

MARIST RED FOXES

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - In 2018 rFr QB Austin Day started 4 of the Red Foxes last 5 games. He set a program record with 440 pass yds in his first career start vs Davidson. Day led with 1,348 passing (57%, 12-8). He started 9 games in '19, leading with 1,651 (59.8%) but only had an 8-10 ratio and missed 2 games. Luke Smard started 2 and threw for 733 (50.5%, 2-5). Matt Edwards appeared in 2 games, and added 168 (80%, 1-0). Day and Edwards returned last year so they had plenty of experience despite not playing in '20. Day was injured in the opener but returned to start the last 8. He threw for 1,606 (63.7%, 13-5, 126 rush). Brock Bagozzi started vs Bryant. He finished with 282 (49.0%, 2-2). Julian McGarvey saw action in 6 gms (74, 35.3%, 1-0). This year they lose Day and McGarvey. Bagozzi gained valuable experience but they are down a few notches after losing a 3 year starter.

RUNNING BACKS - In '18 Marist's leading rusher, Darryn Jordan only had a 3.8 ypc while their #2 rusher, Mekhai Johnson put up a 7.3 ypc. Both Jordan and Johnson returned but Hunter Cobb emerged as their leading rusher in '19 with 674 (5.5). Johnson was #2 with 222 (4.7) and Anthony Purge added 115 (2.9). Jordan only had 87 (2.4). Purge and Jordan departed but their top 2 returned in Cobb and Johnson. Cobb led with 482 (4.9). Johnson was #2 with 284 (4.5, 138 rec). Both Cobb and Johnson depart. Their leading returning rusher only had 12 yards so depth and experience are concerns. They only had 4 RB's on the roster in spring.

RECEIVERS - Three of Marist's top 5 WR's returned in '19 but they had to replace 3rd Tm FCS AA WR Juston Christian who set their career receiving record. Anthony Olivencia led with 615 (17.1). Joe Petro led in ypc with 21.0 and was #2 with 441. Joe Kanda was #3 with 287 (10.3) and Ethan Carpenter added 228 (9.5). Last year their top 4 were all gone so they were even less experienced. Dwayne Menders led with 525 (11.7). Scott Scherzer was #2 with 354 (11.8). Antoine Morales added 260 (13.0). This year they lose 2nd Tm All-Pioneer WR Menders (10 st) and Sydney Person (8 st, 125, 13.9) but they get their #2, #3, #4 and #5 WR's back. They are up a couple notches with more experience than they've had in a few years.

OFFENSIVE LINE - Marist rushed for 104 ypg (3.2) with 30 sacks allowed in '18 then 105 (3.6) but sacks dropped to 18 in '19. Last year they lost 3 starters but they did get back 2Y starter Matt McNelly at LT. They dropped to 96 rush ypg (3.3) and allowed 30 sacks. This year they lose 2 starters in LT Ben Johnson (10 st) and RT Matt McNelly (7 st) as well as RT Nicolas Negron (3 st). With 3 starters back they should be improved.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In '19 they had to replace all 4 starters on the Dline. Their run defense struggled, mostly in non conference play, where they allowed 253 (5.0) and overall they gave up 200 rush ypg (4.6) with 21 sacks. Last year they lost their #13 and #14 tkl'r's but 3 of their top 5 returned including Aaron Acosta (#8 tkl'r, 4 sk, 3 tfl). They were gashed for 312 rush vs Columbia and 253 vs St. Thomas but held the other 8 foes to 128 rush ypg. Overall they gave up just 159 (4.0, 22 sk) and just 137 (3.7) vs Pioneer foes. This year they lose DT Nick Foglia (10 st, #7 tkl'r, 5 tfl) and DT Nick Abill (10 st, #9 tkl'r, 8 tfl). They do get their #7, #13 & co-#15 tkl'r's back so once again 3 of their top 5 return.

