

2014 OSU Fan Survey by @okc_dave

Once again, thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. We had a record 1,235 responses in the 7th year of the survey.

Thanks to each of the message boards for allowing me to post the survey, and thanks once again to @pistolsguy for linking to and covering the survey for the 4th year in a row.

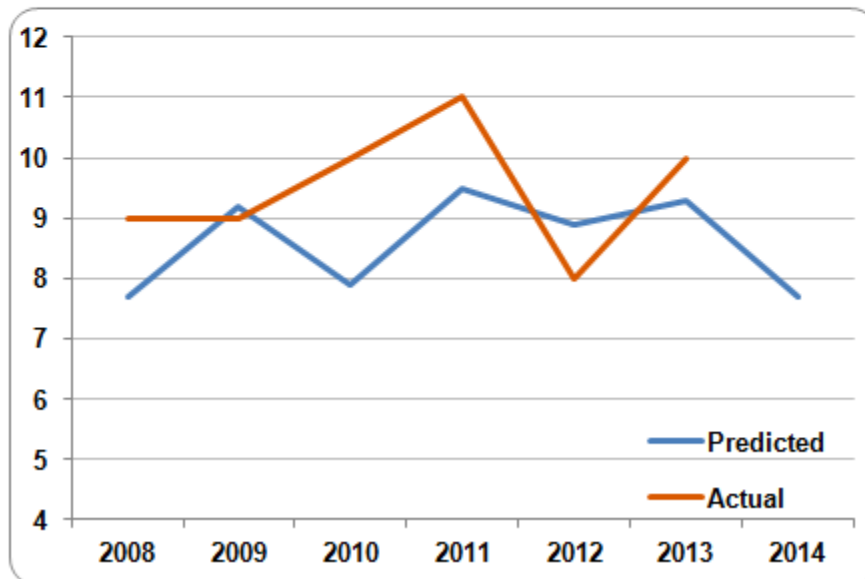
I always enjoy taking the pulse of the OSU fan base at this time of year. Thanks for letting me be a part of the lead-up to another football season in Stillwater. Let's get to it.

[@okc_dave](#)

OSU fans believe this team will win **7.7 games** this season and **finish the season ranked #21**. This is the lowest projected win total since the survey began in 2008. I mentioned this last year, but the fan base has historically been a little too low on the Cowboys in this survey -- in every year aside from the 2012 QB injury tour, the fan base has either been too low in the win total projection or right on the money. Let's hope that trend continues in 2014.

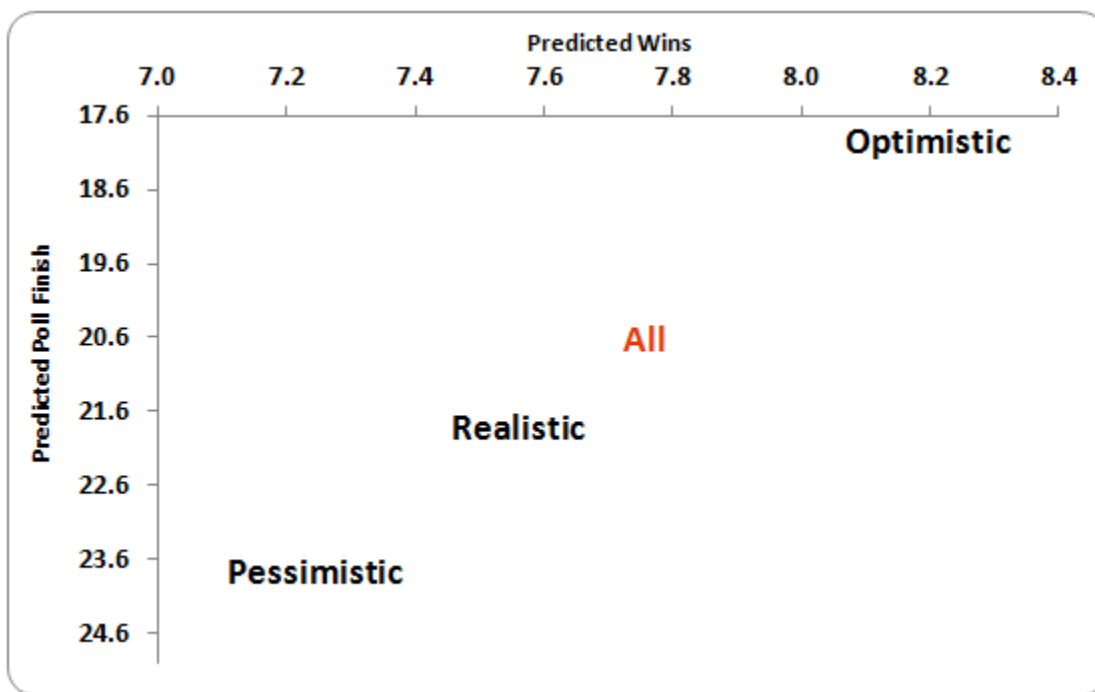
Note: the "actual" figures do not include the results from the bowl game, as the prediction is based on the 12-game regular season schedule.

Year	Predicted	Actual	Bowl
2008	7.7	9	Holiday Bowl loss to Oregon, 31-42
2009	9.2	9	Cotton Bowl loss to Ole miss, 7-21
2010	7.9	10	Alamo Bowl win over Arizona, 36-10
2011	9.5	11	Fiesta Bowl win over Stanford, 41-38
2012	8.9	8	Heart of Dallas Bowl win over Purdue, 58-14
2013	9.3	10	Cotton Bowl loss to Missouri, 31-41
2014	7.7	-	-



