

Seth Collier

Instructor's Name

ENGL 1013

Date

### Two Hearts, One Dream

Sixty-five thousand fans filed out of the Alamo Dome after witnessing Tim Tebow outshine Mitch Mustain in the annual high school football game known as the Army All-American Bowl. During Friday night games, Mustain and Tebow were two of the most promising quarterbacks for the class of 2006. On the national scene, Tebow had been overshadowed by Mustain until this game. While Mustain piled up accolades, including national player of the year awards from *Parade*, *Gatorade*, and *USA Today* during his senior year at Springdale, Arkansas, all Tebow had to show for his senior season was a trip to the state championship game which ended in victory for his team from St. Augustine, Florida. Tebow and Mustain are set apart by their strengths, weaknesses, style of play, and appearance.

The most significant difference between Mustain and Tebow is their style of play. Their quarterbacking styles are like night and day. Mustain is rated as the top pro-style quarterback in the country, which means he is more suited for a passing offense. He stays in the pocket, behind the offensive line, for most plays. On the other hand, Tebow is rated as the top dual-threat quarterback in the country. He can beat a team with his arms and legs. He is an all-around tremendous athlete who could play numerous other positions, even if he did not have a major-league arm. Mustain is the more accurate passer, whereas Tebow is more of a running threat.

Along with their differences in style, Mustain and Tebow have different strengths. Tebow is a huge quarterback with a cannon for an arm, but he is not as accurate and consistent as

the smaller Mustain. Tebow is gifted with above-average speed and elusiveness. He is pound for pound the nation's best athlete; he could play linebacker or fullback if quarterback did not work out for him. Even though Mustain is limited to his play-calling duties, he is not prone to commit turnovers or do anything to get beat. He has the touch to throw it short as well as the big arm to make the pass in traffic. Both Mustain and Tebow possess the intangibles, or knowledge of the game, to be threats on the college gridiron. Both are vocal leaders and make sharp decisions with the ball. Mustain has precision, while Tebow has a rocket arm.

No matter how talented a quarterback is, he will always have weaknesses. Mustain and Tebow are no exception to this rule. For example, Tebow's mechanics need to be refined on the college level, even though he has plenty of physical tools. He needs to work on his accuracy and touch and gain a better grasp of the fundamentals of the passing game. Mustain already has the mechanics but needs to work on footwork and on reading defenses. He also has a great frame but still needs to add some bulk if he wants to compete on the national level.

Apart from their weaknesses, Mustain and Tebow are vastly different in size. Mustain looks as if he works at a desk all day, while Tebow looks as if he were chiseled out of a rock. Tebow is referred to by many as a walking freight truck. When he runs up the middle, he is like a bowling ball knocking over pins. Even though Mustain is the more highly touted quarterback, he quite literally walks in Tebow's shadow.

Despite their differences, Mitch Mustain and Tim Tebow are two of the most-sought-after quarterbacks from the class of 2006. The primary elements that set these two individuals apart are their variations in strengths, weaknesses, style of play, and appearance.