

ACC Spring Game Notes and Thoughts:

Boston College:

- I like the Bill O'Brien hire
- Starting QB Castellanos struggled but backup James from FIU played well
- Lot of depth at RB and WR
- WR Jerand Bradley from Texas Tech got a lot of targets
- They really like their DL led by Ezeiruaku
- Tough road to bowl eligibility

California:

- Not a great look with RB Ott and most of the defensive starters sitting out
- I think Mendoza wins QB job
- Cal has done a sneaky good job in portal last two years...keep an eye on RB Calloway from Old Dominion
- RB room is a strength
- Need help on OL and DL in the portal

Clemson:

- 5-star freshman LB Sammy Brown will be an instant impact player
- True freshman WR Bryant Wesco also flashed and the WR's looked improved including Antonion Williams and Adam Randall
- DE TJ Parker looks bigger
- Dabo Swinney with a live microphone on the field is some of the best and most entertaining football content I watch each year
- Swinney really is high on LB Wade Woodaz and LB Jamal Anderson also flashed
- QB Cade Klubnik continues to be inconsistent

Duke:

- Didn't settle QB competition, both Murphy and Loftis are solid but need more consistency
- TE's and WR's are a strength
- WR Moore, WR Harvey and TE Hasley flashed
- OL is a big-time concern...only had 5 scholarship OL all spring
- Secondary is a strength on defense
- Pelino is a good kicker

Florida State:

- QB DJ Uiagalelei looked good, not great
- 2nd and 3rd string QB's DNP so offense was bogged down
- RB room will surprise
- Really like their OL and DL
- Great portal class again led by DL Marvin Jones Jr, WR Malik Benson, RB's

Roydell Williams & Jaylin Lucas

- The coaching staff think this year's team is stronger and faster
- I don't think there's as much proven depth as last year
- Definitely Top 15 team, maybe Top 10

Georgia Tech:

- Offense way ahead of defense
- Really like the coaching staff
- OC Buster Faulkner is a rising star
- WR position is by far most talented & deepest on roster
- Good size on interior DL
- Back 7 on defense was lost
- Schedule features 6 or 7 Top 30 teams

Louisville:

- QB Tyler Shough looked good...can he stay healthy?
- WR Chris Bell flashed
- More vertical passes than last year
- DE Gillotte and CB Riley are studs on D
- I'm not concerned with the recent transfers...I think this team can be better than last year

Miami:

- QB Cam Ward looked great
- WR/TE positions are a team strength in terms of talent and depth
- WR Restrepo could have an All-American season
- Loved what I saw again from frosh DE Lightfoot
- Top 2 RB's were out = a lot of passing
- Looks like a Top 20 team

NC State:

- QB Grayson McCall looked great
- Maybe most improved skill positions in the country
- Hit a home run in portal with RB Waters, TE Joly, WR's Rogers & Grimes
- Defense held out their top players
- True frosh QB Bailey, RB Scott, WR Anderson flashed
- Contender in ACC

North Carolina:

- Didn't get a good look (drills and interviews)
- They're expecting production to match talent on defense especially DT Shaw
- True frosh WR Shipp flashed with most of the WR's and TE's out
- QB still a major ?

Pittsburgh:

- Surprised Narduzzi hired OC Kade Bell (up tempo)
- OL had 3 starters out and the DL dominated
- I expect Yarnell to start at QB but none overwhelmed (windy day)
- Keep an eye on RB Reid
- Arguably the best player (DL Hayes) transferred after spring

Stanford:

- Not a good look with no scrimmaging
- Depth and experience is night and day compared to last year
- HC Taylor is super sharp
- WR Mosley is a true frosh that was mentioned a bunch
- WR Ayomanor DNP but looks jacked!
- Program is a "buy" long-term

Syracuse:

- A lot of excitement around new HC Fran Brown (deserved)
- Big talent upgrade at most positions
- QB McCord looked good
- RB's Allen and Willis (true frosh) flashed
- WR's Haynes (UGA) and Pena stood out
- DL transfer Wilson impressed
- Very favorable schedule

Virginia:

