***Buddy’s Summary for Navy Football’s 2015 Season:***

**Best Offensive Players: QB #19 KEENAN REYNOLDS, N\*\*\*, ’16.**

**LG #57 E. K. BINNS, N\*\*\*, ’16.**

**Best Defensive Players: NG #77 BERNARD SARRA, N\*\*\*, ‘16.**

**RCB #5** **QUiNCY ADAMS, N\*\*\*, 16.**

**Key Players (for a successful season):**

**Offense: FB #37 CHRIS SWAIN, N\*\*\*, ‘16.**

**WR #86 JAMIR TILLMAN, N\*\*, ’17*.***

**PK #43 AUSTIN GREBE, N\*\*, ‘16**

**Defense: DE #90 WILL ANTHONY, N\*\*\*, ‘16.**

**ILB #58 DANIEL GONZALES, N\*\*, ‘17.**

**LCB #1 BRENDON CLEMENTS, N\*\*, ‘17.**

**• Key Games: Early on, in Annapolis on 19SEP2015, will be Navy’s second game of the 2015 season. The Pirates of East Carolina University will come to town with a high powered offense. Doubtless, it will be a “Shoot-Out!” But, it also will be a hard-fought football game for which I am predicting to be a toss-up– which Navy *should* Win. In my learned opinion this will be the tell-tale game for insight into Navy’s 2015 season.**

**• CINC Showdown in Annapolis 03OCT2015: The Air Force game will have a *Last- Man-Standing* tenor, in that it is an inter-service rivalry game– which Navy lost last year in Colorado Springs. Never underestimate your opponent– most especially one with an experienced Coach who knows your style like Air Force Coach Troy Calhoun does, who demonstratively has proven that he is one of the top coaches in the country. Doubtless, it is not much of a stretch to say warily that Air Force will come to town with a *High Motor—*and, that this game will be Navy’s season-maker for getting a leg-up on the CINC Trophy.**

**• Successful Season: Win the CINC Trophy, push the envelope to its bounds (a 3-sigma probability), win the AAC West Division with an 11-1 season, and play in the AAC championship game in Annapolis on 05DEC2015. CFP? No! Army! Yes! Military Bowl—in Annapolis? Yes!**

**GO NAVY—BEAT ARMY!**

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***Navy Football Schedule for 2015:***

**Lindy’s College Football Preseason Magazine ranked Navy at #62, and as such foretells a 9-3 season as does my predictions for 6 wins plus 3/3 toss-ups\*.**

**All times ET: \*denotes 50/50 toss-up (+/-)**

**05SEP/1200:CBSSN. NR (FCS) Colgate in Annapolis. Navy Wins. (W)**

**-- 12SEP: OFF-WEEK (1).**

**19SEP/1530:CBSSN. #77 East Carolina in Annapolis. Shoot-Out Win. \*(+)**

**26SEP/TBA/TBD @ #111 UCONN. Navy Wins up there on the road. (W)**

**03OCT/1530:CBSSN.#87Air Force in Annapolis. Toss-up/CINC leg-up.\*(+)**

**10OCT/1530:CBS.@#7NotreDame in South Bend. Tough Toss-up Loss,\*(-)**

**-- 17OCT: OFF WEEK (2).**

**24OCT/1300:CBS. #102 Tulane in Annapolis. Navy Wins. (W)**

**31OCT/1200:CBSSN. #88 Southern Florida in Annapolis. NavyWins. (W)**

**07NOV/TBA/TBD. @#40 Memphis. Hard fought toss-up Loss. \*(-)**

**14NOV/1530/CBSSN.#112 SMUin Annapolis. NavyWins GantzTrophy. (W)**

**21NOV/TBA/TBD. @#114 Tulsa. On the road again-- Navy Wins. (W)**

**27NOV(Friday):TBA/TBD. @55 U of Houston. Close Toss-up Loss. \*(-)**

**-- 05DEC: OFF WEEK (3); or, ► 05DEC: The AAC Championship Game.**

**12DEC/1500/CBS. #116 Army in Phlly. *The Game--America’s Team!* \*(+)**

**► 19DEC/TBA/TBD: AAC Champ plays Sun Belt Champ in Orlando, or,**

**► 28DEC/1430/CBS: Military Bowl in Annapolis versus an ACC opponent.**

**\*\*\* Each week for latest kick-times/TV coverage go to** [**www.navysports.com**](http://www.navysports.com)

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**Preview of Navy Football 2015.**

Chaos theory has it that a butterfly flapping its wings somewhere can change the course of events far away.

