

# NAMES TO KNOW-PAC 12

## Colorado Buffaloes

**Top Play:** RB Jarek Broussard

**Potential Bust:** RB Jarek Broussard

**Sleeper:** WR La’Vontae Shenault

**Impact Transfer:** QB J.T. Shrout

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB Ashaad Clayton

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR Chase Penry



Wide range of outcomes in my opinion for the reigning Pac-12 POY in running back **Jarek Broussard** who rushed for 895 yards and five TDs in just six games, and finished second nationally averaging 26 rushing attempts per game. On one hand, if we see a similar workload to that of last year behind a line that returns four starters, you have a Top 10 CFF back. Flip over the coin and you see a player with multiple ACL tears in his career and ample depth behind him that wasn't present a year ago in former starter Alex Fontenot and prized recruit **Ashaad Clayton**. "I think we have the ability now to spread around more touches," said offensive coordinator Darrin Chiaverini. Solid group of starting receivers with Dimitri Stanley, **La’Vontae Shenault** and Brenden Rice, but I'm unsure the opportunities will be there for any of the three to be relevant in CFF as the Buffs threw the ball just 29 times a game last season. Will monitor all three on the waiver wire in case one pops, but see a scenario where the target share is spread equally amongst the group. Most assumed Brendon Lewis would be the QB1 after his performance in the bowl game vs. Texas where he threw for 95 yards and added 73 yards and a TD on the ground. Tennessee transfer **J.T. Shrout** is making this a legit competition from all accounts as he possesses superior arm strength that was noticeable in practices. Will lean towards the incumbent in Lewis still as he gives the offense a dual-threat option that proved effective at times last year like we saw with Sam Noyer. Lewis can be had with the last pick of your fantasy draft based on ADP.

## Arizona Wildcats

**Top Play:** WR Stanley Berryhill

**Potential Bust:** RB Drake Anderson

**Sleeper:** RB Jalen John

**Impact Transfer:** QB Jordan McCloud

**Dynasty Prospect:** n/a

**Fantastic Freshman:** RB Stevie Rocker Jr.



According to new head coach Jedd Fisch, "there's nobody in the lead" following spring practices for the QB1 job. Former Washington State transfer Gunner Cruz had every opportunity being on campus to gain an advantage over the competition, but failed to do so from all accounts, leaving Arizona fans wondering when USF transfer **Jordan McCloud** arrives. Yes, it's that dire a situation when the fanbase is calling for a career 58 percent passer. Both options are mobile and should be featured in positive game scripts with the rebuild job this will be in Year 1, but I'll avoid this spot aside from low-cost DFS selections. With as much uncertainty surround quarterback, that multiplies 10-fold at running back where as many as five rushers have a legit shot to start Week 1. Northwestern transfer **Drake Anderson**, according to 247, had the slight nod coming out of camp, but injuries limited a few contenders in Michael Wiley and Darrius Smith. I do like second-year freshman **Jalen John** as a possible sleeper of the group, given his size at 216 pounds if a workhorse does somehow emerge. I'd bet against that this year. The biggest development out of camp was true freshman **Stevie Rocker Jr.** who had countless big plays throughout spring and in the final scrimmage. Name to monitor for dynasty purposes. Looks to be another smorgasbord at receiver as Fisch retained three wideouts who initially put their name in the transfer portal at the beginning of the offseason. **Stanley Berryhill III** was the top option a year ago, leading the Wildcats in catches (23), targets (30) and touchdowns (3) in just five games.

