

# WAGNER SEAHAWKS

## POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2022

**QUARTERBACKS** - In '19 Wagner had to replace their starting QB who finished with a 13-4 ratio. Christian Alexander-Stevens started all 12 games and threw for 1,924 (58%, 8-9). He departed in the spring so 3 QB's played and combined for just 177 pass yards and a 0-5 ratio. Ryan Yost started both in spring (97, 46%, 0-1) but he departed in the fall. Georgia Southern transfer Jaalon Frazier (PS#229) competed for the job won the job in camp. He started the first 3 and didn't play poorly, throwing for 637 (58.1%, 3-2, 107 rush) in just 5 games of action. Guenson Alexis started 4 games before he was ready. He threw for 445 (46.2%, 2-6) and added 192 rush (2.1). DQ Vinson started 1 and threw for just 74 yards (43.5%, 0-1). Vison departs and Frazier moved to WR in the spring. They added Western Michigan transfer Nick Kargman (PS#118, pro style). They also added Mercer College transfer Ryan Kraft who can take it the distance as a runner but is also a capable passer. Alexis returns but will likely Redshirt and Quincy Guy-Barnes also started 1 game last year. It's a two horse race between Kargman and Kraft and it won't be hard to improve considering they were held under 100 pass yards in 6 of their 11 games last year.

**RUNNING BACKS** - This was an inexperienced unit in '19 and Dymitri McKenzie led with just 280 (4.0). Ike Ogwuegbu was #2 with 233. Both were gone in the spring. Chris Collier (58, 2.6) and Prince Hall (32, 4.0) gained some experience and we said they couldn't get much worse heading into fall. True frosh Ricky Spruill was the NEC Rookie of the week vs Merrimack and had a 50 yard run vs Temple. He led with 500 (5.2). Messiah Divine was #2 with 206 (3.3). Chris Collier added 168 (2.7). This year they lose Divine but Spruill and Collier return. Prince Hall had a 4.6 ypc in limited action last year and Spruill could be one of the top RB's in the NEC so this is a much more experienced unit.

**RECEIVERS** - The Seahawks lost their top 4 WR's entering '19! Joshua DeCambre led with 675 (14.7). TE Nolan Quinlan was #2 with 346 (10.5). Jeremiah Lorick was #3 with 329 (7.2) and Noah Ellison added 214 (7.9). DeCambre (2nd Tm All-NEC) departed before the spring and Lorick didn't play. Their leader in the spring, Eric Castorina, had just 32 yards and Ellison added 31. Last fall they still have 4 of their top 5 back from '19 including Lorick. Naiem Simmons had 136 vs Delaware State and led with 271 (12.3). Lorick only played in 7 games and finished #2 with 203 (11.9). This year Lorick (7 st) and Todd Simmons (6 st, 130, 14.4) are both gone. Three of their top 4 return including Naiem Simmons. They are just as experienced entering '22 and this is another spot that won't be hard to improve.

**OFFENSIVE LINE** - In '18 Wagner rushed for 160 (4.2, 15 sk) but they dropped to just 62 (2.3, 28 sk) in '19. They lost 2 starters and a backup prior to spring and additionally both starting OG's left after spring. They only rushed for 77 (2.5) ypg in spring and with 4 starters gone from '19 they were still very inexperienced. Surprisingly they rushed for 136 ypg (3.0). However, they allowed 39 sacks and 17.3% including 12 in their last 2 games alone! 9 different OL saw starting action due to injuries and poor performances. They ended up starting 4 Frosh and had their butts handed to them at times but are all bigger and stronger with experience. This

year they lose 3rd Tm All-NEC LG Xavier Bryson (9 st), OT Jeremiah Bolling-Farrar (6 st) and LG Zef Djurasevic (7 st). Six return that started at least 3 games last year so they are much more experienced than 3 returning starters suggests and they added Villanova transfer Matthew Mazza. They were much better than expected in the run game last year and if they get their sacks down then this unit is in the top half of the NEC.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - Wagner was gashed for 209 rush ypg (5.3, 23 sk) in '18. In '19 they dramatically improved, allowing just 140 (3.7, 25 sk). All 3 starters along with their top backup departed before the spring. Gone were their #3, #7, #11 and #16 tkl'rs. They allowed 153 (3.6, 6 sk) in their 2 spring games then in the fall they allowed 174 (4.5, 17 sk). This year they lose DT Xavier Young (#18 tkl'r, 1.5 sk), Macai Bruce (2 st, 11 tkl, 3 tfl), Joshua Pierre-Louis (11 tkl) and 2 other backups (12 tkl). Their top 2 DL are back but they lose 6 of their top 10 so depth could be an issue and they don't have any big transfer additions to fill those losses.

