

WASHINGTON

7-6 LAST SEASON / 5-4 PAC-12 / LOST LAS VEGAS BOWL VS BOISE STATE

COACH:

Steve Sarkisian -- 5th year at Washington; 26-25 overall

AGAINST THE SPREAD

- OVERALL: 29-21
- FAVORITE: 10-7
- UNDERDOG: 19-14
- HOME: 16-8
- AWAY: 13-13

RETURNING STARTERS:

17 TOTAL, 10 Offense, 7 Defense, Kicker, Punter

KEY LOSSES:

CB Trufant, CB Glenn, C Shaefer

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

QB Price, RB Sankey, WR Williams, DB Parker, LB Thompson

RETURNING PRODUCTION:

OFFENSE

- TOTAL OFFENSE: 100.00%
- RUSHING: 100.00%
- PASSING: 100.00%
- RECEIVING: 95.59%

DEFENSE

- TACKLES: 80.47%
- TACKLES FOR LOSS: 87.12%
- INTERCEPTIONS: 76.47%

OFFENSE

The UW offense STRUGGLED big time in 2012

- The Husky offense went from 409.8 ypg (7th in league) & 33.4 ppg (4th in league) in 2011 to 355.2 ypg (10th) & 24 ppg (9th) in 2012. Injuries along the offensive line and to QB Keith Price were the main culprits. Price took 37 sacks during 2012. Only four BCS quarterbacks were sacked more often.

Look for SIGNIFICANT improvement from Washington's offense in 2013

- **Keith Price is back** - Price is healthier and stronger than he's been at any point in the past two years and he had a terrific spring. An experienced and healthier OL will also help.

Strength: QB Keith Price -- "Of the 15 practices, he might have had one where he wasn't at his best, and one where he was just OK. Outside of that, I thought he was fantastic." - *HC Steve Sarkisian*

- **UW is LOADED at the skill positions** - Bishop Sankey is one of the top RB's in the PAC 12 (1439 yds rushing - 2nd most among returning backs) and Kasen Williams (77 rec's, 878 yds 7 6 TDs) and Austin Seferian-Jenkins (69 rec's, 859 yds & 7 TDs) are proven elite talents at WR and TE. The Huskies also add some highly-touted receivers to bolster depth at the position.

Area of concern: Offensive Line -- most of UW's offensive problems stemmed from a banged-up OL that finished 102nd nationally in sacks allowed. The line returns 4 starters and should be healthier this season, but there are still real questions about the quality of the players up front.

DEFENSE

HUGE defensive improvement in 2012

New DC Justin Wilcox took a defense that was one of college football's worst in 2011 and made it more than respectable. The Huskies went from 106th in total defense (453.3 ypg) to 31st last year (357.4 ypg) & 108th in scoring defense (35.9 ppg) to 39th in 2012 (24.2 ppg).

- The Huskies did struggle defensively in several games, especially on the road losing at LSU (41-3), Oregon (52-21), Arizona (52-17) and Washington State (31-28) in the other nine games, UW allowed an average of 15.3 ppg.

Area of Concern: Defensive Line / Pass rush: UW finished last in the PAC-12 in tackles for loss (66) and struggled with the pass rush (27 sacks).

The Husky defense should continue to improve in 2013

- With eight starters returning, including a half-dozen who were named honorable mention All Pac-12 as underclassmen, improved depth and another year under Wilcox's coaching and system, the Washington D should take another step forward in 2013.
- Improvement along the defensive line and replacing NFL first round draft pick Desmond Trufant at cornerback are the biggest defensive issues heading into fall.
- The Husky DL is a year older and should also be a year better. NT Danny Sheridan is an All-conference candidate. Replacing Trufant will be tough, but there are a lot of talented candidates battling to win the job. If UW successfully addresses these two questions, this will be one of the better defenses in the PAC-12.

