

# Northwestern State Demons

Coach Brad Laird inherited a 4-7 team that was -76 ypg (-64 ypg conf). In his first year he went 4-7 and was -56 ypg but cut it to -30 ypg in Southland play. In 2019 his second team went 4-7 and was -32 ypg and just -15 ypg in conference play. Last year they lost their QB, top two RB and top 2 WR. They lost their first 5 games of the spring but had losses by 7, 3, 8 and 8. They were -24 ypg in Southland play and did beat Incarnate Word in a shootout in the season finale 49-47 to finish 1-5.

The offense put up 398 ypg and 27.6 ppg in Southland play in Laird first 3 years but last year improved to 448 ypg but struggled in the red zone with just 24 ppg. Kaleb Fletcher (374 yd, 2-4) and Zachary Clement (192, 0-1) split the snaps in the first 3 games then Fletcher started vs Lamar but Bryce Rivers came off the bench and revitalized the offense throwing for 410 vs eventual National Champ Sam Houston St in an 8 point loss and then for 477 yards in the win over Incarnate Word. There is a QB battle this spring as unfortunately Rivers is gone and the remaining two will battle San Diego St transfer Mark Salazar (0 pass att). RB Scooter Adams transferred in from Kilgore College and was a star of the offense with 681 yards and an impressive 8.0 ypc including a pair of 200 yard games! Aubrey Scott was the only other RB with more than 3 rush attempts (QB's were #3, #4, #5 rushers) and had 215 (5.8). Both return. Three of the top 4 WR's are back including the top two in Javon Antonio (521, 15.8) and Gavin Landry (227. 13.4). Kendrick Pope was #3 in '19 with 372 (13.0) and returns. Top TE Jacob Logan (10 rec) is also back. The O-line paved the way for 5.3 ypc rush and allowed 6.8% sacks. This year they have 3 starters back on the offensive line led by 2<sup>nd</sup> team Southland OL's Khalil Corbett-Canada and Jakob Sell. I like all the pieces of the offense but they clearly need a QB to emerge.

The defense allowed 434 ypg in Laird first 3 years. Last year the run D allowed just 3.9 ypc the best in at least 10 years. The pass D did give up 302 ypg but they had 9.1% sacks. The good news on defense is that 12 of the top 14 tacklers return only losing LB Blake Stephenson (#2 tklr) and LB Rahuad Powell (#8 tklr). On the first team Southland preseason Defense is LB Jomard Valsin (#1 tklr, 3 sk) and 2<sup>nd</sup> team preseason Southland members in LB JaQuay Pough (#1 tklr '20, #4 tklr '21, 3 sk), DB PJ Herrington (#3 tklr, 2 pbu) who is the QB of the defense and DB William Hooper (3 pbu). Last year they returned 14 of the top 16 tacklers so this is a very veteran unit that should be the best yet under Laird.

P Scotty Roblow is back after averaging 41.7 per punt with a net of just 34.17. FG man Eddie Godina hit 6-12 FG with a long of 47 and one miss from 50 plus with 4 of his 6 misses being blocks. Top PR Donovan Duvernay had -2 yds on 6 returns but a super 28.3 on KR's and is 2<sup>nd</sup> team All conference. With all 3 back I look for significant improvement in this area.

Northwestern St has 7 starters back on Offense and 9 on defense and everyone from the special teams. Their 3 conference foes who they face twice this year are Southeastern, McNeese and Houston Baptist. They were picked 5<sup>th</sup> in the 6 team league in the media poll and

while this should be Laird it will take some effort to finally break thru and have a winning season.