LINEBACKERS - Marist lost their #1, #13 and #14 tkl'r's at LB in '19. Grant Dixon led in both tkls (86) and tfl's (10.5). Last year Dixon departed along with Peter Delatour (#6 tkl'r) and Matt Thomson (#9 tkl'r). All 3 starters were gone and their top returnee, Jayden Johnson, only had 19 tackles last year. Their LB's made up their #1, #2 and #3 tkl'r's. This year they lose 1st Tm All-Pioneer LB Jayden Johnson (9 st, #1 tkl'r). 1st Tm All Pioneer LB Mike Arrington (#2 tkl'r) led with 10 tfl's last year NB Teddy Wright had 4 int's and was 2nd Tm All-Pioneer. Three starters are back, making this the strength of the defense.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - The Red Foxes improved their pass defense in '18, going from 245 pass ypg (58%) to 212 (59%, 17-12). In '19 they had their #7, #10, #12 and #15 tkl'r's back but lost starter Maliek Carr (#3 tkl'r '18) after 4 games. Marist stayed consistent, giving up 210 pass ypg (58%, 23-8). This year they lose their #3, #4, #5, #7 and #12 tkl'r's. FS Kyle Fleitman (#2 tkl'r) returned after putting up 5.5 tfl's and 2 int's. Only 2 of their top 6 return but they did have 4 that posted 20 tackles or more so they aren't completely inexperienced. They allowed 230 pass ypg (61.8%, 11-13) and finished 5th in pass defense efficiency in the Pioneer. This year they only lose Fleitman (10 st, #4 tkl'r). Five of their top 6 are back including 1st Tm All Pioneer SS Clayton Fields who co-led the Pioneer with 5 int's last year. They should make another climb up the pass D rankings.

SPECIAL TEAMS - In '19 Luke Paladino made 11-14 fg's (L/49). Dominic Donohue avg'd 34.9 ypg and their net was just 30.3. Dwayne Menders avg'd 21.0 KR and Ethan Carpenter had a 7.1 PR avg. Last year they only lost their PR. Paladino made 7-12 fg's (L/45). Dominic Donohue increased to 35.6 avg and 33.7 net. Menders had a PR td despite only 2 attempts and Mekhai Johnson avg'd 23.6 KR. This year they lose both All-Pioneer return men but get back their kicker and punter so this is still one of the better ST's units in the Pioneer.

COACHES - Jim Parady is in his 31st season as HC at Marist where he has a record of 147-157-1. He last led the Red Foxes to a conference title in 2013 and also won shares of 3 MAAC Titles. Jake Dembow is the 10 year at his alma-mater. He was OL coach from '13-'18 then promoted to OC in '19. Scott Rumsey has been on Parady's staff for 25 years now. This is his 22nd season as DC. He also attended Marist. Cameron Gibson is the ST's Coor/S's Coach and is also a Marist graduate.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - Marist took small steps backwards offensively each of their last 5 seasons. They put up 403 ypg in '16 then dropped to 352, 349 and 337. Last year they had 4 starters back including a 3 year starting QB. They struggled after sitting out in '20 and dipped to just 293 ypg and 22.8 ppg. 6 starters are back. They are inexperienced at QB and RB but are improved at WR and Oline. After 5 years of plunging numbers they should finally see some improvement.

DEFENSE - Marist allowed 27 ppg and 371 ypg in '18. 6 of their top 10 tkl'r's were gone in '19. They only slipped to 410 ypg but gave up 34.6 ppg. Last year Marist had 4 starters back. They improved by nearly 2 td's, allowing just 22.9 ppg and 386 ypg. This year they get 8 starters back from a unit that was #3 in the Pioneer in scoring defense. They have 3 back that were 1st or 2nd Tm All-Pioneer last year, so we are calling this one of the top defenses in the conference.

2022 - Jim Parady is the longest tenured head coach in Division 1 football. He has led the Red Foxes to 4 conference titles ('94, '06, '07 & '13). While he only has a .483 career win percentage, he does have a .577 win percentage in conference play. Under Parady the Red Foxes have never won less than 3 games and in '13 set a program record with 8 wins. Marist went 5-6 in '18 but all 5 wins came in conference play and they were +20 ypg against Pioneer foes (-22 ypg overall). In '19 they started just 1-5, with all 5 losses by 14 points or more. They did win 3 of their L/5 and were 4-4 overall in league play (-22 ypg). Marist didn't participate in spring football in '21. In fall they had 8 starters back. Marist fell to just 2-18 in non-conference games since 2014 after losing their first 2. They won their first 3 Pioneer games then fell to Morehead st by a fg but were outgained by 149 yds and St Thomas beat them 27-7. After B2B wins they were shocked by Butler in the final (Bulldogs only conf win). This year 15 starters return. They could win a rare non-conference game when they host Georgetown and close with Bucknell. In Pioneer play they avoid both returning co-champs Davidson and San Diego and the host Butler and San Diego. If they find a capable QB then the schedule sets up perfectly for contention for the conference crown. They should have no problem surpassing last year's 5 win total.