

DARTMOUTH 2019 PREVIEW

When Buddy Teevens took over for his 2nd stint in 2005 (1st stint '87-'91), he led the Big Green to just 9 wins in his first 5 years. Since 2010 they've only finished below .500 once (4-6 in 2016) and won their 2nd Ivy League Title in 2015 (finished #23 in FCS). In 2017 the Big Green won their first 5 games and finished 8-2 (+64 ypg), tying for 2nd in the Ivy League (5-2). Last year Dartmouth had 11 starters back. They started the season 7-0 and led Princeton 9-7 in the 4Q but fell 14-9. They won their last 2, finishing 9-1 with 8 wins by double-digits and they were +137 ypg (+61 in Ivy play).

In 2016 Dartmouth posted their lowest ppg since 2009 at 20.1. In 2017 their ypg dropped to 398 but their ppg increased to 27.4. Last year they had 5 starters back on offense and had to replace their 2Y starting QB. Despite the losses, Dartmouth increased to led the Big Green to 34 ppg and 417 ypg. The Big Green used a 2 QB system with Derek Kyler starting all 10 and leading with 1,362 (69%, 13-2, 190 rush). Jared Gerbino added 159 (57%, 4-1) and was their leading rusher with 700 (6.1). This year both 2nd Tm All-Ivy Kyler and Gerbino return, making this one of the top QB units in the Ivy League. Last year Dartmouth had to replace their top rusher. They got back #2 rusher Rashaad Cooper back (161, 4.1 '17) and he finished #2 again but increased to 657 (6.6). Caylin Parker was #3 with 291 (5.8) and Miles Smith added 278 (4.3). 3rd Tm All Ivy Cooper and Smith are gone, so Parker steps in as the top guy. Dartmouth got their top 3 receivers back LY. Only 4 WR's topped 200 yards all year long. Three of those WR's return in Hunter Hagdorn (276, 12.6), Drew Estrada (273 (10.1) and TE Connor Rempel (253, 11.5) but they lose their top guy in Drew Hunnicutt (409, 15.7). Last year Dartmouth returned 3 starters from a unit that paved the way for 180 (4.4, 10 sk) in '17. All 5 Oline started all 10 games and they jumped to 255 rush ypg (5.8) and allowed just 7 sacks! This year Dartmouth has to replace 4 All-Ivy Oline. Gone are LT Matt Kaskey (1st tm), LG John Kilcommons (2nd Tm), C Patrick Kilcommons (2nd Tm) and RT Phil Berton (2nd Tm). The Oline is the biggest concern on offense and needs completely rebuilt.

In 2016 and 2017 Dartmouth allowed 21.3 ppg (363 ypg) and 20.0 ppg (333 ypg). Last year Dartmouth returned 6 starters. The Big Green run D had allowed just 94 rush ypg (2.9) in Ivy League play in '17. Only 1 starter returned last year and they lost their top backup. They still only allowed 80 rush ypg (2.6) overall and 97 (3.0) in Ivy League play. This year all 3 All-Ivy Dline starters are back, including their top sack guy Rocco Di Leo. and their top 6 Dline return. In '18 Dartmouth returned 3 starters at LB incl their #1, #3 and #12 tkl'rs. They improved by over a td, allowing 12.0 ppg. This year the Big Green loses 3 starters at LB. Gone are 2nd Tm All-Ivy SLB David Moen (#11 tkl'r, 7 tfl), MLB David Emanuels (#3 tkl'r) and 2nd Tm All-Ivy NB Kyren McKinney-Crudden (#1 tkl'r, 5 tfl, 4 pd). They get back their #2 tkl'r and Nigel Alexander (#4 tkl'r) should easily step in as a starter. In 2017 Dartmouth allowed an Ivy League high 249 pass ypg but were 5th in the Ivy in pass eff D (63%, 13-6). They lost 2 starters and 2 backups. CB Isaiah Swann led with 2 int's in '17 then exploded for 9 int's in '18 and won the Ivy League Def POY. Dartmouth improved to 200 pass ypg allowed and jumped to #1 in the Ivy in pass eff D (63%, 6-16). This year they get back 3 starters including 1st Tm FCS AA Swann (#9 tkl'r). The only loss this year is SS Ben Straton (#8 tkl'r). This should be the top secondary in the Ivy League again.

Last year Dartmouth returned their P Davis Brief but had to replace their K and top KR. Brief avg 36.0 ypp (33.9 net). Connor Davis only made 6-14 fg's (L/44). Niko Mermigas avg 25 KR and Dylan Mellor avg 12.4 PR. This year they only lose their top PR but will need Davis to be much more accurate in order to improve.

Dartmouth returns 12 starters. They have experience at QB, RB and WR but their biggest question mark is on the Oline. The defense should be stout with 16 of their top 20 tacklers are back. They get Yale, Harvard and Columbia at home and they play Princeton at Yankee Stadium on Nov 9th.