## **Incarnate Word Cardinals**

Incarnate Word made a transition up to Division I football finally become a full fledged member of the Southland Conference in 2014 in football. IWU went 2-9 (-142 ypg conf) in 2014. , 6-5 (-23 ypg), 3-8 (-60 ypg), 1-10 (-174 ypg) their first 4 years in league play. In 2018 After dropping their first 2 games to FBS teams, UIW would go on to win 4 of their next 5 games, including a 45-17 blowout win over #6 McNeese. The Cardinals ended the regular season with wins over #21 Sam Houston State and at Central Arkansas and claimed a share of the SLC championship. UIW clinched their first-ever trip to the playoffs, but lost at Montana State 35-14 and finished the season 6-5 and Morris was the SLC Coach of the year. UIW's offense was woeful in 2017, gaining just 295 ypg while scoring 21 ppg. That all changed when Morris became the HC last year and installed the Air Raid offense. This Cardinals adapted to this system quickly and averaged 323 pass ypg (4th-most FCS) and scored 32 ppg. Freshman QB Jon Copeland was named the starter and would go on to set the UIW record for passing yards (2,984 yards) and TD passes (22) and was the SLC Freshman of the Year & 2nd Team SLC. Copeland did suffer an injury the final week of the season and missed the Cardinals playoff game. The run attack did not suffer with the switch to the Air Raid, as Ra'Quanne Dickens led the Cardinals with 1,117 yards (6.3, 14 TD) and was 1st Team SLC with Ra'Quanne Dickens rushing for 1117 yds (6.3) they improved to 6-5 and were +75 ypg in Southland play! In 2019 they opened 5-2 but lost their last 5 games to finish 5-7 and were -20 ypg. Last year they had to replace their long time QB Joe Copeland (59%, 22-9) as well as their top 3 WR's but did return their top RB Kevin Brown (720, 5.6). Last year they had a frosh QB in Cameron Ward but opened strong with wins over McNeese St and Lamar on the road by 25 ppg and then a home win over SEL for a perfect 3-0. They were stunned by Nicholls 75-45, lost 49-47 to NWST. They had just 5 healthy OL for their matchup vs eventual national champ Sam Houston St in the final and only trailed 21-14 in the 3Q but lost 42-14 to fall to 3-3 (+19 ypg).

The offense was not the problem last year as they put up 552 ypg and 42 ppg! Frosh QB Cameron Ward had quite a debut season as he was the FCS Frosh of the year throwing for 2260 (60%, 22-4) in just 6 games. Ward had actually begun spring as the #3 QB. He returns and is 2<sup>nd</sup> team Preseason All Southland. RB Kevin Brown led in 2019 with 720 (5.6) and Ameer King was #2 with 505 (5.1). Both returned last year and Brown was even more impressive with 775 (10.5) with Kaleb Ducros #2 with 127 (7.5). King had just 2 att's all year but all three RB's are back and Brown is 1<sup>st</sup> team Preseason Southland. Last year they had to replace 3 of the top 4 WR's. Robert Ferrel led the was with 474 (13.5) with Tre Wolf #2 (464, 15.0) and Darion Chaflin #3 (372, 14.3). Jaelin Campbell was #4 (267, 14.1) and RB Brown was #5. The great news this year is all the top WR's are back (they do not use a TE in the Air Raid) with Ferrel being 1<sup>st</sup> team preseason Southland. The offensive line paved the way for 175 rush with a solid 6.5 ypc and allowed just 5.6 sacks. The unit returns nearly intact led by three 2<sup>nd</sup> team preseason Southland

OL in Caleb Johnson, Nash Jones and Reid Francis. With 10 starters back this is clearly one of the top offenses in the Southland and FCS overall.

The defense allowed 495 ypg in 2017, cut it to 479 ypg in '18 and 463 ypg in 2019. It appeared in year 4 that the D had turned into a strength allowing just 162 ypg rush (3.2) in their 3-0 start including just 366 ypg in the first two outings. The D then cratered allowing 268 ypg rush the last 3 games and 6.8 ypc with the unit allowing 638 ypg in their 3 losses. For the season they yielded a new high of 533 ypg including 215 (4.8) on the ground and 318 ypg thru the air. Part of that collapse could be attributed to losing Kai Anyalebechi the last two games to injury as despite just playing in the first 4 games he still finished the teams #1 tackler! This year they return the top 19 tacklers with the only loss being DL Royce Wellington (#20 tackler). The top two sackmen in DE's Chance Main (4 sk) and Blaine Hoover (3 sack) both return as does. First team preseason Southland was Kai Anyalebechi while on the 2<sup>nd</sup> team was DE Hoover, LB Isiah Paul (#2 tklr), DB Shawn Holton (#4 tklr, 7 pbu) and DB Elliot Davidson (#6 tklr) who represented the team at media days. This should be a vastly improved defense.

IWU P Keven Nguyen had a solid 43.13 avg with a net of 40.3 while K Carson Morh hit 5-7 FG with a long of 48 and 1 of his two misses was from 50+! Robert Ferrel avg 15.2 on PR's and Ce'Cori Tolds avg 24.9 on KR's. Not only do all 4 return but Tolds, Ferrel and Mohr all on the 1<sup>st</sup> team Southland preseason team making this the top Special teams unit in the Conference.

