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Frank Cooney's

October 4, 2005

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Bruce Gradkowski, QB, Toledo

Name: **Bruce Gradkowski**College: **Toledo** Number: **7**Height: **6-1** Weight: **220**Position: **QB** Pos2:Class/Draft Year: **Sr/2006**40 Time: **4.67**Projected Round: **3-4** Stock:Rated number **4** out of 77 QB's **91 / 1601 TOTAL**

Combine Results

Combine Invite:

Height: **6010**Weight: **220**

40 Yrd Dash:

20 Yrd Dash:

10 Yrd Dash:

Wonderlic:

225 Lb. Bench Reps:

Vertical Jump:

Broad Jump:

20 Yrd Shuttle:

3-Cone Drill:

Pro Day Results

Dates:

Height: **6010**Weight: **220**

40 Yrd Dash:

20 Yrd Dash:

10 Yrd Dash:

225 Lb. Bench Reps:

Vertical Jump:

Broad Jump:

20 Yrd Shuttle:

3-Cone Drill:

Player Profile

OVERVIEW

Bruce is a very mobile quarterback who keeps defenses honest with his ability to throw on the move, step up in the pocket and throw with touch or roll out, tuck the ball and race down the sidelines in order to move the chains. He is the unquestioned leader of the team and well-respected throughout the industry for his character, leadership and poise.

The Seton-LaSalle High School product was the latest standout quarterback to play in that prep conference, which also featured the likes of such greats as Johnny Lujack, George Blanda, Joe Namath, Terry Hanratty, Joe Montana and Dan Marino. All of those quarter-backs' passing statistics were surpassed by Bruce, earning All-State and "Fab 22 Team" honors from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in his junior and senior seasons.

Gradkowski hit on 188 of 327 passes (57.5%) for 2,978 yards and 30 touchdowns as a senior. That passing yardage total was the most in the conference's 87-year history. He threw for 1,630 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior and was named first-team all-conference. Bruce also excelled in basketball, starting at point guard and was the team's leading scorer.

After redshirting as a freshman at Toledo in 2001, Bruce saw minimal action in 2002, completing two of three passes for 28 yards. He moved into the starting lineup as a sophomore, setting a Mid-American Conference season-record as he ranked second in the nation, completing 71.2% of his passes. He was sixth in the NCAA Division 1-A ranks with a 161.5 passing efficiency rating. He completed 277 of 389 passes for 3,210 yards, with a school season-record 29 touchdowns and seven interceptions. He also proved to be a capable scrambler, totaling 504 yards and a score on 91 carries (5.5 avg).

The All-American honorable mention ranked second in the nation with a 71.2% pass completion in 2004. He ranked fifth in the country with 3,518 yards, hitting on 280 of 399 attempts. He had 27 touchdowns and eight interceptions, adding nine more scores and 191 yards on 91 carries (2.1 avg). He proved his toughness by playing in the MAC Championship Game and the Motor City Bowl with a dislocated left shoulder and a broken bone in his right hand.

Gradkowski's 70.7% career pass completion percentage is the best among NCAA returning quarterbacks in 2005. Through 38 games for the Rockets, he has completed 559 of 791 passes for 6,756 yards, a school career-record 56 touchdowns and only 15 interceptions. His 6,756 yards rank third on the school's all-time record list. Bruce also rushed for 727 yards and ten touchdowns on 187 carries (3.9 avg). He amassed 7,483 yards in total offense and has been responsible for 66 touchdowns while starting 25 times during his collegiate career.

