

FORDHAM RAMS

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - In 2018 Tim DeMorat threw for 1,633 (56%, 11-6). DeMorat started every game in '19, throwing for 2,674 (59%, 20-11) then added 1,049 in just 3 games in spring (72%, 5-3). DeMorat returns as the Preseason Patriot League OFF POY and we said based on his spring performances he could top 3,000 yards. DeMorat was Patriot League offensive POW 4 times. He threw for 401 vs Lehigh and topped 300 in 6 games. Just as we predicted, he topped 3K, finishing with 3,207 (58.4%, 31-9, 92 rush). DeMorat returns after winning the Patriot League offensive player of the year. Grant Wilson (52, 75%, 0-0) returns as the backup. DeMorat is 7th among active FCS QB's in pass yards per game and with his size (6'4" 220) could even be a sleeper NFL prospect.

RUNNING BACKS - In '19 Zach Davis led with 1,013 (5.1) rushing and Rutgers transfer Trey Sneed was #2 with 552 (4.6). Sneed added 175 (3.4) in spring. Davis sat out the spring but returned for the fall and Sneed was back as well. This was our top RB unit in the Patriot League. Trey Wilson led with 569 (5.6). Sneed had 147 vs Lafayette and 137 vs Bucknell. He had 312 (6.8) in just 3 games! This year the Rams lose Davis (273, 4.6) and Antonio Faria (208, 5.0). Wilson and Sneed both return so once again this is our top RB unit in the Patriot League.

RECEIVERS - In '19 Fordham had their top 3 WR's depart. DeQuece Carter led with 723 (13.6). Hamze El Zayat was #2 with 642 (10.4). Fotis Kokosioulis was #3 with 621 (12.7). Joe Ferraro added 403 (12.6). Kokosioulis added 278 (13.9) in spring and DeQuece Carter had 274 (14.4). Last year they only lost Ferraro but still had 3 back that topped 600 yards in '19. Carter led with 872 and had an excellent 18.2 ypc and 11 td's. Kokosioulis was #2 with 783 (13.7). MJ Wright was #3 with 541 (13.9). Garrett Cody added 403 with a team high 19.2 ypc. El-Zayat is their only loss (393, 10.1). Their top 4 return with one of the best FCS QB's throwing to them so they will put up some huge numbers.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '18 Fordham gave up 50 sacks and dropped to just 51 rush ypg (1.7). They had 3 starters back in '19 and 5 with starting experience. The Rams jumped to 133 (3.5) rush ypg but sacks remained high at 45. In spring they only averaged 84 rush ypg but gave up just 6 sacks in 3 games. Last fall all 5 starters returned and they had 7 with starting experience so we said they would post better rush numbers and the sacks would significantly decrease. Fordham averaged 147 rush ypg (5.0) and allowed just 15 sacks (3.6%). This year they lose 1st Tm Patriot LT Nick Zackejl (11 st) but the other 4 starters return including 1st Tm All Patriot RT Phil Saleh and 2 others that were 3rd and 4th Team All conference. This is easily one of the top 2 OL's in the Patriot League.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '18 the Rams allowed 192 rush ypg (4.3) and had 23 sacks. In '19 they improved to 171 rush ypg but ypc went up to 4.7 (26 sk). In spring they only allowed 156 ypg (4.0, 7 sk). Last year they lost their #7, #11 and #13 tkl'rs. While 3 starters were gone, they actually brought back their top 3 from spring back but this unit was clearly down a notch from '19. The Rams suffered a huge loss when 3Y starting DT Anthony Diodato was lost for the season after 5 games. They fell to 204 rush ypg (4.2) and 24 sacks. This year they only lose DE Deondre Carter (10 st, #7 tkl'r, 4.5 tfl). Three starters return including Alvon Dixon who led with 5 sacks last year. They get their #8, #9, #11, #17 and #19 tacklers back. With 5 of their top 6 returning this unit goes from a weakness to a strength.