## UCLA Bruins

**Top Play:** QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson

**Potential Bust:** RB Brittain Brown

**Sleeper:** WR Kyle Philips

**Impact Transfer:** WR Kam Brown

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB Zach Charbonnet

**Fantastic Freshman:** RB Deshun Murrell



**Dorian Thompson-Robinson** has improved his completion percentage in all three years on campus, going from 58 to 60 to over 65 percent in 2020, and finished with a 12-to-4 TD:INT ratio. DTR only played in played games last season, missing two contests due to COVID, but averaged over 30 FPPG and scored 26+ points in four of the five weeks. Combining 2019/2020 numbers, you're looking at a QB that will average right around 30 passing attempts and 11 carries per game with DTR – ideal numbers for a CFF QB1 or 2. Only downside is possible injury bug which has limited him through his entire collegiate career and the schedule where UCLA plays in Week 0 so two bye weeks. **Brittain Brown** coming out of spring ball as the RB1 is no surprise after averaging over 6.6 YPC in a secondary role last season, but I'm still not convinced 200 carries is a lock in 2021 for a player that's never been relied upon as the go-to option in his career. Michigan transfer **Zach Charbonnet**, equally as big at 6-foot-1, 225 pounds, reportedly looked equally as good during camp. UCLA does bring back four starters on the offensive line that ranked 39<sup>th</sup> in line yards and helped the Bruins average over five yards a pop as a team, so regardless of how the carries are divvied up, they should be pretty good on the ground again. If UCLA does have a weakness, its on the outside where the only proven commodities are **Kyle Philips** and tight end Greg Dulcich. Philips finished with 38 receptions and two TDs on 57 targets which accounted for 56 percent of the target share amongst receivers which I'd venture to be one of the highest in the nation. Texas A&M transfer **Kam Brown** was added in the offseason and reportedly had a strong close to the spring. Brittain Brown will graduate after this season, so there should be an opportunity in 2022 for playing time at RB behind Charbonnet. 3-star **Deshun Murrell** doesn't have the most impressive of offer sheets, but ran for 2,174 yards and 33 touchdowns in his senior season.

## Oregon Ducks

**Top Play:** RB CJ Verdell

**Potential Bust:** RB CJ Verdell

**Sleeper:** QB Anthony Brown

**Impact Transfer:** n/a

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Ty Thompson

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR Troy Franklin



The inexpensive cost on **Anthony Brown** (QB59 ADP) is still baffling to me given how we typically prioritize quarterbacks under the tutelage of offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead. Every Oregon receiver of note is back in 2021 and all five starters return on the offensive line so this should be a prosperous situation for Brown to thrive. 131 carries per over the last seven years for the QB1 under Moorhead, and Tyler Shough was well on his way towards hitting that mark in 2020 had he been given an entire season (9.43 Att/G). As much as we want to see the more talented option, in this case 4-star FR **Ty Thompson**, don't expect that to happen barring injury with Oregon's possible conference title aspirations. How long Moorhead remains in Eugene is unpredictable, but Thompson's stylistic fit for this scheme should make him a first-round CFF dynasty draft selection this offseason. \*\*\*From all accounts, redshirt freshman Jay Butterfield had an excellent spring as well, and should not be discounted in the race for QB1 in 2022. Zero interest in the Oregon WRs this season as no player had more than 22 percent of the team's target share, but for 2022, count me in on 4-star **Troy Franklin** who was the No. 3 ranked wideout in this past year's class. The 6-foot-2 freshman had four catches for 91 yards in the spring game, and the Ducks are expected to lose at least two upperclassmen at the position after the season. We've seen five instances of 200+ carry running backs under Moorhead over the last seven years, but it was a shared backfield between **CJ Verdell** and Travis Dye in 2020, due in part to the hand injury suffered by Verdell in Week 2. Both are talented players, so I suspect we see a similar split in 2021, but there really isn't an established third option behind them with Cyrus Habibi-Likio having transferred out. The Verdell/Dye combo should dominate the workload with no other players entering the mix.