Optimistic / Realistic / Pessimistic

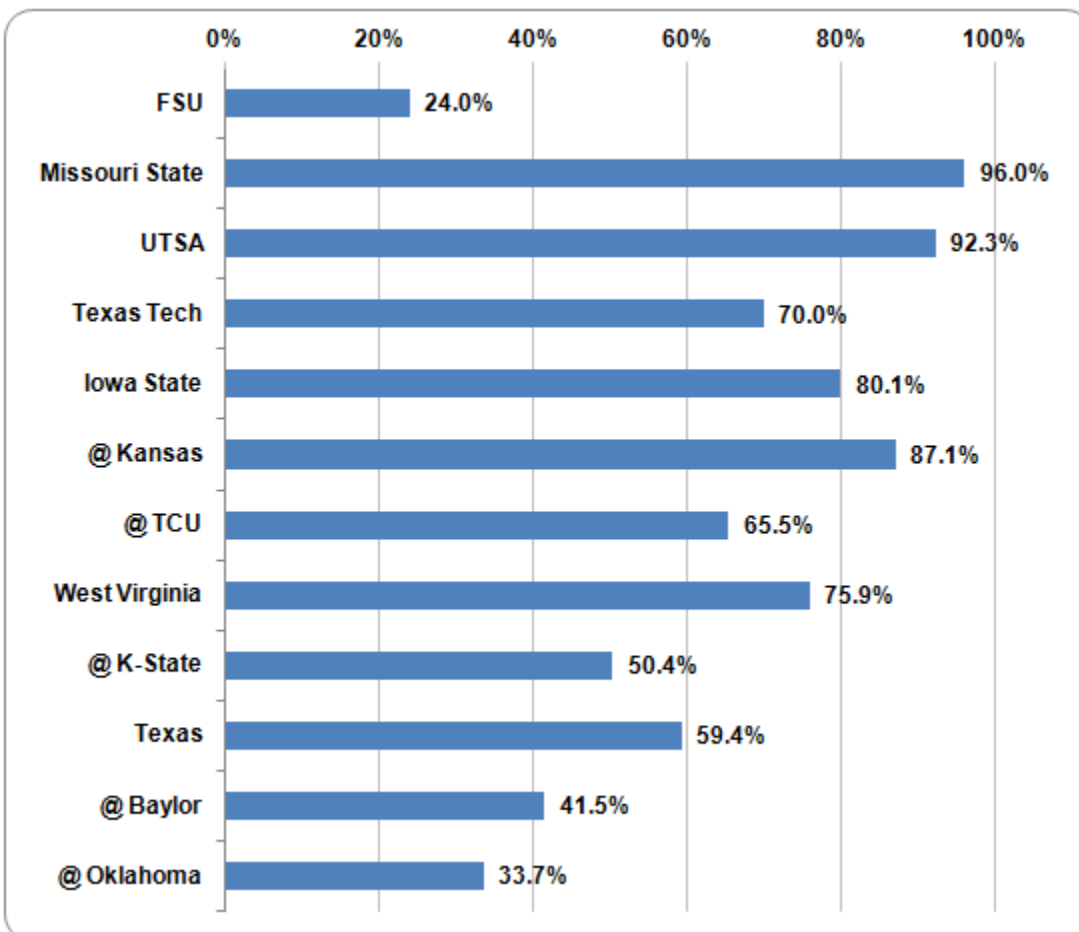
This was a new question. I asked fans if they considered themselves to be optimistic, realistic, or pessimistic when it comes to OSU sports. As you can see in the chart below, the results are what you would expect. Those who identified themselves as optimistic predicted the most wins (8.2) and the highest final ranking (17.9), while those who consider themselves pessimistic were at the other end of the spectrum (7.2 wins, 23.8 final ranking).



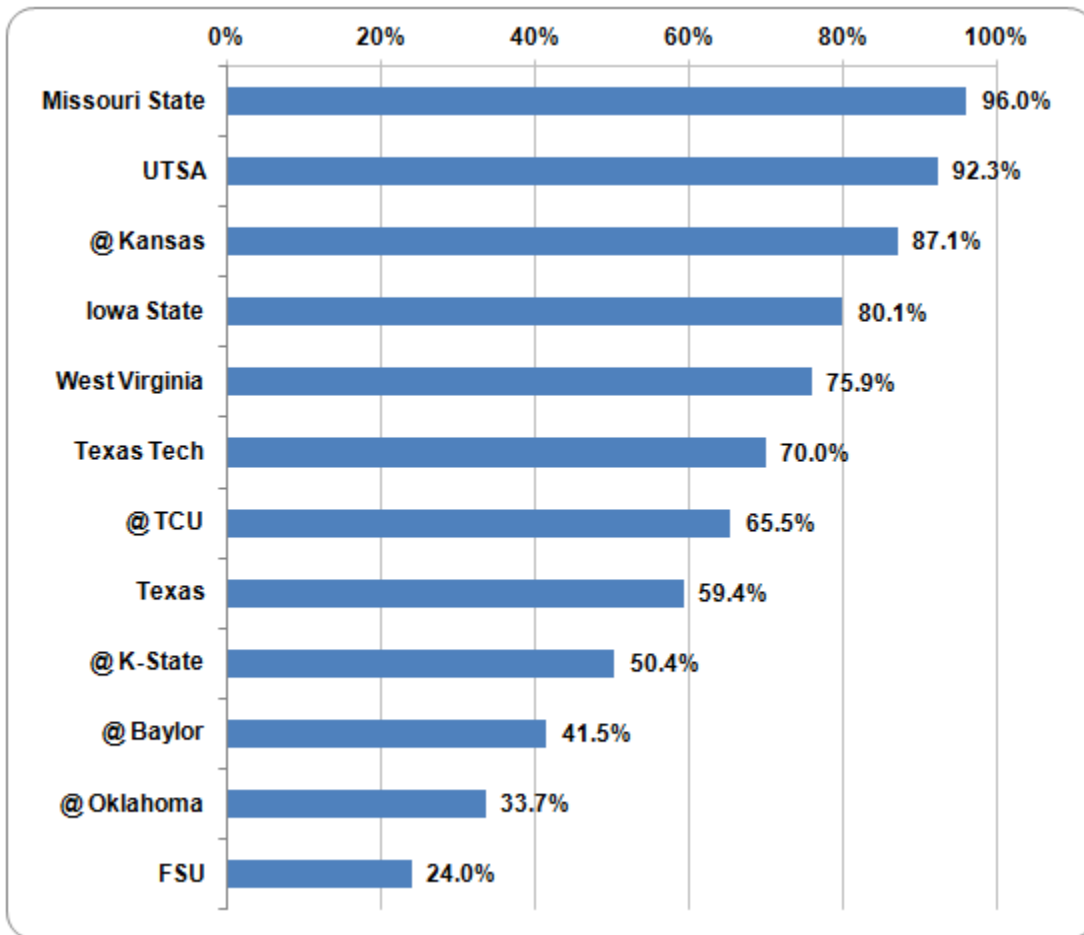
32% of fans identified themselves as optimists, 65% realists, and just 3% said they are pessimistic when it comes to OSU sports.