2007 DRAFT**Player Ratings/News****OFFENSE****DEFENSE****2008 DRAFT****Player Ratings/News****OFFENSE****DEFENSE****2005 DRAFT****Player Ratings/Profiles****OFFENSE****DEFENSE****2005 DRAFT ARCHIVES**[-2005 Index Page](#)[-Top 100 List , 101-200](#)[-Top 200-300 , 300-](#)[400](#)[-05 Draft Tracker](#)[-Player Value Charts](#)[-3 Round Mock Draft](#)[-Combine Results](#)[-Combine Archives](#)[-Pro Day Workouts](#)[-05' Focus: By Position](#)[-Small School Players](#)[-All Star Bowl Games](#)[-2005 Scout Reports](#)[-Underclassmen](#)[-Rogues Gallery](#)[-Blesto/National Comp](#)[-All American Teams](#)**SCOUTING ANALYSIS**

Bruce has a good body frame that can add more bulk with no loss in speed. He is a dangerous roll-out passer with the speed to tuck the ball and gain big yardage on the ground. He is a smart, instinctive athlete who is a solid decision maker. He is a fearless leader who plays with injuries that would sideline most other players. He is hard to defend as he makes the defense play the entire field.

He has adequate arm strength and might be better suited for a West Coast or option offense. He shows great ability to throw on the run and shows the awareness to set up and throw the short ball with good touch. He shows good zip on intermediate throws, but tends to hold the ball a little too long at times waiting for his primary target to get open. However, he will throw the ball away or tuck the ball and run rather than make poor decisions by throwing into a crowd.

He is calm under pressure and throws a catchable ball, displaying a smooth over-the-top motion and a decent release. He has adequate speed getting to his pass set point, as the team utilizes him mostly in the shotgun, making it hard to judge his quickness getting back from center. He has a good feel for pressure and good command of the huddle.

Bruce is best when operating in the short area. He does a good job of anticipating when his receivers will get open and is effective on crossing routes. He distributes the ball effectively, utilizing all of his targets on the field. His feet buy him time in the pocket waiting for the plays to develop, but he still needs to get the ball off a little quicker.

He is a mobile runner who is very good on the bootlegs and draw plays. He has the ability to throw on the run, especially from the far hash. Gradkowski's problems develop when he fails to locate his secondary targets, relying too much on his mobility to buy time while eyeing his primary target. He is a competitive type that will improvise to make the plays. Bruce has solid throwing mechanics and will drill the ball to his receiver on underneath routes. He has very good balance and change of direction agility to step up in the pocket and hangs tough under the rush.

While he might not be suited for a vertical passing game, he has a lot of ability in handling the option attack. He lacks ideal size that you look for in a quarterback and needs more muscle tone, but has the mental alertness and competitive fire to make things happen on the field. Playing through those injuries late in 2004 proved his toughness.

A bit of a concern is his smaller-than-ideal hands (8 7/8-inches), as he is prone to fumbling the ball (see 2004 Kansas and Western Michigan games) because of his inability to secure the ball at times, but he does square his shoulders well on the move. He looks like a nice mid-round talent who can be an effective back-up earlier in his career, but needs to improve his arm strength before he can be counted on to lead a pro team.

SCOUTING REPORT

Positives...Has outstanding leadership ability and is in total command in the huddle... Shows good poise stepping up in the pocket and is never rattled by pressure...Very accurate on screens, fades and underneath tosses, showing much better touch in the short area than on long throws...Throws a soft ball with a tight spiral and is very effective throwing on the move...Has great escape agility and is quick enough to generate a burst working into the second level...Effective scrambler who keeps his feet under him when throwing on the move...Student of the game with good field vision, easily spotting the soft spot in the defense's zone...Puts good zip behind his slant passes and has enough arm strength to connect on the corner from the far hash...Distributes the ball, taking advantage to use all of his targets.

Negatives...Has a snappy over-the-top release, but shows a slight hitch/flick...Has adequate arm strength, but not enough to fire tight ropes throwing deep...Works too much from the shotgun, making it difficult to evaluate his speed dropping back from center to set and throw...Spends more time than needed eyeing his primary targets and seems to hesitate looking off to find his secondary receivers...Makes good decisions mostly on the field, but is not known for making them instantly...Has smaller than ideal hands and this could possibly be the reason for some fumble issues...Has a good built, but not muscular and could use more bulk and strength to compete at the next level.

