

DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - In 18 Dartmouth used a 2 QB system with Derek Kyler starting all 10 and leading with 1,362 and set a school record with 68.9% (13-2, 190 rush). Jared Gerbino added 159 (57%, 4-1) and was their leading rusher with 700 (6.1). In '19 it was Gerbino that started all 10 and while he increased to 940 (68.6%, 9-2) passing, his rush decreased to 368 (4.8). Kyler led with 1,075 (67%, 12-3, 106 rush). Last year Gerbino departed so Kyler had the job to himself. He started all 10 games, threw for 1,972 (70.7%, 84 rush) and had a 17-1 ratio! Kyler transferred to Pitt. Nick Howard played in all 10 games last year, mostly being used as a Wildcat QB. He was their leading rusher with 787 (6.3) but only threw for 126 (61.1%, 1-1). Dylan Cadwallader also played in 9 (5 att). HC Teevens said they were still using a 2 QB system in spring with Howard as the runner and Cadwallader playing on passing downs. Teevens also said Jr Gavin Muir took steps as well.

RUNNING BACKS - In '19 the Big Green lost their top RB (#2, 657, 6.6 '18). Dakari Falconer led with just 375 (4.9). Caylin Parker was #3 with 299 (4.3). Last year their top 2 RB's departed and their top returnee only had 83 (5.2) back in '19. QB Howard led with 787 (6.3) out of the Wildcat role. Zack Bair was their top RB, putting up 476 (5.4, 202 rec). Noah Roper was #3 with 349 (6.5). The only loss this year is Keegan McHugh (141, 7.4). They go from virtually no experience entering last year to two RB's that topped 300 yards and a highly productive Wildcat QB.

RECEIVERS - The Big Green got 3 of their top 4 WR's back in '19. Drew Estrada doubled Dartmouth's top WR from '19 with 827 (16.2) while Hunter Hagdorn was #2 with 492 (12.9). TE Robbie Mangas avg 29.0 ypc (232). Their top 2 departed last year but Mangas returned. Paxton Scott led with 505 (11.0). Dale Chesson missed the first 6 games, returned to start the last 4 and was #2 with 259 (12.3). Jamal Cooney had 206 (13.7). This year they only lose Chesson, JJ Jones (146, 14.6) and TE Mangas (10 st, 112, 14.0). Two starters are back and they've got 7 returning that topped 100 receiving yards last year including Scott (10 st, 4th Tm All-Ivy). This is the most experienced unit on the offense.

OFFENSIVE LINE - Dartmouth's biggest concern in '19 was their Oline which had to replace 4 All-Ivy performers. The Big Green went from 255 (5.8) rush ypg with just 7 sacks to 167 (4.6) with 14 sacks. Last year the Mean Green returned 2 starters from '19. They slipped to 194 rush ypg (5.3, 14 sk). This year Dartmouth loses LT John Paul Flores (10 st, 2nd Tm All Ivy, transfer to UVA), LG Jake Guidone (10 st, 1st Tm All Ivy), C Evan Hecimovich (10 st, 1st Tm All Ivy) and RG Calvin Atkeson (9 st, 3rd Tm All Ivy). Only 1 starter returns but they are only slightly less experienced than last year so aren't down as much as you'd think.

DEFENSIVE LINE - Dartmouth had 3 All-Ivy Dline starters back in '19 after allowing just 80 rush ypg (2.6) in '18. Their top 6 Dline returned including their top sack guy Rocco Di Leo. The Big Green allowed 113 (3.4, 13 sk). All 3 starters departed last year and they lost their top 6 DL. Dartmouth allowed 111 rush ypg (3.5) and just 100 (3.1) in Ivy League Play. This year they lose NG Seth Walter (10 st, #8 tk'l'r, 3 sk, 4 tfl) and DE Mick Reese (10 st, co-#15 tk'l'r, 2 sk, 2.5 tfl). Only 1 starter returns but they get 3 of their top 5 back and are clearly more experienced than last year so this is one of the Ivy League's top Dlines.