Washington's returning offensive production:

The offensive skill players are in place in **RB Bishop Sankey, WR Kasen Williams** and **TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins**, it's just a matter of how much the offensive line can progress. They don't have to be world beaters, but if they can improve to at least an average level, then the offense and **QB Keith Price** should have a very good season.

UW

2012 ATS: 7-5

2012 O/U: 5-7

Favorite ATS: 1-2

Underdog ATS: 6-3

Home ATS: 4-1

Away ATS: 3-4

2013 BETTING PROSPECTUS

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

The Huskies have enough talent and experience returning to beat anyone on their schedule, and an August 31 opener against Boise State in refurbished Husky Stadium will be huge in determining how UW's 2013 season is likely to go.

Probable Wins & Losses – A win against Boise State in the opener, and UW's only serious obstacle to a perfect 7-0 home record is Oregon. The Huskies 2013 away schedule looks far more daunting, especially the trip to Stanford, who will be looking to avenge last year's loss. The only probable away win is a trip to Illinois, which could be potentially tougher than it seems.

Toss-ups – UW has lost 9 straight to Oregon, so to consider this game a toss-up may be stretching it, but this does appear to be the Huskies best opportunity in years to end the losing streak. The big question will be how well Washington plays on the road this year. They struggled to a 2-5 mark last year, and their PAC 12 away schedule is rough this season. Even going 1-2 in toss-up games at Oregon State, ASU and UCLA might be considered a success.

PROJECTED WINS

8

PAC-12 NORTH ODDS

3/1

PAC-12 CHAMP ODDS

12/1

2013 Schedule

8/31	BOISE ST	W
9/14	ILL (@CHI)	W
9/21	IDAHO ST	W
9/28	ARIZONA	W
10/5	@ STAN	L
10/12	OREGON	50/50
10/19	@ ARIZ ST	50/50
10/26	CAL	W
11/9	COLORADO	W
11/15	@ UCLA	50/50
11/23	@ ORE ST	50/50
11/29	WASH ST	W

TEAM WIN TOTAL RECOMMENDATION: Take OVER 7.5 --

This is the most talented team Washington has had in over a decade and are more than capable of competing with everyone on their schedule. The return to Husky Stadium to play 7 home games will be a huge boost.

BETTING VERDICT

ATS Projection - Bullish

Washington was bedeviled by injuries and inexperience last year. They also played one of the more difficult schedules in the country (7 bowl teams in their first 8 games). Despite these setbacks they ended the season 7-6 SU (losing two very winnable games to close out the season) & 7-5 ATS.

Sarkisian enters 2013 with the deepest and most talented roster he has had at UW. They lose very little in terms of production on either side of the ball and have far fewer holes than last season.

UW was 5-1 SU & 4-1 ATS (4-0 as an underdog) at home last season. **Look for the SU home success to continue in 2013**, especially with their return to Husky Stadium. However, other than Oregon, the Huskies will be favored in every home game this season.

Last year in their first 3 road games against LSU, Oregon and Arizona, UW went 0-3 SU & ATS. As the away schedule eased up the Huskies went 2-2 SU & 3-1 ATS (not covering as road favorites in the Apple Cup). **A more experienced Washington team will be more competitive on the road this season.**

Totals Projection - Over

Washington went 5-7 O/U last season, going under in 6 of their first 8 games. As noted earlier, Washington was also a different team on the road last season as opposed to playing at home.

At home Washington allowed 16.20 ppg against team's that averaged 29.13 ppg (-12.93) & subsequently they went under in 4 of 5 games.

On the road UW allowed 31.43 ppg against team's that averaged 28.86 (+2.57). The Huskies went 4-3 O/U away.

Look for Washington to go over again in their away games this year. The Husky offense has the potential to be much better this season and should put up a lot more points (home and away). The defense will still be vulnerable on the road to the better offensive teams like ASU, Oregon State and UCLA.

Author: Tim Tolman, SaturdayEdge writer, handicapper

VALUE AGAINST
THE SPREAD FOR
2012:

-0.08

AVERAGE MARGIN
THEY BEAT THE
SPREAD