

# LONG ISLAND SHARKS

## POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

**QUARTERBACKS** - '19 LIU was led by Clay Beathard who threw for 1,071 (52%, 4-6) but he departed in the spring of '21 and they also lost backup Jacob Cheshire (2 st, 146, 46%, 0-4). Conor Regan took every snap in the spring and threw for 547 but only completed 50% (4-2). Regan departed in the fall so once again the Sharks were have a first year starting QB. Camden Orth was solid as a backup in '19, completing 58% for 170 (1-0). He didn't play in the spring but won the starting job in the fall. He started all 10 games, threw for 1,655 (55%, 10-5) and was 4th Tm All NEC. Orth departs so they have a 1st year starter for the 5th straight season. Derek Green (PS#213), son of former NFL Pro Bowl QB Trent Green, transfers in from SMU. He saw action in 25 games for the Mustangs as a walk-on QB and holder. Green has good size at 6'4" 215 and has 2 years of eligibility. No other QB on the roster has a pass attempt so this is a young unit but Green is the most talented they've had here.

**RUNNING BACKS** - In '18 Jonathan DeBique was on the NE10 All Rookie team after rushing for 410 and 3 td's. In '19 DeBique didn't start a single game but led with 284 (3.7). Tim Marinar was #2 with 202 (2.6, 115 rec). Marinar departed before spring. DeBique led again with 337 (5.6) in just 3 games including 154 vs Merrimack. Domonhic Jennings was #2 with 71 (5.1). DeBique returned and their backups had gained valuable experience in the spring. DeBique finished strong with 360 in his last 4 games including 103 vs Duquesne and 121 vs Sacred Heart. He finished with 590 (5.0). Smear Paul was #2 with 166 (4.4) and Kevin Wilson added 162 (4.2). Their top 3 all return including 3rd Tm All NEC RB DeBique who came back for his 6th year and has led the team in rushing 3 straight years.

**RECEIVERS** - Jake Bofshever led in '19 with 399 receiving and Tosin Oyekeani was #2 with 291 (16.2) despite missing 2 games. Four of their top 5 returned in spring including Oyekeani. He led with 163 (8.6). Derek Eugene was #2 with 121 (12.1) and Steven Chambers added 119 (17.0). No other WR topped 4 catches. Last year their only loss as TE Damien Caffrey (8 st, 123, 9.5 2Y). TE Owen Glascoe originally enrolled at Penn St. He had 14 catches in his first 2 years then emerged in fall of '21 and led with 555 (15.4). He topped 100 in 2 of his last 3 vs NEC's top competition, Duquesne and Sacred Heart. Eugene was #2 with 371 (10.0) and Oyekeani slipped to #3 with 368 (13.6). This year they lose Eugene and Steven Chambers (111, 9.3). Glascoe led the NEC in yards by a TE last year. They add Penn St transfer Justin Weller (PS#422). They aren't as experienced but Glascoe and Oyekeani are two of the NEC's best pass catchers.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - In '19 LIU-Brooklyn averaged 59 rush ypg (1.8) with 35 sacks allowed. Three of their starters returned in the spring and they improved to 153 (4.0) and allowed just 5 sacks in 4 games. They lost LT Sam Howson and LG Dareus Smith from the spring but also had Greg Amato back (10 st '19) after missing the spring. They had 2 starters back from '19. The Sharks rushed for 99 rush ypg (3.1) which was an improvement from '19 and sacks dropped to 29. They were held under 100 rush yards in 4 of their first 5 (First 3 were vs FBS foes) then topped 110 in 4 of their last 5 and finished with 124 (4.0) vs NEC opponents (56 ypg vs non-conf). This year they lose C Greg Amato and

RG Julian Singh. Three starters return including 2nd Tm NEC RT Ted Kushi. Their overall numbers suffer from their opening schedule but this is an improving unit in the NEC.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - LIU's run defense was their strength in '19, allowing just 140 ypg (3.8, 17 sk). They lost 2 starters in the spring and slipped to 156 (4.2) rush ypg allowed with 6 sacks. All 4 starters returned from the spring including two 2-year starters in DT Anthony Lavio (#11 tkl'r spg) and DE Joe Amalfitano. DT Thomas Bolesta had 4.5 tfl's in spring was back as well. The Sharks were beat up by their 3 FBS foes and allowed 241 (6.7) rush ypg in their first 4 games. They had a 4 game stretch where they allowed just 124 (3.5) then allowed 205 and 376 in their last 2. Overall they gave up 204 (5.2, 16 sk) as DT Amalfitano, DE Matthew Molina and DT Anthony Lavio all missed action. This year they lose DE Ben Waibogha (#6 tkl'r, 2.5 tfl), Bolesta (#9 tkl'r, 3.5 sk, 3.5 tfl), DT Lavio (#10 tkl'r, 3 sk) and Amalfitano (7 tkl). Only 1 starter returns but they do have 3 back that had double-digit tackles last year so they are more experienced than meet's the eye.

