BROWN BEARS

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - In '19 Brown hired HC James Perry who was a star QB here and a Walter Peyton Finalist as a Sr. The offense flourished under Perry, putting up 30 ppg and 455 ypg. Another huge reason for their improvement was the addition of Boston College transfer QB EJ Perry (PS#97), the nephew of Coach Perry. Perry topped 300 on 5 occasions including 420 vs Rhode Island and 412 vs Dartmouth. He finished with 2,948 (60%, 22-13) and also led with 730 rush (5.1). Perry returned after setting an Ivy League record for total offense with 3,678 yards. He threw for over 300 yards in each of his first 5 games but only toppee 300 once in his last 5. He finished with 3,033 passing with the 3rd best completion % in school history at 66.4. Among the many accolades Brown achieved, he was the Ivy League Offensive POY, a Walter Payton Finalist, finished his 2 year career here #2 in total offense (7,113) and 3rd in career pass yds (5,981). He became the 2nd Brown player ever to be invited to the NFL combine and was the MVP of the East West Shrine Bowl then signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars. Jake Wilcox is the only QB on the roster that attempted a pass last season. They have 5 other QB's on the roster including 2 Seniors. It's not often an Ivy League school has to replace a player the caliber of Perry so to say there is a huge drop off is an understatement.

RUNNING BACKS - In '18 Allen Smith was the only RB to top 100 rush yds, as he led with just 175 (4.3). In '19 Smith returned, and they could only get better after an abysmal '18. Smith ran for 109 vs Princeton and 113 vs Columbia. He finished with 550 (4.7). Smith returned last year while Andrew Bolton (115, 3.0) but they had no other RB returning that topped 100 yards in '19. Smith had 100 vs Cornell and finished with 526 (3.8) and had 270 receiving (6.9). True frosh Jordan DeLucia had 305 (4.3, 157 rec). Smith returns for his Senior year and DeLucia is back as well. With QB Perry no longer taking as many carries their production will increase even more.

RECEIVERS - In '19 four of Brown's top five returned including their top two. Brown had 5 top 300 yards in '19. Last year their top 3 were gone along with a 1st Tm All-Ivy TE. Only 2 of their top 6 returned and no WR/TE on the roster started a game in '19. Wes Rockett and Graham Walker each had 664 yards with Rockett having the edge by just 2 catches with 56 (both 2nd Tm All-Ivy). Hayes Sutton was #3 with 530 (9.3). This year Brown returns their top 11 in receiving yards from last year (includes 3 RB's). Whoever the starting QB is will have a veteran unit to throw to and they go from inexperienced to experienced.

OFFENSIVE LINE - With only 2 returning starters back in '18 Brown dropped to an Ivy League worst 65 (2.5) rush ypg but only allowed 9 sacks. In '19 they had 4 starters back in HC Perry's first year and they jumped to 153 (4.4) but sacks increased to 35! Last year once again 2 starters returned including 2nd Tm All-Ivy LT Chad Broome-Webster back. Brown rushed for 133 ypg and sacks dropped to 28 (5.8%). This year Brown loses 2x All-Ivy LT Broome-Webster (11 st) and Tucker Barnes (3 st). Four starters return and six have starting experience. They lose their mobile QB so sacks could increase but this is a veteran unit.

DEFENSIVE LINE - Only 1 starter returned in '19 yet Brown made a dramatic improvement, allowing 148 rush ypg (4.1, 14 sk). Last year both starting DT's depart including 1st Tm All-Ivy DT Michael Hoecht (9 st, #5 tkl'r, 4 sk). Also gone was Elijah Pierre (7 st, 13 tkl, 3 sk) and Brian Mercer (1 st, 14 tkl, 3 tfl). Both starting DE's returned and they actually had 4 of their top 5 back, making this the strength of the defense. Brown slipped to 179 rush ypg allowed and 5.0 ypc while sacks dropped to 17. This year Brown loses Callum Flanders (6 st, #5 tkl'r, 4 sk), Anthony Mastroni (10 st, #13 tkl'r) and Nathan Brown (4 st, 14 tkl). Five of their top nine return so they are less experienced but also coming off a disappointing season.

