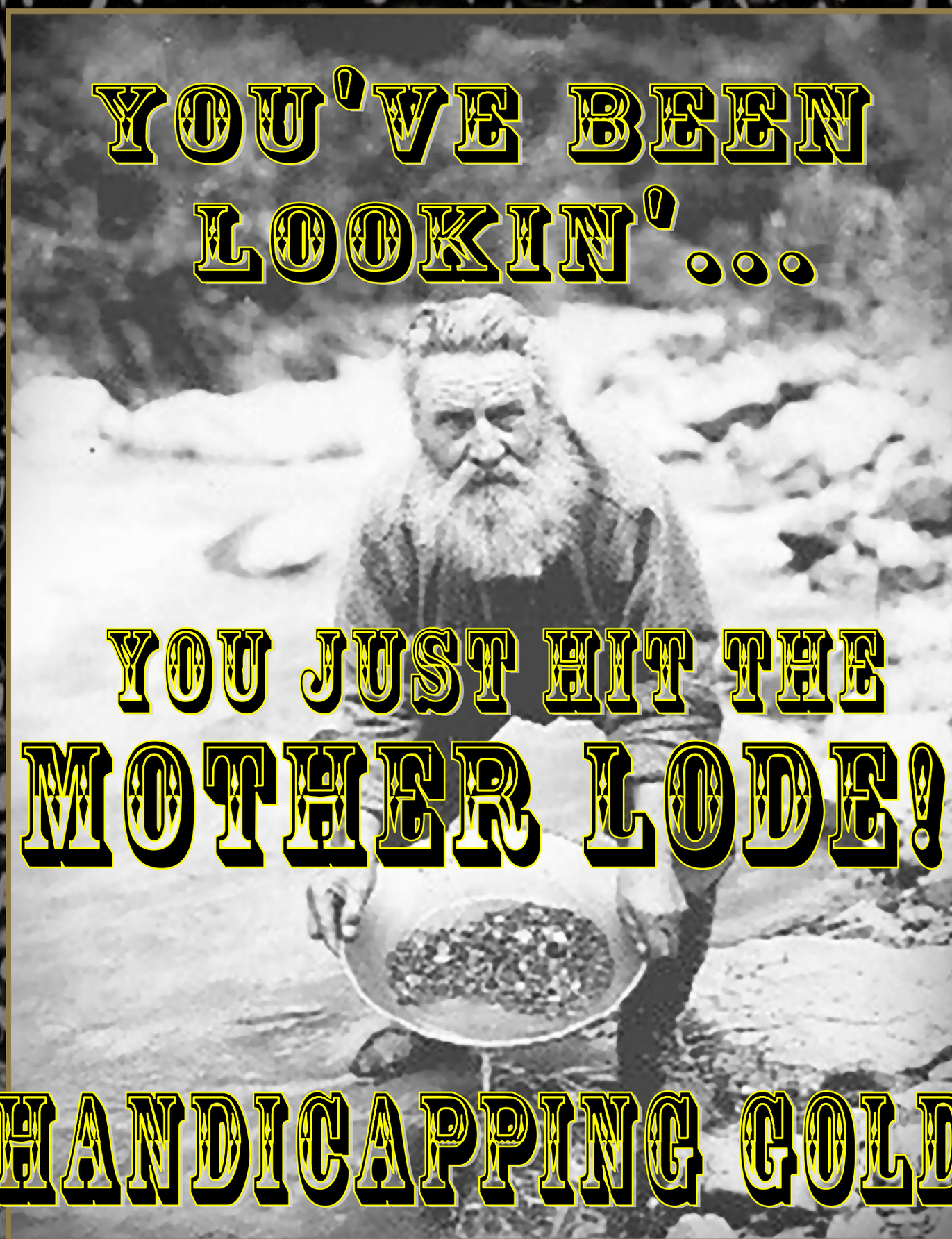

YOU'VE BEEN LOOKIN'...

YOU JUST HIT THE MOTHER LODE!