What are the chances OSU will win the following game:

First, in chronological order:



And now in order of easiest to most difficult:



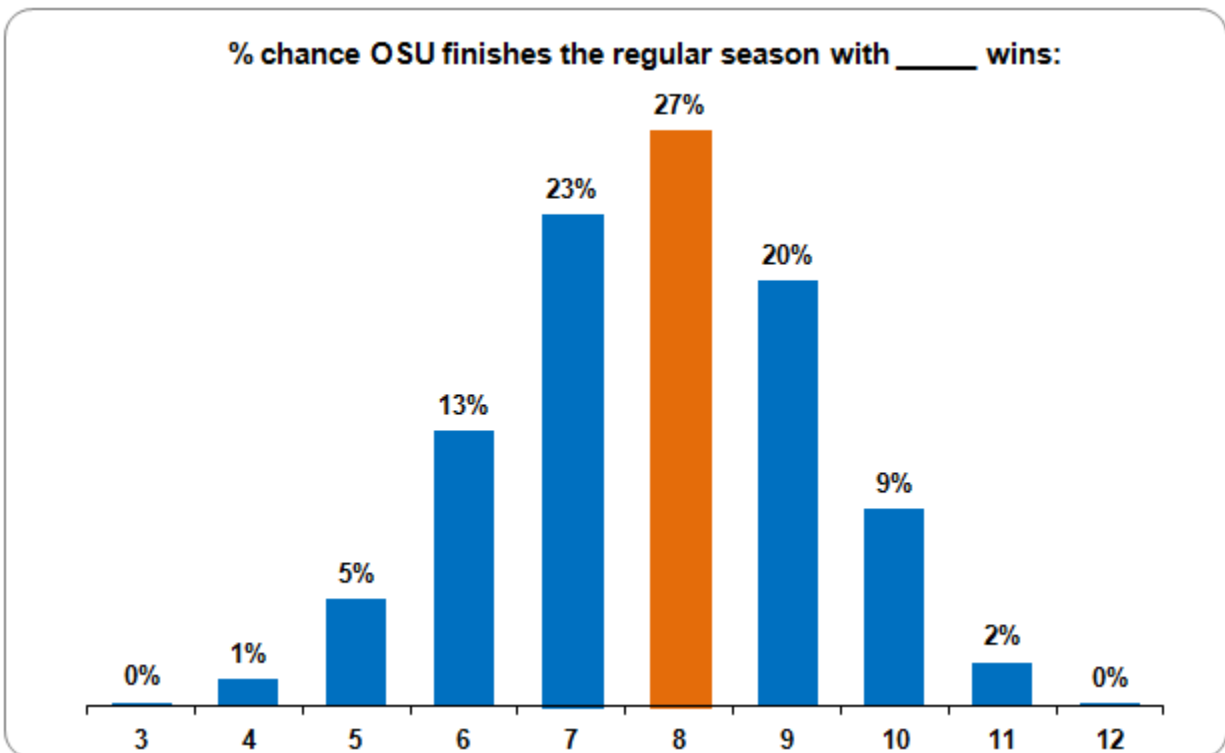
There are only three games on the schedule in which fans say we have a 85% or better chance of winning, same as last year but quite a contrast to the high-achieving team in 2011.

Year	85%+
2011	7
2012	4
2013	3
2014	3

Here's how OSU fans have predicted we would do against Big 12 teams over the past four seasons. Obviously you have to factor in the site when comparing these figures from year to year.

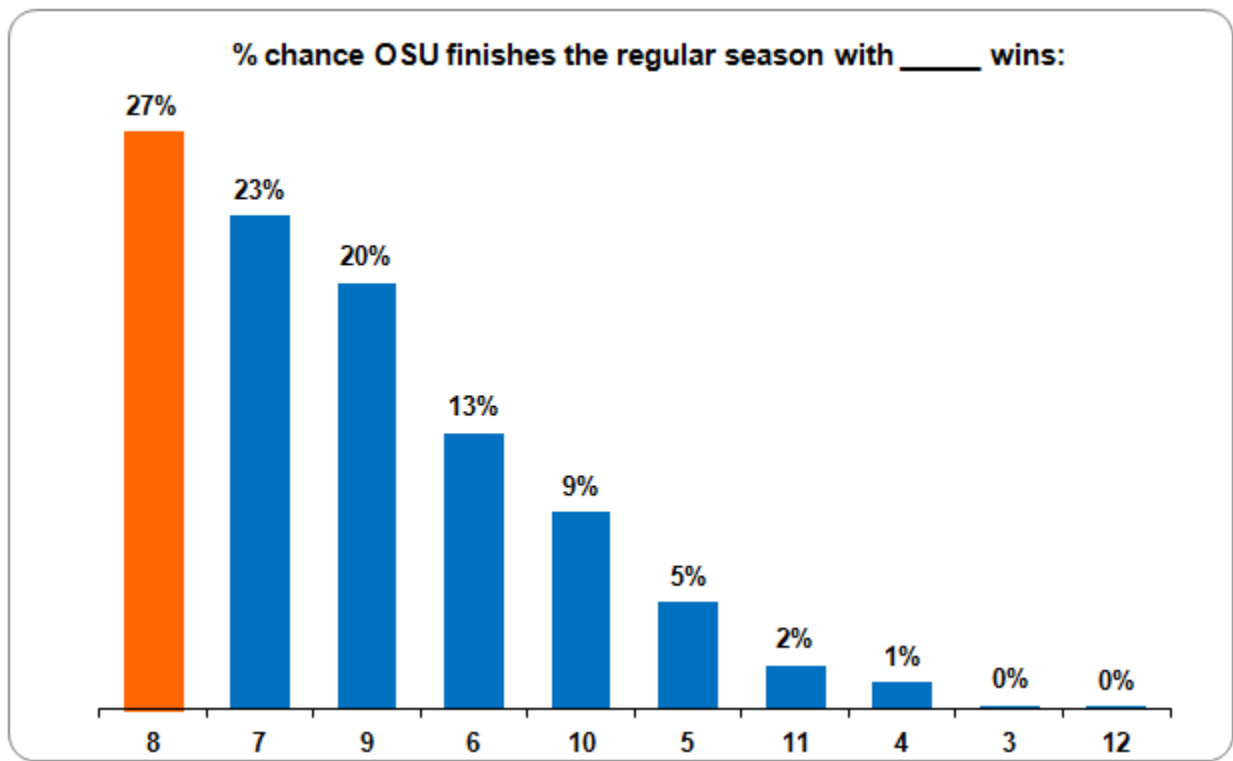
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	YOY Change
Baylor	88%	75%	71%	42%	-29.5%
Iowa St.	89%	88%	80%	80%	0.1%
Kansas	93%	89%	94%	87%	-6.9%
K-State	89%	53%	74%	50%	-23.6%
Oklahoma	52%	44%	66%	34%	-32.3%
TCU	-	68%	68%	66%	-2.5%
Texas	70%	63%	58%	59%	1.4%
Texas Tech	74%	80%	73%	70%	-3.0%
West Virginia	-	58%	76%	76%	-0.1%
Avg	79%	69%	73%	63%	-

Using Excel and your expectations for each game, I simulated the season 10,000 times. Here are the results:

