

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name:	Trent Edwards	Date:	11/6/2005	Opponent:	USC
Overall Strengths:	Edwards is an extremely tough player that will stand and deliver in the pocket. He has good pocket presence and plays calm under heavy pressure. This cannot be overstated due to the fact he's taken a huge amount of punishment in four years and still plays calm under pressure. He has a pro-quality arm and excellent mobility. He has good intermediate to long range accuracy. He's sometimes pinpoint accurate. He knows how to slide in the pocket and he can break the pocket for positive yardage. He has the speed to break beat the angle of a linebacker. His mechanics are smooth and he protects the ball very well. He demonstrated repeatedly that he will scan the field for the open man and check down when necessary. This is a quarterback that could have starred at a higher profile university and put up huge stats. He has the skills to be a very good NFL starter.				
Overall Weaknesses:	Edwards will deliver the ball high when under pressure. He has never completed a full season because he took tremendous amounts of punishment each year. He took some severe shots just in the first half of this game. Despite his mobility he appears to prefer to throw out of the pocket rather than on the run.				
Accuracy:	His first interception came of a tipped ball in tight coverage. The DB tipped the ball in the air just before the receiver could get his hands on the slant. It went straight into the air and USC's LB came down with the ball. The ball was fairly accurate, but he was trying to force it into tight coverage. He should have thrown the ball a little lower. Very accurate fade pattern to start the 2nd QTR on a throw 42 yards in the air. He tends to throw the ball too high when trying to make a quick decision to anticipate pressure. He checked down to his receiver on 3rd down with 8:30 left in the half, but threw the ball too high which caused the receiver to tip the ball and a USC DB easily ran under it for an interception. He threw an excellent 14-yard pass on the post over the reach of a defender five yards in front of the WR. He was able to hit his receiver in stride despite the USC defensive linemen leading with his helmet about chin-high at Edwards throwing arm and face. As the USC defense began playing a zone towards the end of the half, Edwards could make a 5-step drop and deliver very accurate passes with zip in the open areas of the zone. Great accuracy on a 30-yard sideline streak. The ball fell right over the back shoulder of the DB. He continues to throw accurately despite getting hit after almost every pass. He threw a perfect sideline fade over the outside shoulder of his receiver for a great catch where only the WR could get it. He had some rolls to the right where he demonstrated good form but threw the ball away because no one was open. He overthrew his WR with 9:22 left in the game for his third interception. He only had no interceptions all year coming into this game.				
Arm Strength:	Edwards put just the right amount of air under the ball to complete his long fade route to McCullum to start the second quarter. The ball traveled about 42 yards in the air for a 37-yard gain. He can throw the ball with good velocity. He zipped the ball into his WR's chest on a 3rd down conversion with 7:15 left in the half. He demonstrated good zip on a 15-yard hitch off a 5-step drop. He delivered a perfect 15-yard out from the opposite hash in the 3rd QTR with 5:40 left.				
Delivery:	He has the ability to set up and release the ball quickly. He did so on a 3rd down slant that was tipped and intercepted. Despite the bad result, his form and mechanics looked good. The ball was fairly accurate, but he was trying to force it into tight coverage. He has good timing on 3-step drops. He hit his TE split wide on a 3-step drop with 13:20 in the 2nd QTR. He has a lot of potential in a rhythm passing game. He has a good 3, 5, and 7-step drop that is smooth and quick. He does need to step into this throws a bit more when under pressure. When he doesn't the ball is delivered too high. He had two interceptions due to this tendency. He delivered a short jump pass to his RB for 7 yards with less than 8:00 left in the half. Edwards throws a pretty ball in most situations. He knows how to put arc on the ball or deliver a ball on a rope.				