LINEBACKERS - In '19 the Big Green lost 3 starters at LB including two 2nd Tm All-Ivy performers. Jack Traynor and Nigel Alexander made up their #1 and #2 tk'l'rs but both departed last year along with their #9 tk'l'r and NB DJ Avery (7 st, #11 tk'l'r). The Mean Green 14.7 ppg and 4 of their top 5 tk'l'rs came from this unit. This year they lose 1st Tm All Ivy LB Jalen Mackie (8 st, #1 tk'l'r, 9 tfl, 3 pd), John Pupel (10 st, #2 tk'l'r, 4 tfl), Tanner Cross (7 st, #4 tk'l'r) and Thomas Hennessy (2 st, co-#15 tk'l'r). Once again this unit needs completely rebuilt with just 1 starter back in 2nd Tm All Ivy Marques White (9 st, #5 tk'l'r, 5 sk) but they are actually more experienced than they were entering last year.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - In '19 Dartmouth returned 3 starters including 1st Tm FCS AA Isaiah Swann (9 int's '18, Ivy League Def POY) after finishing #1 in Pass Defense Efficiency in '19 (63%, 6-16). We said this would be the top secondary in the Ivy again and they finished #1, allowing just 211 ypg (61%, 8-11). Last year they lost 2x 1st Tm FCS AA Swann (#7 tk'l'r, 4 int, 11 pbu) along with S Ryan Roegge (9 st, #8 tk'l'r) and CB Darren Stanley. They did have 3 back with starting experience including their #3 and #4 tk'l'rs. This was the only unit on the defense that actually had experience. They only slipped to #2 in defensive efficiency, allowing just 160 pass ypg (63.2%, 8-6). 1st Tm All Ivy CB Isaiah Johnson (10 st, #3 tk'l'r, 7 pd) transferred to Syracuse and they lose SS Niko Mermigas (10 st, #10 tk'l'r), and CB DeWayne Terry (8 st, #11 tk'l'r, 4 pbu). Only 1 starter returns and they lose 3 of their top 5, making this the defenses biggest concern.

SPECIAL TEAMS - In '18 Connor Davis only made 6-14 fg's (L/44). In '19 he made 6 of 9 (L/42). Davis Brief avg'd just 33.9 ypp (31.2 net). Drew Estrada had an excellent 17.0 avg PR and 22.7 KR. Last year Davis returned while Brief and Estrada departed. Davis made 6-7 fg's (L/39). Davis Golick and Cameron Baller combined to average 34.4 ypp (33.9 tm net). Jamal Cooney avg'd 13.9 PR. This year they only lose K Davis so they could be a better overall unit with a more experienced roster.

COACHES - This is Buddy Teevens 2nd stint at Dartmouth. His first stint was in 1987-'91 then took over again in 2005. He has held a share of the Ivy League Title 3 times including each of the last 2 seasons. Teevens was also HC at Maine ('85-'86), Tulane ('92-'96) and Stanford ('02-'04). OC Kevin Daft is in his 6th year here. He spent 5 years on staff as OC/QB Cch at UC Davis. DC Don Dobes has coached 32 seasons in the Ivy League including 10 years at Dartmouth. He has been DC/LB Coach here since 2010. Sammy McCorkle has been ST Coor/DB coach here since Teevens returned in '05.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - In 2016 Dartmouth posted their lowest ppg since 2009 at 20.1. In 2017 their ypg dropped to 398 but their ppg increased to 27.4. They only had 5 starters back in '18 but improved to 34 ppg and 417 ypg. In '19 6 starters were back, the Big Green slipped to 33 ppg and 382 ypg. 4 starters returned last year and Dartmouth averaged 30.6 ppg and 406 ypg. This year they get 4 starters back again. They will still run a 2 QB system with Nick Howard as the Wildcat QB but must find a new passing QB to replace Derek Kyler. Their RB/WR's are in solid shape and while the Oline is a concern, they are only slightly less experienced than last year. They shouldn't take a step back despite the inexperience.

DEFENSE - In 2016 and 2017 Dartmouth allowed 21.3 ppg (363 ypg) and 20.0 ppg (333 ypg) then in '18 with 6 starters back then allowed just 12 ppg and 280 ypg. In '19 6 starters returned and they once again allowed just 12 ppg but slipped to allowing 324 ypg. Last year Dartmouth had to replace their entire front 7 yet the defense didn't skip a beat, allowing just 14.7 ppg and 272 ypg. They only allowed more than 21 points once, in their finale vs Brown which they won by 21. Only 3 starters return but the front 7 is more experienced than last year so this should once again be one of the Ivy League's top defenses, though it will be tough to match last year's excellent numbers.

2022 - When Buddy Teevens took over for his 2nd stint in 2005 (1st stint '87-'91), he led the Big Green to just 9 wins in his first 5 years. Since 2010 they've only finished below .500 once (4-6 in 2016) and won their 2nd Ivy League Title in 2015 (finished #23 in FCS). In 2017 the Big Green won their first 5 games and finished 8-2 (+64 ypg), tying for 2nd in the Ivy League (5-2). In 2018 they had 11 starters back and finished 9-1 with 8 wins by double-digits and they were +137 ypg (+61 ypg in Ivy League). In '19 Dartmouth returned 12 starters, had experience at QB, RB and WR along with 16 of their top 20 tacklers were back. They again went 9-1 despite slipping to +58 ypg and tied for Ivy League Title with Yale, who they beat 42-10. Last year only 6 starters were back from '19 after skipping the '20 season. Their veteran coaching staff led them to a 9-1 season, splitting a share of the Ivy League Title with Princeton, who they beat 31-7. They did have close wins vs Yale and Harvard but were +141 ypg and +130 ypg in conference play. This year only 7 starters return. They only get 3 Ivy League home games. They travel to Princeton and Yale and also have a tough non-conference game at Sacred Heart. Dartmouth has been a perennial contender in the Ivy League, finishing with 2 losses or less in 6 of the last 7 seasons so they once again should finish near the top of the standings.