

Chris Wells

2009 Arizona Cardinals Draft Selection

Round 1, Selection 31 – 31st overall

RB – Ohio State - 6-1, 235

OVERVIEW:

Regarded by many as the most powerful tailback in college football, that title came with a hefty price for Wells during his three years at Ohio State. He only missed three games of action while compiling enough rushing yardage to rank fourth on the school career-record list.

OSU always had their best seasons with a power running back on the squad. Following in the footsteps of Archie Griffin, Keith Byars, and Eddie George, Wells had big shoes to fill and lots of veteran depth to move past on the roster before he was given his opportunity to run with the pigskin. Being one of eleven children, he was used to being patient waiting for his time to come.

Wells was just the seventh player in school history to rush for over 3,000 yards in a career (3,382). His average of 93.9 yards per game rushing was the third-best mark in Buckeyes annals. He tied Keith Byars (1982-85) for third on OSU's all-time record chart with 17 100-yard rushing performances. In his first season as a starter, he amassed 1,609 yards on the ground in 2007, the fourth-best season total by an Ohio State running back.

At Garfield High School, Wells was a Parade All-American and named the nation's top running back as a senior, rushing for 2,134 yards and 27 touchdowns on 223 carries (9.6 avg.) in 2005. As a junior, he rushed for 1,939 yards and scored 20 touchdowns as a junior. The 2005 National Player of the Year scored three touchdowns on his way to being selected Most Valuable Player of the U.S. Army All-America Bowl.

Wells was Ohio State's first commitment to its 2006 recruiting class, enrolling at the university in time to compete in 2006 spring practice. He rushed for game-high 48 yards on 11 carries in the spring game, but found himself listed behind Maurice Wells and Antonio Pittman on the Buckeyes' depth chart entering the season.

Despite playing as a reserve in all thirteen games, Wells finished second on the team with 576 yards on 104 carries (5.5 avg.) and seven touchdowns. Fumble issues saw his playing time decrease as the season progressed.

As a sophomore, Wells took over the tailback position, starting all thirteen games. The second-team All-American produced the fourth-best season in school history, as he amassed 1,609 yards on 274 attempts (5.9 avg.), finding the end zone fifteen times.

Hoping to become more mobile, Wells shed over ten pounds from his frame prior to the 2008 season opener. He led the team in rushing with 207 attempts for 1,197 yards (5.8 avg.) and eight touchdowns, as his average of 119.7 yards per game ranked sixth among the nation's running backs. He also more than doubled his receiving output, catching eight passes for 47 yards (5.9 avg.).

CAREER NOTES:

Wells started 21-of-36 games as a Buckeye, carrying 585 times for 3,382 yards (5.78 avg.) and 30 touchdowns, adding 84 yards on fifteen receptions (5.6 avg.), as he recorded two solo tackles, registered 180 points and generated 3,466 all-purpose yards, an average of 96.3 yards per game...His 3,382 yards rank fourth in school history behind Archie Griffin (5,589; 1972-75), Eddie George (3,768; 1992-95) and Tim Spencer (3,553; 1979-82)...His average of 93.9 yards per game rushing rank third in school annals, topped by Archie Griffin (121.15 ypg) and Jim Otis (94.15 ypg, 1967-69)...Rushed for over 100 yards 17 times during his career, tying Keith Byars (1982-85) for third on the OSU all-time record list behind Archie Griffin (34) and Eddie George (20)...Set the school sophomore rushing record, as his 1,609 yards on the ground in 2007 rank fourth on the Buckeyes season-record list, surpassed by Eddie George (1,927 in 1995), Keith Byars (1,764 in 1984) and Archie Griffin (1,695 in 1974)...His 274 rushing attempts in 2007 rank behind Keith Byars (336 in 1984), Eddie George (328 in 1995 and 276 in 1994) and Pepe Pearson (299 in 1996) on the school's annual record chart...Carried 39 times vs. Michigan in 2007, the fourth-highest game total in school annals, topped by Harold Henson (44 vs. Northwestern, 1972), John Brockington (42 vs. Northwestern, 1970) and Keith Byars (40 vs. Michigan State, 1984)...His 221 yards vs. Michigan State in 2007 rank as the tenth-best game total by an Ohio State runner and his 222 yards vs. Michigan that year rank ninth.

2008 SEASON:

Academic All-Big Ten Conference first-team and All-Big Ten second-team selection, as he started eight of ten games that he played in...Still managed to lead the team and rank third in the conference with 207 carries for 1,197 yards (5.8 avg.) and eight touchdowns...Scored 48 points and caught eight passes for 47 yards (5.9 avg.)...Generated 1,244 all-purpose yards, ranking seventh in the league with an average of 124.4 yards per game...Rushed for over 100 yards in eight contests.

2007 SEASON:

Second-team All-American selection by The NFL Draft Report and Rivals.com...All-Big Ten Conference and Academic All-Big Ten first-team choice...Named the team's Most Valuable Player...Ranked third in the league and led the team with 274 carries for 1,609 yards (5.9 avg.), scoring fifteen times on the ground...Caught five passes for 21 yards (4.2 avg.) and scored 90 points...his 1,630 all-purpose yards rank 12th on the school's single season-record list...Recorded two solo tackles – one each vs. Wisconsin and Louisiana State ...Rushed for over 100 yards in nine contests.

