

CAMPBELL CAMELS



POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - In '19 Haji-Malik Williams led in both rushing (664, 4.4) and passing 2,022 (56.5%) with a 17-9 ratio. He returned in '20 when they played against 4 FBS foes and threw for 662 (53%) but only a 3-3 ratio. He did once again lead in rushing with 216 (4.4) in just 4 games. Williams started the first 2 last year but battled injuries and only started 2 more games after that. He dropped to 714 with a 53.7% and 7-1 ratio (127 rush, 3.5). Wiley Hartley stepped and threw for over 300 yards in each of his first 2 starts. He led with 1,602 (60.9%, 14-8) despite not playing in the last 3 games. Dylan Earney started the last 2 and had 300 pass yards in their finale. He finished with 578 (61.6%, 3-1). All 3 return this year with Williams being named 1st team Preseason All Big South. If Williams and Hartley stay healthy then this is the deepest QB room in the Big South.

RUNNING BACKS - Campbell has relied heavily on their QB for rushing with the signal caller leading the Camels each year from '17-'20. In '19 CJ Freeman and Bryant Barr were their #4 and #5 rushers with 217 (4.3) and 202 (4.0) respectively. Barr was #2 in the spring with 164 (3.7) and Freeman was right behind him again with 148 (5.1). Last year both returned. JUCO transfer Michael Jamerson had 101 vs Presbyterian but he led with just 329 (3.7). Barr only saw action in 6 games and was #2 with 324 (5.0). Freeman played in 8 games and had 179 (3.4). Jamerson and Barr return while Freeman departs. They have 2 of their top 3 back but we wouldn't be surprised if QB Williams ends up being their leading rusher again now that he is healthy.

RECEIVERS - Caleb Snead led in '19 with 554 (19.1) but he sat out the spring season. Jalen Kelsey was #2 in '19 with 537 (17.9) then led in '20 with 221 (12.3). Last year Snead returned to the team and formed a formidable duo with Kelsey along with TE Julian Hill who had a 17.0 average in '20 (6-102). Snead had 178 vs Monmouth and 198 vs James Madison. He led with 1,067 (14.6), had 10 td's and was named 1st Tm All Big South. Kelsey had an 18.5 average and was #2 with 408. TE Hill had 367 (10.8) and was also 1st Team All Big South. Dontae Crow added 269 (10.3). This year Snead and Crow depart. They get 4 of their top 6 back but Snead's loss is big. They do add Iowa St transfer Ezeriah Anderson (PS#195). This is still a solid unit and look for Hill to have a bigger season.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '19 Campbell rushed for 184 (4.3) but allowed 31 sacks (11.2). They were even better vs the Big South, putting up 204 (4.7). Against 4 FBS foes they rushed for just 144 (3.7) with 12 sacks (11.1%) in '20. Last year they dropped to just 111 (3.4) and in their last 4 only rushed for 86 (2.7). This year they return 3 starters along with Austin Blake who started 11 games in '19. Tyler McClellan

has started the last 26 games and was 1st Team All Big South last year. They do lose RG Danny Corbett and C Matt Price. Wake Forest transfer Mike Edwards started the first 7 here last year before an injury. They are coming off a disappointing season but have 6 back with starting experience and we expect a huge improvement.

DEFENSIVE LINE - This unit has been the defense's biggest issue since '18 when they went from 145 (3.5) in '17 to 212 (5.2). In '19 they allowed 234 (5.5) and conference foes rushed for 209 (4.8). They were no match for 4 FBS foes in '20 when they allowed 295 (6.2) but the experience paid dividends as they allowed just 156 (4.3) last year. DE's Chris Cromartie and Brevin Allen were their #4 and #5 tacklers. Allen also led the Big South with 9.5 sacks and 17.5 total tfl's on his way to being named our Big South Defensive POY and 3rd Team FCS AA. This year they lose 3rd Tm All Big South DE Cromartie but Allen returns along with their #8, #14, #15 and #17 tacklers. In all they return 7 of their top 9, making this a very formidable unit.