CAMPUS AGILITY TESTS

4.50 in the 40-yard dash...350-pound bench press...Bench presses 225 pounds 17 times... Leg presses 600 pounds 20 times...33 3/4-inch vertical jump...3.97 20-yard shuttle...6.76 three-cone drill...31 1/2-inch arm length...8 7/8-inch hands...Right-handed...19/26 Wonderlic score.

INJURY REPORT

2004-Suffered a left shoulder dislocation early in the Miami of Ohio (MAC Championship, 12/02) game and later fractured a metacarpal bone in his right hand, but he refused to leave the game and played with those injuries three weeks later vs. Connecticut in the Motor City Bowl.

2005-Underwent surgery to repair the broken bone in his right hand after the 2004 season.

2005 SEASON

Bruce is the nation's leading returner with a 70.7% pass completion percentage...Holds the school's career-record with 56 touchdown passes, topping the previous mark of 52 by Ryan Huzjak (1993-96)...Completed 559 passes in 38 games, topped only by Huzjak's 600 on Toledo's all-time record chart...His 791 pass attempts rank sixth in school history while his 6,756 yards passing rank third, surpassed by Huzjak (6,926) and Gene Swick (7266, 1972-75)...His 70.7 pass completion percentage bettered the old school record of 68.9% by Brian Jones (2001-02)...His 162.5 passing efficiency rating is Toledo's all-time record and ranks second among 2005 NCAA returning quarterbacks...His eight 300-yard passing games broke the old school career-record of five set by Brian Jones...His 7,483 yards in total offense is surpassed only by Swick (8,083) and Huzjak (8,465) in Toledo history...His 66 touchdowns responsible for are one short of the school record of 66 by Huzjak.

Preseason All-Mid American Conference consensus choice...Member of the Davey O'Brien Award and Heisman Trophy Watch Lists...Was limited in spring drills while still recovering from 2004 post-season hand surgery.

2004 SEASON

Named honorable mention All-American by Sports Illustrated...Ranked second in nation in completion percentage (70.2%), fifth in passing efficiency (162.6), fifth in passing yards (3,518), and 10th in total offense (385.3)...Set school records in passing yards, and passing efficiency...Completed 280 of 399 passes (70.2%) for 3,518 yards, 27 touchdowns and eight interceptions...His 3,518 yards broke the old school season-record of 3,446 by Brian Jones in 2002...His 399 pass attempts are topped only by Chris Wallace (400 in 1998 and 433 in 1997) and Jones (423 in 2002) on Toledo's season-record chart...Only Jones (297 in 2002) completed more passes in a season for the Rockets...His 27 touchdowns are topped only by Bruce's 2003 total of 29 on the school's season-record list.

Accounted for 132 of the team's 146 first downs passing...Added nine scores and 191 yards on 91 carries (2.1 avg)...27 of those runs resulted in first downs, including 12 coming on third-down plays and two coming on fourth-downs...Gained 3,709 yards in total offense, topped only by his own 2003 total of 3,714 yards and the 3,860 yards gained by Brian Jones in 2002 on Toledo's annual record chart...His 35 touchdowns responsible for broke his own previous school record of 30, set in 2003...Was sacked 14 times for losses of 93 yards...Fumbled the ball eight times, with the defense recovering four of those miscues...Had a streak of 199 consecutive pass attempts without an interception at one point during 2004.

2003 SEASON

Named the team's Outstanding Offensive Back...Despite ranking second in the nation with a 71.2 pass completion percentage (conference record) and sixth with a 161.5 passing efficiency rating, Bruce was mysteriously omitted from any All-Mid American Conference teams...He set a school season-record with 29 touchdown passes, breaking the old mark of 27 set by Chris Wallace (and matched by Gradkowski in 2004) in 1997...Completed 277 of 389 passes for 3,210 yards...His 389 attempts rank fifth, 277 completions rank third and 3,210 yards are topped only by his 2004 total of 3,518 yards and 3,446 by Brian Jones in 2002 on Toledo's season-record lists.