## USC Trojans

**Top Play:** WR Drake London

**Potential Bust:** WR Bru McCoy

**Sleeper:** WR Gary Bryant Jr.

**Impact Transfer:** RB Keaontay Ingram

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Jaxson Dart

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR Michael Jackson III



**Drake London** has been a Top 10 WR for me all offseason, but I'm starting to trend up even further with him despite all of the transfers USC has brought in at the position this offseason. Of course, depth is great and all, but I'm wondering if the confidence is waning with those on the current roster. As for London, 100 targets is a near lock in 2021 and can see a definite scenario where he rivals what Michael Pittman did in 2019 with 101 catches on 133 targets in 13 games. After London is where things get interesting. Coming out of camp, starters aside from London seemed to be solidified with former 5-star **Bru McCoy** starting on the outside with **Gary Bryant Jr.** in the slot. Based on year's prior with Graham Harrell calling the shots, the WR2 and WR3 in this offense have been ultra-productive, averaging right around 90 targets each between 2018-19. Had last season played out for the full 12 games, Tyler Vaughns and London would have hit those marks as well. The incoming transfers of Jake Smith, Tahj Washington and K.D. Nixon muddy the waters a bit, and the Trojans still have Kyle Ford and upstart freshman **Michael Jackson III** around who should challenge for playing time. I'm leaning towards McCoy the most of that mix for now, but wouldn't be the least bit shocked to see the targets spread around a bit more with all the options at WR. Positive news coming out of camp at the RB spot with Texas transfer **Keaontay Ingram** solidifying himself as the RB1. Even better news for Ingram owners were quotes coming from RB coach Mike Jinks who stated that "it's got to come down to two guys" and wants to shorten the rotation. Still not prioritizing any running back from USC as they've ranked 124<sup>th</sup> nationally in run play percentage over the last three years, but like Ingram as a RB4-5 on a CFF roster, especially in PPR formats with his exceptional skills as a pass-catcher. **Jaxson Dart** looked like a FR that is ready to play immediately based on his spring game performance and should be a first-round dynasty pick with Kedon Slovis likely off to the NFL after this season.

## California Bears

**Top Play:** QB Chase Garbers

**Potential Bust:** RB Christopher Brown Jr.

**Sleeper:** WR Kekoa Crawford

**Impact Transfer:** n/a

**Dynasty Prospect:** WR Jeremiah Hunter

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR J. Michael Sturdivant



Won't be prioritizing anyone from California this season and not sure the Bears have a single draftable prospect for CFF purposes, but I think there might be some decent streaming options here depending on matchups. Senior **Kekoa Crawford** led the team in targets (32) and catches (19) in just four games with two scores, giving the passing game a reliable veteran. If looking for some upside, redshirt freshman **Jeremiah Hunter** has been called a "physical specimen" by the coaching staff and is arguably the team's best jump-ball specialist already. Hunter reportedly impressed in each of the last two springs. 4-star signee **J. Michael Sturdivant** offers a size (6-foot-3) and speed (4.67 40-yard dash) combination that no other receiver on the roster possesses.

I have not seen senior QB **Chase Garbers** selected in any standard redraft formats to this point, but believe he could serve as a functional QB4-5 on a CFF roster after scoring 20+ fantasy points in three of four games last season. Offers you some rushing production as well with double-digit carries in three games. Year 2 in Bill Musgrave's system should lead to improved results one would think. I believe Christopher Brown Jr. is still the best offensive player on the team, though was limited to just 21 attempts in three games due to injury. Backup Damien Moore played well in his place (5.11 YPC on 38 attempts), and the Bears also bring back Marcel Dancy who is the best pass-catcher of the three. Per Musgrave via the Athletic, "All those guys deserve their touches, so we're going to have a big rotation to keep them fresh and give them opportunities to carry our team down the field." Yuck.