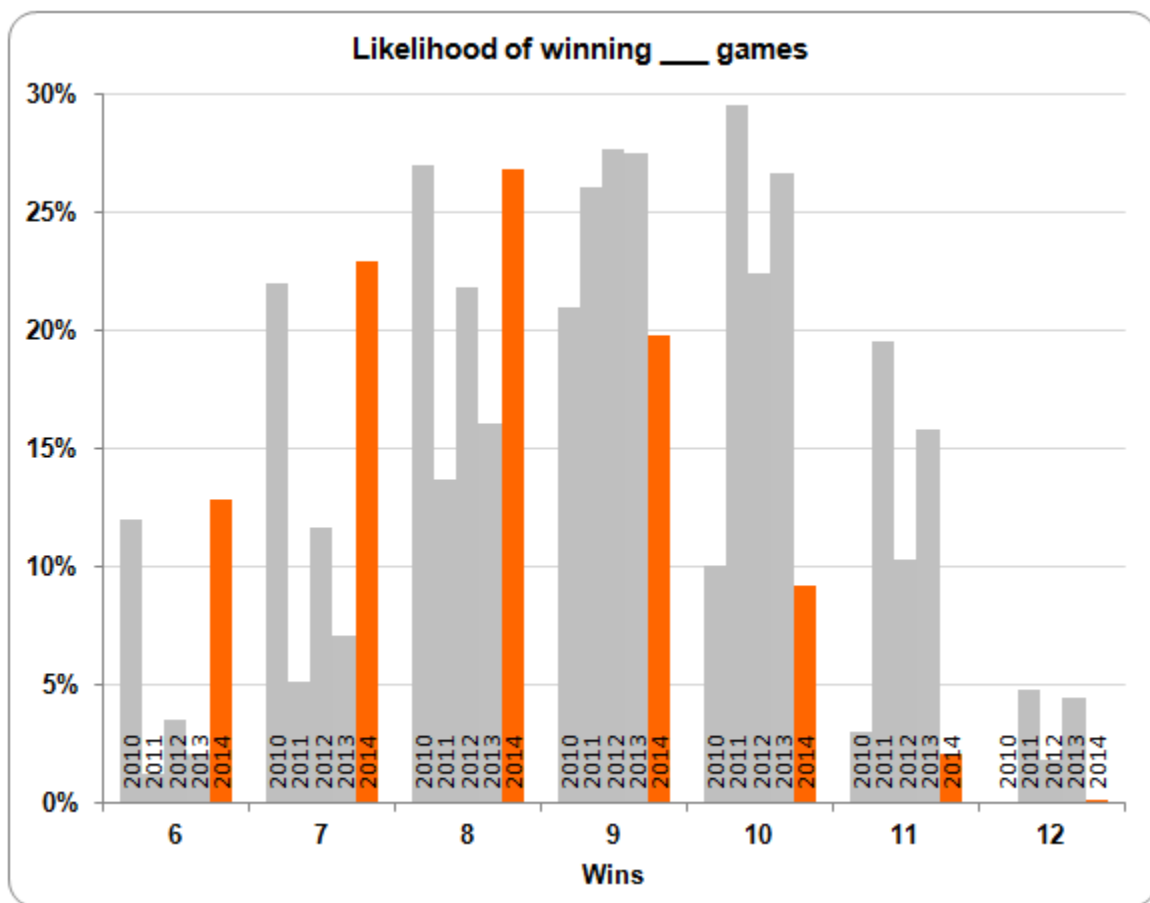


The most likely outcome is 8 wins, followed by a 7-win season. Fans believe there is a 50% chance we will win 7 or 8 games, and a **70% chance we will win between 7 - 9 games.**

Last year, fans predicted a 70% chance that we would win between 8 - 10 games. This year, we've essentially dialed our expectations back 1 game.



Okay, let's compare our expectations to prior seasons one more time. Below, you can see how confidence in our teams has fluctuated over the last 5 years. The chart shows the % chance we had of winning the number of games listed at the bottom of the chart for every season since 2010. What really strikes me in this chart is how closely our expectations are aligned with those we had going into the 2010 season...almost the same for every win total listed. Hopefully this year's team can surprise our fan base the same way Weeden, Blackmon, and Hunter did in 2010.



Chances of going undefeated. This year, fans say we have a 1 in 667 chance of running the table. Odds are slightly better (1 in 556) that we will win 3 games.

Year	1 in...
2008	∞
2009	33
2010	∞
2011	21
2012	56
2013	23
2014	667

If I could pick one game for OSU to win this year, it would be...

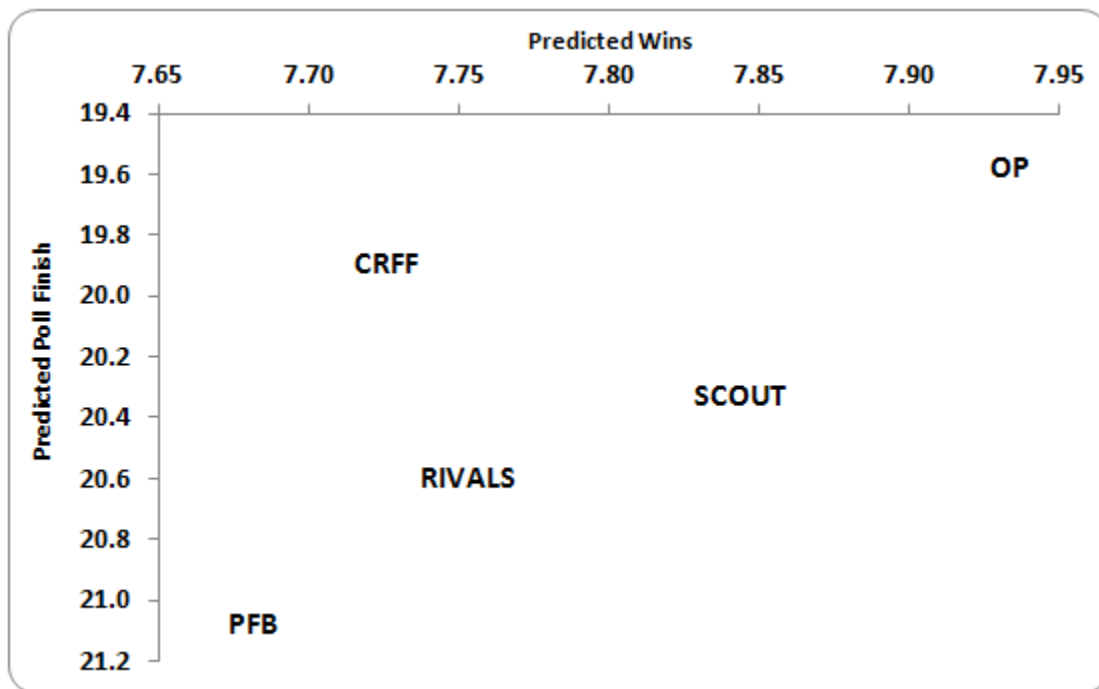
1. **@ Oklahoma: 64%**
2. Florida State: 28%
3. Texas: 3%
4. @ Baylor 2%
5. @ Kansas 2%

The answer to this question will always be OU, but the numbers do vary over time. Florida State's 28% is the highest percentage by a 2nd-place team in this question since 2009. Still, the collective desire to beat OU is at its 2nd-highest level in the history of this question, topped only by the 2011 season.

