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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

BOBA FETT IS LIKE JESSICA SIMPSON IN SPACE: 2014 QB DRAFT CLASS PREVIEW - TEDDY BRIDGEWATER

So who here doesn't like Star Wars?



That's exactly the same way I started my article last year regarding the 2013 quarterback draft class (which is [at this link if you're feeling nostalgic](#)). And while I likened last year's class to Jar Jar Binks, a Star Wars character well loved by only George Lucas, and likely only when he's under the influence of severe hallucinogenic drugs, this year's class is more like Boba Fett. And what I mean by that is that when I think Boba Fett, I usually think about how mysterious and awesome he was, at least before he was summarily dispatched by Han Solo's wayward staff that "accidentally" activated Boba Fett's jet pack and dropped him into the Sarlacc pit. I mean come on, who the heck totally exposes the on button for his jet pack where he can't even reach it to turn it off? Even Jessica Simpson from her "Newlyweds" days (and if you don't remember her "Chicken of the Sea" incident, please do yourself a favor and look it up) knows not to expose the power button for a jet pack where some numbskull can "accidentally" hit it and throw you into the maws of a giant alien. But I digress.



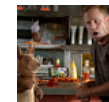
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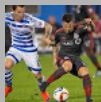
The Ravens stole one against New England last week. Here's a look at week 4 matchups.



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Unlike in 2013, the 2014 quarterback draft class is actually pretty awesome (as is the rest of the draft class), but they do come with their fair share of questions regarding how they will perform in the NFL. So in this series of articles, let's take a closer look at who's out there and where they might end up, starting with Teddy Bridgewater.

Teddy Bridgewater – QB – Louisville Cardinals



Teddy Bridgewater was one of the most watched quarterbacks in college over the last year. And although some have commented on Bridgewater's lack of arm strength or size, there's little wonder why people were so intrigued with him.

First of all, Bridgewater brought results to Louisville. Over his tenure at Louisville as a starter, he was 15-7 and had notable wins against West Virginia in 2011 and Florida in the 2013 Sugar Bowl. And he built a team first reputation, not only from what his team and coaches said to the media, but based on some of his action off the field, like asking Louisville not start a Heisman campaign for him because he didn't want the personal attention.

Second, Bridgewater was one of the most active quarterbacks at the line in college. From what we know, Louisville's offensive coordinator, Shawn Watson, gave Bridgewater an elaborate audible system where he could call multiple plays in the huddle and kill the plays at the line based on what he saw in the defense. He then had the ability to change the play entirely at the line if he didn't like what he saw. And finally he had the ability to redirect the offensive line protections based on what he saw in defensive matchups. Remind you of a certain recent AFC Championship quarterback? It does to me.

Last, Bridgewater's play at Louisville was just darn impressive. In 2011, Bridgewater had a 64.5% completion percentage with 2,129 yards and 14 TDs to 12 INTs. In 2012, Bridgewater improved in every category with a 68.5% completion percentage, 3,718 yards and 27 TDs to 8 INTs. In 2013, he was even better, with a 71.0% completion percentage, 3,970 yards and 31 TDs to only 4 INTs. In addition to these impressive stats, its clear that Bridgewater knows how to go through progressions and take what the defense is giving him without forcing throws. He's no escape artist like RGIII or Russell Wilson (or even Johnny Manziel), but he has a calm presence in the pocket and always keeps his eyes downfield, hitting receivers in stride when possible and throwing the ball away to avoid sacks when it's not. At this point, from his ability to make adjustments at the line and from his ability on the field, he appears to be the most NFL ready quarterback in the draft.

In my opinion, in part since Houston, Jacksonville and Cleveland are all potentially looking for their new franchise signal caller in the draft, I'd be surprised if Bridgewater isn't the first quarterback off the board in May. Scout's Inc. agrees placing Bridgewater at 11th overall and first among quarterbacks. And if that's true, we may be looking at the new face of the Houston Texan's franchise. Though there's plenty of talk recently from CBS Sports' Dane Brugler that Blake Bortles and Johnny Manziel are the "favorites" to be the Texans' pick at No. 1 overall. Personally, I think Bridgewater would be a good fit in Houston. Houston needs a stabilizing force on offense that's ready to play now before Arian Foster becomes Shaun Alexander and Andre Johnson becomes, well, injured Andre

an Elite 2013 Fantasy Quarterback?

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Johnson. Let's hope that if Bridgewater ends up in Houston, he doesn't end up being "bantha poodoo" like Matt Schaub has. And if you don't know what "bantha poodoo" is, you clearly have not watched enough Star Wars.

By Ha Kung Wong (Twitter: @Rhihan)



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Hakung Wong  February 21, 2014 at 11:07 AM

UPDATE:

As you all know, the NFL Combine has started, so there's going to be much more to consider shortly. As for Teddy Bridgewater, he measured in at 6 foot 2 and 1/8 inches and 214 pounds and posted a hand size of 9 1/4 inches. Having hands over the 9 inch threshold will be helpful, though there will still be some who question his size.

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Hakung Wong  February 22, 2014 at 11:13 AM

UPDATE 2:

Teddy Bridgewater will not throw at the NFL Combine, according to Vic Tafur of the San Francisco Gate. He has impressive tape from college, but will still need to impress scouts at his Pro Day.

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