RICHMOND SPIDERS

In 2016 the Spiders made their 3rd straight playoffs, finishing 10-4 for a 2nd straight season but then 5 year HC Danny Rocco was hired away by Delaware. In 2017 Richmond hired away Chattanooga HC Russ Huesman, who had led the Mocs to 3 straight playoff appearances. The Spiders started 4-2 but dropped 3 of their next 4 needing to win their season finale to finish with a winning season (6-5) In 2018 they led Virginia 10-7 1Q but lost 42-13. They dominated Fordham, leading 52-0 into the 4Q. Against St Francis in a game with 9 lead changes, the Spiders scored a GW TD with :02 left & then added a 29 yd FR td on the KO to win 35-27. They led #19 Stony Brook 3-0 1Q and only trailed 16-10 3Q but lost 36-10. Despite 337 yds of offense, they were -4 TO's and lost 63-10 to James Madison. They trailed Delaware 43-10 in 3Q before scoring the final 18. Against Albany the game was ties at 7, 14 & 24 but the Spiders hit a GW FG w/:06 left to win 27-24. They tied #11 Elon 21-21 early 3Q but lost 38-28. They never led vs Villanova, but only trailed 20-14 early 3Q before falling 45-21. They trailed #16 Maine 28-3 in 3Q before scoring a TD w/2:10 left. They led rival William & Mary 10-0 into 4Q & held on despite allowing a TD w/:47. They finished a disappointing 4-7 their worst record since 2011 (3-8). In his 3rd season HC Huesman had just 10 returning starters to work with. Richmond opened with a win over Jacksonville but lost at BC then to Elon 42-20 and Fordham 23-16. They beat Albany 23-20 and Maine 24-17 to even their record at 3-3-3. After a lost to Yale 28-27 where they had a 464-316 yard edge, they beat Delaware by 10 and Stony Brook by 20 to get to 5-4. The final 3 games did not go well losing to Villanova 35-28, being crushed by JMU 48-6 and then a close loss to William & Mary for a disappointing 5-7 season. Richmond had a much better spring but did get 3 wins over the leagues weakest teams in William and Mary and they beat Elon twice. They lost at JMU 23-6 and then at #16 sat at home watching the selections for the playoff and were very surprised to be on the outside looking in.

Un 2018 Richmond had the CAA's #3 Total Offense (374 ypg) but just the #9 Scoring Offense (22.1 ppg) as they were last in the CAA with 27 offensive TO's (tied for last CAA -9 TO margin). In 2019 the offense returned just 4 starters but add 3 FBS transfers. They lost top QB Kevin Johnson (6 st, 1297, 54.9%, 5-8), who started the first 5 gms last year before a concussion & decided to transfer in April. They returned QB Joe Mancuso (4 st, 1185, 58.4%, 7-10), who was their leading rusher (354, 5.3) & QB Reid Chenault (1 st, 354, 60.9%, 1-0, 72 rush). They added Air Force transfer QB Beau English (PS#142). Joe Mancuso missed the Fordham and Albany games with injury but in 10 games threw for 2128 (63.3%, 13-10) and again led the team in rushing (647, 4.8). English

threw for 527 (69.6%, 2-2) and had 129 (2.2) rush in 2 starts. In the spring Mancuso threw for 706 (55.45, 6-10 and was #2 rusher with 190 (4.2) while English was 6-6-36 with 18 yds rush and both return. In '19 they lost #2 RB Gordon Collins (5 st, 208, 3.5), #4 RB Jay Palmer (95, 3.1), #1 RB Deontez Thompson (225, 4.0, 60 rec). The top returnee was #3 RB Aaron Dykes (1 st, 154, 4.8). Dykes led the RB's with a pedestrian 310 (3.4) while Savon Smith was #3 rusher (271, 5.1) and Milan Howard was #5 (QB's #1, #4) with 125 (5.4). Dykes was improved in the spring and led with 229 (5.2) while Smith was #3 with 188 (4.7). Both return and they add UConn transfer Donte Black and should improve again. In '19 the Spiders lost their top 7 receivers who combined for 2,582 (89% of rec yds) including 2nd tm CAA WR Cortrelle Simpson (7 st, 651, 18.1, 5 td). Their top returning receiver was TE Andrew Tsangeos (90, 11.2). They added Northwestern transfer WR Charlie Fessler (PS#153, 101, 10.1) & Duke transfer WR Keyston Fuller (PS#90). Those two transfers had the impact expected as Fuller led with a strong 962 (18.2) and Fessler was #2 with 869 (12.8). Issac Brown was #3 with 313 (9.8) and RB's were #4 and #5. Last spring the top two had to be replaced. This time they added East Carolina transfer Leroy Henly and Jonathan Johnson plus TE John Fitzgerald. Henley led with 193 (12.9) while Justin Jasper was #2 with 134 (19.1) and Fitzgerald was #3 with 131 (11.3) and RB Dykes was #4. Everyone is back so this group should be improved.
In '19 the OLine lost 3 who combined for 18 sts in '18 including 2nd tm CAA RG John Yarbrough. They returned 5 who combined for 37 sts including two 11 gm str's in LT Tim Coleman & LG Seyoum Settepani. In'18 Richmond rushed for 108 ypg (3.4) with 5.7% sacks and improved to 133 ypg (3.8) with 7.8% sacks allowed. In the spring they had the deepest O-line in Huesman's tenure and rushed for 153 (4.30 with 8 sacks (6.8%). Huesman said he has gone on trips with as little as 6 OL this year the OLine goes two deep and has 14 players making it his deepest unit yet. Over the offense had just 4 starters back from an '18 offense that put up 378 ypg and 18 ppg with their QB's having a 15-18 ratio. The '19 unit had similar numbers with 336 ypg and 23 ppg in CAA play and they put up 37 ypg less than what their opp's normally allowed. In the spring with 6 returning starters they were similar with 339 ypg and 24 ppg. Even though everyone is back, 4 games was not like playing a full season and the overall schedule will be tougher than what they faced.

