew rave reviews for his physical talent and for his approach. "He might be the most freakish athlete of all of them in terms of strength, length, size, speed, all of it," Aranda said. "He's in there all the time watching film. He's not making it easy on (quarterbacks coach) Shawn (Bell). He's forcing Shawn to give him reps." – Per the Athletic*

Keep an eye on senior running back **Abram Smith** whom the staff asked to move back to running back this spring after spending time at linebacker. Grimes was looking for a powerful runner to suit his zone-heavy scheme ala Tyler Allgeier last year, and Smith just might fit the bill. Expect a shared backfield still with swiss army knife Trestan Ebner who has 19 career touchdowns via rushing, receiving and in the return game. Incoming freshman **Jordan Jenkins** fits a similar build at 6-foot-1, 202 pounds and was a two-sport athlete in high school, also running track. 247Sports likens him to Josh Adams, formerly of Notre Dame. **R.J. Sneed** returns as the leading receiver with 40 catches and three touchdowns on 60 targets

Iowa State Cyclones

Top Play: RB Breece Hall

Potential Bust: Sean Shaw Jr.

Sleeper: WR Tarique Milton

Impact Transfer: n/a

Dynasty Prospect: RB Jirehl Brock

Fantastic Freshman: WR Jaylin Noel



Breece Hall is RB1 and should be able to replicate his 2020 numbers with all five starters back along the offensive line for Iowa State. According to the senior running back, “trust me and mark my words. I’m gonna get everything I couldn’t have this season.” Sounds good to us. The more intriguing storyline is what happens behind Hall this year given 2021 will be his last, and no head coach has a better eye for finding talent at the position than Matt Campbell. If he’s sitting out there on the WW in your dynasty leagues, it would be wise to add RB2 **Jihrel Brock** immediately if the offseason reports are accurate. A former 4-star recruit who was actually ranked higher than Hall coming into college, Brock lost out on a chance to start due to injury, but has done all the right things since in terms of developing his body, garnering high praise from Campbell and his OC this spring. Campbell’s RB1s average 209-1,131-12 over the last seven years so this is obviously a priority for fantasy production.

It's not secret at this point the WR corps for Iowa State was a massive disappointment last year outside of Xavier Hutchinson who accounted for 46 percent of the target share amongst receivers. Having a healthy **Tarique Milton** for a full season will help immensely, and the hope is the staff kicks him back outside where his blazing speed can be better utilized (20.6 YPC in 2019). That might be possible if true freshman Jaylin Noel continues to develop as he apparently did in the spring.

This year, it's true freshman Jaylin Noel who's generating a ton of buzz. The 5-foot-10, 175-pound slot receiver has wowed everyone with an exceptional offseason. “Man, he’s got a chance to be a difference-maker,” Campbell said. “He’s got ‘it.’ He’s got the mentality Brock and Breece had as freshmen. He’ll make a push to be a big-time playmaker for us.” – Via the Athletic.

Noel starting in the slot could allow for Milton to shift back outside where he belongs, potentially kicking **Sean Shaw Jr.** out of a starting job as he has not developed the way the staff has wanted.

Kansas Jayhawks

Top Play: Starting Running Back

Potential Bust: Starting Running Back

Sleeper: Starting Running Back

Impact Transfer: QB Jason Bean

Dynasty Prospect: RB Amauri Pesek-Hickson

Fantastic Freshman: RB Devin Neal



Lance Leipold and his offensive staff ran primarily a pro-style offense during his time with Buffalo, but frequently mixed in spread concepts that will need to be considered in 2021 given they inherit three running quarterbacks on the current roster. North Texas transfer **Jason Bean** is the best athlete of the bunch with the most playing experience that I suspect will give him a leg up on the competition. Since being on campus, Bean has already won a Rock Chalk Rack award given to players “that are pushing the program in the right direction.” Buffalo did run Tyree Jackson a good bit during his time as the starter, including 99 times back in 2016, so we likely see something similar this year given the skillset of the QBs.

As with any Leipold offense, our primary focus is on the running backs where his RB1 and RB2 combined to averaged 1,800 rushing yards per season over the six years of his tenure with Buffalo. I admittedly remain conflicted here of when exactly to target these running backs and, more importantly, who to target. **Velton Gardner** and **Daniel Hishaw Jr.** are the holdovers, with the latter impressing in the last two games with a combined 160 yards rushing. Both backs are small, though, weighing under 195 pounds. Former Michigan commit **Amauri Pesek-Hickson** is the exact opposite at 235 pounds, and did rush for 100 yards on 22 carries against TCU last year. He was the surprise name that popped up as the RB1 for Phil Steele. Then there is the belle of the ball with 3-star **Devin Neal** who chose the Jayhawks over Iowa, Oklahoma State, Kansas State and Nebraska among others. Would be a shock to no one if Neal is the RB1 here by the end of the season and should be a priority dynasty pick because of upside for running backs in this scheme.

