

GEORGIA BULLDOGS

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2009

QUARTERBACKS - Mark Richt is hoping for a season like 2005 out of his QB unit. In '05 GA had to replace their all-time career leading passer in David Greene (#3DC). DJ Shockley (PS#3) was lightly tested but led GA to the SEC Title earning 1st Tm SEC throwing for 2,588 (55.8%) with an outstanding 24-5 ratio (322 rush). In 2006 Matthew Stafford (PS#2) was a true frosh who started 8 and was Off MVP in the bowl. As you would expect, in his true frosh year, he struggled throwing for 1,749 (52.7%) with a 7-13 ratio. Heading into '07 Richt said he wanted to play backup Joe Cox (PS#8) in every game, but Cox played in just 6 (5 of 15). Stafford displayed his strong arm throwing for 2,523 (55.7%) with a 19-10 ratio. Last year both red'd and they added Logan Gray (PS#19), who was the fastest QB, but was mostly used on PR's. Stafford led the SEC throwing for 3,459 (61.4%) with a 25-10 ratio and left early for the NFL (#1DC DET). Surprisingly he had just three 300+ yard efforts in his career. Cox played in just 3 hitting 11 of 15 (73%, 2-0 ratio) but in '06 he did lead a comeback win vs Colorado and was 31-0 as a starter in HS. He does not have the arm strength of Stafford but may be more accurate and is viewed as a team leader. This year they add 2 true frosh in Zach Mettenberger (PS#24) and Aaron Murray (PS#26). Mettenberger is 6'5" with the best arm strength. Murray was the Florida 4A POY with a 33-4 ratio LY. Both were in for the spring. Naturally replacing the #1 overall pick in the draft will be tough, but Richt has developed some solid QB's in his career.

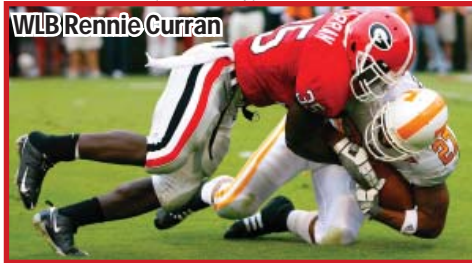
RUNNING BACKS - Surprisingly heading into 2007 GA had just one 1,000 yard back since 1992! In '07 rFr Knowshon Moreno (PS#14) did not start until Wk 3, but still became the first GA back since Herschel Walker to have five consec 100 yard rush games and was the first 1st Tm SEC RB here since Garrison Hearst in 1992. He rushed for 1,334 (5.4). Last year Moreno became the 2nd back in GA history to have B2B 1,000 yard efforts (Walker the other). Moreno led the SEC in rushing with 1,400 (5.6) and was #3 in rec. RFr Caleb King (PS#7) rushed for 247 (4.0) but after missing a block vs Florida (sack) had just 1 more at the L/4 gm. True frosh Richard Samuel (PS#10) had 133 (5.1). Moreno opted to leave early for the NFL (#1DC DEN). King and Samuel will battle Carlton Thomas (PS#35) Dontavious Jackson (5'10" 194 rFr, PS#22), Kalvin Daniels (5'10" 192 Jr) and true frosh Washaun Ealey (PS#3). Adding depth are Kevin Lanier (5'11" 190 rFr), Josh Bagby (6'2" 240 Sr), Justin Fields (6'1" 232 Jr), Josh Sailors (5'9" 230 So) and Cameron Allen (6'1" 210 rFr). Also gone this year is FB Brannan Southerland. I like the overall talent, but it will be tough to match Moreno's production.

RECEIVERS - GA has sent TE's Randy McMichael, Ben Watson, Leonard Pope and Martrez Milner to the NFL since Mark Richt's arrival. In 2007 Sean Bailey led with 615 (15.8) and Mohamed Massaquoi (PS#5, 505 in '05) who had 366 (12.2) in '06, was #2 with 491 (15.3). TE Tripp Chandler was #3 with 283 (13.5). Last year they had to replace Bailey but got a huge addition in true frosh AJ Green (PS#3). The Green/Massaquoi combo was the best in the SEC as Green led with 963 (17.2) while Massaquoi added 920 (15.9). Each had a shot at a rare 1,000 yard season but combined for just 22 yards in the bowl. Mich St double teamed both of them and Michael Moore (PS#15) had 97 yds and he was #3 (451, 15.6). Big things were expected of true frosh Tavarres King (PS#6) as he had a 41 yard rec vs Ariz St but he RS (inj). Chandler was injured and Bruce Figgins chose to forego shoulder surgery until after the season. Last year GA's TE's had just 10 catches. This year they lose Massaquoi (13 st, #2DC CLT), Chandler (6 st, 5 rec), Demiko Goodman (11 rec), Kenneth Harris (2 st, 11 rec) and Kris Durham (4 st, 13 rec) will RS this year (shoulder inj in spg). Not listed below are TE's Ben Harbin (6'3" 255 rFr, PS#147), Derek Rich (6'4" 255 Jr, PS#157) and Trenton Turner (6'6" 245 rFr). Despite the losses, this unit could be even stronger.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In 2007 the Bulldogs had to replace 3 starters who were 1st & 2nd Tm SEC and a #6DC. Three frosh

