

# PRAIRIE VIEW A&M PANTHERS

## POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

**QUARTERBACKS** - In '19 Trazon Connley led Prairie View to win their last 3 games. He finished as their #2 passer with 749 (57.7%) and a solid 7-1 ratio while rushing for 419 (6.8). A&M played 3 games in the spring of '21 with Connley throwing for 570 (51.9%, 4-4) and was their leading rusher with 112 (4.3). He returned last year and A&M added Louisville transfer Jawon Pass who started 11 games at Louisville but never lived up to his PS#7 billing. Pass beat out Connley for the starting job. He threw for 354 vs Texas Southern in the opener and 356 vs Houston Baptist 2 weeks later. Pass led the Panthers with 2,672 (61.5%) but only a 16-12 ratio as he ended the season poorly with 0 td's and 5 int's in his last 2 games. Pass also added 271 rush (3.1). Connley played in 5 games and threw for 55 (30%, 0-1, 108 rush). This year Pass departs and they only have 3 QB's on the roster including Connely. JUCO transfer Chris Herron (6'2" 212 So) and Alabama St transfer Chris Scott (6'4" 192 Jr) lack experience. With 3 years under his belt this job is Connley's to lose.

**RUNNING BACKS** - PV lost their top RB from '19 who had 1,145 (6.4) and 15 td's. They only had one of their top five rushers in the spring and that was QB Connley. Kristian Mosley was A&M's leading rusher in spring (111, 4.0) and they were set to return six of their top seven leading rushers last fall. True frosh Jaden Stewart only started 1 game but he led with 651 (4.9). Lyndemia Brooks missed 2 games yet was #2 with 464 (5.7) though he was also their #4 receiver with 250 (9.3). Mosley finished with 209 (4.4). Brooks departs this year but 4th Team All-SWAC RB Stewart returns. Stewart's season high came against Texas A&M when he had 24 carries for 100 yards last season. Ahmad Antoine (172, 3.9) gives them solid depth with 3 of their top 4 RB's returning and Stewart could emerge as one of the top RB's in the league.

**RECEIVERS** - Only two of the top five WRs from '19 returned in spring, but PV had their leading receiver Antonio Mullins back (604, 15.9). Mullins had 128 in 2 spring games (11.6). PV lost 2 of their top 4 WRs from spring but Mullins returned again. He led with 584 (12.7). Jailon Howard was #2 with 543 (21.7). Trejon Spiller added 346 and a team high 23.1 ypc. Colby Washington had 244 (13.6) and Kansas transfer Evan Fairs had 212 (17.7). Three others topped 100 yards. Mullins (8 st) departs this year along with Evan Fairs (3 st, 212, 17.7). They get 6 of their top 8 WR/TE's back including 4th Tm All-SWAC TE Donovan White (198, 12.4). They don't have any big transfer additions (as of yet) but this is the most experienced unit on the offense so they probably didn't need them. Their numbers might drop regardless going back to a running QB vs Pass who was more of a pocket passer.

**OFFENSIVE LINE** - The strength of this offense last year was the experience of their OLine. The y had 8 OL with starting experience from '19 returning and had four full-time starters from their spring season back, leaving only the LT spot needing filled. In '19 they rushed for 220 (5.2) with 22 sacks (6.6%) but they dropped to just 104 (3.3) and 10 sacks in 8.4% in spring. The experienced unit was okay at best in their first 3 games, then ran for 200+ in 3 of their next 4. They finished the season with just 122 (3.3) in their last 4 games. Their overall numbers didn't match '19, avg 162

rush ypg (4.1) with 22 sacks (5.9%). Six different OL started at least 5 games last year. The only loss is 2nd Tm All SWAC C Danny Garza (11 st). With 4 starters back and 5 with experience they should be a strength once again.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - In '19 A&M allowed 151 rush ypg (3.8) and posted 30 sacks. In the spring they only gave up 142 (3.3) with 10 sacks (11%). Their top six from the spring returned last year including DT Jason Dumas who had 8.5 sacks in 2 seasons. The Panthers held SWAC foes to 129 rush ypg (3.6) and allowed 140 (3.8) overall with 27 sacks (7.8%). Dumas was 1st Team All-SWAC after posting 8.5 sacks and 9 tfl's. This year lose Dumas (7 st, #10 tkl'r) and DE Rashaud Powell (10 st, #14 tkl'r, 4 sk, 4.5 tfl). Two starters return and they get their #7, #13, #16 and #17 tacklers back. Losing their top guy hurts but they still have 5 with starting experience so this is a solid unit coming back.