Year	OU	2nd Place	Team
2009	44%	35%	UT
2010	51%	23%	UT
2011	80%	19%	A&M
2012	58%	27%	UT
2013	63%	20%	UT
2014	64%	28%	FSU

Primary OSU site

I thought it would be fun to see how the 5 major OSU sites fared against each other in terms of predicted wins and final ranking predictions. Orange Power wins the optimist award this season, but it's not a constant. Last year, Orange Power collectively predicted the 2nd-lowest number of wins. This year, fans who identified Pistols Firing as their primary site are predicting the lowest number of wins.



PREDICTED WINS

Site	2013	2014
Orange Power	9.28	7.93
Scout (Go Pokes)	9.52	7.84
Rivals (O-State Illustrated)	9.27	7.75
Cowboys Ride For Free	9.38	7.73
Pistols Firing Blog	9.37	7.68

Site	Optimist	Realist	Pessimist
Orange Power	36%	61%	4%
Rivals (O-State Illustrated)	34%	64%	2%
Cowboys Ride For Free	33%	63%	4%
Scout (Go Pokes)	31%	67%	2%
Pistols Firing Blog	31%	66%	3%
All Survey Participants	32%	65%	3%

Where will OSU finish in the polls?

20.6 was your answer. All of these figures are from the coaches' poll. In the three years that I've asked this question, fans have always predicted that OSU would finish the season ranked higher than where they started. It hasn't worked out that way so far.

Year	Pre-Season	Predicted Final	Actual Final
2012	19	12.3	29
2013	14	8.1	17
2014	30	20.6	-

Offensive and Defensive Improvement:

I expect the offense/defense to be _____ last year's offense/defense:

Offense	2011	2012	2013	2014
much better than	3%	0%	4%	6%
better than	49%	2%	59%	49%
the same as	42%	25%	33%	31%
worse than	6%	71%	4%	13%
much worse than	0%	1%	0%	0%

Defense	2011	2012	2013	2014
much better than	26%	17%	36%	1%
better than	65%	74%	58%	9%
the same as	7%	8%	4%	23%
worse than	2%	1%	0%	62%
much worse than	1%	0%	0%	6%

Since I began asking this question, no more than 1% of fans have predicted that a unit would be "much worse than" the previous year's squad. This year, though, 6% of you said the defense would be much worse than last year's unit and 62% said it would be simply worse than last year's effort. Glenn Spencer has his work cut out for him for sure.

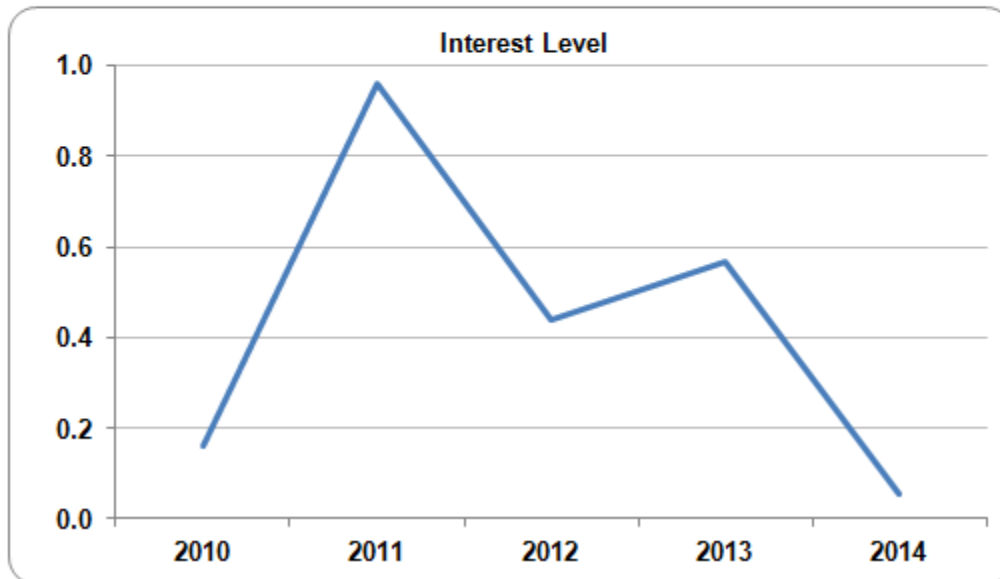
Meanwhile, fans expect the offense to be better than last year, although a fairly high 13% of you have a dissenting opinion.

Interest Level

In the days & weeks leading up to this season, I have been _____ than last year (reading articles,

scanning message boards, talking to friends about the team, etc.)

Interest Level	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Much more interested - 2	13%	31%	14%	16%	8%
A little more interested - 1	17%	36%	24%	32%	17%
(no change) - 0	47%	31%	55%	47%	51%
A little less interested - (1)	19%	1%	7%	6%	19%
Much less interested - (2)	4%	0%	0%	0%	4%



Growth in the level of interest is at a 5-year low going into the 2014 season.

Tickets

This year I bought ____ season ticket(s) than last year.

Year	Added	No Change	Reduced	Avg Change
2009	21%	75%	4%	0.47
2010	10%	80%	10%	0.02
2011	12%	84%	4%	0.18
2012	10%	86%	5%	0.13
2013	8%	86%	6%	0.08
2014	5%	86%	9%	-0.11

Another negative, and the first net decrease in tickets among those taking the survey since I began asking this question in 2009. Certainly not what Holder wants to see. Still, fans in the survey have added a total of 0.77 tickets over the course of the last six seasons.

Favorite Non-OSU Team

My favorite Big 12 team not named OSU is...

Rk	Team	2012	2013	2014	YOY Chg
1	Kansas State	38%	36%	45%	9%
2	Texas	12%	10%	11%	1%
3	Iowa State	9%	11%	9%	-2%
4	Baylor	2%	4%	8%	4%
5	TCU	9%	16%	7%	-9%
6	Oklahoma	4%	4%	5%	1%
7	Texas Tech	2%	4%	5%	1%
8	Kansas	7%	5%	5%	0%
9	West Virginia	16%	9%	4%	-5%

K-State adds to their lead as favorites with a monstrous 34% lead on 2nd-place Texas. TCU took a dive, as did West Virginia. Evidently the novelty has worn off of the Mountaineers. They were in 2nd place two years ago. Now: last.