started including 2 true but the Bulldogs surprisingly improved to 177 ypg rushing (4.5) while trimming their sack total to 15. Last year they lost two starters and then LT Trinton Sturdivant was lost in Aug (knee). That made it a very young group again and the lone upperclassman starter, Vance Vance (PS#35JC) was lost after 6 starts. The 2H of the year, the O-line consisted of 2 soph and 3 frosh. The numbers slipped only slightly to 148 ypg rush (4.5) while allowing 17 sacks (4.3%). This year not only do all 5 starters return, but they get back Vance and Sturdivant (PS#4). Eight players have starting experience and their 99 career starts are 10th (tied) most in the FBS. This unit goes from being a question mark over the last two seasons to a strength.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In 2007 they had to replace their top two DE's and two DT's (comb 8 st) but still allowed just 110 ypg rush (3.3) and led the SEC in sacks with 42. Last year they had to replace their top sack man (#5DC). DT Jeff Owens was lost for the season in Wk 1 and the DE's were banged up all year. The injury-plagued unit surprisingly dropped to #8 in the SEC in sacks (last w/18 reg ssn, 6 bowl). This year they lose DE Jaruis Wynn (8 st, 24 tkl, 3 sk, #6DC GB), DT Corvey Irvin (11 st, 34 tkl, 3 sk, #3DC CAR), DE Jeremy Lomax (5 st, 20 tkl, 3 fti) and DE Andrew Gully (1 st, 3 tkl). While the players lost combined for 25 starts, DT Owens (26 car st) returns from inj, so GA has 3 DL starters back (7 with st exp).



LINEBACKERS - In 2007 Georgia had to replace all 3 starting LB's and Dannel Ellerbe earned 2nd Tm SEC. Last year they had to replace two players who combined for 12 starts (75 tkl) but had their top 3 LB tacklers back (incl #1 and #4). Unfortunately, Ellerbe was injured in Wk 5 (33 tkl). This year they lose Ellerbe (9 st) and Benjamin Boyd (1 tkl). Despite technically losing a starter, they return their top 3 LB tacklers (started, 6, 8 and 13 gm) and get back Marcus Washington (6 st, 40 tkl '07), so I count them as having 3 starters back giving them one of the SEC's top groups.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - In '06 GA had to replace three 1st Tm SEC DB's (#2, #5, #5 DC's) but thanks to a top-notch front 7 the unit moved up to #8 in my pass D rankings. In '07 it looked like they would have 3 starters returning but ended up with just one and still finished #17. Last year they had to replace two players (19 st) but I listed them as having 3 starters back as CB Prince Miller started 8 of the last 9. They had great speed in the secondary with Brian Evans (4.26), Ramarcus Brown (4.3) and Miller (4.34). Surprisingly the Bulldogs dropped to #57. This year's unit is led by SS Reshad Jones (PS#6) who earned 2nd Tm SEC and had a big int vs SC with :13 left. Lost is CB Asher Allen (13 st, 53 tkl, 7 pbu, early exit #3DC MIN), SS CJ Byrd (13 st, 49 tkl, 6pbu), CB Brown (1 st, 16 tkl) and SS Andrew Williams (10 tkl). While this unit is less experienced, they can only improve upon '08's unusually low finish.

SPECIAL TEAMS - This unit is always strong under Richt. Heading into last year they had finishes from '02-'07 of #5, #2, #24 and #16. The unit had to replace their K and top PR's and had its ups and downs in '08. K Blair Walsh (PS#5) hit 10 of his first 12 FG's but just 5 of his last 11 (3 miss 50+). Walsh had 4 TB on 75 KO's but 8 were OOB. Brian Mims faced 7 of the top 16 PR's in the NCAA but still avg 44.0 (37.5 net). The team avg

21.1 on KR and despite using 5 different PR's, avg 17.6. The Dawgs finished #21. This year they lose Mims and top KR Brown (23.5) but Richt will produce another fine unit.