**LINEBACKERS** - PV's leading tackler from '19, LB Tre'Shaud Smith, returned last year to lead a group that had 3 of their top 4 LB's back from last spring and four of their top six from '19. Smith finished as their #2 tackler (5.5 tfl). Tre'vion Green was their #4 tkl'r (3 sk, 4.5 tfl). This year Smith (9 st, 2nd Tm All-SWAC) departs but and they get Green back along with their #5, #11 and #12 tacklers. With three of their top 4 back again they are basically in the same shape as last year.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** - PV allowed just 52% and 55% completion percentages in '18 and '19, respectively but in spring QBs completed 64.8% of their passes against the Panthers. They returned Drake Cheatum who had 7 PBUs since '19 and had 3 int's two seasons ago. While the secondary lost two of it's top three tacklers from spring, they returned four of the top six last year. Cheatum was their #1 tackler and led the SWAC with 5 int's. PV held their foes to 52.3% (19-10) while allowing just 176 pass ypg. They jumped to #3 in the pass D efficiency rankings. This year they lose 1st Tm All-SWAC S Cheatum (9 st, 6.5 tfl, 10 pd) and 2nd Tm All SWAC NB Darius Campbell (11 st, #3 tkl'r, 8 tfl, 14 pbu). They return their #6, #8, #9, #15, #18 and #19 tacklers. Losing their top 2 DB's hurts but they have 8 back that started a game last year, so they've got plenty of experience and aside from the spring season, this has been one of the best secondaries in the SWAC.

**SPECIAL TEAMS** - P Caleb Darbone was the lone holdover from PV's last full season in '19. Darbone only averaged 29.9 ypp in spring but got back on track and averaged 41.7 in the fall (37.7 net). Luis Reyes converted all 3 of his fg's in spring. In the fall he hit 13-15 (L/37). Neither their KR or PR did anything worth mentioning in the fall with a 6.7 PR avg and a 15.6 KR avg. Darbone and Reyes both return. If they get more from their return game then this is the SWAC's top ST's unit.

**COACHES** - Former NFL DB Bubba McDowell was named HC in January. This is his 11th season as a member of the Prairie View A&M staff after coaching the CB's the last 3 years. OC Mark Frederick is his 5th season on the PV staff. He was the WR Coach at Southern in '17 and held the same position at Ark Pine-Bluff in '16. Todd Middleton is only in his 5th year on the staff and coaches the Dline as well. The ST's coordinator is Alvin Fosselman who is in his 3rd year on staff.

## FORECAST

**OFFENSE** - This has been one of the most consistent offenses in the SWAC. From '13-'19 they averaged at least 30 ppg each season and topped out at 45 ppg in '15. In '19 they averaged 34 ppg and 477 ypg while putting up 32 ppg and nearly 500 ypg (491) vs SWAC foes. They only played 3 games in spring so you can hardly count their 23 ppg avg and 365 ypg but their struggles continued last year when they fell to 25 ppg and 388 ypg. In their last 4 games they only put up 15 ppg and 295 ypg. This year they basically have 7 starters back and QB Connley has plenty of experience. They return their top rusher, 3 of their top 4 WR's and 4 starters on the Oline. Last year was a major letdown but they have talent and experience so we expect a trip back up near 30 ppg again.

**DEFENSE** - In '19 Prairie View only allowed 27 ppg and 341 ypg and they held their foes 34 ypg below their season average (#24 in FCS). In 3 spring games they allowed just 22 ppg and 334 ypg. Last year with most of the defense from spring returning they allowed 26 ppg and 315 ypg. Against SWAC foes they allowed 22 ppg and 302 ypg. This year the Panthers get 6 starters back. They lose their top 3 tacklers but they return 15 of their top 20. Last year's defense was their best in over a decade and while they lost some key pieces this defense could be just as good.

**2022** - At one time this program was best known for their 80 game losing streak that spanned from 1989-1998. They returned to respectability under Harry Frazier who led them to a SWAC Title in 2009. Eric Dooley was hired as HC in '18. Prairie View was coming off 8, 7 and 6 win seasons from '15-'17. In Dooley's first year they dropped to 5-6 but were +86 ypg and +128 vs SWAC foes. They were 2-5 in '19 then won 4 of their last 5 to get back above .500 and were +135 ypg. They were just 4 plays away from finishing 11-1, with all but 1 of their losses coming by 7 points or less. In spring they went 2-1 and were +31 ypg. Last year Dooley led the Panthers to a 7-1 start. They trailed Alcorn St 31-29 but fumbled at the ASU6 with :18 left. After getting blownout by Texas A&M they were upset by Miss Valley St but still clinched the SWAC West Title. In the SWAC Title game they held Jackson St to 233 yards but lost 27-10. PV finished 7-5. Dooley resigned in January to take the job at Southern and Bubba McDowell was promoted to HC. The Panthers have 13 starters back from a Division winning team. They were -11 Turnovers last year and +105 ypg vs SWAC foes. They've got a great shot to start 3-0 before a tough road game at Alabama St. They draw the bottom 3 teams from last year's SWAC East standings and they get Alcorn St at home. They do have a key game at home against their former Head Coach and Southern on Oct 8th. The schedule and a solid defense lead us to believe the Panthers will make a repeat trip to the SWAC Title Game.