Added 504 yards and a touchdown on 91 carries (5.5 avg)...His 504 yards rank as the fourth-best season total in school history by a quarterback...Gained 3,714 yards in total offense, topped only by Bruce's 2004 total of 3,709 yards in 2004 and the 3,860 yards gained by Brian Jones in 2002 on the school's season-record chart...Was sacked nine times for losses of 47 yards...Fumbled the ball seven times, turning it over twice...Also had seven interceptions.

2002 SEASON

Played in every game as the team's holder on special teams...Saw action at quarterback vs. Cal Poly, Eastern Michigan and Marshall...Finished with 28 yards on two of three passes and carried five times for 32 yards (6.4 avg).

2001 SEASON

Redshirted as a freshman.

HIGH SCHOOL

Attended Seton-La Salle (Pittsburgh, Pa.) High School, playing football for coach Lou Reed...Was the latest standout quarterback to play in that prep conference, which also featured the likes of such greats as Johnny Lujack, George Blanda, Joe Namath, Terry Hanratty, Joe Montana and Dan Marino...All of those quarterbacks' passing statistics were surpassed by Bruce, earning All-State and "Fab 22 Team" honors from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in his junior and senior seasons.

Hit on 188 of 327 passes (57.5%) for 2,978 yards and 30 touchdowns as a senior...That passing yardage total was the most in the conference's 87-year history...Threw for 1,630 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior and was named first-team all-conference...Also excelled in basketball, starting at point guard and was the team's leading scorer.

PERSONAL

Business Marketing major...Son of Debbie and Bruce Gradkowski...Born Bruce Raymond Gradkowski on 1/27/83... Father is a business agent and mother is a dental assistant... Bruce served as an intern in the University of Toledo Athletic Marketing Department in the summer of 2005...His assignments included selling football season tickets... Resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Draft Scout Player News

09/28/2005 - QB Bruce Gradkowski has missed a lot of practice time since the Temple game after suffering a concussion and did not play against Fresno State. Redshirt freshman Clint Cochran got the start and played with courage.

09/23/2005 - The express is rolling at just the right time. On the heels of a 42-17 rout of Temple, the Rockets appear ready for their showdown at Fresno State. A week after rolling up 612 yards in a 56-23 victory over Western Michigan, Toledo (3-0) just went through the motions and thoroughly outclassed Temple. The Rockets jumped out to a 21-0 lead in the first quarter, and put it on cruise control the rest of the way.

The nationally-televised midweek showcase game with Fresno State will give Toledo a chance to show the rest of the country just what quarterback Bruce Gradkowski is all about. Gradkowski, the first I-A quarterback to complete at least 70 percent of his passes in two consecutive seasons last year. Gradkowski broke two school records in the first half against Temple, becoming the school's career leader in yards passing (7,410) and completions (613). He finished 20 of 29 for 182 yards, but it looked like Toledo head coach Tom Amstutz was still pulling back on the reins.

"When we play at Fresno State, we'll have to put a whole game together. We've played well at times so far, but we need it all, all the way, when we play Fresno." --- Toledo QB Bruce Gradkowski.

09/20/2005 - The Rockets have benefited from the services of some exceptional quarterbacks over the years. The guy running the huddle right now might be the best of the bunch, and that is saying something. Senior Bruce Gradkowski used Temple for target practice in his most recent outing, and shot his way deeper into the Toledo record book. The Pittsburgh blue-collar product accounted for five touchdowns as the Rockets throttled Temple 42-17 at Lincoln Financial Field, and claimed a pair of major records in the process.

Gradkowski completed 20 of 29 passes for 182 yards in the game, passed for four touchdowns, ran for another, and was intercepted once. Along the way he broke Gene Swick's 30-year-old Toledo record for career passing yards. Gradkowski, in his third season as the starter, has 7,410 passing yards, while the prolific Swick (1972-75) threw for 7,266.