COACHES - Mark Richt was the SEC Coach of the Year in '02 and '05. In '08, Richt received a pay raise bringing his salary to \$2.8 mill per year through 2013. Richt turned the playing call over to Mike Bobo prior to the GT game in '06. Bobo, who was a QB here, became the youngest coor in the SEC (32) when he was promoted to OC replacing Neil Callaway (UAB HC). In 2005 DB coach Willie Martinez took over as DC (5th year). Martinez has turned down a couple HC jobs to remain here. LB coach John Jancek is now co-DC.

PHIL'S FORECAST

Mark Richt is doing an incredible job here. In 2002 GA won their first SEC Title in 20 years and set a school record with 13 wins and finished #3. They had just 9 starters back in 2003 and despite a spate of injuries and susp, were 11-3 with 2 losses to eventual BCS Champ LSU. GA outgained SEC foes by a league best 121.8 ypg and finished #7. In 2004 Richt had his most veteran squad yet including QB David Greene and finished 10-2 (+105 ypg in SEC). They also beat Florida for the first time since 1997. In '05 they had 12 senior starters and had to replace just 15 lettermen but 6 of those were NFL DC's. My publication was the ONLY one in the country to call for GA to win the SEC East as everyone else had them finishing 3rd! I called the Bulldogs one of my surprise teams. They very nearly went undefeated but QB Shockley was injured and they lost to Florida by 4 without him. With Shockley not 100% the next week, they lost to Auburn by 1. They throttled LSU in the SEC Title game but came up short in the Sugar Bowl to finish 10-3 and #10. Only GA and USC finished in the Top 10 each year from 2002-'05. GA's D finished in the Top 20 for seven straight years from '01-'07. Richt became just the 5th SEC coach to win 10+ games in 4 straight years (Bryant, Dooley, Fulmer, Spurrier). In 2006 they had just 9 returning starters and struggled at QB. They surprisingly opened 5-0 and were #9. They lost 4 of their next 5 but won their final 3, all vs ranked teams and finished #23. In 2007 they once again had just 9 returning starters. They were picked #3 in the East by the media and Richt said "We're definitely under the radar." Mine was the only preseason college football magazine that picked them to top the SEC East as I had them tying for the Title. GA went 6-2 and tied Tenn for the SEC East Title. I had them ranked 11th which was higher than any other publication and the Bulldogs even surpassed my expectations finishing #2. The Bulldogs won their final 7 and whipped Florida 42-30 (Tebow not 100%) then crushed Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl 41-10. After finishing '07 as the #2 team in the country and returning as the most veteran unit in the SEC (15 ret st) and they were tagged #1 in the AP poll heading into last year. Of the 14 sources from football.stassen.com, 10 had GA either #1 or #2 and their lowest ranking was #5 but I had the Bulldogs #9 and 2nd in the SEC East. Most of my analysis was due to a killer schedule including a brutal 4 game road trip. The Bulldogs opened the season strong. SC fumbled into the EZ for a TB on 2nd & goal at the 1 mid-4Q and GA won by 7. The next week they beat Ariz St in the desert 27-10 (longest reg ssn road trip S'60). Despite their 4-0 record, the Bulldogs had dropped to #3 when they hosted #8 Ala and GA trailed 31-0 at the half in a 41-30 loss. GA beat 2 straight ranked foes in #22 Vandy and #11 LSU. They outgained Florida 398-373 but trailed 14-3 at the half. The Gators then handed Richt his worst loss ever, 49-10. The Bulldogs barely got past Kentucky getting a 3rd & goal TD with 1:54 left and edged past Auburn the next week 17-13 with Auburn being SOD at the GA14 at the end. GA did lead GT 28-12 at the half but lost 45-42. They rebounded to beat #19 Mich St in the bowl, 24-12. They finished #13 (#10 coaches poll). GA was +73.8 ypg in SEC play (4th best). This year they lose QB Stafford, RB Moreno and WR Massaquoi. The positive is that the Bulldogs had 44 starts lost to injury (7th most) and should be healthier this year. There are some comparisons to 2005 when DJ Shockley led the team to the SEC Title in his only year as a starter. Both he and Cox were veteran senior backups.

Richt performs well when expectations are low. Richt is an amazing 30-4 in opponents' home stadiums including 10-2 vs ranked foes. Despite facing Okla St, GT and Florida all away from home, GA makes my list of surprise teams which means I think they are a surprise (non-Top 10) National Title contender.