**LINEBACKERS** - Wagner's LB's made up 4 of their top 5 tacklers in '19. In spring they lost 3 starters including their #1, #4 and #5 tkl'rs along with 3 backups. Hybrid OLB/DE Titus Leo was the star of the spring as he led with 15 tackles in 2 games. Last year they lost 1 starter from spring. Leo continued his dominance as he finished as their #1 tackler from DE, had 7 sacks, 11.5 tfl's and was named NEC Defensive POY and 3rd Tm AA. Leo was set to depart but re-enrolled after graduating in May. He returns as one of the top defensive players in FCS and they also get their #2, #3, #9, #12 and #15 tacklers back. Needless to say this is the strength of the defense.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** - The Seahawks allowed 191 pass ypg (65%, 18-5) in '19 and only 154 in NEC play. Only CB Myron Morris (#14 tkl'r, 2 int, 6 pbu) was gone in spring. They allowed 164 ypg (69%, 0-1). Also gone last year is Darrell Malone (#10 tkl'r, 6 pbu '19). They had both starting S's back and Naseem Barnett (5 st L2Y, #8 tkl'r '19) was returning as well. This was the only experienced unit on their D entering '22 yet they allowed 30 pass td's and 64.1% with only 7 int's (#6 in pass defense efficiency). This year they lose S Matt Ansell (2 st, #4 tkl'r), S Ahmad Lyons (9 st, #5 tkl'r, 4 pbu, 2 int), S Tim Barrow (7 st, #6 tkl'r), CB Barnett (5 st, #14 tkl'r, 2 pbu) and CB Gabriel Bryan (8 st, #7 tkl'r, 6 pd). Their top 4 DB's are all gone. They return their #8, #10 and #11 tacklers. This is their biggest concern but they might not fall in the pass D rankings in the NEC and they play behind a strong front 7.

**SPECIAL TEAMS** - Eric Silvester made 8-11 fg's in '19 but he departed and they didn't attempt a fg in spring. Silvester was also their punter in '19 (33.6 net). Kevin Dicapua took over as punter in spring and avg'd just 33.0 (30.1 net). Dicapua departed as well so their ST's needed rebuilt. Austin Hoosier made 4-7 fg's (L/42). Joshua Brown averaged 37.9 (33.4 net). Jayvin Little averaged 8.7 PR and 18.5 KR. All 3 return this year so they go from no experience to a full season of experience.

**COACHES** - Tom Masella started here in the spring season of '21. He went 15-6 in 2 years at Central Conn St where he won 2 NEC crowns & spent 6 years at Fordham, where he led the Rams to the FCS Playoffs and was Patriot League COY

in '07. He has had 2 stints as DC at UMass and also spent 3 years as DC at Louisiana Tech. 3rd year OC Chris Nugai spent 6 years at Columbia ('06-'11), 2 years at Harvard ('03-'04) and one at Yale ('95). DC Darrell Wilson is in his 4th year here. He spent 11 seasons at Iowa and was ST Coor, LB and DB Coach there. He was DB Coach at Rutgers from '13-'15. They have no designated ST Coordinator.

## FORECAST

**OFFENSE** - In 2018 Wagner ended the season on a positive note, putting up 93 pts in their L/2 games, both double-digit wins on the road. Wagner finished with 28 ppg and 364 ypg. They had to replace their starting QB and star RB in '19 and the offense saw their ppg cut in half (13.8) while dropping to just 242 ypg. The Seahawks were again inexperienced in the spring and put up just 7 points and 166 yds combined in 2 games. They were inexperienced at QB, RB and Oline heading into the fall. They averaged 15.6 ppg in their first 9 games after putting up a season high 26 and 403 yards vs Merrimack then were shutout in each of their final 2 games. They finished with a 12.8 ppg average and just 246 ypg. This year they have 8 starters back. The Seahawks are much more experienced and added two transfers at QB. They finished last in the NEC in ypg last year so there is only one way to go this year.

**DEFENSE** - In '18 Wagner bottomed out, allowing 39.7 ppg and 418 ypg. They improved to 26.6 ppg and 330 ypg allowed in '19. The Seahawks lost the 2x NEC Defensive POY heading into spring and gave up 22 ppg and 317 ypg in their 2 spring games and had to rebuild their DL and LB's. Titus Leo continued a streak of 4 straight years where a Wagner player won the NEC Defensive Player of the Year but the Seahawks allowed 38.6 ppg and 404 ypg. This year they have 7 starters back and got a huge boost when Leo decided to return after the spring for his grad-year. Twelve of their top 17 tacklers return. Their secondary lost some significant pieces but their front 7 is experienced now and this is a vastly improved defense.

**2022** - After a 1-11 finish in 2019 (-88 ypg) Wagner made Tom Masella their new head coach. The Seahawks only got to play 2 games in the spring, and were outscored by a comb'd score of 44-7 (-152 ypg). With just 7 starters back last year they were picked near the bottom of the NEC. They opened with a blowout loss at Buffalo. Wagner led CCSU late 3Q but 21-19 missed a 2 pt conversion late in the 4Q. They led Saint Francis 21-19 3Q but lost by 14, led Delaware St by a td late 4Q but lost in OT, only trailed Merrimack 28-26 late 4Q in a 9 point loss. At 0-9 they were shutout in each of their last 2 vs the NEC's top 2 teams and finished 0-11. The Seahawks haven't won the NEC since 2014 (also in 2012) and haven't topped 4 wins since 16. They do have 15 starters back. They will once again be picked near the bottom of the NEC but could end their 20 game losing streak at Stonehill on November 5th.