Take a top-notch offense and special teams and bring in what should be a much improved defense and a softer schedule and IWU figures to be a legitimate contender in this now 6 man conference. They play 3 conference teams twice and those are Houston Baptist, Nicholls and McNeese. Eric Morris has his best team in his 4 years.

## HOUSTON BAPTIST HUSKIES

Vic Shealy is just 16-55 in his first 7 years with HBU with zero winning seasons as they went 2-9 (-317 ypg Southland), 2-9 (-251 ypg), 4-7 (-100 ypg), and 1-10 (-189 ypg) in his 4<sup>th</sup> year. Even with Bailey Zappe throwing for 2808 yards in 2018 they went 1-10 (-91 ypg). In 2019 Zappe threw for 3811 and HBU opened 4-1 but finished 5-7 (-125 ypg) losing 5 of the last 7. Last year they opted to play 4 fall games vs North Texas, Texas Tech, Louis Tech and Eastern Kentucky and went 1-3 but despite facing basically an FBS schedule had their best ypg at -44. Zappe had 35 TD passes last year and two dangerous WR's in Jerreth Sterns and Ben Ratzlaff. HB games averaged 73 ppg in '19. Houston Baptist was better than the final score in the opening 57-31 loss to North Texas. HB had drives of 85/9, 56/11, 67/13 and 42/11 result in a SOD and 3 missed FG's. HB did have a good sized D-line, returned their top 2 tacklers at LB and their top 6 DB's were all 6' or taller but North Texas chewed them up for 721 yards with 360 yds rush and 361 yds pass in the opener. HB trailed 57-17 before going 97/6 and 77/6 for TD's in the 4Q. HBU came up a two-point conversion away from forcing OT vs Texas Tech and red zone opportunities cost them vs North Texas (did trail 57-17). Zappe had

a 16-2 ratio in 5 career games vs FBS teams and at LTech HBU led 14-10 early but LT up 38-17 H 52-24 after 3Q. Teams scored 5 straight 4Q TD's as lead went from 28-21-28-21 and finished at 28, 66-38. They finished the year with a 33-30 win at ECU.

The HBU offense is now basically at WKU as the Hilltoppers hired their Offensive coordinator then took in some key transfers from HUB in Bailey Zappe (1833, 66%, 15-1) WR Jerreth Sterns (#1, 454, 9.7), WR Josh Sterns (#2, 403, 31.0), and Ben Ratzlaff (399, 13.8). The 4 freshmen QB's range anywhere from 5'10 Christian Pack to 6'5" Blaise Bentsen who is the most experienced hitting 6-16-82-1-1 in 2019. In 2019 Dreshawn Minniweather rushed for 729 (6.9) while Ean Beek was #2 with 660 (5.0). Last year Beek led with just 137 (3.4) while Minniweather had just 38 (4.2) playing in just 1 game. Those two are both back and should have production much like they had in '19 and be a more focal point of the offense with Minniweather 2<sup>nd</sup> team preseason Southland. The receiving corps is lightly experienced thanks to the top 2 WR all transferring with the leading returnees being Vernon Harrell (185, 14.2) and DJ Dormeus (131, 13.1). Four of 5 starters return from an offensive line that only allowed 3.2% sacks but had just 88 (3.4) rush. The leader of the unit is 1<sup>st</sup> team preseason Southland Christian Hood. In Zappe's first year as a starter (2017) he threw for just 548 with a 5-10 ratio and HBU had just 270 ypg and 14 ppg. The last 3 years they have put up 32 ppg and 468 ypg. Despite the experience on the Oline and at RB and coach Shealy's confidence that the offense will still be strong, I think this year's version will more resemble that 2017 version.

The defense allowed 449 ypg in Shealy's first 4 years but 521 ypg the last 3 years with the offense scoring quickly and the D facing more plays. Last year facing 3 potent FBS schools they allowed 592 ypg including 5.6 ypc rush, with just 1 sack and opponents hit 65% of their passes despite a good sized defensive front and secondary. This year they lose their #1 tackler Caleb Johnson, #4 tackler Tim Fluellen and Devion Hargrave (#10 tklr). They return 9 starters on defense including 14 of the top 17 tacklers and with a softer schedule and the offense not scoring as quickly, DB Patrick Wolfe made first team All Southland preseason this year and DL Segun Ijiyera and DL Philip Ossai and LB Brennan Young all made 2<sup>nd</sup> team All Southland preseason this year. I would expect them to improve to hat 449 ypg level they had in Shealy's first 4 years.

