

## Long Island

In 2019 LIU-Brooklyn consolidated with LIU-Post which was a Division 2 program. The Sharks hired Jonathan Gill to run the program. This is Gill's 16<sup>th</sup> year at LIU. He was the Pass Game coordinator for 7 years at LIU-Post and also coached QB's. The Sharks were winless in their first year at the FCS level, going 0-10 and were -145 ypg. They rebounded in the spring, winning both home games and lost their road games to the 2 best teams in the NEC by 28 & 18 points.

In '19 LIU-Brooklyn averaged just 10 ppg and 199 ypg. They improved to 20 ppg and 289 ypg in the spring. In '19 they were led by Clay Beathard who threw for 1,071 (51.6%, 4-6) but he departed in the spring and also lost bkp Jacob Cheshire (2 st, 146, 46%, 0-4). Conor Regan took every snap the spring and threw for 547 but only completed 49.5% (4-2). Regan departs so once again the Sharks will have a first year starting QB. Camden Orth didn't play in the spring but returns and was solid as a backup in '19, completing 58% for 170 (1-0). In '19 Jonathan Debique didn't start a single game but led with 284 (3.7). Tim Marinan was #2 with 202 (2.6, 115 rec). Marinan departed before spring. DeBique led again with 337 (5.6) in just 3 games including 154 vs Merrimack. Domonic Jennings was #2 with 71 (5.1). Their top 4 RB's return from spring so they are in much better shape. Jake Bofshever led in '19 with 399 receiving and Tosin Oyekanmi was #2 with 291 (16.2) despite missing 2 games. Four of their top 5 returned in spring including Oyekanmi. He led with 163 (8.6). Derek Eugene was #2 with 121 (12.1) and Steven Chambers added 119 (17.0). No other WR topped 4 catches. This year their only loss is TE Damien Caffrey (8 st, 123, 9.5 2Y). In '19 LIU-Brooklyn only averaged 59 rush ypg (1.8) with 35 sacks allowed. Three of their starters returned in the spring and they improved to 153 (4.0) and allowed just 5 sacks in 4 games. They do lose LT Sam Howson and LG Dareus Smith from the spring but also get Greg Amato back (10 st '19) after missing the spring. They have 3 starters back from '19 and RG James Onulak got significant experience in spring, starting all 4 games.

The Sharks defense performed better than expected in their first year at FCS level, allowing 29 ppg and 343 ypg. In the spring they held both foes under 300 yds in their home games but played the 2 best NEC offenses and allowed 504 & 509 in their 2 road games. They gave up 27 ppg and 393 ypg overall. Their run defense was their strength in '19, allowing just 140 (3.8, 17 sk). They lost 2 starters in the spring and slipped to 156 (4.2) rush ypg allowed with 6 sacks. All 4 starters return from the spring including two 2-year starters in DT Anthony Lavio (#11 tkl'r spg) and DE Joe Amalfitano. DT Thomas Bolesta had 4.5 tfl's in spring and is back as well. LIU lost their #2 and #3 tkl'rs at LB leading into spring. Ricco Aaron stepped up and led with 39 tkls, and added 2 tfl's and 2 int's. This year Aaron departs, leaving them with just 1 starter still here from '19, but they do get their #5, #8, #9 and #10 tkl'rs back from spring. LIU allowed 204 pass ypg and 68.7% completions with a 19-3 ratio in '19. They brought lost 2 starters in spring and slipped to 237 ypg allowed but improved to 56.5% allowed and a 7-7 ratio. This year they also lose CB Larry Elder (#7 tkl'r, 5 pbu) but the other 3 starters from the spring are returning and this was a solid secondary that made significant improvements in spring and will be even better in '21.

Brant DeFelice made 5-8 fg's (L/38) in '19. He was gone in spring though and Justin Hertlein and Paul Inzerillo both went 1-2 (L/43). Hertlein also avg'd 33.6 ypp (net 31.9). Davon Wells avg'd 23.3 KR and the Sharks had 2 that totaled 36 PR yds (7.2). Both kickers return so they are more experienced in '21.

It wasn't surprising at all that LIU-Brooklyn struggled in their first year in the FCS in '19 but they showed significant improvements in spring. The Sharks return 16 starters from the spring and HC Gill is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year at LIU so they should make another jump. They open the season with 3 FBS schools and they get the top 2 teams in the NEC (Sacred Heart and Duquesne) at home. The Sharks are improved but it might not show much in their record with only 4 home games.