Best campus outside of Stillwater

Rk	Campus	%
1	Texas	45.7%
2	Kansas	21.2%
3	K-State	12.0%
4	West Virginia	5.3%
5	Oklahoma	4.1%
6	TCU	4.0%
7	Baylor	3.6%
8	Texas Tech	2.1%
9	Iowa St.	1.9%

Will OSU football play in a national championship game in the next 10 years?

- 2010: 52% yes
- 2011: 77%
- 2012: 89%
- 2013: 85%
- 2014: 69%

I would rather OSU win a national championship in football/basketball:

- 2011: Football, 92%
- 2012: Football, 92%
- 2013: Football, 88%
- 2014: Football, 88%

I'm likely to attend the following road games:

1. Florida State - 30.0%
2. TCU - 12.2%
3. Baylor - 10.1%
4. OU - 9.4%
5. KSU - 6.2%
6. KU - 1.6%

This team will do better/worse than expected:

Last year's top 4 in the "better" category: Baylor, K-State, Tech, TCU. This year you gave the home team the nod in this category and voted 2-3-4 into the same positions from last year. OU and Texas have been 1 & 2 in the "worst" category for two years running.

Rk	Team	Better	Rk	Team	Worse
1	Oklahoma St.	55.5%	1	Oklahoma	34.8%
2	K-State	13.7%	2	Texas	28.7%
3	Texas Tech	8.2%	3	Baylor	18.8%
4	TCU	6.2%	4	TCU	5.7%
5	Texas	5.2%	5	K-State	4.5%
6	Iowa St.	4.7%	6	Texas Tech	4.3%
7	Kansas	2.3%	7	Oklahoma St.	1.5%
8	West Virginia	2.3%	8	West Virginia	1.1%
9	Baylor	1.5%	9	Iowa St.	0.5%
10	Oklahoma	0.5%	10	Kansas	0.2%

Big XII Coaches

Rk	Coach	Vote
1	Snyder	2.2
2	Stoops	2.5
3	Gundy	3.1
4	Briles	3.3
5	Patterson	5.6
6	Strong	6.1
7	Kingsbury	6.6
8	Rhoads	6.9
9	Holgorsen	7.5
10	Weis	9.0

71% of our fans think Gundy is a top 3 coach in the Big 12. 93% say he is top 4. He has slipped from #1 in this question in 2012 down to #3 this year, being passed by Snyder and Stoops. Hard to argue either of those. Charlie Strong debuts at #6 in the conference. Holgorsen is on the Mack Brown trajectory, being saved from the last spot only by Charlie Weis's stronghold on the #10 position.

Rank	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	Stoops	Brown	Stoops	Gundy	Snyder	Snyder
2	Brown	Stoops	Gundy	Snyder	Gundy	Stoops
3	Leach	Snyder	Brown	Stoops	Patterson	Gundy
4	Mangino	Pelini	Snyder	Holgorsen	Briles	Briles
5	Briles	Briles	Pinkel	Patterson	Stoops	Patterson
6	Snyder	Rhoads	Sherman	Briles	Rhoads	Strong
7	Pelini	Tuberville	Tuberville	Brown	Holgorsen	Kingsbury
8	Hawkins	Pinkel	Briles	Rhoads	Brown	Rhoads
9	Pinkel	Hawkins	Rhoads	Tuberville	Kingsbury	Holgorsen
10	Rhoads	Sherman	Gill	Weis	Weis	Weis
11	Sherman	Gill				

First place votes:

- 1) Snyder - 562
- 2) Stoops - 405
- 3) Gundy - 141
- 4) Briles - 119

Aside from Gundy, I would most/least want my son to play for...

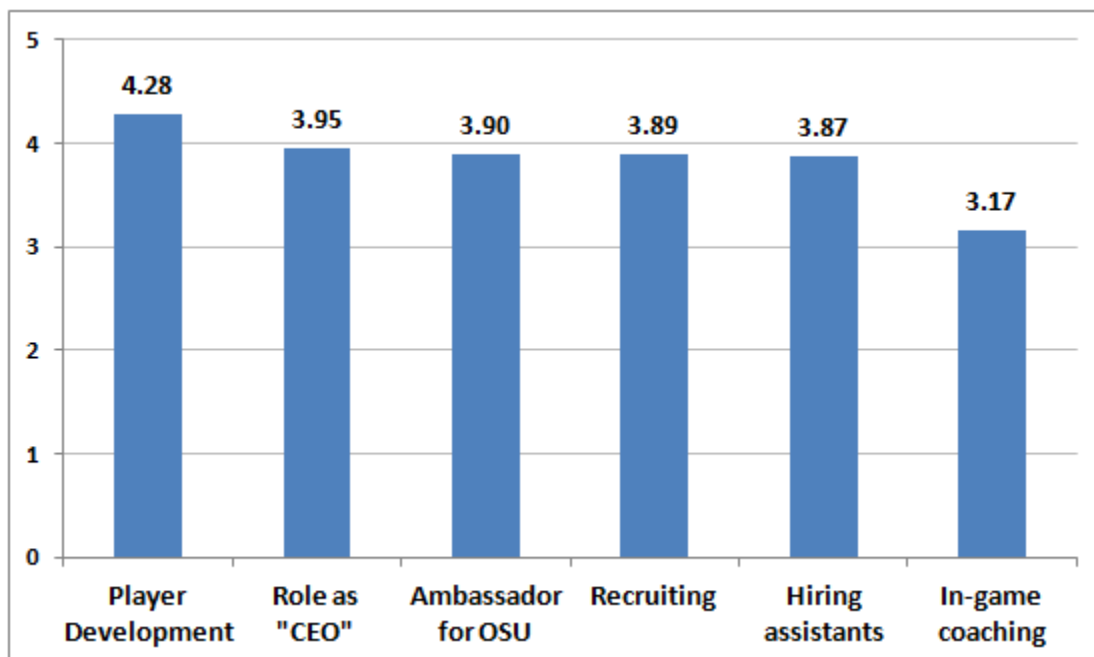
Rk	Coach	MOST	Rk	Coach	LEAST
1	Snyder	56.3%	1	Weis	36.4%
2	Briles	15.3%	2	Holgorsen	27.4%
3	Stoops	7.9%	3	Stoops	22.9%
4	Strong	6.9%	4	Briles	5.3%
5	Rhoads	5.4%	5	Kingsbury	3.2%
6	Kingsbury	4.9%	6	Patterson	3.0%
7	Patterson	2.2%	7	Strong	1.1%
8	Holgorsen	1.1%	8	Rhoads	0.5%
9	Weis	0.1%	9	Snyder	0.4%

Runaway win for Snyder. Notice Stoops at #3 on both lists. The conflict between “good coach” and “Sooner” is real among OSU fans.