P Blake Patterson had a 40.1 avg and solid 38.2 net. He departs and is replaced by Central Michigan transfer Brady Buell who had 55 punts in 2019 with a 41.9 avg so they are in good shape there. K Gino Garcia has a big leg and while he hit just 5-10 FG's he was 1-3 from 50+ with a long of 50. He hit 18-26 with a long of 54 (2-6 from 50+) in 2019 and is one of the Southlands best. Top PR Jerreth Sterns (121, 7.1) departs. Last year super KR G. Brito (903, 28.2) had to be replaced and HBU had just 16.3 per KR. This is a solid group and if some returnmen emerge they will be near the top of the Southland.

I can honestly say I WATCHED EVERY Houston Baptist game last season for the first time ever! I was impressed with the offense and their effort on a week-to-week basis despite facing 3 good FBS teams. My gut reaction when I heard that HBU's super QB Bailey Zappe, his top 3 WR's and their offensive coordinator were all headed to Western Kentucky was this team is in trouble. I was watching the Southland Conference media days and coach Shealy is confident they will be a solid team this year. After going thru the team in depth, I come away much like the Southland media did and will be picking HBU at the bottom of the conference.

## Nicholls Colonels

Nicholls entered 2019 off of back-to-back winning seasons after going a decade without a winning season (6-5 in 2007). The Colonels went 14-4 in conference play in '18 & '19 and had come close to beating teams like Texas A&M (24-14 loss) in '17 and Georgia (26-24 loss) in '16. Nicholls did beat Kansas in '18 26-23 and finished 9-4 after a 41-24 second-round playoff loss to Eastern Washington. Expectations were high under 5th year HC Tim Rebowe (25-22), who had truly turned this program around in his time here. Going into the 2018 season, the Colonels offense was coming off a season where they averaged over 400 ypg (402) for the since '13. The experienced offense took off last year, averaging 474 ypg and 32 ppg. SLC Player of the Year QB Chase Fourcade returned in '19 for his senior season after throwing for 2,930 yards (60.8%, 21-8) and rushing for 659 yards (4.3, 13 TD). The explosive Colonels offense returned their top rusher from '18 in Dontrell Taylor (12 starts, 990, 7.2, 9 TD, 2nd Team SLC) along with PS#42 RB Kendall Bussey (1 start, 563, 4.4, orig Texas A&M) and Julien Gums (544, 6.8, 6 TD). Nicholls kept the momentum in 2019. They did open 4-2 then lost 2 in a row. At 4-4 they reeled off 4 straight wins to make the playoffs then beat North Dakota in round one 24-6. Unfortunately, they ran into North Dakota St the next week and lost 37-13. Last year Nicholls lost their QB and top RB Julien Gums was banged up. They still opened 3-0 including wins over Lincoln (87-3) and Lamar (55-0). They only beat NW St 31-24 despite a 29-12 FD edge and +241 in yards and appeared ready for their showdown with Sam Houston St. Despite only being out FD'd 23-19 they were pounded 71-17. Nicholls recovered and beat Incarnate Word to move to 4-1 but lost their last two to finish 4-3. They had a 3-0 start where the Colonels were +385 ypg but they were actually -47 ypg in their 1-3 finish.

Lindsay Scott stepped into the starters role at QB last year and was dynamic with 1684 pass (58.1%) with a 18-7 ratio and was also the teams leading rusher with 557 (6.1). The 5'11 220 lb Senior is back as is his backup Kohen Granier (123, 47%, 2-0). Julien Gums rushed for 1232 (5.8) in 2019 and QB Fourcade was #2