The question is – how early can these running backs contribute for you on your CFF roster? Kansas returns all five starters along the offensive line, but was one of the worst groups in the entire country a year ago. Leipold added a familiar name in Mike Novitsky who was an All-MAC performer a year ago and Colin Grunhard who played in 13 games over three seasons for Notre Dame. Is that enough to make significant strides? Looking back to Year 1 at Buffalo when Leipold took over in 2015, Anthonie Taylor and Jordan Johnson combined for 1,600 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns. Great right? Don’t forget that Taylor had rushed for 1,400 yards the prior year before Leipold was brought on, and the team’s overall YPC average dropped from 4.44 to 3.87. There is going to be a transition period here, make no mistake about it.

At the end of the day, I’m probably taking Devin Neal between rounds 2-3 of a non-startup dynasty draft because of the potential upside a Leipold RB1 brings to the table.

Kansas State Wildcats

Top Play: RB Deuce Vaughn

Potential Bust: RB Deuce Vaughn

Sleeper: QB Skylar Thompson

Impact Transfer: TE Daniel Imatorbhebhe

Dynasty Prospect: QB Will Howard

Fantastic Freshman: WR Brenen Hawkins



Deuce Vaughn became the first freshmen in the last decade to top the 600-yard rushing and 400-yard receiving mark in the same season. Vaughn also averaged nearly eight yards a touch, and his 16 plays of 20-yards or more were tied for most in the Big 12 along with Breece Hall. Despite his size at 5-foot-5, 171 pounds, Vaughn also forced a missed tackle on 20 percent of his carries in 2020. Can those explosive plays continue, or will we see a sharp regression? The 25 receptions in 10 games for Vaughn were the highest mark since 2014 under Chris Klieman with no other back topping 12 catches in a season. The RB1 under Klieman has also averaged just 168 carries per season over the last five years, and Kansas State gets back two players in Jacardia Wright and Joe Ervin who opted out last year. On the plus side, Vaughn and the other backs will be running behind an O-line that returns all five starters, and the staff feels confident that at least eight players are worthy of a starting job, so depth has improved.

Skylar Thompson scored 60 fantasy points in the first two games, including 40+ vs. Oklahoma on the road before suffering a shoulder injury that ended his season. QB1s under Klieman are one of the easier spots to project statistically as his starter has averaged right around eight carries per game over the last five years and hovered in between 160-180 passing yards over the span as well. As long as Thompson remains healthy, he should be a near lock for double-digit rushing touchdowns which sets an incredible floor for a quarterback in CFF that is going undrafted in most standard leagues. Backup **Will Howard** filled in admirably as a freshman after Thompson went down, and should gain the starting job in 2022. Low-cost dynasty stash.

Tight ends haven't been featured often historically under Klieman, averaging just 18 receptions over the last seven seasons, though last year's TE1 Briley Moore was headed towards the best statistical year in this scheme with 22-338-3 in nine games. **Daniel Imatorbhebhe** arrives from Illinois for his seventh season in college football.

Oklahoma Sooners

Top Play: QB Spencer Rattler

Potential Bust: WR Marvin Mims

Sleeper: RB Kennedy Brooks

Impact Transfer: RB Eric Gray

Dynasty Prospect: QB Caleb Williams

Fantastic Freshman: WR Mario Williams



Spencer Rattler is a Top 3 QB lock and a sure-fire first round draft pick in CFF drafts this summer, and there is reason to believe his numbers will improve from last year. His 275 yards per game through the air was the second-lowest (0.04 yards ahead of Jalen Hurts) mark of any QB1 during Lincoln Riley's tenure in Norman. His aDOT of 10.2 was also the lowest of any Oklahoma QB1 over the last six years and we anticipate seeing some positive regression with three of Rattler's top pass catchers back in the fold + a healthy Jadon Haselwood and the addition of Arkansas transfer Mike Woods who averaged 19 YPC in 2020. Palpable buzz surrounding 5-star recruit **Caleb Williams** who should be the overall No. 1 selection in dynasty drafts this summer as he will likely take over the starting job in 2022. Williams completed 10-of-11 passes for 99 yards and a TD, while also rushing for 61 yards on six carries in the Oklahoma spring game. Williams gives us a rushing floor closer to what we've seen in the past from Kyler Murray and Jalen Hurts, combined with 30-touchdown upside through the air.

