

MONMOUTH 2021 PREVIEW

Kevin Callahan is the only HC the program has ever known and is entering his 29th season. Callahan has compiled a record of 166-125 at Monmouth with seven conference titles and three FCS playoff appearances. The last two seasons have seen Monmouth and Callahan hit another gear, as they have not lost a conference game, won their first FCS playoff game in '19, made the FCS playoffs back-to-back for the first time, and lost by just six points in the opening round of the playoffs this past spring to eventual national champion Sam Houston St.

Monmouth is loaded with 21 out of a possible 22 returning starters between the offense and defense, including 14 players who were named 1st Team All-Big South just this past spring. Beyond that, they have two All-Americans returning on offense, and quite honestly, this roster is absolutely loaded when looking at it on paper.

Monmouth returns 11 starters on offense after averaging 442 ypg of offense while dropping 35 points per contest. While 442 ypg might not jump off the page, the offense was incredibly well-balanced. Monmouth put up 182 rushing ypg (4.3) while averaging 260 ypg through the air. Monmouth broke over 200 yds rushing twice in just four games while passing for at least 290 yds in three of their four contests. So. Tony Muskett was a first yr starter last spring but manage to throw for over 1,000 yds with a 9/2 TD/INT ratio and a 62.5% completion percentage. Muskett was named 1st Team All-Big South at the conclusion of the season. Not to be outdone by Jr. RB Juwon Farri. Farri started four games as a true freshman in '18 but still managed to rush for over 1,000 yds (1024/7.4). Farri redshirted in '19 before returning last spring to punch in 10 TDs while being on pace for well over a 1,000 yds (520/5.0). Farri was named a 2nd Team All-American last yr and should have plenty left in the tank after playing in just four games the previous two seasons. The embarrassment of riches continues at WR as Sr. Lonnie Moore and fellow Sr. Terrance Greene provide one of the best WR duos in all the country. Moore is an incredible security blanket who had over 1,000 yds receiving in '19 (1317/13.7 since '19). Greene is an explosive threat who averaged over 100 yds receiving per game last spring (1341/15.2 since '19). Both were named 1st Team All-Big South following the '20-'21 season. The OL features two 1st Team All-Big South selections from this past season at T, and while the Gs aren't nearly as accomplished, they'll be brought along by All-American and Rimington Award winning Gr. C AJ Farris.

The defense returns 10 starters and is equally as loaded as the offense. Monmouth held opponents to under 100 rush ypg (99/2.9), under 200 passing ypg, and lived in opponents' backfields with a monstrous sack rate of 14.4%. The DL is highlighted by two Gr. students in Kahari Scarlett and Erik Massey, both 1st Team All-Big South performers. Sr. LB Da'Quan Grimes led Monmouth in tackles last spring and was a 1st Team All-Big Sky selection alongside fellow LB Eddie Hahn, who was second on the team in tackles while pacing the defense with 4.0 TFL. The secondary is stacked with three 1st Team All-Big South performers but are led by Preseason 2nd Team All-American and Sr. Anthony Budd, who had two INTs and 2.0 TFL in spring ball.

Sometimes, less is more. For Monmouth, one of the only starters they're losing across the entire team is at KOS. However, after putting three kickoffs OB in just three games, those are costly mistakes that a great team must correct. Monmouth should consider themselves lucky that they are able to open a competition for KOS because they're too good to be giving away free yds on kickoffs nearly every game. The only non-all-conference performer within Monmouth's ST is their K and So. Kaeon Torres, who converted 18/19 PATs.

Monmouth's roster is the class of the Big South and leaves no doubt because they received 16 out of a possible 18 first-place votes in the preseason Big South poll. Monmouth aren't just favorites to win the Big South but must be considered a possible contender to make a run at an FCS National Championship Game. HC Kevin Callahan has a chance to elevate his legacy this season with easily his best roster ever.