- QB battle between Muskett and Colandrea will go into the fall
- Despite losing their best player (Washington), the WR's are still a team strength
- Guys who flashed include: WR Wilson, WR Harrison and DL Bennett
- HC Elliott is not going to make it

Virginia Tech:

- Talent and depth is much better than 2 years ago
- RB's are deep as frosh Prioleau and Coney flashed
- They are excited about WR Ayden Greene
- DL is the best unit on defense, I love the transfer additions
- DE Keyshawn Burgos dominated early

Wake Forest:

- QB Bachmeier looked okay
- Despite 3 transfers, the WR unit is still a strength led by Morin, Merrill & Fields
- True frosh QB Hecklinski & WR Melvin are the future

- I like their DL led by Davis, Pointer & Wayman
- DB Patterson & LB Combs flashed

Big 12 Spring Game Notes and Thoughts:

Arizona:

- I like the Brennan hire
- Best players including WR McMillan and LB Manu DNP
- Depth could be a big issue
- Passing game was sharp...WR Malachi Riley could be a name to know...I like AJ Jones size
- Surprised the DL handled the OL most of the day

Arizona State:

- Wind impacted the game
- Sam Leavitt looks like their starting QB. More comfortable outside of pocket, can run but wasn't accurate tonight
- RB Cam Skattebo is by far their best player
- Dillingham wasn't happy in the post-game (I agree)

Colorado:

- OL/DL should be better this year
- I like what I saw from LG Brown and DT Barnes gives the Buffs some size
- True frosh LT Seaton already 300-plus pounds
- WR Wester probably biggest standout, also liked CB Hodge
- Hunter playing some NB
- Didn't get a great look because of bad weather & the RB position being decimated
- WR and secondary are team strengths
- I like Shedeur but ball has to come out quicker this year
- TE is a concern
- Better than last year's team but no easy wins on schedule (no sure losses either)

Houston:

- New HC Fritz is a big upgrade & I like their DC Wood
- QB Smith DNP & pass game left a lot to be desired
- RB's are an offensive strength led by Jenkins
- I like their defensive front led by Holmes
- Not one easy game on the schedule
- 3 starters transferred post-spring

Utah:

- QB Cam Rising looked really good
- Pass game much improved as WR's Parks and Singer also stood out
- Defense held out many top players
- CB transfer Calhoun flashed
- They love their young OT's Fano and Lomu (both high 4-stars)
- Should be the Big 12 favorite

West Virginia:

- Skill positions are experienced
- LT Milum best player
- Keep an eye on a pair of LB's in Ty French (Gardner-Webb) & Josiah Trotter
- They like their early enrollees (all played early in game)
- I have 9 of their 12 games priced at less than a TD

Big Ten Spring Game Notes and Thoughts:**Illinois:**

- OC Lunney did some nice things schematically with Altmeyer
- WR's flashed including Elzy, Wilcher & Capka-Jones-Jones
- RB Laughery really impressed with Feagin out
- I like FSU transfer Briggs but they need another DT
- OLB's Jacas & Coleman are studs

Indiana:

- Production over Potential in transfer Portal for new HC Cignetti
- Rourke likely starter at QB but Jackson looked improved
- I like their LT Carter Smith
- LB Aiden Fisher from JMU looks All-Big Ten caliber
- WR corps is best and deepest unit on team
- Need help at Interior DL

Maryland:

- Defense dominated
- None of the QB's flashed (2 Pick 6's)
- If Morris can pick up the system, I'd start him at QB.
- I like the RB's & WR's
- OL is a concern
- Really like the DL led by Phillips
- RB Ray and LB Samuels flashed
- Could be favored in 1st 6 games

Michigan:

- Better than I expected (compared to what others mentioned):
- Not as deep as last year across the board
- Love their TE's
- Standouts include Zeke Berry, Fredrick Moore, TJ Guy, Ja'Den McBurrows
- Schedule much tougher

Michigan State:

- Really like the Smith hire
- Love QB Chiles' upside and backup Schuster has experience
- Last year's leaders RB Carter and WR Foster stood out
- True frosh WR Marsh and RB Tullis flashed
- YIKES! 4 starters hit the portal post-spring

Nebraska:

