

MOREHEAD STATE

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - The Eagles had to replace their starting QB in '19. Mark Pappas stepped in and started all but the finale. He threw for 2,327 (57.4%, 19-10). DeAndre Clayton was #2 with 277 (60%, 4-5, 164 rush). Both returned in the spring. Pappas started all 7 games. He threw for 1,568 (61.8%, 14-6). Pappas returned but Clayton departed. He threw for a career high 481 vs Dayton and 395 vs Stetson but struggled with also threw multiple interceptions in 6 of his 11 games. He finished with 3,349 (57.1%, 28-19) and was 1st Tm All-Pioneer. Pappas is now playing professionally in Sweden. Grady Cramer (12-21-227-2-1) competed with Frosh Colin Parachek and Soph Carter Cravens in spring. They are inexperienced at QB but a reduction in int's could mitigate some of the lost production.

RUNNING BACKS - In '19 Morehead St lost their top rusher but their #2 Issiah Aguiro was ready to take a bigger role (93, 4.2 '18). Aguiro led with 958 (5.9) and Jovan Smith was #2 with 341 (3.7). Earl Stoudemire added 201 (4.4). In spring of '21 Aguiro and Stoudemire were both back. Aguiro only led with 288 (3.7). Stoudemire rushed for 132 (2.9). No one else on the team topped 23 yards. Aguiro and Stoudemire both returned for fall along with Mario Convenuto who rushed for 162 (5.8) 2 years ago. Aguiro topped 100 on 3 occasions and led with 554 (4.0, 257 rec). Stoudemire was again #2 with 287 (4.7). Both depart this year so their top returning rusher is Chance Harris (139, 3.3), making this a very inexperienced group.

RECEIVERS - The Eagles lost their top 2 receivers heading into their spring '21 season. BJ Byrd led with 467 (15.1) while Thomas Campbell-Clay was #2 with 403 (14.4). Ian Holder added 156 (8.2) and Devonte Adams had 142 (10.9). Their top 10 were all back last fall. Byrd took off flying with 127 vs James Madison in the opener. He topped 100 in 8 of his 11 games including 223 vs Stetson. Byrd finished with 1,313 (14.6) and was named Pioneer Offensive POY. Adams was #2 with 542 (11.1). Jeremiah Scott was #3 with 274 (14.4) and Christian Graves added 252 (13.3). Byrd (3rd Tm AA) departs along with Adams (9 st), Matt DeBlaiso (1 st, 208, 11.6) and Ian Holder (5 st, 65, 10.8). They get their #3 and #5 receivers back but take a major step back after losing Byrd who broke their single season record for receptions, yards and td's.

OFFENSIVE LINE - 4 starters were back on the Oline in the spring. They rushed for 164 (4.2) in '19 but dipped to 66 (2.4, 11 sk) despite the experience. The Eagles brought back 4 starters in spring, plus Dalton Lewis, who started 8 games in '19 also was back. They stayed healthy yet only rushed for 99 (3.4, 14 sk). Yet again they return 4 starters, only losing LG Michael Davis. HC Tenyer said he is confident in 9 OL's in spring and they are loaded with multi-year starters so we will call this their most improved unit, but also the only experienced unit on offense.

DEFENSIVE LINE - Morehead St has notoriously had trouble defending the run. They allowed over 200 rush ypg every year from 2012-'21 and never lower than 4.7 ypc. The Eagles gave up 246 rush ypg (5.9) in '19 with 18 sacks. In spring of '21 they had just 1 starter back. The Eagles allowed 232 (4.9) rush ypg and had just 11 sacks. Last year they had all 4 starters back including their #5, #12, #13 and #14 tk'rs. While they did finally hold foes to less than 200 rush ypg (187 ypg) they still allowed 4.7 ypc (23 sk). Vaughn Taylor led the Pioneer with 23 tfl's including 9.5 sk. This year they lose the Pioneer Defensive POY in Taylor (10 st). Also gone is DT Fred Recio (7 st, #14 tk'l'r). They have 4 of their top 6 back but lost their best guy and aren't as experienced so their rush ypg may rise above 200 rush ypg again.

