

CORNELL 2019 PREVIEW

Cornell HC David Archer is an ex-Big Red player and Asst Coach. He took over in 2013 but won just 6 games in his first 3 years. The Big Red started 2016 with 3 straight wins, including an upset over a ranked Colgate squad. Cornell lost their next 5 games and finished 4-6 (-86 ypg). In '17 they slipped to 3-7 but improved to -10 ypg and their 3 Ivy League wins were their best under Archer. Last year Cornell had 15 returning starters but only managed to match '17's record at 3-7 and they were -50 ypg with 2 Ivy League wins.

In 2017 Cornell's offense slipped back to averaging 349 ypg and their ppg dropped by nearly a touchdown to 17.3. Last year they had 9 starters back including QB Dalton Banks. They barely improved at 19.1 ppg and ypg actually slipped to 344 ypg. Banks threw for 1,654 (60.5%, 9-11, 225 rush). Backup Richie Kenney added 95 (48.3%, 0-1) and Mike Catanese threw for 134 (76.9%, 2-0, 130 rush). This year they must replace 3Y starter Banks. Kenney (Jr) and Catanese (Sr) battle for the starting job this year. Harold Coles returns after leading the Big Red in rushing the last 2 years with 515 (6.4) in '17 and 710 (5.4, 293 rec) last year. Also returning is Jake Derderian (205 (4.1)). Four of their top 6 receivers were gone LY. Owen Peters led with 455 (15.7) Lars Pedersen was #2 with 311 (13.5). Tommy McIntyre added 235 (11.8) and Eric Gallman had 135 (6.4). This year they have 3 of their top 6 back incl their #1 guy Peters so this unit is more experienced than last year. Last year Cornell returned all 5 Oline from a unit that avg 136 (3.4, 27 sk) in '17. They improved to 156.1 (4.0, 18 sk). This year they lose 4 Oline starters incl 3rd Tm All-Ivy C J. Edward Keating. They get LG Nick Busher back and bkp John Christian Riffle was actually 2nd Tm All-Ivy in '17 before losing his job after 2 starts last year. This is a much less experienced unit with only 3 that have starting experience.

In '17 Cornell posted their best season under HC Archer, improving by nearly a full touchdown, allowing just 24.3 ppg and 355 ypg (lowest since '08). Three of their top 4 Dline returned after allowing just 166 (4.3, 24 sk), their best since '08. Last year they struggled in conference play, allowing 210 (4.8) and they dropped to 192.2 (4.7) overall. Three Dline starters return, only losing DT Mason Banbury (#6 tkl'r, 3.5 tfl). Two starters returned at LB last year incl #1 tkl'r Reis Seggebruch. The Big Red dipped back to 29.7 ppg allowed and ypg increased to 395. This year Cornell loses 3rd Tm All-Ivy Seggebruch (#2 tkl'r, 5 tfl) and Maxwell McCormick (#7 tkl'r, 3.5 tfl). They get their #3 and #14 tkl'r back and Mo Bradford (#4 tkl'r) moves in from DE so they are almost as experienced as last year and are coming off a disappointing season. Cornell had the top pass D in the Ivy in '17, allowing just 199 ypg and 7 pass td's. They lost their top 2 guys last year but both CB's returned along with Jelani Taylor (#7 tkl'r '17). They allowed 203 ypg but slipped to 4th in the Ivy in pass eff D (54%, 12-7). They lose S DJ Woullad (#5 tkl'r, 4 pbu). Three starters return this year incl #1 tkl'r Taylor and 2nd Tm All-Ivy CB David Jones (21 tkl, 3 int). This is once again the strength of the defense and should be one of the top secondaries in the Ivy.

Last year's only loss on ST was their top PR. Nickolas Null made 3-4 fg's (L/45) while Zach Mays made just 1-5 (L/43). Koby Kiefer avg 34.9 ypg (32.1 net). All 3 return along with return man David Jones (7.8 PR, 20.2 KR).

Cornell has 11 starters back including 7 on defense. They will to rebuild their Oline and get better QB play to contend in the Ivy. 4 of their L/6 are on the road and they only get 3 home conference games. Their road games are against Yale, Harvard, Penn and Dartmouth and they get tough games against Colgate and Georgetown in non-conference.