The U.S. Military is at war with ***virutants*** [contraction of virulent militants] worldwide, which primarily originate among extreme Islamists in the Middle East and spread worldwide. The U.S. people, however, seemingly are more concerned about their wherewithal to shop in their local Mall, and watch their favorite Sports teams compete on TV. Their main topic of conversation is about those things that keep their life in order—money and means. Therefore, if it is not affecting their pocketbook to put food on the table, then it’s a “Government Problem”—and, vote with their pocketbooks.

The U.S. Military Academies are interspersed in this mix with the goal to output graduates *“…who on other field on other days will reap the fruits of victory.”* They, however, as academic institutions harbor enough existentialism to support extracurricular activities for the development of their aspirants—who one day will be core-combat leaders. One of those existential pursuits is Football—*for the good of the game.*

On 5 September 2015, the Midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy will open its 2015 Football Season by hosting the Red Raiders of Colgate University [Patriots’ League] from the Village of Hamilton, New York [about 40 miles Southeast of Syracuse] for a football game at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland.

For the 2015 Football Season, Navy returns plenty of talent at the skill positions for its vaunted Triple-Option Offense. Lindy’s Sports ranked Navy’s QB, Co-Captain Keenan Reynolds as the 15th best in the country. FB Chris Swain, Slot-Back DeBrandon Sanders, and Wide Receiver Jamir Tillman stand up as proven performers. The underlying key to success in 2015 will be a revamped Offensive Line that will feature three new starters to replace Jake Zuzek at RG, Tanner Fleming at OC, and Bradyn Heap at LT. Ashley Ingram, Navy’s Offensive Line Coach, told all his guys that,

*“It won’t be the coaches determining the Depth Chart, it’ll be you!”*

Perhaps the biggest shoes to fill are at RG where Jake Zuzek started 39 straight games and that in 2014 he was a two-time All-East selection as well as being a first-team All-Independent selection. **2**

His replacement at RG is Ben Tamburello, 6-2/275, who in 2014 started at LG against Georgia Southern for the then-injured EK Binns, 6-3/295, who is the returning starter at RG—and, a 1st Team selection for all AAC. To replace Bradyn Heap at LT will be rising junior Blake Copeland, 6-4/258, who impressed the coaches last year in relief. He moves well, and is tough in the trenches. And, for a really high upside, Joey Gaston, 6-5/281, is the returning starter at RT.

To replace Tanner Fleming at Offense Center, will be rising senior Blaze Ryder, 5-11/265, who appeared in 16 games with two starts over the previous two seasons. He has exceptional quickness and agility, and is a very savvy football player who is expected to do well. As a back-up, if faced head up with a NG, then Maurice Morris, 6-2/315, will be available.

Defense will have two “Big's” for NG—or, to play both as two DT’s. They are Co-Captain Bernard Sarra, 6-1/297, who was selected for the 2nd Team AAC, and N\*\*’17 Patrick Forrestal, 6-4/296. The two bookends for the DL will be returning DE starter Will Anthony, 6-1/254; and, *more than likely,* DE Michael Raiford, 6-6/294, a “Big” from Stockbridge, GA—USNA ‘18.

And, the tough guy right behind them at MLB who *Read*s—and, *Rides to the Sound of the Guns--* is returning starter N\*’17 Daniel Gonzales, 6-2/218; flanked by OLB’s Myer Krah, 5-10/206, and DJ Palmore, 6-3/227.

The Secondary’s four-DB umbrella features all *Ball Hawks.* At the Corners are #1 Brandon Clements, and #5 Quincy Adams, who was selected for the AAC’s first team. Over the top are FS #2 Tez Barbour, and ROV #17 Kwazel Bertrand. They all are capable to play up close and personal-- IF, *Bend Don’t Break* gives them the Green Light to do so!

Special Teams return 3 of 5 starters, highlighted by PK #43 Austin Grebe, N\*\*’17, who last year was 6/6 for FG’s and 33/33 PAT’s.—a *Cool Hand!*

As per preseason rankings, Navy should have a 9-3 season—and, go to the Military Bowl to play an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent in Annapolis. Nonetheless, the 3-sigma probability for the outcome is an 11-1 season-- and, to play in the AAC’s Championship game on 5 December 2015.

***Navy Football—A Proud Tradition!***

***Buddy Wellborn, N\*’59***

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