**LINEBACKERS** - LIU lost their #2 and #3 tkl'rs at LB leading into their spring season. Ricco Aaron stepped up and led with 39 tkls, and added 2 tfl's and 2 int's. Last year Aaron departed, leaving them with just 1 starter still here from '19, but they did get their #5, #8, #9 and #10 tkl'rs back from spring. Sean Kelly was their top LB with 38 tackles and was tied for #1 with 7 tfl's. This year they only lose MLB Dylan Cook (#7 tkl'r). Three starters are back including their #3, #5, #8, #11, #13 and #14 tkl'rs so this is a very deep and experienced group.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** - LIU allowed 204 pass ypg and 69% completions with a 19-3 ratio in '19. They lost 2 starters in spring and slipped to 237 ypg allowed but improved to 57% allowed and a 7-7 ratio. Last year all 4 starters from the spring returned. They reverted back to '19, allowing 66.6% and a 23-6 ratio, finishing last in pass defense efficiency in the NEC. This year they lose S Jerome Brooks (#2 tkl'r, 2 int, 4 pbu). They do get their #1, #4, #12 and #17 tkl'rs back. With 3 starters back they can only improve and adding a guy like Ron Cooper who coached DB's at LSU, A&M and other Power 5's can only help.

**SPECIAL TEAMS** - Justin Hertlein and Paul Inzerillo both went 1-2 (L/43) in the spring. Hertlein also avg'd 33.6 ypp (net 31.9). Davon Wells avg'd 23.3 KR. Inzerillo won the job in the fall and made 6-10 fg's (L/47). Hertlein had 47 punts but his average slipped to 32.7 and their team net was just 28.8. Shemar Paul had 502 KR yards but just a 17.9 avg. Inzerillo departs this year. This has been a below average ST unit and needs to make major improvements.

**COACHES** - Ron Cooper brings a wealth of experience as 1st year HC at LIU. He has been HC at Eastern Michigan ('93-'94) and Louisville ('95-'97) and Interim HC at FIU. He also served as an asst under Nick Saban, Steve Spurrier, Lou Holtz and Barry Alvarez. OC Kort Shankweiler was an assistant at FIU and Central Michigan. John Roberts is a 1st year Co-OC/QB Coach. Cooper brought in veteran FBS DC Kevin Cosgrove who worked as DC at Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota, Akron and New Mexico. Rocco Dimeco is the 1st year ST Coordinator.

## FORECAST

**OFFENSE** - In '19 LIU-Brooklyn averaged just 10 ppg and 199 ypg. They improved to 20 ppg and 289 ypg in 4 spring games. Last year they started the season with 3 FBS opponents and scored just 32 points in their first 5 games. They put up 30, 28 and 28 in their next 3 before being held to 7 and 14 in their last 2. Overall they averaged just 13.9 ppg and 263 ypg (17 ppg/286 ypg vs NEC). This year they have 6 starters back and add SMU transfer QB Derek Green, son of former NFL QB Trent Green. They have a 3 year leading rusher, a star TE, their #3 WR and 3 OL starters back. The Sharks should fare much better vs NEC foes if they can survive their brutal 3 game opening healthy.

**DEFENSE** - The Sharks defense performed better than expected in their first year at FCS level, allowing 29 ppg and 343 ypg. In the spring they held both foes under 300 yds in their home games but played the 2 best NEC offenses and allowed 504 & 509 in their 2 road games. They gave up 27 ppg and 393 ypg overall. The experience they gained in the spring didn't pay off as they allowed 29.8 ppg and 439 ypg. This year they 10 of their top 15 tacklers including 4 of their top 5. Veteran DC Cosgrove has led SEC and Big 10 defenses and we can't imagine his knowledge not helping this defense improve upon last year's poor numbers.

**2022** - The Sharks were winless in their first year at the FCS level, going 0-10 and were -145 ypg. They rebounded in the spring, winning both home games and lost their road games to the 2 best teams in the NEC by 28 & 18 points. Last year their schedule did them no favors, they started with 3 road games vs FBS foes and were crushed 149-17 in those. At 0-5 they beat CCSU and Wagner by double digits but finished by losing to the top 3 teams in the NEC and were just 2-8. This year they return 13 starters from a full season. They only play 2 FBS foes (Toledo and Kent St) but also add FCS playoff team Villanova. The Sharks go from 4 home games to 5, get St. Francis, CCSU and Stonehill at home and have a winnable road game at Wagner. They should surpass last year's 2 win total in HC Cooper's first year and we think this is a program on the rise in the NEC.