

STONEHILL SKYHAWKS

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

QUARTERBACKS - The QB for Stonehill their last two seasons has been aptly named Anton Stoneking. In '19 Stoneking threw for 1,950 and completed 62.1% with a 15-10 ratio. He isn't a dual threat but did end up with net positive rush yards (73, 1.6) and 4 td's. Stonehill skipped the '20 season due to Covid. Stoneking returned and threw for 2,105 (59.7%) and improved his ratio to 16-8 but only rushed for 7 yards. This year he returns as a Grad Senior. No other QB on the roster threw a pass last year. Stoneking (6'1" 200) is one of 5 QB's on the roster. They have a Jr in Andrew Janik who has the best size at 6'3" 190, two Soph's and a true frosh. This is a big step up in competition for Stoneking but the Skyhawks have to be pleased that they have a 2 year starting QB to rely on as they make the transition to the FCS from Division II.

RUNNING BACKS - In '18 Justin Felder was #2 as a frosh, rushing for 429 (4.5, 93 rec). He returned in '19 and was one of the top RB's in Division II with 1,513 (6.4) and 16 td's. Last year Felder returned and rushed for 1,127 (5.2) with 17 td's and added 176 receiving (8.4). Jeremiah Corbett was #2 last year with 393 but did top Felder's ypc with 5.3. Brian Kearns was their top rusher in '18 with 961 (4.6). He only played 2 games in '19 due to injury (85, 3.5) then fell to #3 last year (380, 4.7). Only Corbett returns this year. Not only are they much less experienced but they are facing much tougher competition. Corbett may surprise considering his solid ypc last year but no other RB saw any carries last year so they need Corbett to stay healthy.

RECEIVERS - Five of Stonehill's top 6 receivers were gone heading into last year. The only exception was Connor Walsh who had just 132 (13.2) in '19. A pair of frosh led the Skyhawks. Chris Domercant was their big play threat. He had 818 and a super 21.5 ypc with 9 td's. Bryson Carter was their possession guy. He finished #2 with 358 (10.8). Cameron Alves was #3 with 238 (14.0). TE Cam Boes had 154 (15.4). This year they lose Walsh (114, 143). Their top 4 WR's and TE Boes all return so this unit goes from inexperienced to experienced and they have a veteran throwing to them but they aren't likely to match last year's production with the bump in competition.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '18 Stonehill rushed for 194 ypg. They increased to 198 rush ypg (4.5) last year but sacks went from 23 to 33. This year all 5 starters return. They have 6 back who started at least 4 games last year. RT David Satkowski (Sr), LT Thomas Walsh (Sr) and OG Joe Bastante (5th year) lead a veteran unit but they won't come close to last year's production going up against much bigger and stronger defenses.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In 2019 Stonehill allowed 145 rush ypg and 4.1 ypc. Maurice Greene led with 7 sacks

and DE Nate Bresson had 12.5 tfl's. The Skyhawks finished with 23 sacks. Last year Bresson returned but they lost Greene as well as their two starting DT's. They allowed just 104 ypg (3.1). Bresson led with 10 sacks and Stonehill finished with 33. This year they lose Bresson (8 st, #6 tkl'r), DE Justin Levsky (10 st, #3 tkl'r, 5 sk, 2.5 tfl), DT Rudy Holland (10 st, #4 tkl'r, 3 sk). Their most experienced DL's returning are Michael Lockavitch (2 st, #15 tkl'r, 4.5 sk) and DT Stephen Cobbs (#13 tkl'r, 3 tfl). Vahn Friday played in 6 games and had 10 tackles as a freshman last year. This probably isn't the best year to be young on the Dline and with 0 starters back Stonehill has their work cut out for them here.