HANDICAPPING GOLD

2017 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

WHITEY MILLS
STAT ATTACK SPORTS
479.750.0817

JOHN RAINEY- THE RAINMAN
ALL-STAR SPORTS
800.933.5308

THE 2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

It's getting to be that time again, our favorite part of the year, the college football season. There are now 130 Division 1 college football trams and we have prepared an analysis and write-up for each team. We feel this year's preview is the best we have ever produced but we think you might like to know what your fellow members of the public had to say about last year's edition;

from Darrell F. of Atlanta, Georgia

“For the past several years you have sent me a copy of your college football preview completely free of charge, no strings attached. I quickly realized your preview was superior to the ones I had been buying for years at my local book store. Each year I had been spending from $30.00 to $40.00 for previews that didn't offer as much or as accurate information as your preview. I no longer spend that money and feel your preview has saved me at least $300.00. I would like to share with you and your honorable charity this saved money. Enclosed, please find my check for $150.00. Keep up the good work both with the preview and with your feeding program for people in need in your area.”

from Brent D. of Memphis, Tennessee

“I have been looking for some time for a trustworthy charity to support. After hearing you and John talk about STOMP (St. Thomas Outreach Meal Program) on your radio show, I have decided your group is what I have been seeking. Any group that spends 100% of each dollar contributed on the people they are trying to help, gets my support. Enclosed, please find my check for $50.00 as my contribution. This is a heck of a good deal. I will get the ENHANCED VERSION of the best preview available and get a tax deduction too!”

From Trenton V. of Newark, NJ

“I just received my copy of the ENHANCED VERSION of your college football preview. John's coaching evaluation is awesome. Your comments about the special teams for each school are just like the rest of the preview, outstanding but the best part is the stats you provide. Please believe me, each week when I am deciding which games to bet, your preview will be open and in full use. The $29.95 contribution to your charity that I made is the best money I have spent this year!”

THE ENHANCED VERSION

Last year, in a conversation with my radio show partner, John Rainey, John suggested we produce an “Enhanced Version” of the college football preview. We would still publish the regular college football preview for free but we would also produce a much more detailed version specifically designed for those people who enjoy making wagers of games. We decided to make the “Enhanced Version” available to anyone making a minimum contribution to a charity I hold close to my heart, STOMP (St. Thomas Outreach Meal Program).

STOMP is conducted through our church, St. Thomas Episcopal of Springdale, Arkansas. Each Tuesday we provide an excellent, highly nutritional, hot meal for people in need in our area. We serve the meals in our church and at a local public park. Last year, contributions of just over $3,000 came in from football fans just like you. That $3,000 paid for just over 1500 meals. We are very thankful for those contributions but we have hardly scratched the surface. In northwest Arkansas (the home of STAT ATTACK SPORTS), there are over 2500 homeless people in need of the basics; food, shelter, clothing and human understanding.

If you make a minimum contribution of $29.95 (we will gladly accept larger amounts), we will send you the “Enhanced Version” of the preview. It contains John's excellent coaching evaluation, info about each team's 2017 special teams and statistical data about each team and their four year trend history. You can send your contribution via Pay Pal to sales@statattacksports.com but please include the notation of “S.T.O.M.P. contribution” or mail it to STAT ATTACK SPORTS, 2007-B Ashlee Drive, Springdale, AR 72764 again making the note “S.T.O.M.P. contribution” with your e-mail address. We then will e-mail you the “Enhanced Version”. You will also be able to go to John’s website www.therainman.com, click on “Order Today’s Plays”, make your contribution and download the “Enhanced Version” directly from his site. Please become a part of S.T.O.M.P. as we continue to fill empty bellies, reestablish self-worth, help friends overcome drug and alcohol abuse and lead some deserving people back to becoming contributing members of society.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

STAT ATTACK COLLEGE AND PRO FOOTBALL SOFTWARE

STAT ATTACK SPORTS offers three levels of software designed to help sports bettors make more accurate, profitable wagers. These dynamic tools are easy to use (just point and click your mouse) and offer vital trend history in seconds. You can find out how any team has done as a favorite or an underdog, at home or on the road, against specific teams, against specific coaches, in adverse weather conditions, on various playing surfaces, during a specific month, for any time period and much much more. Write me at whitey@statattacksports.com and we will send you copies of independent past reviews of any of our software.

THE STAT ATTACK SPORTS PRODUCT LINE STAT ATTACK SPORTS offers a broad line of products designed to assist the betting public in showing profits. They are priced to be affordable for every person interested in sports betting, the $5.00 a game player or the “dimes” bettors. Whatever your budget, we have a product within your price range.