Gundy's Strengths

This was a new question. Like you, I think Gundy has done an exceptional job developing the players he and his staff have coaxed into coming to Stillwater. The fan base believes he has done a good job in all of the other categories listed below aside from in-game coaching, which stands out from the rest.

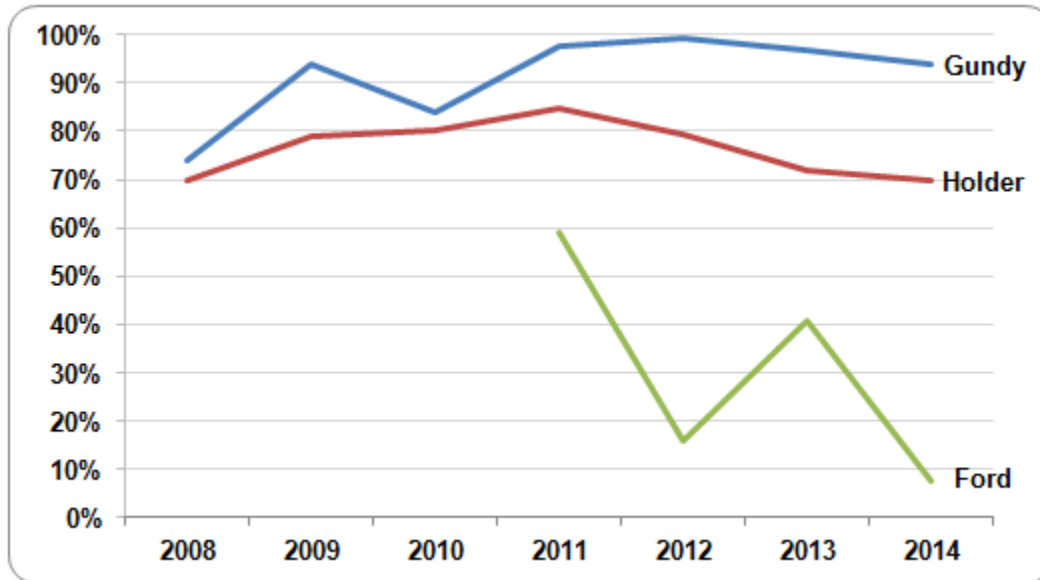
I won't focus on this result too much in this space, but Gundy has certainly made some interesting moves (and non-moves) during games in his tenure at OSU. It seems to be the only major part of his job that gives OSU fans pause at this point.



Approval Ratings

Gundy lost a little ground, but nothing to lose sleep about. Same with Holder.

Travis Ford, on the other hand. [Congress](#) has a higher approval rating than Travis Ford. I'm pretty sure PETA likes [Sam Elliott](#) more than OSU fans like Travis Ford right now. Even worse, 78% of fans flat out disapprove with his job, leaving only 15% in the "unsure" category.



Gundy	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Approve	74%	94%	84%	98%	99%	97%	94%
Disapprove	9%	0%	4%	1%	0%	1%	2%
Unsure	17%	6%	13%	2%	1%	2%	5%

Holder	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Approve	70%	79%	80%	85%	79%	72%	70%
Disapprove	12%	6%	7%	6%	7%	9%	12%
Unsure	18%	15%	13%	9%	14%	19%	19%

Ford	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Approve	-	-	-	59%	16%	41%	8%
Disapprove	-	-	-	11%	38%	27%	78%
Unsure	-	-	-	30%	46%	32%	15%

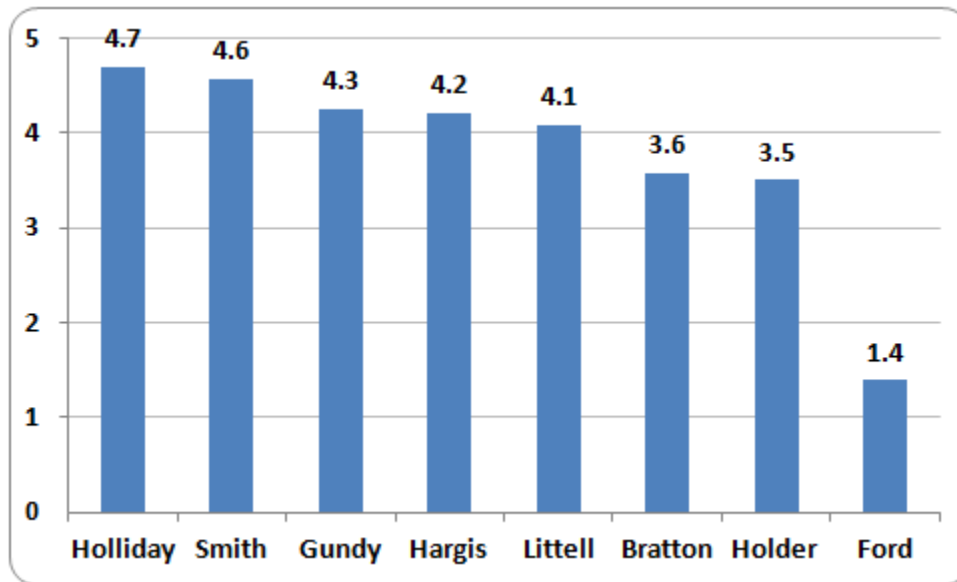
OSU coaches & administrators

Another new question. I was curious to see which OSU coach was held in the highest esteem by fans. This year, it's Josh Holliday followed closely by John Smith, who are in a league of their own. Hargis comes in throwing heat at 4.2, in the Gundy-Littell neighborhood.

Not sure what Alan Bratton is doing wrong aside from being the new guy on the block. The Cowboy golf team

finished 2nd in the national championship match. I know we have high expectations for that program but I'd say he's off to a good start.

Holder's number is likely weighed down by a variety of factors, but the biggest has to be the Travis Ford contract. I am a supporter of Holder...he is a first-ballot HOF'er for his contributions to OSU in several areas, but that Ford contract is an albatross.



OSU basketball will make the NCAA tournament this year.

- 2012: True, 80%
- 2013: True, 99%
- 2014: False, 63%

Ouch.

Will Travis Ford coach OSU to a conference championship in the next 5 years?

- 2012: No, 66%
- 2013: Yes, 72%
- 2014: No, 88%

I am more excited about football/basketball this season:

More Excited About...	2013	2014
Football	52%	86%
Basketball	10%	1%
About the Same	38%	13%

2013 was such a promising year for hoops with Smart & Brown returning. This year, we've got all of our chips over at Boone Pickens Stadium.