(635, 3.7). Last year they lost their #2 and #3 (401, 5.3) and Gums was banged up (467, 5.1). This year Gums should return to form and they return their #3 rusher in John Carrington (271, 6.2) and #4 Collin Guggenheim (133. 7.4) so should be vastly improved. Last year they returned their #1 WR in Dal'Jean Dixon (1044, 19.3) and #3 WR KJ Franklin (338, 12.5) only losing their #2 (579, 19.3). Dixon was solid again with 514 (14.7) in a shortened season, Franklin was #2 with 303 (15.2). Dontaze Costly was #3 (280 (21.5) and Devonta Jason was #4 (198, 15.2). This year the top 4 return and Dixon and TE/HB David Mosley are 1<sup>st</sup> team preseason Southland with Franklin preseason 2<sup>nd</sup> team. All 5 starters return on the offensive line led by THREE 1<sup>st</sup> team preseason OL in PJ Burkhalter, Evan Roussel and Jair Joseph. The Oline opened holes for 5.9 ypc rush (mobile QB) and had just 5.1% sacks and could be the premier Oline in the Southland. They have all 11 starters back from an offense that put up 522 ypg and 49 ppg!

The Defense was highly productive in 2018 as they improved to allow just 337 ypg & 22 ppg and collected 41 sacks (#1 SLC) in 2018. In '19 the Colonels had back 6 starters on D. The numbers slipped to 406 ypg and 27 ppg. Last year they allowed just 168 ypg in their 3-0 start but 544 ypg over the last 4 games. For the season they allowed just 383 ypg but the 34 ppg was the highest since their 0-12 season in 2014 (50 ppg!). This year they only lose LB Pig Cage (#4 tklr, 2.5 sk, 3 qbh), DL Dellary Oubre (#13 tklr, 0 sk) and DL Chris Thomas (#14 tackler, 1 sk). Overall, 14 of the top 17 tacklers return and 9 starters so this unit should have much more bite in 2021.

P Craig Walker avg just 39.7 on punts with a net of 37.3 and is back. Gavin Lasseigne hit 6-7 FG but with a long of just 31 and is back. He hit 5-7 in '19 with a long of 35. KJ Franklin had just 1.2 per PR last year and top KR Tevin Bush just 14.2 on KR's so this unit ranked low on the ST ratings and can only improve.

This year they have a brand new Indoor Athletic complex and played 12 true frosh last year who normally would not have played but had to for depth reasons. That should improve this years' depth. Nicholls has 11 starters back on Offense and 9 on Defense with 3 ST starters back. Tim Rebowe is 38-30 in his 6 years and have the most continuity of any coaching staff with his OC and DC both back for their 7<sup>th</sup> years. Nicholls got 4 first place in the media poll and was a close 2<sup>nd</sup> pick in the preseason media poll. They do open with Memphis and Louisiana. They do get a home and home with the preseason favorite Southeastern and also play Incarnate Word and HBU twice each this year. Nicholls won the Southland with a 7-2 record in 2019 in the last full regular season of conference play and are clearly one of the favorites this year!

# MCNEESE STATE

McNeese ended 2017 with a 9-2 record and finished ranked #22 but missed the playoffs. In '18 the Cowboys brought back 10 starters and started the year 5-1, which included a win over eventual Southland champion Nicholls. McNeese was ranked as high as #6 but would go on to win just 1 of their final 5 games and finished 6-5. McNeese did not renew Lance Guidry's contract despite going 21-12 over his 3 seasons. The Cowboys brought in Sterlin Gilbert, who was the OC at Texas in '16 and the OC at South Florida in '17-'18. McNeese opened 3-4 but went 4-1 down the stretch to eek out a winning year at 7-5 record. Gilbert then bolted to be the OC at Syracuse so Frank Wilson stepped into a ridiculous situation of being a first year HC in a Covid year and 3<sup>rd</sup> HC in 3 years. McNeese could not even practice in the fall as they were hit by Hurricane Laura followed up by Hurricane Delats then a freak ice storm in February and with many roofs damaged as Huge rain storm. Their DC then left for the NFL after week 1! Wilson was the RB coach at LSU and then the HC at UTSA. McNeese got past Tarleton St then went 0-3 to open Southland play. They beat NWSt and upset Nicholls. They had 19-19 FD vs Sam Houston St but came up 14 points short for a 3-4 finish.

