

Class of 2007

Recent grads often learn that the real world can knock you flat on your back. For senior quarterbacks Brady Quinn and Troy Smith, that means being reality-checked by

250-pound linebackers. ESPN analyst **TODD MCSHAY** tells *MF* how five of this year's senior standouts will most likely fare in this month's NFL draft. | **BY ERIC BUTTERMAN**



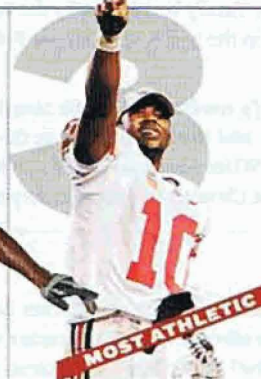
VALEDICTORIAN

BRADY QUINN
QB, Notre Dame
Final Grade (for 2006 season): **C**
DRAFT PREDICTION: Quinn's got good size—about 6'3", 230—and put up great stats under Charlie Weis. Plus, I think he'll understand how to run a pro scheme. One negative is he didn't perform well against tougher opponents last season, like Michigan, USC, and LSU.
FANTASY FOOTBALL POTENTIAL: He'll be a solid starter but will have to work extra hard to be a top player in the NFL. Still, McShay predicts Quinn will be the first overall draft pick.



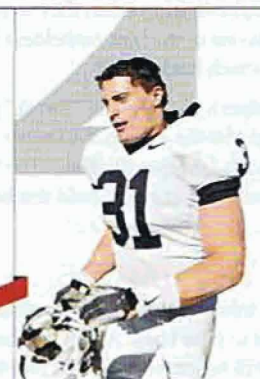
LEON HALL
CB, Michigan
Final Grade: **B+**
DRAFT PREDICTION:

A physical, instinctive cornerback, Hall doesn't have elite speed and sometimes struggles when he has to turn and run against the fastest receivers. However, if they make the catch, look for Hall to make them pay with solid tackling.
FF POTENTIAL: You can't teach speed, but Hall is still a likely top-15 pick who can turn pickoffs into fantasy points.



MOST ATHLETIC

TROY SMITH
QB, Ohio State
Final Grade: **A**
DRAFT PREDICTION: No player improved his draft stock more than the 2006 Heisman winner, but McShay doesn't think he'll be a first-round pick because, he says, "teams are always wary of shorter quarterbacks." Another issue: his embarrassing performance versus Florida in the title game.
FF POTENTIAL: He's an accurate passer who could be something between a Mike Vick and a Drew Brees. Still, Smith will probably add the most impact to any roster after a year on the sidelines.



PAUL POSLUSZNY
LB, Penn State
Final Grade: **C**
DRAFT PREDICTION:

Ever since getting injured at the end of the 2005 season, Posluszny hasn't been the same. Nevertheless, he got back on his game toward the end of '06 and even dealt with being moved to inside linebacker. When it comes to the draft, he could be a first-rounder, depending on teams' priorities.
FF POTENTIAL: Call him Mr. Longevity—because Posluszny will be plugging up running lanes for years to come.



KENNY IRONS
RB, Auburn
Final Grade: **D**
DRAFT PREDICTION:

The running-back class is one of the worst in a long time, says McShay. Still, Irons is a reluctant pick for top rusher, despite his miserable season from a production standpoint. "He wasn't healthy, and I think it will lower him to late first round, but he's a versatile player who can catch the ball. His speed is just good, not great."
FF POTENTIAL: Imagine Clinton Portis with a bit less power. Could be a dark-horse winner for your fantasy league if he can remain healthy.

BALL BREAKERS

Soccer kicks ass—so why is no one watching? As a new season of Major League Soccer resumes this month, we ask: What'll it take to boost viewership stateside for the world's most popular spectator sport? For love of the game, *MF* suggests how to "improve" American *futbol*.

BY NATE MILLADO

MORE EXHIBITIONISM No, we don't mean bikini-clad cheerleaders (though that certainly would help). Last summer, Spanish power FC Barcelona competed with our clubs for a three-game American tour. There's nothing like a good exhibition game (perhaps against David Beckham's estranged team, Real Madrid) to drum up some interest.
MORE STAR POWER American soccer needs a household name. Even your girlfriend knows who Beckham is. Importing the famous faux-hawked footballer to the L.A. Galaxy was a great start. Now that each team can sign one world-renowned player outside the salary cap, it's time to aggressively land more Ronaldinho-like superstars.

LESS BALL HOGGING Forty-five-minute halves feel interminable enough without having players make lateral passes all day. The NBA employs a shot clock. Perhaps less time to attempt a score in soccer will encourage more shots at the goal, which means...
MORE POINTS Let's face it—Yanks love a high-scoring game. Why not take a page from the American football handbook and make each goal worth six points, thus lighting up the scoreboard with an 18-6 result, rather than 3-1?
MORE COLOR COMMENTARY Andrés Cantor—the commentator who elevated the word *goooo!* to a whole new level—is like the Dick Vitale of soccer. Here's an idea: Pair up those two for a highly entertaining play-by-play recounting all the week's action.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JOHN PYLE/ICON SPORTS MEDIA; NED DISHMAN/GETTY IMAGES; JEFF CROSS/GETTY IMAGES; JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES; ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES; VICTOR FRAILLE/REUTERS