Next to fall was the career completions record of former Toledo standout Ryan Huzjak, who from 1993-96 had 600 completed passes. Gradkowski has 613 completions just three games into his senior season, so he will likely stretch all of his marks out a considerable distance more.

"The record stuff is great, but I actually forgot about it until somebody came up and congratulated me on the sideline," Gradkowski said. "It's great, sure, but I'm focused on team goals." Good answer, because if the team goals are accomplished, Gradkowski will push those records so far into the distance that they might be safe for another 30 years or so.

09/20/2005 - QB Bruce Gradkowski, the senior from Pittsburgh, played just more than a half for the third straight week, but finished 20-29 for 182 yards and four touchdowns. It was the 13th time in Gradkowski's career that he has thrown at least three touchdown passes in a game, and the fourth time as a Rocket that he has thrown at least four scores in a game. Twice, Gradkowski has thrown for six touchdowns in a game.

09/15/2005 - Bruce Gradkowski, the blue-collar quarterback from Pittsburgh, threw three touchdown passes in the first half as Toledo raced to a 35-0 lead en route to a 56-23 victory over Western Michigan. Gradkowski is the only player in NCAA Division I-A history to complete better than 70 percent of his passes in each of his two seasons as a starter.

09/13/2005 - The Rockets have put up some explosive numbers over the last four seasons, and it looks like 2005 will be more of the same. The master of ceremonies in that touchdown parade has been senior quarterback Bruce Gradkowski, who for the past two seasons has completed better than 70 percent of his passes. In the most recent win, over Western Michigan, the Pittsburgh native moved past Ryan Huzjak and into second place on Toledo's all-time passing list with 7,228 career yards.

It was just another day at the office for Gradkowski as he led Toledo to a 56-23 thrashing of the Broncos by completing 25-of-35 passes for 338 yards and three touchdowns. Gradkowski completed passes to 10 different receivers. "He's a really good quarterback," Western head coach Bill Cubit said of Gradkowski. "It really helps him when you can run the ball with the play action to suck in the safeties. We had him stopped a few times but he scrambled and made big plays. If you don't stop the run you're going to make him a better quarterback."

Gradkowski threw three touchdown passes in the first half as Toledo raced to a 35-0 lead, and for the second week in a row he limited his own playing time by being so effective. The biggest problem Toledo head coach Tom Amstutz has with Gradkowski is keeping him happy. "Bruce is such a competitor that he gets mad when I take him out of the game," Amstutz said.

09/13/2005 - QB Bruce Gradkowski, the senior from Pittsburgh, finished the rout of Western Michigan with 25 of 35 passing for 338 yards with an interception. It is the ninth time in his career Gradkowski has surpassed 300 yards passing in a game, and the 12th time he's thrown at least three touchdown passes in a game.

09/09/2005 - The beauty of the Toledo spread offense is best displayed when the Rockets have a quarterback like Bruce Gradkowski at the controls. His ability to hit the quick strikes, avoid the rush with his speed, and utilize the run to keep the defense off-kilter will overwhelm Western Michigan.

"We are anxious to play a MAC game, because our first goal is always to win the MAC. We can start down that road with a win over Western Michigan." -- Toledo quarterback Bruce Gradkowski.

09/06/2005 - QB Bruce Gradkowski, the senior from Pittsburgh, needed only one half to slice up Western Illinois. Gradkowski, the nation's most accurate passer over the last two seasons, threw for two touchdowns and ran for another one in the 62-14 rout. He hit nine of 17 passes for 134 yards as Toledo built a 41-0 lead at the half.

09/01/2005 - Bruce Gradkowski threw for two touchdowns and ran for another score Thursday night to help Toledo rout Western Illinois 62-14 in the season opener for both teams. Gradkowski, only played the first half, completed 9 of 17 passes for 134 yards and left with a 41-0 halftime lead.

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Expanded & Classic Player Profiles Are OFFICIAL NFL RECORDS

by Scout Dave Te' Thomas, NFLScouting, NFLDraftScout.com

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