OFFENSE

QB 14 Joe Cox Sr. 6-1 210 PS#8. 1 st, 432 pass yds (56.9%) 5-1 ratio in career. **6 Logan Gray** (6'2" 186 So) PS#19. 21 rush LY, 12.0 PR avg. Aaron Murray PS#6. **RB 4 Caleb King So.** 5-11 212 PS#7. 247 rush (4.0). **22 Richard Samuel** (6'2" 222 So) PS#10. 133 rush (5.1) as true. **30 Carlton Thomas** (5'7" 180 rFr) PS#35. Washaun Ealey PS#3. **WR 82 MICHAEL MOORE SR.** 6-2 200 PS#15. 6 st LY, 451 (15.6). **FB Shaun Chapas** (6'2" 244 Jr) PS#143. 6 st, 63 tkl yds rFr. 6 st, 145 tkl LY. **48 Fred Munzenmaier** (6'2" 232 Jr). **WR 8 AJ GREEN SO.** 6-4 200 PS#3. 1st Tm SEC, 11 st, 963 (17.2) as true. **Marlon Brown** (6'5" 200 rFr) PS#3. Rantavious Wooten PS#40. Vernon Spellman (6'1" 187 Sr). **WR 12 Tavarres King rFr.** 6-1 176 PS#6. 2recture, med RS. **28 Israel Troupe** (6'1" 215 So) PS#18. 9.9 (3.8) rFr. **26 Tony Wilson** (5'11" 198 Jr) PS#49. 2 st, 124 (8.9) '07. 1 st LY (inj'd). **TE 81 Aron White So.** 6-4 225 PS#12. 1 st, 289 (3). **89 Bruce Figgins** (6'4" 253 Jr) PS#23. 3 st, 56 (11.2) 2Y. Susp 6. Orson Charles PS#2. Arthur Lynch PS#4. Bryce Ros (6'4" 242 rFr). **C 81 BEN JONES SO.** 6-3 304 PS#60. L/10 st @C true. **84 Dallas Lee** (6'4" 305 rFr). Enrolled in Jan. **74 Kevin Perez** (6'3" 270 Jr) PS#50. 10 gm 2Y. **LS 95 Ty Frix** (6'0" 201 rFr). **RG 63 CHRIS DAVIS JR.** 6-4 296 PS#40TE. 13st LY 07. 13st (3C, 3LG, 7RG) LY. **54 Tanner Strickland** (6'5" 327 So) PS#38. 13 gm LY. **76 Ben Harden** (6'3" 313 So) PS#89. **LG 71 CORDY GLENN SO.** 6-5 331 PS#36. 10 st (3RG, L7/LG) 13 gm true. **70 AJ Harmon** (6'5" 327 rFr) PS#11. Chris Burnette (6'2" 300 rFr) PS#33. John Brodin (6'6" 300 rFr). **RT 60 CLINT BOLING JR.** 6-5 286 PS#117. 11 st true. **1st Tm SEC LY**, 12st (2RT, 3RG, L7 LY). **79 Justin Anderson** (6'5" 338 So) PS#12. 7 st RT LY. **67 Jonathan Owens** (6'4" 312 rFr). **LT 77 TRINTON STURDIVANT SO.** 6-5 293 PS#4. 13 st LT as true. Knee inj LY. **72 Vince Vance** (6'8" 325 Sr) PS#35JC. 6 st then knee inj LY. **78 Josh Davis** (6'6" 293 Jr). 4 st LY. **K 57 BLAIR WALSH SO.** 5-10 183 PS#5. 15-23 FG true, L52, 10 of 1st 12. 4TB/75 KO. Brandon Bogotay PS#573JC. **96 Andrew Jensen** (6'3" 210 Sr). **99 Jamie Lindley** (5'11" 168 So).

