TENNESSEE FOOTBALL HONORS CANDIDATE



34 TRAVIS STEPHENS

University of Tennessee ● Tailback ALL-AMERICA CANDIDATE DOAK WALKER AWARD CANDIDATE 5-9 ● 190 ● Sr. ● Clarksville, Tenn.

Scouting Report: A fifth-year senior with ample experience, Stephens has spent the majority of his career backing standouts Jamal Lewis and Travis Henry ... The vital contributions he has made throughout his UT career, including impressive work in the 1998 national championship run, are an asset to the 2001 squad ... Stephens stood out in his backup duties to Henry last season, gaining more than 350 yards and scoring seven touchdowns ... He continued to improve his strength during the offseason and has become a durable player who is a dependable every-down back in the Southeastern Conference ... His hard work has carried over to the classroom, as he is on track to graduate in December with a degree in human resource development ... Coach Woody McCorvey's preseason evaluation: "Travis has been around a lot of good football teams at Tennessee and he deserves the opportunity he is getting. He is assuming the starting tailback role, and I feel confident he will be able to hang onto it."

2001 Team Highlights

- Volunteers are 9-1, including 6-1 in the SEC
- Tennessee is ranked No. 4 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll and No. 5 in the Associated Press Poll
- Posted two wins over nationally ranked opponents (LSU and South Carolina)

2001 Season Highlights

- SEC's leading rusher and nation's No. 12 averaging 120.1 yards per game
- Among nation's leaders in rushing attempts, averaging 25.8 per game
- Posted six 100-yard rushing games
- Became 11th player in UT history to gain 1,000 yards in a season
- SEC Offensive Player of the Week (Sept. 10)
- Rushed for a career-high 206 yards against Arkansas, tying a school record with 41 attempts
- Posted the fifth-highest single-game all-purpose yardage total in school history of 254 yards versus Georgia

2001 Gam	No.	Game Yds	Δια	TD	Long
			Avg.	10	Long
SYRACUSE	14	111	7.9	- 1	40
at Arkansas	41	206	5.0	1	25
LSU	34	95	2.8	1	17
GEORGIA	30	176	5.9	0	64
at Alabama	33	162	4.9	2	60
S. CAROLINA	28	120	4.3	2	29
at Notre Dame	24	63	2.6	1	9
MEMPHIS	20	124	6.2	0	17
at Kentucky	18	79	4.4	0	14
VANDERBILT	16	65	4.1	0	15
at Florida					
TOTALS	258	1,201	4.7	8	64

Career Highlights

2000 - Games/Started: 11/0...As second-team tailback, playing behind Travis Henry, he carried 81 times for 359 yards, 4.4 average, and seven touchdowns ... He returned two kicks for 56 yards ... Caught six passes for 28 yards ... He made his return to action after a redshirt season by carrying 12 times for 13 yards against Southern Mississippi ... Leading rusher against Louisiana-Monroe with 10 carries for 66 yards, two touchdowns...Scored the Vols' lone touchdown against Georgia, diving across from the two ... Tallied Vols' only TD against Memphis, diving across from the one ... He had two gravity-defying dives from inside the six against Arkansas to produce one of the Vols' touchdowns ... Finished off Kentucky with 80-yard run in fourth quarter, Vols' longest of the regular season and Stephens' career long ... Finished the game with 93 yards on four carries ... His 46-yard kickoff return in fourth quarter of Vanderbilt game set the table for Vols' clinching TD drive ... Shoulder injury forced Stephens to miss Cotton Bowl.

1999 - Redshirted

1998 - Games/Started: 13/4 ... Emerged as the starter at tailback for four games after Jamal Lewis went down with a knee injury late in Auburn game ... Finished as third leading rusher with 477 yards and four touchdowns ... Rushed for 107 yards on 20 carries in first start, in Georgia game ... Had a rushing score in each of the last three regular season games ... Gained 61 yards with first score of season against Alabama-Birmingham ... Also had two catches for three yards ... Rushed for 62 yards on nine carries against Houston, including career-long run of 30 yards ... Carried the ball at least 10 times in six games ... In addition, he carried the ball 13 times against Florida State in Tostitos Fiesta Bowl game, garnering 60 yards.

1997 - Games/Started: 8/0 ... Playing time was limited following emergence of Jamal Lewis at tailback ... Finished season as Vols' fifth leading rusher ... Totaled 36 yards on nine carries ... Most productive was a 14-yard gallop in the opener with Texas Tech.

HIGH SCHOOL - Played in 1997 Tennessee-Kentucky All-Star game Three-year starter at wingback and tailback on offense and linebacker and safety on defense ... All-State and Class 5A Midstate Player of the Year as a junior ... Rushed for school record 2,550 yards and 23 touchdowns as a junior ... Also managed 87 tackles and two interceptions from free safety position ... As a senior he was plagued by an ankle injury that sidelined him for two games, but he nonetheless rushed for 991 yards and eight touchdowns ... Had more than 4,000 career yards rushing and more than 40 touchdowns ... Named Class 5A Mr. Football in his junior year ... His team compiled records of 9-3, 12-1 and 8-3 over his career, making state playoffs each season ... Ran sprints and relays for track team ... Coach at Northeast High School: Mark Burke ... Full name: Travis Tremaine Stephens ... Born: June 26, 1978.

Career Statistics

Cl. Year	No.	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long	100 Yards
Fr. 1997	9	36	4.0	0	14-Texas Tech	0
So. 1998	107	477	4.5	4	30-Houston	1
Jr. 2000	81	359	4.4	7	80-Kentucky	0
Sr. 2001	258	1,201	4.7	8	64-Georgia	6
TOTALS	455	2.073	4.6	19	80-Kentucky	7

"Our offense didn't get rattled. We kept Travis pounding the rock until something happened for us."

-- Tennessee head coach Phillip Fulmer after Stephens rushed 41 times for 206 yards in the Vols' 13-3 victory at Arkansas.