LINEBACKERS - In '19 Fordham returned 2 All-Patriot LB's in Glenn Cunningham (1st Tm, #1 tkl'r) and Ryan Greenhagen (2nd Tm, led in sks in '18). Greenhagen led with 123 tkls in '19 (#2 in Patriot) and Cunningham was #2 with 78 tkls. Both returned in spring, combining for 45 tkls and Cunningham added 2 ints. The only loss last year was 3x All-Patriot LB Cunningham. Four of their top 5 returned from '19 and Greenhagen was named Preseason Patriot League POY. Greenhagen had a remarkable 5 game before being lost to injury. He set the NCAA Division 1 record for tackles in a game when he made 31 stops vs Nebraska and finished with 102 tackles despite missing their last 6 games! Frosh LB Ryan Conway was named the Patriot League Rookie of the Week 4 times. He finished #2 in the Patriot with 131 tackles (6 tfl, 1 int). This year both Conway and Greenhagen return as well as their #4, #6, #14 and #15 tacklers. If Greenhagen stays healthy then this is the Patriot's best LB corps.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - The Rams lost 3 starters in their secondary in '19 but did get 3 backups back that totaled 53 tackles. They allowed 275 pass ypg (61%, 23-9) and was 6th in pass efficiency D in the Patriot. They only allowed 136 pass ypg (51%) and an impressive 1-8 ratio in spring! Last year they lost their #3, #6 and #14 tacklers. Only 2 starters return but they had plenty of experience with 7 back that had started. Fordham allowed 259 pass ypg (64.1%, 14-7) and fell to #5 in the league's pass defense efficiency rankings. This year the Rams lose FS Jesse Bramble (11 st, #3 tkl'r, 4 pd) but they return their #5, #10, #12, #13, #16 and #18 tacklers so they should be much better.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Andrew Mevis made 15-20 fg's in '19 (L/46) but he transferred to Iowa State and Nick Leinenweber made his only attempt (41 yds). Mevis also punted in '19 (40.4 avg, 37.4 net). Leinenweber avg'd 35.3 ypp (30.4 net) in the spring. Fotis Kokosioulis had 869 KR yards (21.7 avg) in '19. Naim Mayfield avg'd 13.2 PR. Last year Leinenweber made 7-9 fg's (L/39). John O'Friel averaged 37.5 ypp (35.5 net). Kokosioulis had 450 KR yards (19.6) but the Rams had 0 PR yards all season. This year they lose K Leinenweber but the rest of the unit returns in tact.

COACHES - Joe Conlin was hired in 2018 and put his offensive stamp on this team. He was the Yale OC from '14-'17 and also coached OL at Yale, Harvard and New Hampshire. Kevin Decker is the 5th year OC/QB Coach. He was an offensive asst at Montana State in '15 where the Bobcats ranked first in the FCS in yards per play, td's and RZ td percentage. Mark Powell takes over as DC after

spending 3 years at Austin Peay. He was DC in '19 then ST Coor and LB Cch in '20 and '21. Shane Fogerty has been the ST Coor here since 2015 and was also the ST Coor here in '12.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - The Rams averaged just 251 ypg and 15.8 ppg in Conlin's first year as HC. The former Yale OC helped them improve to 357 ypg and 25 ppg in '19. The offense took another jump in spring, averaging 31.7 ppg and 433 ypg. 10 starters returned last year. The Rams led the Patriot with 443 ypg and 33.6 ppg with QB DeMorat being named Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year. This year 9 starters return including DeMorat, their top 2 RB's return, 4 of their top 5 WR's and 4 starting OL. This is once again the best offense in the conference and they could top 35 ppg this season.

DEFENSE - In 2018, Conlin's first year, Fordham allowed 28.2 ppg and 409 ypg. They had 6 starters back in '19 but slipped to 32.3 ppg and 446 ypg. In spring they only gave up 20 ppg and 293 ypg. 6 starters were back last year. They suffered a huge blow when both LB Greenhagen (20 tkls per gm!) and DT Diodato (3Y starter) were lost for the season after 5 games. They allowed a league high 462 ypg and 31.7 ppg. The Rams also allowed their opponents to put up 148 ypg more than their average. Nine starters return this year and they get both Greenhagen and Diodato back healthy. This is an extremely experienced defense and if they stay healthy they are much improved.

2022 - In '13 Fordham went 12-2 under Joe Moorhead and lost in the 2nd round of the FCS Playoffs. Their win total decreased each season afterwards and Andrew Breiner resigned after they went 4-7 in '17. In '18 they hired Joe Conlin and dropped to 2-9 and were -158 ypg. They had 12 starters back in '19 and were 3-4 before dropping 4 of their L/5. The Rams went 2-1 in spring of '21 with their only loss coming when they had a +164 yd edge vs Holy Cross. The Rams started 0-3 last season but they had a 1 point loss to FCS play-off team Monmouth and 2 losses at FBS foes Nebraska and FAU. They went on a 6 game win streak but lost 2 of their best defensive players. With the Patriot Title on the line, they led Holy Cross 24-17 3Q but allowed a td with :15 left in the 1st half then Fordham was outscored 28-0 in the 2H. They led Colgate 21-20 at half in their finale. Down 38-31 the Rams gave up a Fumble Return td and lost by 14. They finished 6-5 but were +33 ypg in Patriot play. This year 18 starters return. In all 3 FCS losses last year they led late 2Q. They may have the best player in the league on both offense and defense. They host Colgate but the conference title likely comes down to an October 29th trip to Holy Cross which could earn the Rams their first trip to the FCS playoffs since '13.