

## Butler

Jeff Voris enters his 16<sup>th</sup> year as HC at Butler. He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> winning HC at BU but they haven't finished above .500 since 2017. Voris has led the Bulldogs to 2-PFL Co-Championships and qualified for the FCS playoffs in 2013 going 9-4. Since '13 they've won 4, 6, 4, 6, 4, 3 and 0 games. In '18 Butler went 4-7 and were -70 ypg. They dropped to 3-9 and -132 ypg in '19 then bottomed out, going 0-6 in spring but did only finish -51 ypg. They finished with a yardage edge in 2 of their games including a +213 yd edge in their finale at Morehead St where they lost by 10 points.

Butler averaged 23.5 ppg and 379 ypg in '18. They were held under 30 points in all but 2 games in '19 and fell to 19.8 ppg and 309 ypg though they did finish on a positive note, putting up ssn highs of 38 points and 519 yds in their finale. Things got even worse in the spring when they put up just 15.2 ppg but ypg actually rose to 462. Sam Brown started 8 games in '19 and led with 1,293 (55.6%, 6-5). He returned in spring and threw for 1,155 in just 6 games and increased his comp% to 59.4 but had a 3-8 ratio. His backup is Nick Orlando who was actually their #2 rusher each of the last 2 years, putting up 606 (5.4) in '19 and 80 (2.9) last year. Both Brown and Orlando return, giving Butler a pair of experienced QB's that offer different dimensions. Brad Sznajder led in '19 with 898 (4.4). He was gone in the spring though, so Kavon Samuels took over and led with 395 (3.8). No other RB topped 100 rush. Samuels returns along with AJ Deinhart (76 (3.5)). Butler returned 3 of their top 5 WR's in the spring but lost their #1 guy who more than doubled #2 in '19 with 593 (14.5). Yogi Flager stepped up and led with 372 (16.2). '19's #2, Johnny O'Shea, was #2 again with 271 (12.3). RB Samuels was actually #3 with 220 (7.9). The only loss this year is Brad Huth (100, 8.3). Butler avg'd 154 rush ypg (4.3, 18 sk) in '19. In the spring Butler lost 4 starters on their OLine. The Bulldogs avg'd 104 rush ypg (3.4) but only gave up 6 sks (2.9%). All 5 starters return from the spring and last year was their lowest rush ypg since before 2010 so they can only get better.

In '17 Butler only allowed 25 ppg and 364 ypg but in '18 they slipped to 33.8 ppg and 449 ypg. They didn't show improvement in '19, falling to 35.7 ppg and 441 ypg. Last year Butler broke that string, improving to 29.2 and 381 ypg. The Bulldogs run D went from a strength in '17 (120 rush ypg all'd, 3.7) to a weakness in both '18 (232 rush ypg all'd, 5.7) and '19 (229, 5.6) and sacks decreased 3 years in a row from 16 to 12 to just 7! Only 1 starter returned last year. They allowed 58 ypg in 2 meetings vs Morehead St and 215 ypg in the other 4 games so their improvement to 163 (4.5) isn't as impressive and they only had 4 sacks in 6 games. Their top 6 Dline all return this year. All 3 starting LB's also departed after '19. Bradley Magee was their only experienced LB. This year the whole unit returns in tact. They've got their #2, #7, #8, #12 and #13 tkl'rs back. The Bulldogs allowed 212 pass ypg (60.4%). Only 1 starter returned in the spring and they allowed 218 pass ypg (68.3%, 13-4). This year 3 starters return from the spring including their #1, #3, #4 and #9 tkl'rs. Their only loss is SS Mike Manning (5 st, #6 tkl'r). Overall they go from 2 returning starters on defense to 10 back.

JJ Wadas made 4-5 fg's in spring (L/38). Luka Zurak avg'd 41.5 but had 2 punts blocked and bkp Ben Packer avg'd 31.8 on 5 punts so their net was just 32.1. All 3 return along with their PR (4.8) and KR (20.5) so this should be an improved unit.

Butler brings back 21 starters including on all 11 on offense but they were 0-6 last year so there is only 1 way to go from here. HC Voris is a veteran coach and he should be able to right the ship. They only get 5 home games this year but 2 games come against Division 3 schools Dupauw and Taylor so they should at least match '19's 3 win total and they weren't as bad as their record indicated last year considering they were only -51 ypg.