LINEBACKERS - The Eagles returned 2 starters at LB in spring. They finished as their #1 and #2 tk'l'rs. Vincent Winey led with 84 tkls and 7 tfl's. All 3 starters returned last year. Winey led the Pioneer with 106 tkls (3 sk, 9.5 tfl, 5 pd). This year they lose 1st Tm All Pioneer LB Winey along with Cameron Barrett (10 st, #5 tk'l'r, 3 int). They do get their #8, #9 and #12 tk'l'rs back but this is another unit that is less experienced and lost their best guy.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - In '19 the Eagles allowed just 197 pass ypg (50%) but also gave up a 26-11 ratio. In spring of '21 they brought back their #8, #9 and #15 tk'l'rs. They allowed just 172 pass ypg (56.8%) only gave up 6 pass td's and posted 14 int's including 5 by Brandon Barbee! Last fall everyone returned except Barbee (#9 tk'l'r). They had their #3, #6, #7 and #8 tk'l'rs back. They 426 pass ypg in their first 4 vs FCS foes then just 165 in their last 6. Overall they allowed 260 pass ypg (56.8%, 22-14) and fell to #7 in pass defense efficiency in the Pioneer. This year they lose both starting CB's, Tyler Noble (11 st, #6 tk'l'r, 9 pbu, 3 int) and Jelani Garvin (11 st, #7 tk'l'r, 5 pbu). Only 3 of their top 6 return but last year they were experienced and disappointing so this year they may be less experienced but more productive.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Andrew Foster made just 2-5 fg's (L/38) and Nathan Hazlett was 0-1 in spring. Foster avg'd 41.4 ypp (36.4 net). BJ Byrd had a 33.4 KR avg with 1 td. Last year they had everyone back. Foster improved in both aspects of the kicking game. He made 12-20 fg's (L/49) and also 45.7 ypp (40.9 net). Ian Holder averaged 22.9 KR. This year they only lose their KR. Foster was 2nd Tm All-Pioneer as a punter last year and they get back 2nd Tm All Pioneer LS Brady Mcknight.

COACHES - Rob Tenyer is in his 9th season as HC in Morehead. He was also OC here in '11 and '12. Tenyer serves as his own OC still. Andrew Stroebel is in his 4th year as DC. He was DC at Alma College in Michigan in '16. The co-ST's Coordinators are Mlles Fishback and Gino Spadaro.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - The Eagles averaged 24 ppg and 388 ypg in '17 then improved to 28 ppg and 405 ypg in '18. Their offense put up over 500 yards in 3 games in '19, but 2 of those came against lower division schools. They finished with 28.8 ppg and 403 ypg. In spring of '21 Morehead St was held to 22.7 ppg and 301 ypg but averaged 29 ppg and 340 ypg in Pioneer play and put up just 8 ppg and 205 ypg in 2 non-conference games. Last year 10 starters returned. Their 32.7 ppg was their highest since 2012 and they averaged 434 ypg. This year only 5 starters return. They lose are inexperienced at QB, RB and WR and are unlikely to match last year's successful season.

DEFENSE - Morehead State gave up 35 ppg or more each year from '16-'19. In the spring they lost 9 of their top 15 tk'l'rs including 3 of their top 5. They allowed 25.2 ppg and 404 ypg. Last fall they brought 10 starters back and 14 of their top 15 tk'l'rs returned. Their rush D was improved but their pass D took a big step back and they allowed 31.6 ppg and 446 ypg. This year they only have 5 starters back. They lose 5 of their top 7 tk'l'rs but their next 6 return and might improve on last year's disappointing results.

2022 - Morehead State is one of only 2 current members that have never won the Pioneer League. This is HC Rob Tenyer's 9th year. Going into the spring, the Eagles had their only winning record under Tenyer in 2015, going 7-4 with 3 close losses but were -14 ypg. In '16 they slipped to 4-7 but improved to +31 ypg and were -3 net close losses. They repeated that record in '17 then dropped to 3-8 in '18 (-54 ypg). In '19 they were +48 ypg at home but -129 ypg on the road and finished 5-7 (-41 ypg). The Eagles finally got back above .500 in the spring, going 4-3 despite an 0-2 start. They were -103 ypg, but if you remove a blowout loss at JMU, they were only -44 ypg. Last year they had 20 starters back but started 1-2 with blowout losses at James Madison & Austin Peay. The Eagles won their first 4 Pioneer League games then lost B2B to co-champs Davison & San Diego by 7 points each. They finished +20 ypg vs Pioneer foes. This year they only have 10 starters back and lost both the Offense and Defense POY's in the Pioneer League. Morehead State is unlikely to match their 6-2 Pioneer record but 4 of their first 5 conference games come against teams who finished .500 or worse last year so they could get off to a good start before a tough final stretch vs Marist, Dayton & San Diego.