

September 7th

Phil,

Do you have any data on the changes in kickoff returns when they moved the ball from the 40 to the 35? Also, what can we expect this year with the ball being moved back to the 30?

James,

The kickoffs in the NCAA were moved from the 40 to the 35 in 1986. In the NCAA in 1985 there were 39.7% touchbacks and that dropped significantly to 23% touchbacks the first year of the new rule and just 22% touchbacks the next year! Surprisingly the average for return yards generally remained the same. I was expecting to see a spike in the KR averages the next few years but it did not happen so if that applies this year there will be 60% fewer touchbacks but not much of a gain in KR averages. Mark Richt of Georgia does disagree with the latter as he thinks the new kickoff rule could result in 10 to 15 yards in field position difference because the kick returners will have more space.

Thanks for writing,
Phil

Phil,

DE/TE DJ Norris; out-for season and probably career with shoulder injury;
LB Jae Thaxton concussions/out for good
OL FR Anthony Grosso-left the team

Have enjoyed hearing you on several radio shows. Good information. I hope you're right about FSU this year. Much better to be under the radar. Fisher and Co. will make the most out of deep talent that was under used under previous "offensive" coaches;

I think your analysis of Florida is spot on—won a lot of close games last year and they don't have the defense they had last year to keep games close and the other teams in their division of SEC are better and they are universally unloved.

I liked your analysis of Skip Holtz—he has done a good job at ECU. They have their work cut out for them this year though and have to break in a new QB.

Bill

Bill,

Thanks for the added information and we have posted them under the injury notes for Florida St already. Also thank you for the kind comments and for listening to the various shows!

Thanks for writing,
Phil

Hey Phil - Last week in my question I asked about the injury section and what could be done to help point out new additions to save time when skimming through the list. It has gotten to the point where teams have upwards of five defections from the upcoming season and it's hard to distinguish between the players I've already circled and haven't. You answered the questions about Cal, but didn't respond to that portion. Is there any way something could be done in that area?

I also just started a blog the other day to cover the Pac-10 and national matters this year, and

your magazine helps a lot in prepping for write-ups. Thanks! The link is here if you want to check it out: <http://brockscfbplace.blogspot.com/>

*Thanks!
Brock
Baton Rouge, Louisiana*

*Brock,
Thanks for being persistent. I must have skipped over that part of the question. What we will do is put the past weeks injuries in RED for each team and the ones that have been there will remain in black. This is a GREAT idea on your part and will help the more frequent users of the website.*

*Thanks for writing (again),
Phil*

*Phil,
I have read your 2007 College Football Preview magazine and I have realized something very interesting. You have Oklahoma as a pre-season #3 and also in your Power Poll ratings, they are also #3, but you do not even have them going to any bowl game unless I overlooked something. Can you explain?*

*Thanks,
Jeff from Texas*

*Jeff,
Check out page 2 of this years magazine. I have them playing in the Fiesta Bowl vs Louisville.
Thanks for writing,
Phil*

*Phil,
Does Michigan bounce back this week against Oregon or does last week's loss to App State linger on like a bad hangover?*

*Thanks,
Mike*

*Mike,
Check out my Top 25 forecasts this week for that answer.
Thanks for writing
Phil*