LINEBACKERS - In '19 Brown returned 5 of their top 6 LB's. They did lose Kingsley Ejiogu-Dike after 3 games (11 tkl) but their LB's made up their #1, #2 and #4, #8, #13 & #15 tkl'rs. Last year they returned 4 of their top 7 but had to replace their #1, #8 and #15 tacklers. Junior Gafa led the way with 61 tackles and 9.5 tfl. This year they return their #1, #3, #14 and #16 tacklers. They do lose Jason Medeiros (10 st, #6 tkl'r, 4 sk) but with 5 of their top 6 LB's back this is a much more experienced unit.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - The Bears finished last in pass efficiency defense in both '17 & '18. They only had 1 starter back in '19. Brown's pass defense went from 243 ypg allowed in '18 up to 343 ypg in '19 (64.4%, 32-5). Last year Brown returned all 4 starters and 8 that started at least 1 game in '19. They had their #3, #6, #7 and #10 and #11 tkl'rs all back. They allowed 269 pass ypg (64.4%, 26-4) and for the 4th straight season finished last in the Ivy League in pass defense efficiency. This year they lose FS Clayton Perrin (7 st, #2 tkl'r, 2 int), CB Nicholas Messina (5 st, #15 tkl'r) and Charlie Dallape (3 st, 5 tkl). Three starters return and they have their #4, #7, #8, #9 and #11 tacklers back. They were a long way from their competitors last year with 11 more td's allowed than any other Ivy League school and after 4 straight years on the bottom, it's hard to call for anything different.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Dawson Goepferich made 7-10 fg's (L/35) in '19. He also handled P and KO duties, avg 38.1 ypp (32.1 net) and had 31 TB on 57 KO. Dan Gemmell avg'd just 4.0 PR and Scott Boylan avg'd 18.3 KR. Last year they lost their do it all K/P Goepferich and needed to improve their coverage units after allowing 10.0 PR and 23.9 KR. K Christopher Maron made 7 of 11 fg's (L/48). Declan Boyle averaged 41.9 ypp on 33 punts with a 35.7 net. Allen Smith averaged 19.1 KR and Wes Rockett 7.3. Maron and Boyle both return so this is one of the better ST's in the CUSA.

COACHES - Former Ivy League POY James Perry took over as HC at Brown in '19. Perry spent his 2 years at Bryan where he led the Bulldogs to B2B 6-5 seasons. Ryan Mattison is in his 2nd year as OC and was TE Coach here in '19. He was the TE Cch/Recruiting Coordinator at Bryant for 2 years prior. Tim Weaver is in his 3rd year as DC and 4th here overall. He was DC at Delaware for 4 years prior and Head Coach at DIII Bethany College in WV. He was also co-DC at Harvard from '99-'02. Darryl Jackson is the 3rd year ST Coach and was the ST Coach at Bryant for 7 years.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - In '17 Brown slipped to just 13 ppg and 279 ypg then in '18 barely improved, avg 14.3 ppg and 286 ypg. In '19 Brown hired former star QB HC James Perry who brought his nephew, QB EJ Perry from Boston College. The offense flourished under Perry, putting up 30 ppg and 455 ypg. The Bears came back after their year off with 4 starters back including Perry. Brown finished 1st in the Ivy League with 445 ypg but ony 5th with 29.5 ppg. This year 9 starters are back but they lose QB Perry and a 1st Team All Ivy League LT. They have 6 QB's on the roster but only 1 pass attempt between them. Whoever wins the job will have a veteran cast around them with their top 2 RB's, top 11 receivers and 4 OL starters all back, so Perry's loss might not be quite as hard to overcome.

DEFENSE - In 2017 Brown allowed their most ypg since 2007 at 420. They allowed an Ivy League high 34.3 ppg and 432 ypg in conference play. In '18 they returned just 3 starters and were even worse, allowing 36.2 ppg and 495 ypg (37.6 ppg and 507 ypg in Ivy League)! In '19 HC Perry inherited a defense with 5 returning starters. For the third straight season this was the worst defense in the Ivy League, allowing 40.2 ppg and 490 ypg. Last year 7 starters returned from '19 but it was more of the same with Brown allowing 42.4 ppg and 448 ypg as they finished last in both scoring and total defense. This year 7 starters return again and 14 of their top 20 tacklers are back. While they can't get worse, it's hard to project significant improvement.

2022 - Brown matched or decreased their win total every year from 2011, culminating in 2018's 1-9 campaign and the resignation of Phil Estes after 21 years as HC. In '18 they had 11 starters back, a new OC and OL Cch. All but 1 of Brown's 9 losses were by 14 pts or more and they finished -210 ypg and -228 ypg in Ivy League Play. Brown bottomed out in '18 in every statistical category, losing 15 straight Ivy League games. In '19 they had 14 returning starters including 9 on offense and improved to -36 ypg but still only went 2-8 but did end their 19 game Ivy League losing streak by beating Columbia 28-24. Last year they had 11 starters back from '19. They only trailed Rhode Island by 3 at half but lost 45-24 despite a +100 yd edge. Both Harvard and Bryant jumped to big leads at half, though Brown did rally in the 4Q to only lose to Bryant by 7 but they started 0-3. They dominated Colgate with a +141 yd edge and won by 3 td's. They only trailed 28-21 at half vs Princeton but was outgained 650-490 and lost by 2 td's. Their only Ivy League win came over Cornell then lost their last 4 to finish 2-8. Overall the Bears were only -1 ypg and -19 ypg vs Ivy League foes. They finished with a -19 TO margin, making them a prime candidate for Turnovers=Turnaround. They get 4 Ivy League home games including games against Penn and Cornell which they need to win or it's back to the basement.