

PENN 2019 PREVIEW

Penn was off B2B 7-3 seasons in but slipped to 6-4 in '17. Last year Penn had 13 starters back including 8 on offense. They started the season 6-2 then were outscored 71-21 in their last 2 vs Harvard and at Princeton. The Quakers 6 wins came by 10.5 ppg, their 4 losses by 21.5 ppg (+3 net close wins). Ray Piele is in his 5th season and has led the Quakers to 2 Ivy League Titles.

Penn avg 29.8 ppg and 414 ypg in '17. Last year Penn had 5 starters back on offense. They averaged 32 ppg in their 3 non-conference games. The offense stalled in Ivy League play, with the Quakers only avg 13 ppg and they only topped 14 pts once (20 vs Cornell). Ryan Glover started all 10 and threw for 1,482 (60%, 7-6, 300 rush, 3.0) Nick Robinson added 306 (68%, 3-0). Both QB's return in 2019 so this will be a much more experienced unit and should show solid improvement. Last year they lost a 3rd Tm All-Ivy RB but Karekin Brooks returned after leading Penn in rushing in '17 with 840 (6.7). Also back was '17's #3 rusher Abe Willows (373, 5.7). Brooks improved to 898 (5.4) while Willows rushed for 347 (4.1). The entire unit returns in tact this year, making this one of the Ivy's top RB units. Last year Penn lost their top 3 WR's including a #5DC. Steve Farrell was the top returnee with just 107 (21.4) in '17. Farrell improved to 608 (2nd Tm All-Ivy, 13.2). Christian Pearson was #2 with 279 (13.3). RB's Brooks (211, 10.0) and Willows (192, 8.0) were #3 and #4. Tyler Herrick added 156 (19.5). This year they lose their top 2 along with Mike Akai (141, 14.1) and TE Logan Sharp (8 st, 3 rec). Herrick is the top returnee, making them just a tad more experienced than last year. Penn had 3 Oline back from a unit that averaged 200 rush ypg (5.3, 13 sk). Four Oline started all 10 but Penn slid to 162 rush ypg (4.0, 11 sk). This year they get 4 starters back but they do lose 2x All-Ivy Tommy Dennis. With the added experience we expect them to bounce back and produce similar results to 2018.

Penn only allowed 21.3 ppg and 380 ypg in 16, both easily their best numbers under HC Piele. They fell to 26.8 ppg and 412 ypg in '17 (21 ppg, 372 ypg in Ivy). Last year only 8 starters returned on defense. The Quakers run a 3-4 and allowed 158 (4.1, 18 sk) in '17. In '18 they lost both starting DE's, so only 1 starter was back in NG Cooper Gardner. In their first 5 games, Penn allowed 114 rush ypg (2.9) but they were gashed for over 215 rush yds in 3 of their last 5. For the season, they produced nearly identical numbers, allowing 156 rush ypg (3.8) but sacks jumped to 30! This year's only losses are NG Cooper Gardner (10 st, #10 tkl'r, 8.5 sk) and bkps Kevin Cadigan (10 tkl) and Evan Carp (10 tkl). 2 starters return we will call for another year of matched production. The LB unit had 3 starters back LY and they helped the team to produce similar numbers as '17, allowing 20.9 ppg. The Quakers lose 3 LB starters this year. Gone are 2x 1st Tm All-Ivy LB Nick Miller (#1 tkl'r, 6 sk, 3.5 tfl), Jay Cammon (#8 tkl'r, 8.5 tfl), Pat McInerney (#9 tkl'r, 6.5 tfl) and bkp Nico Ament (#11 tkl'r). Zach Evans (#6 tkl'r) and Hunter Hayes (19 tkl) should step into starting roles. Penn finished last in pass eff D in the Ivy in '17 (250 ypg, 66%, 18-5). LY they got 4 starters back and 7 of their top 8 returned but they lost SS Sam Philippi to injury after 1 game. Penn improved to 4th in Pass Eff D (185 ypg, 58%, 15-10). This year all 4 starters return and Philippi is back from injury, so this unit is even more experienced and should make another jump up the Ivy's Pass eff D standings. The only losses are Luke Bullock (#12 tkl'r) and Jyron Walker (3 st, 3 tkl).

Jack Soslow hit an impressive 10-12 fg's in '17 (L/51). Penn had to replace their 2nd Tm All-Ivy P last year. Soslow hit 11-16 (L/51). Drew Brennan avg 38.5 ypp (33.9 net). This year the Quakers must replace Soslow and their top KR. It will be touch to match Soslow's fg kicking in the Ivy so this unit will be down.

Penn has 15 returning starters coming back in '19, led by a solid QB, RB, Oline, Dline and DB's. In non-conf Penn plays 2 teams who finished with winning records LY in Delaware, who reached the FCS Playoffs, and Sacred Heart (7-4 LY). They get Princeton and Dartmouth at home but travel to Yale. They will need to win at least 2 of those to get a share of the Ivy League Title.