PRINCETON 2019 PREVIEW

Bob Surace is in his 10th year as HC. Princeton won shares of Ivy League Titles in 2013 and 2016. In 2017, the Tigers started the season 5-1 but the defense faltered down the stretch and they lost their last 4. Last year they had 15 starters returning, and while they did lose their Ivy League OFF POY QB, they also returned 2016 Ivy League POY John Lovette from injury. Princeton dominated Ivy League Play, winning all but 2 games by double-digits while completing a 10-0 season and finishing w/a #11 ranking!

Princeton has increased their ppg and ypg each of the last 4 seasons, culminating in last year's 47 ppg & 537 ypg. Last year the Tigers replaced the 2017 Ivy League OFF POY QB with the 2016 Ivy League OFF POY John Lovette, who sat out '17 with an injury. All Lovette did was finish #2 in the Ivy League in both passing (1,833, 66%, 18-3) and rushing (894, 6.3) while becoming the 5th 2x winner of the Bushnell Cup (Ivy League OFF POY). This year Lovette departs. Seniors Keith Davidson (386, 66%, 5-0) and Zachary Kellar (117, 100%, 0-0) both return. They are competing with Soph Brevin White (PS#23) who turned down Alabama out of HS. Also gone is last year's leading rusher Charlie Volker (675, 7.0) and their top 2 receivers Jesper Horsted (1047, 14.5, UFA CHI) and Stephen Carlson (683, 13.4). Their top returning rushers are Collin Eaddy (663, 7.1) and Ryan Quigley (330, 70). No receiver that topped 200 yards returns. Tiger Bech, their top guy back, only had 186 (18.6) but he did have 596 (14.9) in '17. The Tigers Oline stayed extremely healthy last year with only 1 start missed all season. They averaged 296 rush ypg (6.5) and allowed just 10 sacks. This year they return 4 starters on their Oline, making it easily the most experienced unit on the offense. Overall this offense has 6 starters back but doesn't have the luxury of replacing their experienced QB with another experienced QB so they will likely take a tumble statistically speaking. They have an experienced Oline and talent at QB so despite the losses will still be one of the top offenses in the Ivy League.

In 2017 the Princeton defense allowed just 54 (2.0) rush ypg in the first 5 then 238 (5.1) in their last 5 and finished allowing 146 (4.0). With 2 starters back on their 3 man unit, they improved to 96.1 (3.1) last year. This year they once again return 2 starters incl DE Jay Rolader (t-#5 tkl'r, 3.5 tfl) and DT Joey DeMarco (#7 tkl'r, 2.5 sk). The LB unit returned 3 starters including their #1 tkl'r in Tom Johnson last year as well as OLB Mike Wagner, who led with 6.5 sks in '18 in just 5 games. Johnson was their #1 tkl'r once again (5.5 tfl) and Wagner led in sacks again (#9 tkl'r, 5.5 sks) but both depart along with WLB Mark Fossati (#2 tkl'r, 4 tfl). Only one starter returns in SLB Jeremiah Tyler (#8 tkl'r) so this unit is their biggest ? in 2019. The Tigers allowed 68% completions and 261 pass ypg in '18 and were last in the Ivy in Pass Eff D. Last year they had 3 starters back and improved to just 201 pass ypg (58%, 11-15). SS Ben Ellis (#4 tkl'r, 4 pd) is gone but the other 3 starters return, making the secondary the strength of the defense.

Nicolas Ramos made 7-9 fg's last year. George Triplett avg 37.4 ypp (33.2 net). Both return this year as well as both their top KR and PR.

Last year Princeton brought back 15 starters plus the '16 OFF POY returned from injury. The Media picked the Tigers to finish 3rd We called for the Tigers to win the Ivy and they did while outscoring league foes by 28 ppg (+191 ypg). This year Princeton has 14 starters back but must replace their top QB, RB, and top 2 WR's and 3 of their top 4 tacklers. They are still in contention to win the Ivy, games against Yale (at home) and against Dartmouth on Nov 9th at Yankee Stadium could decide the Ivy League.