Marvin Mims is easily the best WR on the Oklahoma roster, we all know this. Does Lincoln Riley know this as well? Didn't seem that way if looking at Mims' usage rates a year ago as he was fourth on the team in total routes run according to PFF. Oklahoma had a 1,000-yard receiver in every year between 2014-19, and Mims is easily the best bet to get that streak started up again, but there is clear cause for concern. Tennessee transfer **Eric Gray** is the best RB on the team and love his fit in this offense to utilize his skillset as a pass-catcher ala Joe Mixon. But I caution over-drafting Gray in the first three rounds with former 1,000-yard rusher **Kennedy Brooks** also back in the fold. Just one 200+ carry back for Oklahoma since Riley's arrival and they are not going to just kick Brooks to the curb here. Where both potentially benefit is the now sudden lack of depth at RB with Seth McGowan and Mikey Henderson booted from the team. Majority of the rushing workload should fall on the shoulders of Gray/Brooks.

Oklahoma receivers – primarily Theo Wease – struggled with consistency and drops last season, hence why many are projecting incoming FR **Mario Williams** to have a role immediately in his first year as he's been touted already as having some of the best hands on the team. Williams went for 5-84-0 in the spring game and should be viewed as a priority dynasty selection.

Texas Longhorns

Top Play: RB Bijan Robinson

Potential Bust: WR Jordan Whittington

Sleeper: WR Troy Omerie

Impact Transfer: RB Keilan Robinson

Dynasty Prospect: RB Jonathon Brooks

Fantastic Freshman: WR Xavier Worthy



I've made my stance now on multiple occasions now on various podcasts stating my case for **Bijan Robinson** as a Top 3 fantasy running back this season. I'm just going to let the below do the talking from now on.

Player	Pos	Games	Rush Att	Rush Yds	Rush YPG	Rush TD	Rec	Rec Yds	Rec YPG	Rec TD
Chris Polk	RB	12	226	1,113	92.8	5	25	171	14.3	0
Chris Polk	RB	13	260	1,415	108.9	9	22	180	13.8	0
Chris Polk	RB	13	293	1,488	114.5	12	31	332	25.5	4
Bishop Sankey	RB	13	289	1,439	110.7	16	33	249	19.2	0
Bishop Sankey	RB	13	327	1,870	143.9	20	28	304	23.4	1
Javorius Allen	RB	13	275	1,481	113.9	11	42	463	35.6	1
Justin Davis	RB	13	168	884	68.0	7	18	189	14.5	0
Bo Scarbrough	RB	13	125	813	62.5	11	4	22	1.7	0
Devonta Freeman	RB	14	196	865	61.8	7	36	317	22.6	1
Tevin Coleman	RB	16	167	800	50.0	4	32	276	17.3	5
Najee Harris	RB	13	209	1,224	94.2	13	27	304	23.4	7
Najee Harris	RB	13	252	1,464	112.6	26	43	425	32.7	4
			232.3	1,238	94.5	11.8	28.4	269	20.3	1.9

Does Alabama transfer **Keilan Robinson** change my opinion on the matter? Not particularly as Steve Sarkisian has stated "he's a very versatile guy. He can run it, but he is also very equipped on some of the loose plays, whether they're screens, bubbles, jet sweeps, things like that, which are helpful for us." Don't be surprised if he helps out more in the slot at Texas' weakest positional group on offense at receiver where that position now has a vacated starting job with Jake Smith transferring. **Troy Omerie** was tracking towards a starting job last offseason but injuries derailed his freshman campaign, and was still limited this spring participating in a non-contact jersey. While he looks the part at 6-foot-3, 230 pounds with a verified 4.69 40-yard dash, we've yet to see him perform in an actual game setting. Might this actually be the year we see **Jordan Whittington** flash the 5-star talent he possessed coming out of high school? The last two years have been derailed by injury, but Whittington felt "amazing" following spring camp and should start opposite Omerie on the outside as long as he remains healthy. Don't mind taking a shot on Whittington late in drafts given his current ADP of WR59, but would be pleasantly shocked if he makes it through a full season unscathed.