LINEBACKERS - Last year Stonehill lost their #2, #4 and #6 tkl'rs. OLB Lloyd King (#9 tkl'r) was their top returnee. Garrett McCarthy led with 69 tackles (2 sk, 3.5 tfl). King was their #7 tkl'r with 35. Sam Murphy had 33 (#9 tkl'r) and Marje Mulumba had 31 (#10 tkl'r). Mike Connors started all 10 games but only had 22 tackles. This year they lose #1 tkl'r McCarthy, King and Gardner Cousins (#14 tkl'r). They get two starters back and 6 with starting experience are back and they are actually more experienced entering '22.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - Stonehill allowed 163 pass ypg in '19 (52.6%) with an 11-4 ratio. SS Sam Athy was their #1 tkl'r with 68 (1 int). He returned last year along with CB Xavier Jones (#8 tkl'r) but they lost 4 of their top 6. Their pass D actually got better after the year off, allowing 162 ypg (52.5%) but improved the ratio to 10-12. Athy led with 2 int's and was their #2 tkl'r. Masyn Lorick started all 10 at FS and was their #5 tkl'r (1 int). Jones started all 10 and was their #11 tkl'r and led with 2 int's. This year they lose Athy (1 int, 6 pbu) and Jones but return their #5, #8, #16, #17 and #19 tkl'rs. With 5 of their top 7 back they are more experienced but like the rest of the units, will face much tougher competition.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Matt Haite made 13-17 fg's (L/51) in '19. Kyle Cantalup averaged 37.8 ypg. Ryan Shuts was their top KR (21.1) and PR (6.3). All 3 of them were Seniors so last year this was a whole new unit. Perry Shelbred handled punting and kicking. He made just 8 of 16 fg's (L/49) and averaged 34.9 ypg. Bryson Carter had 411 KR yards (20.6) and 95 PR yards (7.9). Both Shelbred and Carter return. They added a pair of true frosh punters and with the move up it might help to let Shelbred concentrate on kicking. This is a below average unit and their coverage could struggle with the lack of depth until they catch up in quality scholarship players.

COACHES - Eli Gardner is the 6th year Head Coach here. He has a career record of 27-24 and is coming off his best season as the Skyhawks finished 8-2 last year. He has been at Stonehill since 2009, first serving as the ST's Coordinator and LB's Coach. He was promoted to DC in '11 and helped guide Stonehill to their first NE10 Title in Program History and their first winning season since 1996 when they went 8-3 in '13. Tyler Moody is in his 7th year as OC and 12th year here overall. He was an asst OL Coach at UMass prior to coming here and also spent time at Amherst College. Kyle Jones is in his 2nd year as DC and 5th year as an assistant here. He coached for 3 years at Western New England U. The ST's Coach is Nick DiCairano.

FORECAST

OFFENSE - In '19 Stonehill put up 31.9 ppg. They were a well balanced team, averaging 222 pass and 194 rush. Stonehill didn't play football in '20 so they came back very young in '21 but did return QB Stoneking and RB Felder. They had nearly an identical season as '19, putting up 30.1 ppg, 211 pass ypg and 198 rush ypg. 10 starters return including QB Stoneking. The lone loss is their best player, RB Felder but his backup Corbett was a solid #2. Naturally it's going to be an uphill climb when facing stiffer competition but they have a veteran coaching staff, all 5 starters back on the Oline and an experienced QB. They couldn't be better set up to handle the transition and we think they will surprise some people.

DEFENSE - Stonehill allowed just 21.1 ppg in '19. Their secondary was their strength, allowing just 163 pass ypg and gave up 308 ypg overall. Last year they lost 6 of their top 7 tacklers after sitting out a whole season. The Skyhawks still improved, allowing just 16.9 ppg and just 265 ypg! They only return 4 starters this year and lose their top 7 tacklers! The Skyhawks lose all 3 starters on the Dline, their #1 tackler at LB and their best CB and S. They got away with being inexperienced last year because but they won't be so fortunate this year after moving up to the FCS.

2022 - Stonehill College is located in Easton Massachusetts. They play in W.B. Mason Stadium and up until this year they had been Division II from 1997-2021 and were Division III from 1988-1996. They joined the Northeast-10 Conference in 2001. This year they are 1 of 3 teams who announced they would make the jump up to the FCS. Stonehill is being reunited with Merrimack who was also a member of the NE10 before making the move up to the FCS in 2019. The Skyhawks started 4-1 in '19 before suffering close losses to Bentley University and Assumption College, both by a fg. After winning their next 2 they dropped their season finale to New Haven 27-17 and finished 6-4. They took the year off in '20 due to Covid and came back much younger last year. This time they opened 5-1 before a blowout loss to New Haven. The Skyhawks won their last 3 games to finish 8-2, their best record under Gardner. 14 starters return this year including 10 on offense. They open with two DII opponents before playing last year's top two NEC teams in their first games in the conference. They host Wagner and Central Connecticut St which would be their best chances to get their first NEC win. Naturally Stonehill was picked to finish last by the Media but don't be surprised if they fare better than expected considering Merrimack made the same transition in '19 and won 3 games over FCS teams. They might finish last but we think by season's end they will pull an upset somewhere and next year will be much better.