

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Tyler Palko **Date:** 11/16/2006 **Opponent:** West Virginia

Overall Strengths: Palko can make any throw and squeeze the ball into tight spaces. He is accurate in all ranges. He's extremely good at short and intermediate range. He has a quick release and can throw short range passes on the run. He demonstrates good play fakes and is beginning to make smart decisions as a game manager while under pressure such as throwing the ball away rather than across the field or into tight coverage. He scans the field and will go to his second or third read. He will stand into the pocket and take a hit. He is getting better as a rhythm passer and makes quick decisions. Palko has the skills to become a quality backup. If he continues to develop, starting wouldn't be out of the question.

Overall Weaknesses: He has some mobility, but he's not a threat outside the pocket. Palko sometimes tries to squeeze the ball into tight coverage and has been reckless earlier in his career. He is still learning to recognize coverage's. He also needs to do a better job protecting the football when moving in the pocket or rolling out. He holds the ball too low and away from his body. His in-pocket skills in terms of sliding away from pressure and pump fakes need more polish. He had miscommunications with his receivers on 4-5 throws today.

Accuracy: He threw an accurate ball in the flat to his receiver on a roll and throw to the left on 3rd down with 13:04 left in the 1st QTR. Palko squeezed the ball 20-yards downfield to the TE who made a leaping grab just in front of the charging safety and the DB in coverage over top. Palko still has the tendency to believe he can fit the ball into tight space--often enough he can, but he's a risk taker. Palko's second score was a crossing route to the left corner of the end zone that he threw rolling to the left. He doesn't look very graceful or quick on the run, but the ball was well-thrown. He throws the flat routes with good accuracy. He led his receivers very well. He did the same on a 3rd down slant between three players in the zone. He led Kinder enough for the WR to gain extra yardage on the play. He did the same leading his FB over the outside shoulder for a first down on the next play. Palko made a good throw to the sideline that was placed low enough for only the WR to catch. The throw was made from the opposite hash 15 yards down field. He threw a very accurate ball 40 yards in the air, but the DB made an excellent play to knock the ball away from the WR.

Arm Strength: Palko put a good amount of zip on a square-in for a 13-yard gain on a 3rd and 2. The QB put his big arm on display with 5:45 in the 1st QTR. He overthrew a streak and the ball traveled 50 yards in the air. He made an excellent throw to his WR on the right sideline. It was a quick turn and throw of a 15-yard out that got to his receiver quickly. This allowed the WR to make a move and gain another 20 yards. Palko delivered a 25-yard go-pattern to his WR on a rope with :25 left in the half. The ball traveled 30 yards in the air and resulted in a 55-yard play. Good far side throw with velocity at the 3:50 mark of the 3rd QTR.

Delivery: Palko has a very quick release. It look like he flicks the ball out of his hand. His drop seems a little slow, but the footwork seems well-timed. He demonstrated in the first half the ability to throw the ball while moving left, right, on the run or moving off his back foot. Most of these passes were within a short distance, but accurate. He made an accurate throw across the field while moving left, but the distance was only 5 yards to an RB in the middle of the field. Still, it was good touch with an off balanced delivery.

Decisions: Palko looked in three different directions downfield on the play he converted the 3rd and 2 to his receiver with 13:30 left in the 1st QTR. He looked to his left, then to the fullback out of the flat--which drew the coverage away from his receiver 10 yards further downfield--and threw to his WR on a square-in. On the next play, he rolled to the right and eventually threw the ball away when he couldn't find an open man. He's making very quick decisions on his first drive. He took a three step drop and throw out of the shotgun on a first down completion to his RB out of the backfield with 11:45 left in the 1st QTR. His decision to throw the ball into tight coverage to his TE for the score was a risk. It's apparent that Palko has cut down on his risk-taking to some extent in comparison to previous seasons, but he still has the tendency to take chances. He's now more of a risk-taker than reckless, which is a good change. Palko changed a passing play from a 3-WR set to a draw play where he took one step, threw a hard pump fake, and gave the ball to the RB for a big gain and a first down at the WVU 20 with 12:20 left in the half. He repeatedly adjusted plays at the LOS and they were effective. He is much better at throwing the ball away rather than what he did for the last two years which was try to squeeze it into the middle of the field. He did misread a blitz and made a check that backfired. He saw blitz pre-snap, but it was zone. He threw an out to the left that the CB almost caught when he jumped the route. He did nearly the same thing with :23 left in the 3rd QTR.

Ball Handling: Palko started the game with a play action pass to his FB in the flat. He extended the ball on the play fake and drew the defensive the middle of the defense to the fake. He holds the ball too low when scrambling. He pump faked, tried to scramble and had the ball knocked out of his hands. The Panthers did receiver. Excellent pump fake after the snap when he switched a play at the LOS to a draw. This froze the defense and opening a large hole for the RB up the middle.

Pocket Pocket Palko threw a 23-yard score to his TE down the seam after stepping up and releasing the ball under pressure and moving forward. Palko is willing to stand in the pocket and deliver the ball at the last moment. He turned left and dumped off a ball to his FB with men bearing down with 5:00 left in the half. He actually pushed the DT off him after the

Presence: throw and knocked the defender on this back! He did well to slide to his right and deliver a ball downfield rather than take the sack or throw it into coverage--a disciplined, well-managed decisions. He tried to slide to his right when the LB came free up the middle, but was tripped up as he slid forward. His footwork is decent, but not very quick. On the next play, he actually eluded three players where he rolled to the right, weaved away from the backside pressure, slipped a second tackle that spun him around, and then he reversed his field to the left side. He then dipped away from the trailing pursuit and delivered a throw to his RB in the flat for a minimal gain. With 13:30 left in the game, Palko stood in the pocket and threw a 20-yard square-in as an LB bared down on him. It was a perfect throw despite getting slammed to the ground.

Scrambling Ability: Palko doesn't appear very nimble when he breaks the pocket. He takes very short steps and appears as if he's tiptoeing. He did make a quick decision to break the pocket up the middle when no one was open and get five yards before diving to the ground before he'd have to take a hit. He actually had to drop to the ground on a 1st and 10 at the 20 yard line when he couldn't find an open receiver and he couldn't break the pocket to his left or up the middle. He's primarily a pocket passer. He took a loss on a roll to the left, but displayed a good stiff arm that knocked down the LB. His decision not to throw the ball way wasn't a great decision.

Durability: No known issues.

Character: Very hard-working athlete. A coach's son that told his QB coach after his junior year that he wanted to do what it took to be like Tom Brady and worked during the off season to improve his game significantly. He flawlessly managed the 2-minute drill from the 16 yard line to the WVU 23 yard line to take a 3-point lead, 27-24.