

Cornell

Cornell HC David Archer is an ex-Big Red player and Asst Coach. He took over in 2013 but won just 6 games in his first 3 years. The Big Red started 2016 with 3 straight wins, including an upset over a ranked Colgate squad but finished 4-6 (-86 ypg). In '17 they slipped to 3-7 but improved to -10 ypg and their 3 Ivy League wins were their best under Archer. In '18 Cornell again finished 3-7 and they were -50 ypg with 2 Ivy League wins. The Big Red started just 2-6 in '19 then shocked undefeated Dartmouth 20-17 and closed with a 26 point win over Columbia. The Big Red improved to +34 ypg and one of their losses (at Penn) came with +171 yd & +13 FD edges.

In 2017 Cornell's offense slipped back to averaging 349 ypg and their ppg dropped by nearly a touchdown to 17.3. In '18 they had 9 starters back including QB Dalton Banks but barely improved at 19.1 ppg and ypg actually slipped to 344 ypg. Cornell returned 7 starters on offense in '19. The Big Red gradually improved, avg 372 ypg and 20.6 ppg. In '19 QB Mike Catanese started 2 of the first 3 but he suffered a season ending injury in their loss to Georgetown so Richie Kenney started the last 7. Kenney had 332 vs Brown and finished with 2,069 but only a 9-12 ratio (56.8%). Catanese departs (242, 71.4%, 0-1, 88 rush) but Kenny got significant experience and should be much better in '21. Dez'mond Brinson saw action in 7 games in '19 (16 pass, 64 rush). Harold Coles led with 515 (6.4) in '17 and 710 (5.4, 293 rec) in '18. In '19 he returned once again along with their #2. Coles finished #2 in the Ivy League with 832 (5.9, 98 rec) despite missing 1 game. SK Howard was #2 with 348 (5.7) and no other RB topped 100 yards. This year Coles departs but Howard's ypc nearly matched Coles so they are still in solid shape, but less experienced. In '19 Cornell had 3 of their top 6 back including their #1 guy, Owen Peters (455, 15.7). Phazione McClurge led with 677 (16.5). Peters was #2 with 427 (14.7). Eric Gallman added 376 (11.4). Three of their top 6 return once again but they lose both McClurge and Peters depart along with TE John Fitzgerald (10 st, 226, 11.3). In '19 Cornell lost 4 OLine starters but John Christian Riffle was actually 2nd Tm All-Ivy in '17 before losing his job in '18. Despite the losses, they nearly matched '18's production by rushing for 139 ypg (3.9, 20 sacks). This year Cornell returns 3 starters including 3rd Tm All-Ivy RT Hunter Nourzad and 4 have starting experience, making this one of the most experienced Oline's in the Ivy League.

In '17 Cornell posted their best season under HC Archer, improving by nearly a full touchdown, allowing just 24.3 ppg and 355 ypg (lowest since '08). In '18 they allowed 395 ypg and 29.7 ppg. 7 starters returned in '19 and they were even better than '17, allowing just 338 ypg and 20.7 ppg. In '18 Cornell struggled in conference play, allowing 210 (4.8) rush ypg. 3 Dline starters returned in '19 and they improved to 136 (3.5) in Ivy League play and 124 (3.3) overall with 22 sacks despite losing starting NT Jordan Landsman after 2 games. This year they lose DE Nathaniel Weber (7 st, #12 tkl'r, 2 sk), DT Michael Giloolley (4 st, #13 tkl'r, 2.5 sk), DT William Baker (6 st, 14 tkl), DE Cyrus Nolan (2 st, 10 tkl) and Landsman (2 st, 5 tkl). Only 1 starter returns but that's their top guy, Maxton Edgerly (9 st, #10 tkl'r). In '19 Cornell returned their #3 and #14 tkl'rs and Mo Bradford (#4 tkl'r) moved in from DE. Jake Stebbins was 3rd Tm All-Ivy and this 4-man unit made up 6 of their top 10 tkl'rs. This year they lose RLB Mo Bradford (10 st, #4 tkl'r, 6.5 tfl), MLB Lance Blass (6 st, #9 tkl'r), both WLB's Malik Leary (4 st, #6 tkl'r, 10 tfl) and Justin Bedard (6 st, #7 tkl'r) as well as bkp NB Eric Stoxstill-Diggs (3 st, #11 tkl'r). 2 starters return in Stebbins (3 st, #3 tkl'r) and NB Logan Thut (7 st, #8 tkl'r) but their depth has been severely depleted. In '19 Cornell returned 3 starters including their #1 tkl'r along with 2nd Tm All-Ivy CB David Jones. This was the strength of the defense and they allowed 213.7. pass ypg and finished 3rd in pass efficiency defense in the Ivy (62.4%, 15-8). This year they lose a pair of 1st Tm All-Ivy League performers in Jelani Taylor (#1 tkl'r, 3 int, 10 pbu) and Jones (#2 tkl'r, 2 int, 6 pbu) along with FS Jake Watkins (10 st, #5 tkl'r). Only 1 starter returns and this goes from a strength to an inexperienced unit.

In '19 Nickolas Null made 6-8 fg's (L/49) while Garrett Patia only made 3-6 (L/39). Null avg'd 39.5 ypp (35.5 net). David Jones avg 8.4 PR and 14.8 KR. This year both Null and their return man. Patia returns but will need to improve and the Big Red must find a new punter as well so this unit is down a few notches.

Cornell only returns 8 starters but they do have experience at QB and 3 returning starters on the OLine. Only 3 starters return on defense. Only 3 of their top 13 tkl'rs are back but most everyone else in the Ivy League is inexperienced as well. The Big Red only plays 3 Ivy League home games but should be able to match their 4 win total from '19.