DE 58 Demarcus Dobbs Jr. 6-2 282 PS#23. 4 st, 19 tkl, 2 sk LY. **75 Kianté Tripp** (6'2" 270 Jr) PS#33. 3 st at OT LY. **83 Cornelius Washington** (6'4" 217 rFr) PS#16. 10.7 100m. **DT 56 GENO ATKINS SR.** 6-1 287 PS#202. 1st Tm SEC in '07. 41 tkl, 7.5 sk, 7 fti. 34 tkl, 7.5 tfl LY. **94 DeAngelo Tyson** (6'2" 306 So) PS#3. 11 tkl true. **Arye Jones** is PS#25. **DT 95 JEFF OWENS SR.** 6-3 306 PS#22. 25 st, 69 tkl, 3.5 sk '05-'07. Knee inj LY. **Kade Weston** (6'5" 325 Sr) PS#8. 11 st, 50 tkl, 2.5 sk, 7.5 tfl 3Y. **Brandon Wood** (6'1" 282 Jr) PS#23. **DE 41 RODERICK BATTLE SR.** 6-4 265 PS#67. 13 st, 24 tkl, 2.5 sk '07. 7 st, 14 tkl, 3.5 tfl LY. **(inj.) 42 Justin Houston** (6'3" 264 So) PS#103. 1 st, 19 tkl, 4.5 tfl LY. **Neland Ball** (6'8" 232 So). **PS#53. SLB 50 DARRYL GAMBLE JR.** 6-2 247 PS#53. 6 st, 60 tkl, 3 fti, 3 pbu, 2 IRTD vs LSU LY. **52 Darius Dewberry** (6'3" 230 Sr) PS#21. 5 st, 33 tkl 3Y. **37 Akeem Hebron** (6'1" 226 Jr) PS#7. **MLB 51 AKEEM DENT JR.** 6-2 231 PS#82. 4st, 36 tkl '07. 8st, 46 tkl, 3 fti LY. **44 Marcus Washington** (6'0" 250 Sr) PS#57. 6 st, 55 tkl, 2.5 sk 3Y. **43 Charles White** (6'1" 220 So) PS#45. **WLB 35 RENNIE CURRAN JR.** 5-11 228 PS#28. 5 st, 53 tkl, 9 fti true. **1st Tm SEC LY**, 115 tkl, 10 tfl. **38 Marcus Dowlin** (6'2" 226 So) PS#34. 17 tkl true. **Christian Robinson** (6'2" 212 rFr) PS#64. **CB 23 PRINCE MILLER SR.** 5-8 196 PS#22. 8 st, 34 tkl, 7 pbu, 1 int '06-'07. 10 st, 50 tkl, 2 pbu LY. **25 Vance Cuff** (5'11" 172 Jr). 19 tkl 8Y. 4.41 spd. **30 Eric Elliott** (5'9" 190 So). **CB NA Branden Smith Fr.** 5-11 171 PS#5. **20 Brandon Boykin** (5'10" 176 So) PS#62. 6 tkl true. **19 Sanders Cormings** (6'2" 210 rFr) PS#97. **17 Chad Gloer** (5'10" 190 Jr) 10 tkl LY. **SS 9 RESHAD JONES JR.** 6-2 212 PS#6. 2 st, 57 tkl, 3 pbu, 2 int '07. **2nd Tm SEC**, 12 st, 76 tkl, 3 pbu, 5 evnt LY. **31 Quintin Banks** (6'2" 210 Jr) PS#60. 8 tkl '07. **Bacari Rambo** (6'0" 208 rFr). **3 BRYAN EVANS SR.** 5-11 194 PS#11. 4.26 spd. 11 st, 67 tkl, 9 pbu, 1 int 3Y. **44 John Knox** (6'2" 205 So). 2 st, 8 tkl. **Makiri Pugh** (6'0" 188 rFr). **Andrew Johnson** (5'10" 185 Jr). **P 13 Drew Butler So.** 6-2 202 PS#21. 3 punts, 35.7 avg as "coffin corner" specialist LY. Tm net 37.5. **98 Trent Dittmer** (5'9" 169 So). **95 Jordan Stowe** (6'5" 200 rFr).

DEFENSE

TOP NEWCOMERS FOR 2009
WR Marlon Brown 6-5 200 PS#3
DB Brandon Smith 5-11 171 PS#5
RB Washaun Ealey 5-11 205 PS#3
TE Orson Charles 6-3 230 PS#2
QB Aaron Murray 6-1 205 PS#6
LB Arthur Lynch 6-5 240 PS#4
DL Aryn Jones 6-3 273 PS#25
OL Austin Long 6-5 268 PS#17
QB Zach Mettenberger 6-5 229 PS#24
OL Chris Burnett 6-2 300 PS#33
DB Jordan Love 6-0 185 PS#45
OL Dallas Lee 6-4 305 PS#46
WR Rantavious Wooten 5-10 158 PS#40
LB Michael Gilliland 6-2 200 PS#37
LB Chase Vasser 6-3 208 PS#44
DL Kwame Gathers 6-5 235 PS#62
DL Montez Robinson 6-5 235 PS#70
DB Shawn Williams 6-1 195 PS#79
DL Derrick Lott 6-4 270 PS#138
K Brandon Bogotay 6-3 200 PS#573JC

