

2008 Big Ten football team

Here is the 2008 Big Ten football team selected by conference coaches and the media:

Coaches team

Offense

First team

QB—Daryll Clark, Penn State
RB—Shonn Greene, Iowa; Javon Ringer, Michigan State
WR—Eric Decker, Minnesota; Derrick Williams, Penn State
C—A.Q. Shipley, Penn State
G—Seth Olsen, Iowa; Rich Ohrnberger, Penn State
T—Alex Boone, Ohio State; Gerald Cadogan, Penn State
TE—Brandon Myers, Iowa
PK—Kevin Kelly, Penn State

Second team

QB—Adam Weber, Minnesota
RB—Chris “Beanie” Wells, Ohio State; Evan Royster, Penn State
WR—Arrelious Benn, Illinois; David Gilreath, Wisconsin
C—Rob Bruggeman, Iowa
G—Stefen Wisniewski, Penn State; Kraig Urbik, Wisconsin
T—Xavier Fulton, Illinois; Bryan Bulaga, Iowa
TE—Garrett Graham, Wisconsin
PK—Brett Swenson, Michigan State

Defense

First team

DL—Mitch King, Iowa; Corey Wootton, Northwestern; Aaron Maybin, Penn State; Jared Odrick, Penn State
LB—Greg Jones, Michigan State; James Laurinaitis, Ohio State; Navorro Bowman, Penn State
DB—Vontae Davis, Illinois; Otis Wiley, Michigan State; Malcolm Jenkins, Ohio State; Anthony Scirrotto, Penn State



CAROLYN KASTER / AP

Penn State QB Daryll Clark has thrown 17 TDs with just four interceptions.

P—Zoltan Mesko, Michigan

Second team

DL—Jammie Kirlaw, Indiana; Brandon Graham, Michigan; Willie VanDeSteege, Minnesota; Mike Newkirk, Wisconsin
LB—Brit Miller, Illinois; Pat Angerer, Iowa; Marcus Freeman, Ohio State
DB—Amari Spivey, Iowa; Traye Simmons, Minnesota; Allen Langford, Wisconsin; Jay Valai, Wisconsin
P—Ryan Donahue, Iowa

Honorable mention:

Illinois—Jon Asamoah, Michael Hoomanawanui, Ryan McDonald, Derek Walker, Juice Williams; Iowa—Kyle Calloway, A.J. Edds, Bradley Fletcher, Matt Kroul; Michigan—Obi Ezech, Brandon Minor, Terrance Taylor; Michigan State—Trevor Anderson, Aaron Bates, Charlie Gantt, Brian Hoyer, Roland Martin, Jesse Miller, Chris Rucker, Blair White; Minnesota—Jack Simmons; Northwestern—John Gill, Keegan

Kennedy, Sherrick McManis, Eric Peterman, Brad Phillips, Brendan Smith, Tyrell Sutton, Amado Villarreal; Ohio State—Nader Abdallah, Kurt Coleman, Rory Nicol; Penn State—Jeremy Boone, Tony Davis, Dennis Landolt, Jordan Norwood, Mark Rubin, Tyrell Sales, Lydell Sargeant; Purdue—Anthony Heygood, Greg Orton, David Pender, Kory Sheets, Torri Williams; Wisconsin—Jonathan Casillas, Jason Chapman, P.J. Hill, Andy Kemp, DeAndre Levy, Matt Shaughnessy, Eric Vandenberg, Philip Welch.

Players of the year

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Shonn Greene, Iowa
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE YEAR: A.Q. Shipley, Penn State
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: James Laurinaitis, Ohio State
DEFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE YEAR: Mitch King, Iowa
FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Terrelle Pryor, Ohio State

A perfect way to go out

BY CURTIS PAINTER

For SN Today

You know, when you kind of look at the season, it wasn't quite what anybody expected or hoped for, but being able to end it like we did against Indiana—to go out on top and play a great game—was really big. It was kind of an emotional game with the rivalry; it was huge to be able to go out like that.

The first couple of drives, we went with kind of a hurry-up offense and I was calling the majority of the plays at the line of scrimmage. I had to see what the defense was doing. I think maybe that got me into a rhythm. I'm very comfortable doing that kind of stuff. In the Iowa game the week before, we were successful doing the hurry-up in the two-minute drill.

The double-pass back to me was not one of the plays I called though. I don't think they trust me enough to call that kind of play. It was a play we worked on all week, and just put it in this week specifically. We wanted to do it in an area where we were 25 to 30 yards out, heading in to score.

It worked well. It's always good when you can pull those deceptive plays off. Obviously if I had a little more speed, I could have scored on it. I saw the cornerback run with our receiver, and I knew he was about the only guy who could stop the play if he hung back. When he ran with our guy, I knew I was fine. But I figured somebody would catch me sooner or later.



DARRON CUMMINGS / AP

'It's been a great ride, a great career and a great time here,' Purdue QB Curtis Painter says.

I don't know if it has really sunk in that it was my final game. Obviously it was emotional being senior day, running out across the field for the last time. After a couple more weeks roll around, not going to practices, I think it's going to hit home. It's been a great ride, a great career and a great time here. We've had a really good time.

As far as the NFL, from what I've heard from past players, it's kind of a hectic process. I'd love the opportunity to go to the next level. I'll be working out pretty hard the next couple of months, and hopefully I'll get invited to the combine and I hope to perform well there.

There are some junior quarterbacks out there who are very talented, and I know there is the possibility of some of them

coming out, and obviously there are seniors around the nation that are very good. I think it will be a competitive quarterback group. It'll certainly be a great, new experience.

—As told to Brian McLaughlin

About the author



Curtis Painter
Purdue QB
Curtis Painter, Purdue's 6-4, 230-pound four-year

starting quarterback, threw for 448 yards and five touchdowns in his final game as a Bollelmaker, beating Indiana 62-10. Painter finishes as the second-best career passer in Big Ten history with 11,163 yards passing.