Ace Sanders opted to leave school a year early to enter the NFL Draft. The top returnees are Bruce Ellington, Nick Jones and Damiere Byrd, three talented players who are a little short to be true #1 wide receivers. Ellington is the leading returnee after a 2012 campaign that included 40 catches for 600 yards and seven TDs. Hoping to bring some badly-needed height to the equation are sophomores Shaq Roland, Shamier Jeffery and K.J. Brent. Junior Rory Anderson is a potential star at tight end after coming off the bench a year ago to catch 14 passes with five touchdowns. Sophomores Jerrell Adams and Dre’ Anthony Owens add superb TE depth.

The rushing attack fell apart last year once superstar Marcus Lattimore suffered yet another catastrophic knee injury. Lattimore is off to the NFL and his replacement Mike Davis and Brandon Wilds are the early favorites to replace him. Davis ran for 275 yards off the pines as a 2012 true frosh, while Wilds lettered in 2011 before redshirting a season ago. Also, Coach Spurrier may take a very long look at heralded true frosh David Williams.

The blocking corps struggled badly at times in 2012 and Spurrier did a lot of re-shuffling over the course of the season. But now four starters are back as the team will be promising red-shirt freshman center Cody Waldrop who was one of the standouts in spring practice. Right tackle Brandon Shell was an SEC All-Freshman pick a year ago and he’ll again pair at tackle with big man Corey Robinson, while the guard tandem will again be comprised of solid but unspectacular A.J. Cann and Ronald Patrick. Former starters Mike Matulis and Cody Gibson head up an otherwise shaky reserve O-line crew.

The defense has been stellar in recent years, but Spurrier has a bit of work to do here after losing six starters from last year’s strong group. One guy he will NOT worry about is All-American end Jadeveon Clowney, who is almost certainly entering the NFL Draft this spring. In 2012, the laughably athletic Clowney racked up 54 tackles, 24 hits for minus yardage, 13 QB sacks and four forced fumbles! The new face on the other flank is underrated senior Vernon Adams and Drew Owens adds superb TE depth.

Junior Rory Anderson is a potential star at tight end, while Wilds lettered in 2011 before redshirting a year ago and he’ll again pair at tailback with big man Corey Robinson, while the guard tandem will again be comprised of solid but unspectacular A.J. Cann and Ronald Patrick. Former starters Mike Matulis and Cody Gibson head up an otherwise shaky reserve O-line crew.

The defense has been stellar in recent years, but Spurrier has a bit of work to do here after losing six starters from last year’s strong group. One guy he will NOT worry about is All-American end Jadeveon Clowney, who is almost certainly the best defensive player in the country this year. In 2012, the laughably athletic Clowney racked up 54 tackles, 24 hits for minus yardage, 13 QB sacks and four forced fumbles! The new face on the other flank is underrated senior Vernon Adams and Drew Owens add superb TE depth.