## Stanford Cardinal

**Top Play:** RB Austin Jones

**Potential Bust:** n/a

**Sleeper:** WR Michael Wilson

**Impact Transfer:** n/a

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB E.J. Smith

**Fantastic Freshman:** QB Ari Patu



Meet the P5 version of Bryant Koback with Stanford's RB1 **Austin Jones**. Do I think Jones is a very dynamic player? No. He averaged just 4.4 YPC and only 2.67 yards after contact despite having one of the better run-blocking groups in the country in front of him. But it's all about usage with running backs and Jones' 25 touches per game were one of the highest marks in the country last season at the position. And the expectation again is that this will be one of Stanford's better offensive lines blocking for him despite losing multiple starters with the influx of talent David Shaw has brought in of late in recruiting. Jones is safely in the Top 15 at RB for me with the potential to finish much higher if the distribution of touches is heavily in his favor again. In dynasty formats, pairing Jones with **E.J. Smith** (son of Emmitt) is sound strategy to lock up the Stanford RB1 for the next 2-3 seasons. Stanford loses WR1 Simi Fehoko who became a 5<sup>th</sup>-round NFL Draft choice, but the top three appear to be solidified with **Michael Wilson**, Brycen Tremayne and Elijah Higgins. I won't be targeting this group in any CFF format given Stanford's reliance on the run and that they will be breaking in a new starting QB, but we've seen scenarios in the past where one becomes a reliable fantasy option. Wilson has a 56-catch season to his name, and Tremayne appears to be the big-play candidate to replace Fehoko, averaging over 18 YPC last year.

## Washington State Cougars

**Top Play:** WR Travell Harris

**Potential Bust:** RB Max Borghi

**Sleeper:** WR Renard Bell

**Impact Transfer:** QB Jarrett Guarantano

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB Nakia Watson

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR De'Zhaun Stribling



Have beaten this point into the ground but the Run-and-Shoot offense flows through the slot receivers, and Washington State has two exceptional options in **Travell Harris** and **Renard Bell**. Harris gets the nod as WR1 for me with his added value as a rusher where he notched two TDs on the ground a year ago, but Bell isn't far behind as he was actually the more targeted receiver in 2020. Could make the argument Bell is the better value of the two as he sits nine spots below Harris' amongst WR ADP. The duo combined for 62 percent of Washington State's target share, and prior history suggests that will remain the case in 2021. Now to the biggest question – who will be throwing them the football? The notion that Jayden de Laura "struggled" last season is an odd take that lacks perspective considering he completed 60 percent of his throws in three of four games played as a true freshman in what was an abbreviated offseason due to the pandemic. JDL was not around during the spring due to his DUI suspension, though neither Cammon Cooper nor Tennessee transfer **Jarrett Guarantano** distinguished themselves as a legitimate contender during spring ball. I firmly believe de Laura wins this job outright in fall camp, but this is a situation where you absolutely have to handcuff him with Guarantano if looking to secure the Washington State QB1. Not to mention the quick hook we've seen in the past from Nick Rolovich with his QBs back at Hawaii. The market value for **Max Borghi** seems to be adjusting to where I might consider drafting him in 2021, currently sitting at RB30. Running backs in this scheme don't see anything close to the surplus of targets they received under Mike Leach, and WSU has two legitimate options in the backfield with Borghi and backup Deon McIntosh who filled in admirably last season in Borghi's absence. Wasn't a huge fan of **Nakia Watson** with Wisconsin last season, but there is a legitimate path to playing time in 2022 with Borghi and McIntosh likely not on the roster. Might be worth a stash in dynasty formats as the team's possible RB1 next season. I don't prioritize outside receivers as much in this scheme, but true freshman **De'Zhaun Stribling** is already on the two-deep coming out of spring ball, and is a legitimate candidate to start in Year 1. Could be had very late in dynasty drafts.