According to a report on Horns247, incoming FR **Xavier Worthy** has been one of the "most impressive" Texas players in summer conditioning workouts, and should have a role immediately in Year 1. A former Michigan commit (sad face emoji), Worthy was the No. 8 ranked WR in last year's class and ran a 10.5-second 100-meter dash as a sophomore in HS. Sarkisian noted that Worthy might be faster today. I'm not drafting him in redraft formats, but a top-3 round prospect in your dynasty drafts.

TCU Horned Frogs

Top Play: QB Max Duggan

Potential Bust: RB Zach Evans

Sleeper: RB Keandre Miller

Impact Transfer: QB Chandler Morris

Dynasty Prospect: n/a

Fantastic Freshman: TE D'Andre Rogers



Considering there was no spring practice due to the pandemic last year AND **Max Duggan** underwent a heart procedure that held him out of fall camp, the fact he averaged 24 FPPG is a miracle. And those weren't even his biggest obstacles last year if you consider the instability with TCU's play-calling on offense which led to the dismissal of Sonny Cumbie. Now, Duggan deserves some blame with his inconsistent performances in 2020, but did make strides as he improved his completion percentage to over 60 percent and I suspect that improves against this season with 10-of-11 starters back on offense. It's probably a disservice to list **Zach Evans** as a potential bust candidate considering his ADP of RB49 is the correct range in which he should be drafted. Just want to throw caution out there that, even with the OC change, this will not be a one-man show as that simply goes against Gary Patterson's philosophy. Not only will Duggan get 100+ carries, but the staff is high on sophomore **Keandre Miller** who topped seven yards a carry. RB2s for TCU over the last four seasons have averaged 117-550-5 so the expectation is Miller sees the field quite a bit. **Chandler Morris**, a 4-star prospect who originally signed with Oklahoma, will serve as the No. 2 to Duggan this year. I believe Duggan has a shot at an NFL future, but has at least two years of eligibility left so not sure if/when Morris will see the field for TCU. Tight ends averaged just three targets a game in 2020 and it's never been a spot that is prioritized in this passing offense, so not a ton of interest here, but true FR **D'Andre Rogers** received position recognition in spring ball and has a legit chance to start from Day 1.

Oklahoma State Cowboys

Top Play: WR Brennan Presley

Potential Bust: RB LD Brown

Sleeper: QB Spencer Sanders

Impact Transfer: RB Jaylen Warren

Dynasty Prospect: WR Bryson/Blaine Green

Fantastic Freshman: WR Jaden Bray



Were the last two games from **Spencer Sanders** last year a precursor of what's to come in 2021? I sure hope so to make me not look like a total buffoon for having him in my Top 10 quarterbacks a year ago. When healthy, Sanders topped 300 total yards in six of the seven games he played in last year, and threw for 300+ in each of his final two games with seven touchdowns. I'm confident he will vastly out-produce his current ADP of QB47 by the time this season concludes, and we've seen many instances during Mike Gundy's tenure where he has a quarterback finish inside the Top 10 in CFF. 4-man committee at running back this season is expected for the Cowboys with **LD Brown** currently the projected starter but we will see plenty of Dezmon Jackson, Dominic Richardson and Utah State transfer **Jaylen Warren**. Brown is the fastest of the group, and did have a pair of 100-yard rushing performances a year ago, but I'd be stunned if he remains the starter for the entirety of the regular season. Avoiding everyone here in season-long formats.

After barely playing during the regular season, FR **Brennan Presley** had a breakout performance in the bowl game with 6-118-3 vs. Miami. Slight of build at 5-foot-8, 170 pounds, but Presley is a tremendous athlete, being compared by some last offseason to Tyreek Hill. Slight concern here given his positional alignment inside where the last WR1 for Oklahoma State to play in the slot came back in 2013 with Josh Stewart. Sounds as though Tay Martin and Braydon Johnson will join Presley in the starting lineup, but that second outside spot opposite Martin is completely up for grabs at the moment. Redshirt freshmen twins **Bryson and Blaine Green**, both 6-foot-2, 200 pounds have the physical stature of incoming JUCO recruits according to offensive coordinator Kasey Dunn and are in the mix, along with true freshman **Jaden Bray** who showed out during the spring game with 100 yards and a pair of TDs. Like all three as middle round selections in dynasty drafts.