Favorite Players

Desmond Roland takes the crown for the offense, although he'll still need to earn it. Winning the favorite player vote with 22% is the lowest vote total by far in the six years of the survey. The fans' second choice is a player no one has seen in a Cowboy uniform yet.

Defensively, James Castleman comes in pretty strong with 33%.

Kendall Hunter and Orie Lemon maintain their all-time titles with 63% and 40% of the vote in 2010, respectively.

Ben Grogan pulls in the top spot on special teams (aside from the *ahem* majority of you who scoffed at the question). Still...my hopes to see #GrogansGotThis trending on Twitter are alive.

Favorite Player (Offense)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1st D. Bryant	39%	K. Hunter 63%	B. Weeden 44%	J. Randle 52%	J. Stewart 40%	D. Roland 22%
2nd K. Hunter	25%	B. Weeden 15%	J. Blackmon 26%	J. Smith 12%	J. Walsh 14%	T. Hill 17%
3rd Z. Robinson	25%	J. Blackmon 4%	J. Cooper 8%	C. Moore 7%	K. Staley 11%	J. Walsh 15%

Favorite Player (Defense)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1st A. Sexton	33%	O. Lemon 40%	M. Martin 34%	J. Gilbert 26%	C. Barnett 31%	J. Castleman 33%
2nd P. Cox	17%	M. Martin 21%	S. Lewis 27%	B. Brown 21%	S. Lewis 18%	K. Peterson 26%
3rd U. Chinasa	11%	U. Chinasa 13%	R. Jones 15%	A. Elkins 19%	J. Gilbert 14%	J. Bean 12%

Favorite Player (Special Teams)

	2013	2014
1st B. Grogan (K)	38%	Wait, what? 52%
2nd B. Stonebraker (K)	29%	B. Grogan (K) 28%
3rd C. Sinko (LS)	10%	K. Smith (P) 15%

Freshmen

Another new question, and we saw a pretty good 3-way battle for the crown.

Freshman Most Excited to See

	2014
1 Washington, James - WR	27.6%
2 Rudolph, Mason - QB	22.3%
3 Samples, Ra'Shaad - WR	17.2%
4 Akem, Gyasi - LB	5.8%
5 Flowers, Tre - S	4.6%
6 Palelei, Sione - RB	2.4%
7 Mabin, Josh - LB	2.1%
8 Harding, Dylan - S	1.5%
9 Bassett, Dawson - LB	1.5%
10 Brown, Keenen - WR	1.5%

Breakout Players

If Blackmon hadn't scored so high in this category in 2009, we could just go ahead and call it the Tyreek Hill award. Safe to say we're all excited to see #24 in action (what a great number for him, too). Jimmy narrowly edges out Kevin Peterson for the defensive award.

Breakout Player (Offense)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1st J. Blackmon	47%	B. Weeden 30%	J. Randle 21%	W. Lunt 25%	B. Jackson 24%	T. Hill 43%
2nd J. Cooper	13%	J. Blackmon 22%	H. Anyiam 18%	C. Moore 20%	J. Smith 11%	J. Seales 9%
3rd J. Mosley	5%	J. Cooper 12%	M. Harrison 13%	J. Stewart 18%	D. Roland 11%	R. Childs 9%

Breakout Player (Defense)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1st M. Booker	17%	R. Jones 25%	R. Jones 23%	C. Barnett 19%	J. Gilbert 19%	J. Bean 18%
2nd L. Antoine	17%	U. Chinasa 12%	J. Gilbert 17%	A. Elkins 16%	L. Johnson 12%	K. Peterson 15%
3rd R. Jones	15%	M. Martin 10%	A. Elkins 15%	J. Gilbert 11%	C. Barnett 12%	E. Ogbah 9%

Interest in other sports

Rank these sports/teams based on how much you follow them when they're in season:

Not much change here, expect that PGA golf and OSU wrestling swapped positions and I added MMA to the mix.

Rk Sport	2014	2013 Rk
1 OSU football	4.90	1
2 OSU men's basketball	4.24	2
3 NFL	3.70	3
4 OKC Thunder / NBA	3.52	4
5 OSU baseball	3.37	5
6 PGA golf	2.57	8
7 OSU golf	2.54	7
8 OSU wrestling	2.52	6
9 MLB	2.08	9
10 OSU women's basketball	2.06	10
11 Soccer	1.29	11
12 MMA	0.89	-
13 NHL	0.76	12
14 Tennis	0.70	13
15 NASCAR	0.54	14

You can pick one person to be memorialized with a statue on the OSU campus.

- 1) Barry Sanders - 76% (why hasn't this happened?)
- 2) Boone Pickens - 8%
- 3) Eddie Sutton - 7%
- 4) Henry Iba - 5%
- 5) Brandon Weeden - 1%

A few funny suggestions:

- [This guy](#)
- James Marsden
- Skinny Byron Eaton
- [The peanut butter slices guy](#)

You can add one player aside from Barry Sanders to this year's team.

- 1) Brandon Weeden - 55%
- 2) Dez Bryant - 10%
- 3) Leslie O'Neal - 7%
- 4) Thurman Thomas - 6%
- 5) Russell Okung - 4%
- 6) Kevin Williams - 3%
- 7) Mark Moore - 2%
- 8) John Corker - 2%
- 9) Mike Gundy - 1%
- 10) Markelle Martin - 1%

My favorite: a suggestion to trot out "Barry Anders" at tailback.

My favorite current OSU professional athlete is:

- 1) Rickie Fowler - 40%
- 2) Dez Bryant - 19%
- 3) Brandon Weeden - 14%
- 4) Tony Allen - 7.4%
- 5) Johnny Hendricks - 4.5%
- 6) Dan Bailey - 2.9%
- 7) Markel Brown - 2.5%
- 8) Russell Okung - 2.5%
- 9) Marcus Smart - 1.6%
- 10) Jordy Mercer - 1.5%

What prevents you from attending more OSU athletic events?

- 1) Distance from Stillwater - 44%
- 2) Ticket Prices - 33%
- 3) None of the above - 21%
- 4) Apathy - 2%

Popular write-in answers: kids / family activities, work, time commitment, Travis Ford.

OSU vs. Florida State Score Prediction

And finally...OSU fans predict an opening-game score of **Florida State 36, OSU 24**.

Year	Opening Opponent	Line	Predicted Score	Actual Score
2008	@ Wash St.	-	39-20	39-13
2009	Georgia	-	-	24-10
2010	Wash St.	-	38-13	65-17
2011	Louisiana	-	53-13	61-34
2012	Savannah St.	-	55-10	84-0
2013	Mississippi St.	OSU -12	40-21	21-3
2014	Florida St.	OSU +18	24-36	?

That's all I got. Thanks again to everyone involved. Let's have a great season!

The End

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