## Washington Huskies

**Top Play:** TE Cade Otton

**Potential Bust:** TE Cade Otton

**Sleeper:** RB Richard Newton

**Impact Transfer:** WR Ja'Lynn Polk

**Dynasty Prospect:** WR Rome Odunze

**Fantastic Freshman:** QB Sam Huard



Aside from a weekly stream scenario, the only viable option from U-Dub this season is tight end **Cade Otton** who led the Huskies with 18 receptions on 20 targets and three TDs. Last year's second-leading receiver, Puka Nacua, is no longer on the team so it's reasonable we see the talented tight end lead the team once again in 2021. Otton's extrapolated 12-game total of 54 receptions last year would be a statistical outlier for this scheme under OC John Donovan, and for that reason, I can see a scenario where Otton doesn't meet his Top 10 TE ranking. Washington was 28<sup>th</sup> nationally (58.2%) in run play percentage last year, so I'd like to think it's possible a true RB1 emerges from the pack, but there was ZERO clarity coming out of spring ball. **Richard Newton** is the most proven of the bunch, racking up 10 TDs back in 2019, but seemingly fell out of favor with the staff. If I'm risking a selection on anyone in the backfield, it'd be him. Such is the case at WR as well with a bunch of names in the mix and very few answers following spring camp. Texas Tech transfer **Ja'Lynn Polk** was added in the offseason after a promising debut with the Red Raiders with 28-264-2, but was behind the 8-ball in the spring learning the new playbook. 6-foot-3 sophomore **Rome Odunze** should step into a starting role on the outside, and closed LY with 5-69-0 on six targets against Stanford. Incoming 5-star QB **Sam Huard** looks to be a prime redshirt candidate as a freshman with Dylan Morris and Patrick O'Brien on the roster. Despite the 5-star status, I'm not prioritizing any player in dynasty in this bland offensive scheme.

## Oregon State Beavers

**Top Play:** RB Deshaun Fenwick

**Potential Bust:** RB Deshaun Fenwick

**Sleeper:** WR Zeria Beason

**Impact Transfer:** QB Sam Noyer

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB Damir Collins

**Fantastic Freshman:** QB Sam Vidlak



I don't love any of the options vying for the QB1 job for Oregon State this season between Tristan Gebbia, Chance Nolan and Colorado transfer **Sam Noyer**, but if the staff settles on one guy, there is an argument to make for that quarterback being on a CFF roster. The OSU QB1 topped 20 fantasy points in five of the six games played in 2020, and has averaged 30+ passing attempts per game over the last three seasons since Jonathan Smith was hired as head coach. Unfortunately, this is another situation where we have no idea who emerges as the guy. Incoming FR **Sam Vidlak** might be a player to watch down the road as he was mentioned repeatedly by Oregon State's 247site as someone making plays during spring ball. Early indications are that we will see a committee approach in the Beavers' backfield amongst **Deshaun Fenwick**, B.J. Baylor and Isaiah Newell. If one were to emerge from the dam, the 220-pound Fenwick gets my vote after a stellar spring where he showed his versatility as a runner and pass-catcher out of the backfield – crucial for a system where the RB1 averages 26 catches per season. As we've seen in the past, RBs in this scheme are a priority, so I would love to pair Fenwick with incoming FR **Damir Collins** in dynasty formats as he was heavily sought after by most of the Pac-12 conference. For my fellow College Basketball fans, in the words of Jon Rothstein, buy stock now in sophomore receiver **Zeria Beason** whom I've seen some team beat writers state is even better than former OSU WR1 Isaiah Hodgins. The Beavers as a team lose just 31 vacated targets from last year so the depth chart returns mostly intact which could limit Beason's production, but I've been nabbing him in every CFF format at his current price point.

## Arizona State Sun Devils

**Top Play:** RB Rachaad White

**Potential Bust:** QB Jayden Daniels

**Sleeper:** RB Chip Trayanum

**Impact Transfer:** WR Bryan Thompson

**Dynasty Prospect:** WR Elijah Badger

**Fantastic Freshman:** QB Finn Collins



Arguments could be made as to which Arizona State running back is the better value as there are about 30 spots that separate **Rachaad White** and **Chip Trayanum** according to ADP. I don't believe there is any debate, though, as to which back will outperform the other based solely on fantasy production with White being the preferred choice of the two. This excerpt from the Athletic describes the two backs to a tee:

