

Fordham

In '13 Fordham went 12-2 under Joe Moorhead and lost in the 2nd round of the FCS Playoffs. Their win total decreased each season afterwards and Andrew Breiner resigned after they went 4-7 in '17. In '18 they hired Joe Conlin and dropped to 2-9 and were -158 ypg. They had 12 starters back in '19 and were 3-4 before dropping 4 of their L/5. The Rams went 2-1 in spring with their only loss coming when they had a +164 yd edge vs Holy Cross.

The Rams averaged just 251 ypg and 15.8 ppg in Conlin's first year as HC. The former Yale OC helped them improve to 357 ypg and 25 ppg in '19. The offense took another jump in spring, averaging 31.7 ppg and 433 ypg. In 2018 Tim Demorat threw for 1,633 (56%, 11-6). DeMorat started every game in '19, throwing for 2,674 (59%, 20-11) then added 1,049 in just 3 games in spring (72.1%, 5-3). DeMorat returns as the Preseason Patriot League OFF POY and based on his spring performances could top 3,000 yards. In '19 Zach Davis led with 1,013 (5.1) rushing and Rutgers transfer Trey Sneed was #2 with 552 (4.6). Sneed added 175 (3.4) in spring. Davis sat out the spring but returns for the fall and Sneed is back as well. This is the top RB unit in the Patriot League. In '19 Fordham had their top 3 WR's depart. DeQuece Carter led with 723 (13.6). Hamze El-Zayat was #2 with 642 (10.4). Fotis Kokosioulis was #3 with 621 (12.7). Joe Ferraro added 403 (12.6). Kokosioulis added 278 (13.9) in spring and DeQuece Carter had 274 (14.4). This year they only lose Ferraro but still have 3 back that topped 600 yards in '19. In '18 Fordham gave up 50 sacks and dropped to just 51 rush ypg (1.7). They had 3 starters back in '19 and 5 with starting experience. The Rams jumped to 133 (3.5) rush ypg but sacks remained high at 45. In spring they only averaged 84 rush ypg but gave up just 6 sacks in 3 games. This year all 5 starters return and they've got 7 with starting experience so they should post better rush numbers and the sacks will significantly decrease.

In 2018, Conlin's first year, Fordham allowed 28.2 ppg and 409 ypg. They had 6 starters back in '19 but slipped to 32.3 ppg and 446 ypg. In spring they only gave up 20 ppg and 293 ypg. The Rams allowed 192 rush ypg (4.3) and allowed 23 sacks. In '19 they improved to 171 rush ypg allowed but ypc went up to 4.7 (26 sk). In spring they only allowed 156 ypg (4.0, 7 sk). This year they lose DE Ellis Taylor (12 st, #7 tkl'r, 6.5 sk '19), DE Jeremy Imperati (12 st, #11 tkl'r, 5 sk '19) and DT Mike Marinelli (8 st, #13 tkl'r). Three starters are gone, they actually get their top 3 from spring back but this unit is clearly down a notch. Fordham lost 2 starting LB's in '19 but returned 2 All-Patriot LB's in Glenn Cunningham (1st Tm, #1 tkl'r) and Ryan Greenhagen (2nd Tm, led in sks in '18). Greenhagen led with 123 tkls in '19 (#2 in Patriot) and Cunningham was #2 with 78 tkls. Both returned in spring, combining for 45 tkls and Cunningham added 2 ints. The only loss this year is 3x All-Patriot LB Cunningham. Four of their top 5 return including their #1 and #4 tkl'rs from '19. Greenhagen was named Preseason Patriot League POY. The Rams lost 3 starters in their secondary in '19 but did get 3 backups back that totaled 53 tackles. They allowed 275 pass ypg (60.8%, 23-9) and was 6th in pass efficiency D in the Patriot. They only allowed 136 pass ypg (50.6%) and an impressive 1-8 ratio in spring! This year they lose CB Dervin Hylton (10 st, #6 tkl'r, 7 pd), FS James Briggs-Frazier (10 st, #3 tkl'r, 4 pd) along with bkps Prince-Elijah DeGroat (2 st, 9 tkl) and Cooper Weiss (2 st, #14 tkl'r). Only 2 starters return but they've got plenty of experience with 7 back that have started.

Andrew Mevis made 15-20 fg's in '19 (L/46) but he transferred to Iowa State and Nick Leinenweber made his only attempt (41 yds). Mevis also punted in '19 (40.4 avg, 37.4 net). Leinenweber avg'd 35.3 ypp (30.4 net). Fotis Kokosioulis had 869 KR yds (21.7 avg) in '19. Naim Mayfield avg'd 13.2 PR. Their ST's took a major hit with the loss of Mevis but at least Leinenweber got experience in spring.

HC Conlin has clearly put his offensive stamp on this squad. He was an OC at Yale for 4 years and Fordham has shown steady improvement including an impressive 3 games in spring. They get 16 starters back, including 10 on offense. They get Holy Cross at home and we think they should be the favorite to win the Patriot League this year.