McNeese's offense has been strong for much of the decade, averaging under 400 ypg just 2 times since 2011 (398 ypg in '15, 397 ypg in '14), but in '18 despite having 7 starters back, the Cowboy offense took a tumble. After averaging 420 ypg the first 2 weeks, McNeese's offense put up just 248 ypg the next 7 weeks before gaining 318 and 305 yards in their last 2 games. In 2018 they had just 4 starters are back on offense for McNeese. QB James Tabary hit just 56% and passed for 1,576 yards (8 starts, 12-7 ratio) and departs, while backup QB Cody Orgeron (son of LSU HC Ed Orgeron) returned for the Cowboys in '19 after starting 3 games and passing for 406 yards (55.6%, 2-3 ratio) and running for 148 (3.4). Three of the top 4 RB's departed for the Cowboys including their top rusher (7 starts, 488, 4.9, 4 TD) while the top RB retuning was Justin Pratt (2 starts, 320, 3.4). In Sterling Gilberts only year as head man they improved to 383 ypg and 26 ppg. QB Cody Orgeron threw for 2628 (58%. 24-9) while Pratt led the way at RB with 704 (4.7). Last year another new offense but had to replace 3 of their top 4 WR's and top 2 RB's (704, 4.7, 533, 4.2). They improved to 401 ypg but just 26 ppg again. QB Orgeron threw for 1622 yards (61%, 10-3) and led the team in rushing (257, 2.9). Orgeron entered at 170 lbs and is up to 200 lbs and is back to lead this team. The run game has to be improved after their top RB Josh Parker had just 190 (4.1) and Deonta McMahon was #2 with 189 (5.1) and all 3 return. They add in Tulane's leading rusher last year in Stephon Huderson (773, 6.0)! They also add Arizona St transfer AJ Carter. This year 4 of the top 5 receivers are back in Josh Matthews

(458, 14.3, 2nd team preseason Southland), Mason Pierce (187, 23.4) Severyn Foster (168, 18.7) and LSU transfer Jamal Pettigrew (132, 7.3). The O-line did not have great size last year but is bigger with all 5 starters back and they add in two transfer OL and have much needed added size. With 10 starters back on offense, some solid transfers and a full spring to get incorporated this is a much improved offense.

Defense McNeese had an elite defense in '17 as they held teams to just 263 ypg and 17 ppg. Just 3 starters returned from that unit in '18, and they slipped to allowing 356 ypg & 24 ppg. The DL had to replace all 4 starters from a unit that held teams to 54 rush ypg in 2017. McNeese's run defense still held foes to 120 ypg (3.4) Since 2013, the highest completion percentage the McNeese pass defense has allowed was 51.9 percent! In '18 the Cowboys lost 4 players with starting experience, the pass numbers slipped to 56.5 completion percentage & 236 pass ypg, but that was only down from 50.8% and 208 pass ypg allowed in '17. BUCK Cory McCoy (11 starts, #3 tackler, 6 TFL, 7 PBU) was the top tackler of the unit. In '19 the defense slipped some more allowing 385 ypg and 26 ppg but did hold foes to 93 (2.7) rush, allowing 292 ypg pass (57.2%). Last year they had their worst defense in over 10 years allowing 441 ypg, 4.6 ypc rush and 55% completions along with 29 ppg. This year they lose DB Cory McCoy (#2 tklr, 2 sk), DB Ridge Texada (#10 tklr) and DB Camro Peterson (#11 tklr). They add in Kansas transfer Corione Harris (PS#42, 17 sts) at CB. On the first team preseason All Southland team are DL Isaiah Chambers, DL Mason Kinsey and DB Andre Sam and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> unit is DB Chris Joyce. Overall, 13 of the top 16 tacklers return and they are much better prepared than they were heading into last season and should be much improved.

The Cowboys lose P Bailey Raborn (38.3 avg) who had a 35.5 net and the new P is Calum Eddings. K Jacob Abel is back after hitting a solid 9-12 FG with a long of 45. Mason Pierce had just 6 yards on 7 PR's but did avg 20.9 on 13 KR's and is back. The special teams unit is underwhelming but I do like their K.

This is basically year one for Frank Wilson as HC and they are in much better shape than they were heading into the spring. They were picked 4<sup>th</sup> in the 6 team conference in the preseason but do appear to have a large upside. Only one player on the offense was selected to the preseason All Conference team and that was 2<sup>nd</sup> team but I like QB Orgeron and RB Hudderson. They signed some transfers on the O-line and are bigger in that unit. The D can only improve. This team is a bit of a wild card as they could contend for conference honors if everything comes together quickly or could end up near the bottom. Should be a fun team to watch. Their non conference game vs LSU has QB Orgeron going against his Dad and ex LSU RB Coach Wilson going vs his old team. I do look for a return to a winning season this year.



