

## Morehead State

Morehead State is one of only 2 current members that have never won the Pioneer League. This is HC Rob Tenyer's 8<sup>th</sup> year. Going into the spring, the Eagles had their only winning record under Tenyer in 2015, going 7-4 with 3 close losses but were -14 ypg. In '16 they slipped to 4-7 but improved to +31 ypg and were -3 net close losses. They repeated that record in '17 then dropped to 3-8 in '18 (-54 ypg). In '19 they were +48 ypg at home but -129 ypg on the road and finished 5-7 (-41 ypg). The Eagles finally got back above .500 in the spring, going 4-3 despite an 0-2 start. They were -103 ypg, but if you remove a blowout loss at JMU, they were only -44 ypg.

The Eagles averaged 24 ppg and 388 ypg in '17 then improved to 28 ppg and 405 ypg in '18. Their offense put up over 500 yards in 3 games in '19, but 2 of those came against lower division schools. They finished with 28.8 ppg and 403 ypg. In spring Morehead St was held to 22.7 ppg and 301 ypg but averaged 29 ppg and 340 ypg in Pioneer play and put up just 8 ppg and 205 ypg in 2 non-conference games. The Eagles had to replace their starting QB in '19. Mark Pappas stepped in and started all but the finale. He threw for 2,327 (57.4%, 19-10). DeAndre Clayton was #2 with 277 (60%, 4-5, 164 rush). Both returned in the spring. Pappas started all 7 games. He threw for 1,568 (61.8%, 14-6). Pappas returns but depth is a concern with Clayton gone and Grady Cramer only had 5 attempts last year. In '19 Morehead St lost their top rusher but got back their #2 Issiah Aguero was ready to take a bigger role (93, 4.2 '18). Aguero led with 958 (5.9) and Jovan Smith was again #2 with 341 (3.7). Earl Stoudemire added 201 (4.4). Last year Aguero and Stoudemire were both back. Aguero only led with 288 (3.7). Stoudemire rushed for 132 (2.9). No one else on the team topped 23 yards. Aguero and Stoudemire are both back along with Mario Convenuto who rushed for 162 (5.8) 2 years ago. After a tough spring they should be much better in the fall. The Eagles lost their top 2 receivers last year. BJ Byrd led with 467 (15.1) while Thomas Campbell-Clay was #2 with 403 (14.4). Ian Holder added 156 (8.2) and Devonte Adams added 142 (10.9). Their top 10 are all back this year so they've got experience and depth. 4 starters were back on the Oline in the spring. They rushed for 164 (4.2) in '19 but dipped to 66 (2.4, 11 sk) despite the experience. The Eagles bring back 4 starters again, plus Dalton Lewis, who started 8 games in '19 also is back. They've got 7 with starting experience and should get much closer to '19's production than last year's disappointing stats.

Morehead State gave up 35 ppg or more each year from '16-'19. In the spring they lost 9 of their top 15 tk'l's including 3 of their top 5. They allowed 25.2 ppg and 404 ypg. Morehead St has notoriously had trouble defending the run. They've allowed over 200 rush ypg every year since 2012 and never lower than 4.7 ypc. The Eagles gave up 246 rush ypg (5.9) in '19 with 18 sacks. In spring they had just 1 starter back. The Eagles allowed 232 (4.9) rush ypg and had just 11 sacks. This year they get all 4 starters back including their #5, #12, #13 and #14 tk'l's. While they will improve, based on history it's unlikely they hold foes under 200 ypg. The Eagles returned 2 starters at LB last year. They finished as their #1 and #2 tk'l's in the spring. Vincent Winey led with 84 tkls and 7 tfl's. All 3 starters return this year. In '19 the Eagles allowed just 197 pass ypg (49.6%) but also gave up a 26-11 ratio. Last year they brought back their #8, #9 and #15 tk'l's. They allowed just 172 pass ypg (56.8%) only gave up 6 pass td's and posted 14 int's including 5 by Brandon Barbee! This year everyone returns except Barbee (#9 tk'l'r). They get their #3, #6, #7 and #8 tk'l's back and while they won't replicate their excellent ratio last year, this is still a solid unit. Overall the defense returns 10 starters and 14 of their top 15 tk'l's.

Andrew Foster made just 2-5 fg's (L/38) and Nathan Hazlett was 0-1 in spring. Foster avg'd 41.4 ypg (36.4 net). BY Byrd had a 33.4 KR avg with 1 td and Ian Holder had 74 yds on 2 PR's. This year they get everyone back but will need improved fg kicking.

Morehead St returns 20 starters, with 10 on each side of the ball. The Eagles only get 5 home games and they open at James Madison but they've got plenty of experience and could get their first B2B winning seasons under HC Tenyer.