LINEBACKERS - Tywun Rivens was Campbell's top returnee last year after posting 25 tackles in 4 games against FBS foes in '20. They lost their #4, #11 and #14 tacklers. Keshawn Thompson had just 9 tackles in '20 then emerged as their top tackler last year, with 80 stops and added 2 int's before getting named 3rd Tm All Big South. Thompson returns this year along with CJ Tillman (2 st, #3 tkl'r, 5 tfl) while Rivens (6 st, #12 tkl'r) and Roy Yancey (4 st, #6 tkl'r, 4.5 tfl) depart. The Camels are actually more experienced than they were entering last year so we are calling this unit improved.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - This has often been the strength of the defense. In '18 they only allowed 47.2% completions and 120 pass ypg, finishing #1 in pass defense efficiency. In '19 Campbell allowed just 53.9% completions and 181 pass ypg but did drop to #2 in efficiency. They gave up 66.2% in '20 but they did face McCall from Coastal Carolina and Hartman from Wake Forest in their 4 games and only gave up 185 pass ypg. Last year added a pair of Wake Forest transfers and returned #1 tkl'r Darion Slade. They slipped to 61.4% and 242 pass ypg (21-13) and dropped all the way to 6th in efficiency. This year they lose 2nd Tm All Big South DB Slade (9 st, #2 tkl'r, 5 tfl, 2 int), SS Levi Wiggins (11 st, #7 tkl'r, 3 pbu) and Grate (10 st, #10 tkl'r, 2 int, 10 pbu). They return their #7, #11, #13, #16 and #18 tacklers. The Camels also have 4 DB's returning that started their careers with FBS schools that should step up into bigger roles so they could improve off a disappointing season.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Last year Isaac Riffle made just 3 of 14 fg's for 21.4%. He had a long of 47 and missed 5 fg's within 29 yards. Corey Petersen averaged 40.6 ypp on 41 punts (39.5 net). Josh McNeely was their top KR (28.8) and PR (3.8). All 3 return this year. Clearly the coaches believe in Riffle. They didn't add a transfer and despite his struggles, Riffle was the only one who had an attempt last year. The only part of their ST's last year that was subpar was their fg kicking and Riffle can only get better. With everyone back this should go from below average to at least average.

COACHES - Former NFL veteran Mike Minter enters his 11th year as Head Coach. He led the Camels to 3 consecutive winning seasons from '17-'19. He was a ST Coach and Defensive asst under Turner Gil at Liberty before coming here.

The 2nd year OC is Anthony Weeden. He coached WR's at Dixie State for 4 years prior. The first year Co-DC's are Reggie Howard who also coached DB's here last year, and Damien Adams who has coached the Dline the last 9 years. Their 3rd year ST's Coordinator is Steven Williams.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - In '18 Campbell averaged 25 ppg and 368 ypg. They replaced their starting QB and top 2 RB's in '19 yet improved to 30 ppg and 374 ypg. The Camels only played 4 FBS foes in the fall of '20 with no spring football like the rest of the FCS. They averaged 21 ppg and 345 ypg. Last year they returned their starting QB but and their top WR as well as most of their Oline. They slipped to 26 ppg and 372 ypg but injuries played a large part with 2 QB's going down along with 2 starting OL. In their last 6 games they put up just 15 ppg and 329 ypg. This year they get 8 starters back including 3Y starting QB Haji-Malik Williams who missed 6 games with injury last year. They do lose a 1,000 yard WR but if they manage to stay healthy this will be an improved offense and should top 30 ppg.

DEFENSE - Campbell peaked in '15 when they allowed 18 ppg and 279 ypg. They remained consistent from '16-'18, allowing between 22-24 ppg and 322-351 ypg. In '19 they took a deep dive and allowed 31 ppg and 415 ypg. In their last 4 they gave up 38 ppg. Their 4 game FBS schedule in '20 wasn't kind as they faced 3 teams that had winning records and gave up 47 ppg and 480 ypg. Naturally they improve when they got back to playing FCS foes in '21. They gave up 29 ppg and 399 ypg. This year they return 6 starters including the Big South Defensive POY in DE Allen. Their Dline is the strength thanks to Allen and they get their #1 tackler back at LB. Twelve of their top 20 tkl'r's are back and we think they could be improved in all 3 units.

2022 - Campbell has been impressively consistent under Minter since 2014. They won 5 games each year in '14, '15 and '16 but there were signs of improvement as they were +84 ypg in '15 and +87 ypg in '16. In '17 they broke through for a 6th win and a winning record and were +83 ypg and +46 vs conference foes. In '18 they moved to the Big South after spending 10 years as a non-scholarship school in the Pioneer League. The move wasn't too daunting and they again went 6-5 and were +36 ypg but -18 vs Big South foes. They had a modern program record 6 game winning streak in '19 but lost their last 4 to finish 6-5 and were -41 ypg (-10 ypg vs Big South. Campbell played 4 road games vs FBS foes in '20, losing all 4 by 26 ppg and were -136. Unlike most FCS brethren they elected to not play in the spring. They had 20 starters from their '20 season back but after a 3 game winning streak, lost their next 6 and finished 3-8, -26 ypg. This year they have 14 starters back. The Camels were plagued with injuries last year. Their schedule lightens up, with James Madison and Kennesaw St dropping off for Delaware St and William & Mary. They could be 4-2 heading into a rough 3 game road stretch at Jackson St, North Carolina A&T and Bryant. Campbell was picked 2nd in the preseason and should at the very least get back to winning 5-6 games like they've done so often.