Decisions:	Edwards is capable of quick decisions and the porous Stanford line decreased the amount time in his internal clock when making decisions in the pocket. Edwards changed a play at the LOS at the top of the 2nd QTR when he read one on one coverage against his top receiver, McCullum. He completed a long fade for the first down and great field position. He demonstrated the ability to check down to outlet receivers rather than stare down his primary player. He's also playing without his top two receivers in this game. He showed the ability to look down field and check down during a 6-man blitz with 8:30 left in the half, but he reacted too quickly when looking back to his check down receiver and delivered the ball too high. Good job throwing the ball away when he broke the pocket on a 6-man blitz with 8:03 left in the 2nd QTR and down 37-0. He had to get rid of the ball quickly after stepping over a fallen teammate in the process of executing a play fake. This slowed his drop and the DE was on top of Edwards before he could set and scan the field.				
Ball Handling:	Edwards could have done slightly better to effectively sell his first play action fake. He turned towards the ball carried but did not fully extend the ball into the RB's body. He did bend at the waist and knees. Once he set to throw he was a step away from getting smacked by the DE on his front side. On his 20-yard scramble he held the ball close to his body with good ball protection technique. He always has two hands on the ball during his drops. Good play fake on 2nd and 8 with 12:03 in the 3rd QTR. He sold it very well with ball extension and knee bend. It drew the LB up to the LOS and allowed the TE to go free down the seam. Edwards zipped the ball into the TE for an 18-yard gain.				
Pocket Pocket Presence:	By the time they took their second offensive snap, the Cardinals were down 14-0 in this game. With 5:20 in the 1st QTR, Edwards was forced to slide to his left and up field due to an oncoming DT that came through the LOS. Just as he reset his feet, Edwards had to turn back to the left side and elude an LB coming clean on a delayed blitz. He completed a shovel pass to his RB for positive yardage just as the LB tackled him. Very quick reactions and mobility to prevent a certain sack. With :21 in the 1st QTR, Edwards sensed backside pressure, slid to his right and threw a dump off pass in the flat to his RB. The team was down 24-0 by the 2nd QTR, and USC was blitzing at will. He faced a 5-man blitz on third down and was sacked trying to break the pocket up the middle rather than throw the ball away. Despite the consistent pressure in this game, Edwards stood calm in the pocket after his drops. He stood very calm with 8:30 left in the half against a 5-man front and a 6-player blitz but when he attempted to quickly check down, he threw the ball a bit too high. His man tipped the ball and the result was his second interception. His internal clock got a little long as he had more success throwing downfield on the last drive of the half and he was blindsided by the LDE with :14 left after looking left and not finding an open receiver. He completed a deep in with perfect accuracy despite pressure closing around him with 13:00 left in the 3rd QTR. He held onto the ball until the very last moment and delivered it as a hand was going across his line of sight.				
Scrambling Ability:	Edwards demonstrated excellent quickness after stepping up the middle for a 20-yard gain. He actually beat the angle of an LB while running up field due to his speed. He did a good job sliding just as he reached the safety coming over the top. He did a good job angling away from the LB in addition to running past him. When he broke the pocket he was able to gain positive yardage with his speed. He got the Cardinals within field goal range to end the half on a roll to the right. The kicker missed the 35-yard FG.				
Durability:	He was brought down hard on his left shoulder on his 2nd attempt of the game just as he was throwing the football. He also took a huge hit on his second interception while trying to set up to tackle the runner. He also took a late hit after converting a 3rd down pass across the middle. On his touchdown pass, he got hit under the chin with the helmet as he delivered a perfect thrown on a post pattern for a score. On an incomplete pass with :22 left in the half, Edwards was hit hard just as he threw the ball. The replay showed the defender had his hands in Edwards' face on the rush. USC played rough football against Edwards and punished him throughout the first half, but he continued to make good plays. He took a huge hit while trying to slide. The hit was to his shoulder that caused him to ricochet off the ground as he slid. Edwards was hit very hard on a 1st and goal keeper from the 2 yard line. He was hit and wrapped by one defender, had his helmet yanked back by a second defender as he fell forward, and Edwards' receiver kneed the QB in the helmet as he was flying over the top. He was roughed after a shovel pass. The DE took two more steps and rammed into the QB on the blindsides. It was more a momentum issue than an attempt to bury him. He's never been able to finish a season at Stanford due to injury at some point during all 4 seasons.				
Character:	No known issues.				