

Lafayette

John Garrett, brother of former Dallas Cowboys HC Jason Garrett, was hired in 2017 after the Leopards had won just 3 games between '15-'16. Garrett was OC at Oregon State in '14 and a longtime NFL Asst. In '17 he lost his first 4 games, all by DD's but won B2LafayB before losing 4 of their L/5. They posted 3 wins again in 2018, but did improve from -157 ypg to -90. In '19 they had 15 starters back, but lost their first 7 games (3 by 4 pts or less) then won 4 of their last 5. They finished -38 ypg and were actually +23 ypg in Patriot League play. They went 2-1 in spring, winning both home games but were -24 ypg thanks to a blowout loss at Bucknell.

In 2017 Lafayette bottomed out, averaging just 12 ppg and 219 ypg. In '18 they improved to 258 ypg but still only avg'd 13 ppg. In '19 avg'd 370 ypg in their F/9 but struggled down the stretch and only put up 243 ypg in their L/3. They still improved to 18.4 ppg and 338 ypg. They put up 19 ppg and 311 ypg in the spring. Cole Northrup saw brief action in both '18 and '19, throwing for 196 (54%, 0-1). Northrup started all 3 in spring, throwing for 602 (62%, 4-3). Northrup departs along with last year's backup Sean O'Malley (65, 67%, 1-1). No QB on the roster has seen action. Sr Shane Davis did win the scout team award in the spring. In '18 Selwyn Simpson was #2 with 352 (4.1). Simpson led the Leopards in rushing in '19 with 360 (4.4). Jaden Sutton was #3 with 268 (3.7) and John Gay added 216 (3.3). Those 3 returned in spring. Sutton led with 104 (3.9) while Simpson only put up 97 (2.9). This year both Sutton and Simpson return while Gay (19, 2.7) departs. Lehigh had to replace their top 2 WR's in spring and their top returnee was Joe Gillette (314, 15.0). Quinn Revere led with 214 (11.3) and TE Steven Stilianos had 125 (13.9). Gillette was #3 with 89 (17.8) and Julius Young added 87 (21.8). This year Revere departs along with TE Jake Taggart (2 st), but 6 of their top 7 are back and they are in much better shape despite losing their top guy. In '19 the Leopards rushed for 114 ypg (3.4) but gave up 44 sacks! Only 6 OL saw starting action in spring with Lafayette only rushing for 80 ypg (2.6) but they did only give up 4 sacks in 3 games. 4 starters return this year, only losing RG John Burk. They showed significant strides in pass pro in 3 games last year and should improve their rush numbers as well so we'll call this their most improved unit.

Lafayette allowed 29.4 ppg and 348 ypg in '18. In '19 the Leopards allowed 376 ypg but still improved to 26.6 ppg. They held 2 of their 3 foes under 300 yds in spring, allowed just 20.3 ppg and 335 ypg. Lafayette was gashed for 208 rush ypg (4.5) in non conf play in '19 but only allowed 205 (3.0) in Patriot League play. In spring they allowed just 63 rush ypg (2.1). The entire DL from spring returns including '19's Patriot League Def POY DE Malik Hamm who was their #4 tkl'r and had 15 tfl including 8.5 sacks. Lafayette lost their top 2 LB's last year who were #1 and #2 tkl'rs. Major Jordan led with 21 tkls and Marco Olivas was just behind with 20 (3.5 tfl). Five LB's saw starting action last year and all 5 are back. They return their #1, #2, #5 and #12 tkl'rs. Lafayette only allowed 194 pass ypg in '18 but allowed 64.6% and was actually last in the Patriot League in Pass Efficiency defense. They had 3 starters back in '19, allowed 220 pass ypg (62.4%, 15-5) and improved to #5 in the Patriot League. All 4 starters were gone In spring and they allowed 272 pass ypg including 328 vs Bucknell and was once again #5 in the Patriot (66%, 5-1). This year all 4 starters, making this the team's most improved unit going from inexperienced to somewhat experienced.

Jeffrey Kordenbeck made 3-4 fg's (L/26) in spring. He also avg'd 37.9 ypp and had 4 TB on 12 KO's. Their punt return unit was a non-factor while their KR avg'd 20.1. This year they lose their do-it-all kicker Kordenbeck so they are down a few notches.

While John Garrett only has a 12-25 record at Lafayette, the Leopards have won 6 of their last 8 games dating back to the last half of '19. They have 19 starters back including all 11 starters returning on defense. They will need to find a new QB but this is an experienced team. This is clearly a contender in the Patriot League.