In 2019 the Spiders return 7 starters to the CAA's #12 scoring (32.6 ppg) & #11 Total Defense. (375 ypg). The DLine lost a cornerstone in 1st tm CAA DT Andrew Clyde (33 tkl, 7 sk, 3 tfl), who started 50 straight gms for the Spiders. They returned 4 of their top 5 who combined for 33 sts including DT Colby Ritten (11 st, 49 tkl, 3 sk, 5 tfl), DE Darius Reynolds (11 st, 47 tfkl, 3.5 sk, 3 tfl) & AA DE Maurice Jackson (10 st, 46 tkl, 10 sk, 5 tfl). They lost 2 of 3 starting LB's in Justin Rubin (10 st, 70 tkl, 7.5 tfl) & Dale Matthews (8 st, 54 tkl, 6 tfl, 2 int) along with 2 bkp's (1 st, 15 tkl). They returned top LB Billy Caughell (7 st, 74 tkl, 7.5 tfl) & 3 bkp's (2 st, 29 tkl). They add Illinois transfer LB Jimmy Marchese, who made 3 sts there the L/2 yrs. The secondary lost a CB (8 st, 44 tkl, 4 pd) & SS (12 tkl). They returned 5 DB who combined for 37 sts led by SS Daniel Jones (11 st, 86 tkl, 3 int, 5 pbu) & CB Markus Vinson (11 st, 47 tkl, 12 pd). They also add Duke DB Brandon Feamster (7 st, 37 tkl, 5 pd). They returned 12 of their top 16 tkl'rs & added 2 FBS transfers. After allowing 398 ypg and 35 ppg in '19 they improved to 359 ypg and 27 ppg

allowed in 2019. This spring they had to replace DB Daniel Jones (#3 tklr), DB Brandon Feamster (#5 tklr), DB Trent Williams (#6 tklr), DL Maurice Jackson (#7 tklr), LB Billy Caughell (#8 tklr) and DL Gershom Ejoni (#11 tklr). While they only had 5 returning starters they did have 10 of the top 16 tacklers back. Facing 3 weak offenses helped but they did hold JMU to 384 yards and allowed just 279 ypg and 17 ppg in CAA play. Everyone returns from that unit including their outstanding LB duo of Tyler Dressler and Trisan Wheeler (Best LB's CAA) who are both first team CAA preaseason along with DT Kobie Turner. They return preseason 2nd tm Colby Ritten and Darius Reynolds up front and DB Tyrek Funderburk. While I think the defensive numbers will be better than 2019, they will not come near last years numbers. I will call for about 330 ypg in CAA play allowed this year.

In '19 the ST unit lost their top PR Tyler Wilkins (6.9), #2 KR Dejon Brissett (51.5), who had their only return TD despite just 4 KR, K/KO Griffin Trau (12-17, L/43, 3 TB/44 KO), who was #2 in career scoring (248 pts) & has is Richmond's career leader in FG % (81.0%, 47-58). They returned P Micah Breckenridge (34.4 avg), top KR Aaron Dykes (25.3) and Griffin's brother Duncan (0 TB/6 KO). Breckenridge avg jut 28.4 and Jake Larson took over at P with just a 38.3 avg. Larson did hit 17-22 FG with a long of 50. Aaron Dykes avg 27.1 on KR's and Charlie Fessler just 5.5 on PR's. Larson hit 4-5 FG in the spring with his one miss from 50+ and is CAA's top K. Andrew Lopez took over at P but avg just 38.4. The team avg just 5.7 on 3 PR's and 10.4 on 7 KR's. Besides the K this unit is below average.

The Spiders last reached the playoffs in 2016 and Russ Huesman is 18-20 in his 4 years here but regularly made the playoffs with Chattanoga. Richmond should have its best offense under Huesman with a veteran O-line leading the way. The defense is led by the best set of LB's in the CAA. They were 3-1 and #16 in the FCS in the spring but were left out of the playoffs probably due to the fact they beat 3 teams that were a combined 2-12 when not facing each other. Richmond was picked 4th in the CAA preseason poll but I think there is a gap between them and the top 3 of James Madison, Delaware and Villanova.