Texas Tech Red Raiders

Top Play: QB Tyler Shough

Potential Bust: RB SaRodorick Thompson

Sleeper: WR Erik Ezukanma

Impact Transfer: WR Kaylon Geiger

Dynasty Prospect: QB Behren Morton

Fantastic Freshman: WR Jerand Bradley



Head coach Matt Wells announced during Big 12 Media Days that both **Erik Ezukanma** and **SaRodorick Thompson** will be available for the Week 1 opener against Houston, and that neither player has experienced a setback in their rehabs. With the hiring of Sonny Cumbie as the new offensive coordinator, the expectation is that we see more Air Raid influences like we've seen from the Red Raiders in the past as Cumbie comes from the Mike Leach coaching tree. As is the case with the Air Raid, a bevy of receivers will see playing time, but EZ is easily the best of the bunch and the top candidate to lead the team in receptions. Well worth the price of WR50 in ADP for a receiver with 1,000-yard upside. As for Thompson, he did not pan out as expected in 2020 due to injury and other factors, but was productive when on the field with 610 yards, eight rushing TDs and 21 receptions. Last year's top four backs all return in 2021 and provide an array of skillsets that make them all playable in a likely rotation.

I'm not a **Tyler Shough** fan per se, and the thought of him potentially being a Top 10 NFL Draft pick is beyond laughable, but what I see is a mobile QB with a strong arm in an offensive system with the potential to put up 3,500+ passing yards. Shough has two years eligibility remaining but if the NFL prognosticators are accurate, this could be his final season in college, leaving the QB1 job vacant for 2022. I'm planting my flag on true FR **Behren Morton** being next in line after Shough as he already sits third currently on the depth chart, and QB2 Henry Columbi not a threat whatsoever for legitimate playing time. Coaches have already raved about his work ethic and leadership qualities, and Morton's skillset is similar to that of Shough with a strong arm and enough mobility to escape the pocket. The idea of 2-3 years of starting production in an Air Raid system make him a priority dynasty option.

I'm very curious to see how the WR spots for Tech play out in 2021 following the comments from Wells that Troy transfer **Kaylon Geiger** will see time outside and in the slot next season. You can make a case for eight receivers on the roster beyond EZ that are capable and worthy of a starting job, and we most likely see a rotation given all the talent Tech is accumulating in recruiting at the position. True freshman 6-foot-5 **Jerand Bradley** is the priority pick of the litter in dynasty as he played at the X-spot in place of Ezukanma during spring ball and the staff is expecting him to contribute immediately.

West Virginia Mountaineers



Top Play: RB Leddie Brown

Potential Bust: n/a

Sleeper: WR Winston Wright

Impact Transfer: n/a

Dynasty Prospect: QB Garrett Greene

Fantastic Freshman: RB Jaylen Anderson

Short n' sweet here – **Leddie Brown** is the only draftable prospect in redraft formats for the Mountaineers and a Top 10 consensus running back in CFF. I personally like him in the Top 5. Why? Please tell me who is stealing carries from him this year. Not sure exactly what this ranks nationally among CFB running backs, but Brown accounted for 60 percent (!) of the team's overall rushing share which I'd have to believe is among the best in the country. Current backups Tony Mathis and A'varius Sparrow have just 21 career carries between them so I'm not expecting either to dip much into Brown's workload. His production took a dip towards the end of last season, but much of that had to do with the offensive line that ranked 123rd in line yards and not providing a ton of push up front. There appears to be legitimate excitement surrounding the offensive line this year with three starters back and added in a Virginia Tech transfer. Add in Leddie's 31 receptions, and he is probably the safest running back in all of CFF to own outside of Breece Hall and Big Mo.

For dynasty, WV brought in 4-star **Jaylen Anderson** and 3-star Justin Johnson, both of which could see immediate playing time over Mathis/Sparrow. I'd look at both in dynasty formats taking over for Brown a year from now.

Faint interest in the WV receiving corps as the Mountaineers return five of the top six producers from last year, including WR1 **Winston Wright** who led the team with 46 receptions on 63 targets. No player had more than 16 percent of the target share here, and I don't suspect that changes much.

Looking down the line, I wouldn't mind taking a low-risk shot on QB2 **Garrett Greene** who is expected to take over for Jarret Doege following this season. Small in stature, standing under 6-feet, but Greene is a dual-threat that has taken a step apparently this offseason according to coaches. *"He's in a different mode after spring," Brown said. "Garrett made significant strides and got a ton of reps. He's got a ton of ability. He's not tall, but he can run and he can throw the ball from all different arm angles."* – *The Athletic.*