- Raiola looks the part (Haarberg also played well)
- Biggest surprise was the WR's who could be a team strength
- Lloyd and Barney = fast
- Sloppy with penalties, TO's, missed FG's
- 7 straight losing seasons but win total is 7.5...let the hype begin.
- Really like the TE's
- Defense got their ass kicked albeit a lot of their top players were out
- Oregon transfer RB Dante Dowdell really flashed

Ohio State:

- Talent/depth as good as any team I've seen the last few years (QB and OL being the exceptions)
- Really liked what I saw from the secondary led by Igbinosun and Downs
- Frosh standouts were the 5-stars: WR Smith, Edge Houston, CB Scott
- Still don't love the QB's

Oregon:

- QB Gabriel was okay (Novosad and Moga impressed)
- WR corps best unit on team...Johnson is an All-American
- Interior DL really impressed me
- DE Burch is an All-American
- Right now, I have Oregon No. 3 behind Georgia and Ohio St

Penn State:

- 30 mph winds impacted pass game
- Like OC/DC hires of Kotelnicki and Allen
- Abdul Carter move from LB to DE = All-American
- WR Harrison Wallace and CB AJ Harris flashed

- RB's Singleton and Allen DNP
- OL is a concern
- Should be favored in 11 games

Purdue:

- Defense dominated
- Big-time transfers led by DB Green (UGA) but keep an eye on D3 transfer DL Ojata
- Like their freshman class led by QB Davila
- I like LB Karlaftis, TE Klare
- Better team than last year but Top 10 schedule in terms of difficulty

Rutgers:

- Schiano has built them into an average Big Ten team (that's a compliment)
- QB Kaliakmanis was okay after nearly throwing a Pick 6 early
- WR's Brantley and Toure along with true frosh RB Guerrier flashed
- Schedule is very favorable (no Ohio St, Michigan, Oregon, Penn St)

UCLA:

- I expect recruiting to pick up with new head coach Foster
- WR looks like a team strength
- WR Titus, DL Aupiu flashed and they like frosh WR Gilmer
- Transfers that stood out: WR Flores, S Henderson, DL Busic and CB Addison
- Schedule is super tough

USC:

- Love the new defensive staff
- A lot of length at EDGE and CB on defense
- Freshman recruiting class underrated by services
- Outside of QB, they're better at most positions
- Depth and size along OL/DL a concern
- Players that stood out were CB Nicholson, RB Marks, EDGE Shelby, EDGE Fountain and WR Lane
- 2nd toughest schedule in country

Washington:

- I like the Jedd Fisch hire
- Staff expects WR Boston to have 100 catches and 1400 yards this year. He played to those expectations
- Rogers should start at QB but Demond Williams should have a package
- RB Mohammed, LB Bruener and CB Prysock flashed

SEC Spring Game Notes and Thoughts:

Alabama:

- Didn't get a lot out of this game
- Offense dominated early, defense controlled matters late
- Sloppy tackling early
- Used more tempo than I anticipated
- RB Miller & WR Bernard flashed
- Need frosh to fill in 2-deep and get a couple guys in the portal

Arkansas:

- 1's vs 2's so not a good look
- Boise transfer QB Green looked real good
- RB Jackson from Utah also stood out along with WR Broden & true frosh RB Russell (6-1 252!)
- Defensive standouts were Jackson, Ball & Spence
- This will be Pittman's last year

Auburn:

- Frosh WR Cam Coleman exceeded the 5-star hype
- Need to find WR No. 2...is it Brown, Lewis, another frosh?
- Can't take a major leap in W/L record with QB Thorne as the starter
- Frosh DL Lindsey, Williams and Waller all flashed
- EDGE McLeod and Faulk are studs
- Kicker Towns McGough was 7 for 7!!!