2006 SEASON:

Played in all thirteen games as a reserve tailback, as the true freshman finished second on the team with 576 yards and seven touchdowns on 104 carries (5.5 avg.)...he also caught two passes for 16 yards and scored 42 points...Averaged 45.54 all-purpose yards per game.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Attended Garfield (Akron, OH) High School, earning Parade All-American honors...Named the nation's top running back as a senior, rushing for 2,134 yards and 27 touchdowns on 223 carries (9.6 avg.) in 2005...As a junior, Wells rushed for 1,939 yards and scored 20 touchdowns...The 2005 National Player of the Year scored three touchdowns on his way to being selected Most Valuable Player of the U.S. Army All-America Bowl.

PERSONAL:

African-American Studies major, twice capturing Academic All-Big Ten Conference honors...One of eleven children of Paulette and James Wells...Nicknamed "Beanie"...Born 8/07/88...Resides in Akron, OH.

PLAYER STATISTICS:**RUSHING STATISTICS**

STATS	GP	GS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG	GM/AVG
2006	13	00	104	576	5.5	7	52	44.31
2007	13	13	274	1609	5.9	15	65	123.77
2008	10	08	207	1197	5.8	8	59	119.70
TOTAL	36	21	585	3382	5.78	30	65	93.94

ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE

STATS	GM	PLAYS	CATCH	RUSH	K/RET	P/RET	YARDS	TDR	P/AVG	GM/AVG
2006	13	106	16	576	0	0	592	7	5.58	45.54
2007	13	279	21	1609	0	0	1630	15	5.84	125.38
2008	10	215	47	1197	0	0	1244	8	5.79	124.40
TOTAL	36	585	84	3382	0	0	3466	30	5.78	96.28

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS: Recorded two solo tackles; one each vs. Wisconsin and Louisiana State in 2007.

GAME-BY-GAME LOG:

2008 Regular Season Game Log			Rushing					Receiving					Fumbles	
DATE	OPP	RESULT	ATT	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	FUM	LST
8/30	Youngstown State	W 43-0	13	111	8.5	43	1	3	10	3.3	5	0	1	1
9/27	Minnesota	W 34-21	14	106	7.6	28	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1
10/4	@Wisconsin	W 20-17	22	168	7.6	54	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
10/11	Purdue	W 16-3	22	94	4.3	24	0	2	3	1.5	3	0	0	0
10/18	@Michigan State	W 45-7	31	140	4.5	25	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
10/25	Penn State	L 13-6	22	55	2.5	8	0	1	13	13.0	13	0	0	0
11/8	@Northwestern	W 45-10	28	140	5.0	55	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@Illinois	W 30-20	24	143	6.0	29	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1
11/22	Michigan	W 42-7	15	134	8.9	59	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
FIESTA	@Texas	L 24-21	16	106	6.6	26	0	1	21	21.0	21	0	0	0

2007 Regular Season Game Log			Rushing					Receiving					Fumbles	
DATE	OPP	RESULT	ATT	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	FUM	LST
9/1	Youngstown State	W 38-6	16	46	2.9	20	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
9/8	Akron	W 20-2	20	143	7.2	40	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
9/15	@Washington	W 33-14	24	135	5.6	23	1	1	7	7.0	7	0	0	0
9/22	Northwestern	W 58-7	12	100	8.3	36	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
9/29	@Minnesota	W 30-7	24	116	4.8	27	2	1	6	6.0	6	0	1	1
10/6	@Purdue	W 23-7	18	85	4.7	13	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
10/13	Kent State	W 48-3	4	17	4.3	7	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
10/20	Michigan State	W 24-17	31	221	7.1	47	1	1	8	8.0	8	0	1	0
10/27	@Penn State	W 37-17	25	133	5.3	17	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
11/3	Wisconsin	W 38-17	21	169	8.0	31	3	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
11/10	Illinois	L 28-21	20	76	3.8	17	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0
11/17	@Michigan	W 14-3	39	222	5.7	62	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
BCS	LSU	L 38-24	20	146	7.3	65	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

2006 Regular Season Game Log			Rushing					Receiving					Fumbles	
DATE	OPP	RESULT	ATT	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	REC	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD	FUM	LST
9/2	Northern Illinois	W 28-9	10	50	5.0	12	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1
9/9	@Texas	W 24-7	5	17	3.4	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
9/16	Cincinnati	W 37-7	5	18	3.6	8	0	1	10	10.0	10	0	0	0
9/23	Penn State	W 28-6	5	11	2.2	3	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
9/30	@Iowa	W 38-17	14	78	5.6	19	0	1	6	6.0	6	0	0	0
10/7	Bowling Green	W 35-7	6	9	1.5	5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
10/14	@Michigan State	W 38-7	12	53	4.4	10	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1
10/21	Indiana	W 44-3	10	65	6.5	21	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
10/28	Minnesota	W 44-0	15	90	6.0	15	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1
11/4	@Illinois	W 17-10	4	21	5.3	13	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	1
11/11	@Northwestern	W 54-10	11	99	9.0	33	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
11/18	Michigan	W 42-39	5	56	11.2	52	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
BCS	Florida	L 41-14	2	9	4.5	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0