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## Painter keeps even keel

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What would you rather have, a quarterback who is fiery, emotional and gets after his teammates in the huddle?

Or, one who is calm, cool and collected?

Both types have been successful and both types have struggled. So there is no easy answer.

Purdue QB Curtis Painter falls into the second category. In fact, he has even referred to himself as boring.

"I think maybe I'm not as boring when I get around my friends," Painter said with a smile, referring to his teammates. "I talk a lot more to them and I try to be as vocal as I can. But at the same time, I'm not the guy who is going to yell at them, curse at them.

"Just knowing that I've got confidence in them and we know what we can do as an offense, I try not to be very boring on the field."

In many ways, a quarterback's personality creates a Catch-22 situation.

If he is fiery and emotional, and winning, the analysts claim it's because he provides that special spark. If the team is struggling, they'll claim that his teammates don't respond to his hyper ways.

Or, vice versa.

If he is calm, cool and collected, his unflappable ways are credited as a major reason for the team's success. If the team is losing, his personality is used as a negative -- that his laid-back style rubs off on his teammates, that the team has no fire.

"I keep saying it, but it's hard for somebody on the outside to really know what kind of comfort level we have on the offense," Painter said. "There are a lot of guys that all came in together. When you're here five years with these guys, you're very comfortable with them.

"Nobody is in a situation where they are yelling at a guy or trying to pick someone up in a negative way. It's always positive criticism."

At least Painter has been consistent.

As Purdue's starter now for 34 consecutive games, his personality has pretty much stayed the same.

"This is how I've always been. I've been really a pretty reserved and shy guy all my life," he said. "I'm probably more open now than in the past. It's kind of how I am. I've never been a cocky guy or someone who gets too excited or emotional.

"The way I am, kind of quiet, going about things the way I do, it's kind of leading by example. When people see that, they respect that more than a guy who's out there doing backflips after a touchdown. In my eyes, it helps out a little more than a guy who gets too high or too low and is kind of an emotional wreck."

Purdue coach Joe Tiller sees both sides of the issue, saying there are pluses and minuses either way.

He added that there are plenty of vocal leaders on this year's team.

"I think Cory Benton is good at it, and Greg Orton is pretty good at it too," Tiller said.

Benton, fifth-year senior and starting center, thinks the players feed off Painter's confident, calm personality.

"He is a pretty laid-back person but he does get fired up, especially in the huddle," Benton said. "But he does have to stay controlled and relaxed."

"But the offensive line can be a bit more reckless and kind of get after people. We get to yelling and screaming in there, and (running back Kory) Sheets is another guy who does that, and Orton kind of talks a little bit in the huddle before Curtis gets in there."

"Intensity is definitely not something we're lacking right now."

Orton is a fellow senior who has been on the receiving end of many of Painter's passes.

He knows what it's like in the huddle, and he likes his quarterback's style.

"It's definitely an advantage, when the game is close. It just shows that he has great composure," Orton said. "He's confident in what he can do and what we can do. He stays composed and doesn't get everybody antsy about the situation."

"But he does have a fiery edge to him too. If he knows that you can do better, he uses that fiery side to motivate you. But most of the time, he's really a composed guy."

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