Florida:

- QB's looked good...excited about Lagway's future
- WR Wilson has 1st-team All-SEC potential
- Defense got better as game went on but secondary was lost in first half
- Interior DL still too fat and slow
- One of the toughest schedules in CFB history

Georgia:

- The most competitive and highest quality spring game I've ever watched
- DL beat OL most of the day
- The freshman and sophomore classes on D are the best I've seen (NINE 5-stars)
- LB Allen & DE Williams are All-Americans
- WR Lovett flashed big time
- It was "1's vs 1's" and "2's vs 2's" rotating all four quarters
- The Heisman favorite Carson Beck attempted 46 passes
- If you enjoy physical, tough football this is the one spring game to watch

LSU:

- QB Nussmeier to WR Lacy = \$
- Might have the best OT tandem in the country
- A lot of solid depth guys: RB Jackson, WR Daniels, TE Pimpton, DE Reliford, CB Woodland, LB Weeks
- Need help on defense especially on interior DL
- Could be favored in every game

Mississippi State:

- Jeff Leiby is a great hire
- QB Shapen was in command
- WR's will be a strength led by Akharaiyi (UTEP), Coleman (Louisville) and 4-star frosh Craver & Burnside
- TE's and RB's also flashed
- Defense needs help
- Top 5 schedule in terms of difficulty

Missouri:

- WR's are the strength of the team
- DL will be better than expected
- Backup QB is a concern
- Schedule very favorable
- Keep an eye on WR Marquis Johnson and DL Darris Smith

Oklahoma:

- WR Deion Burks played like a 1st-Team All-American
- Defense dominated after first quarter (expected)
- Really like a pair of true frosh DT's in David Stone and Jayden Jackson
- Sears and Halton also impressed at DT
- OL and schedule are a big concern

South Carolina:

- Said it last spring & I'll say it again, I really like QB Sellers
- True Frosh 5-star EDGE Stewart flashed big time
- I like what they did in the portal this year including LB Knight and EDGE Kennard
- SC will probably be an underdog in 8 games

Tennessee:

- Top 3 QB's all looked good obviously led by Nico
- I really like the WR corps this year (when healthy)
- They love their DL talent and depth

- True frosh standouts: QB Merklinger, LB Spillman, WR Matthews
- Definitely a playoff contender

Texas:

- Obviously, Arch Manning looked great
- Still have a lot of size up front on defense despite losing Sweat and Murphy
- True frosh that flashed: QB Owens and WR Wingo also redshirt frosh EDGE Vasek
- Secondary was very poor
- Need more size at WR

Texas A&M:

- Nic Scourton could be a 1st-Team All-American
- Rodas Johnson, Shemar Stewart and Scooby Williams also flashed on that front 7
- RB should be a strength. Liked what I saw from Moss and Owens
- WR Thomas played well
- Four toughest games all at home

Random Spring Game Notes and Thoughts:

Massachusetts:

- Not a good look with QB Phommachanh and most RB's out
- WR Simpson is their best player
- Starting OL Average: 6-5 322
- DB's Rutherford, Barnes & Bailey along with DL Igwenagu flashed
- TE Lay 6-6 245!
- Can't believe Missouri is coming to Amherst

Notre Dame:

- Despite being a program strength the last decade, the OL is by far the biggest ?
- Talent, depth, staff and culture is the best in 30 years
- All the QB's looked good (Leonard DNP)
- Frosh class flashed led by QB Carr, WR Gilbert, DL Young, LB KVA
- DL is the strength of the team
- Pass rush was led by Duke transfer RJ Oben
- LB's have a ton upside led by former 5-star Jaylen Sneed
- Lot of depth guys flashed including S Talich, LB Kia, DL Sevillano, RB Williams, DL Onye
- WR's are improved
- RB Love is a weapon

Oregon State:

- Despite only 1 starter back, I think the defense will be fine
- Really like their LB's
- RB's Hankerson and Griffin will be offensive strength
- QB and WR play was the worst I've seen so far this spring
- Schedule is very manageable

UNLV:

- Way more talented and deeper than any UNLV team I've watched since moving to Vegas
- Love the offense led by QB Williams (Sluka not here yet)
- True frosh standouts were RB Burrell, WR McDaniel
- Really utilized the TE/FB/HB positions
- Schedule is tough

Washington State:

- Mateer looks like QB1...clear downgrade from Ward
- Deep at RB with true frosh Parker flashing
- WR Hernandez played well
- Transfer DB Durant and LB McKenna stood out on D
- 3 early injuries took some juice out of the game