*"Behind offensive coordinator Zak Hill's play calling, White always seemed to find open space. Per Sports Info Solutions, the junior college transfer gained 61.2 percent of his rush yards before contact, the highest rate among Pac-12 running backs. In four games, White (6-2, 195 pounds) amassed five plays of 50-plus yards, which is more than 10 Pac-12 teams produced in the abbreviated season. Trayanum wasn't far behind. Although not as explosive, the sturdy freshman (5-11, 230) picked up first downs on 30.6 percent of his carries, ranking third among Pac-12 running backs with at least 30 rushes. Edwards knew the four-star prospect from Big Ten country had power, but Trayanum's game speed surprised him."*

Some regression on the big plays from White is likely in 2021, but his ability in the passing game is what sets him apart from Trayanum who had just one target in four games. One feather in the cap for Trayanum – he did out-touch White in red-zone carries (13-8). There were indications from OC Zak Hill we could see a more balanced offense from Arizona State in 2021, but I really don't see why that needs to be the case with the stable of runners in the backfield and four starters back up front which one was on the best groups in all of college football last year. Hence why **Jayden Daniels** is my "bust" candidate for where he is being drafted currently as QB29 in Fantrax ADP. If he attempts 21 passing plays per game as he did a year ago, the production won't match the value. In zero-QB builds, I don't mind Daniels as he should be a consistent 15-25-point scorer on a weekly basis.

If that passing volume remains the same in 2021, none of the Arizona State receivers will present much value despite the surplus of 4-star talent on the roster. **Elijah Badger** was the new hotness during spring camp after missing last season due to academics, but reportedly shook off any rust this offseason and was a constant force. I believe Badger will start on the outside opposite Utah transfer **Bryan Thompson** who should fill the "Frank Darby role" as the team's primary deep threat, averaging over 22 YPC during his career. 3-star freshman **Finn Collins** ran with the second-team offense during camp, and while I don't have an opinion on the player, that is notable considering Daniels is a prime candidate to jump to the NFL after this year.

## Utah Utes

**Top Play:** RB Micah Bernard

**Potential Bust:** RB Micah Bernard

**Sleeper:** WR Britain Covey

**Impact Transfer:** QB Charlie Brewer

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB Micah Bernard

**Fantastic Freshman:** RB Ricky Parks



As will always be the case at Utah with the current staff in place, running back is always our prime target in CFF. Whether OC Andy Ludwig or head coach Kyle Whittingham, both have a long-standing history of fostering 200+ carry running backs on their resumes. Does that happen in 2021? Multiple indications of a possible committee approach to start the season are out there on the Web, but if one were to emerge from the pack, smart money is currently on **Micah Bernard** who emerged from camp as the RB1. From Ludwig, per the Athletic:

*“Where I’ve seen his biggest growth is his physicality,” Ludwig said. “You always knew he had great speed as a perimeter runner, but the way he’s running behind his pads right now and finishing runs with violence, it’s really a big step to becoming a complete back.”*

Strategy if targeting Bernard in CFF would be to handcuff with one or both of transfers TJ Pledger (Oklahoma) or Chris Curry (LSU), though neither have proven capable of shouldering a heavy workload at this point in their careers. Incoming signee **Ricky Parks** has the size (5-foot-10, 214 pounds) and speed (ran track in HS) to make a possible impact right away. I would target both he and Bernard in dynasty formats.

Rarely do I target the Utah passing game for CFF purposes, so **Charlie Brewer’s** 16-for-16 passing performance in the spring game did not move the meter for me. A Utah QB in the past has been most valuable when they’re running 100+ times and those days should be over for Brewer given his history with head injuries. Where I do like the addition of Brewer is moderate improvement for the value of Utah receivers, specifically WR1 **Britain Covey** who was on pace for 84 targets if an entire season played out. Covey tallied three touchdowns in each of the final three games and was targeted 22 times in the last two weeks alone.