Our products fit into two categories:
RESEARCH TOOLS for those bettors who have the time to and enjoy the chess match of making their own betting selections. This group of software are research tools and do not make any specific game selections.

PREDICTION TOOLS for those who either lack the time or desire to make their own selections and want an expert to do the game picking for them. These products actually predict the outcome of each and every game the user instructs the software to predict.

RESEARCH TOOLS – THE STAT ATTACK SERIES

The STAT ATTACK series has three different products for college or pro football with a wide range of search abilities. The three levels are:

STAT ATTACK for COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2016-2017 and
STAT ATTACK for PRO FOOTBALL 2016-2017

The basic STAT ATTACK programs rely on information from previous years only. They will tell the user how any particular team, matchup or circumstances have done against the spread in a determined time period. You have literally thousands of combinations at your finger tips. Simply point your mouse arrow and click on the criteria determining your search and instantly you will have the games and the summary of those games on your screen. You can search by team, opponent, conference, head coach, altitude, weather, point spread, game after a BYE, as an underdog or favorite, games at home, away or on neutral sites and many many more. You can search these criteria individually or in combination with any other criteria. The data goes back to the 1985 season. An example we like to use is, if you want to know how the LSU Tigers have done against the spread the past five years as a favorite in the month of October in games played in the rain and on artificial surfaces, click a few buttons and you have the answer instantly.

The prices for the basic STAT ATTACK 2016-2017 programs are $69.95 for college football and $69.95 for pro football.

STAT ATTACK GOLD FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2016-2017 and
STAT ATTACK GOLD FOR PRO FOOTBALL 2016-2017
The GOLD series are exactly like the basic program with one huge exception. With the GOLD program the prior week’s data is automatically download to your computer the first time you open your program after the data has been made available. You will have data from the past seasons PLUS the data for the current season at the click of a button.

The prices of the GOLD programs are $159.95 for college football and $159.95 for pro football.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

STAT ATTACK PLATINUM for COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2016-2017 and
STAT ATTACK PLATINUM for PRO FOOTBALL 2016-2017

The PLATINUM programs are identical to the GOLD programs with one fantastic, time saving feature added. With the basic and GOLD versions of our software, if you would like to know how every team has done under a specific circumstance, such as when they have been a road favorite, you would be required to make an individual search for each team! With the PLATINUM program you simply perform an “All teams” search and every team would appear in order of their success against the spread. The PLATINUM program will save college football uses at least 80% of their time. In pro football, the savings using this feature will be at least 50% of your research time.

The prices for the PLATINUM programs are $219.95 for college football and $219.95 for pro football.

PREDICTION TOOLS

1) PIGSKIN PROPESY
Our newsletter is published every week beginning the week before the first college games and goes through the Super Bowl. We make predictions on every game, college and pro. We also tell you the games we will be playing ourselves (yes, we actually are in the betting trenches with you) and we will tell you how strongly we like our playable games. The newsletter also has a separate section called S.A.R.G.E. where we select a game or two or three each week where we feel the underdog will win their game straight up. PIGSKIN PROPHESY is sent via e-mail and will arrive to you no later than 3:00 PM Central time on Wednesday.

The price for a yearly subscription to PIGSKIN PROPHESY is $160.00

2) YLF 2000
Year after year the YLF 2000 software picks 56% to 59% winners. Year after year, it is our least successful product from a sales standpoint. Why? YLF 2000 picks the games strictly by using trend analysis and since the general public has a complete misunderstanding of trend analysis they shy away from YLF 2000. If you can think outside the box, this tool will be a huge asset

The price of YLF 2000 is $295.00 for college football and $295.00 for pro football.

3) THE GRIDIRON EDGE
If you would like a program which will make a predicted score based on offensive and defensive efficiency, home field advantage, positional match ups and much more, the GRIDIRON EDGE should be on your shopping list.

The price for the GRIDIRON EDGE is $395.00 for college football and $395.00 for pro football.

FANTASY FOOTBALL SOFTWARE
Would you like a strong edge when drafting your fantasy team or when selecting your weekly starting team? Would you like to get better information than provided by all the fantasy web sites, information that will allow you to regularly select that one player the other fantasy players overlook? “FANTASY ADVANTAGE” will provide you all the standard info every web site provides BUT it will also give you the info on each player that the web sites never take into consideration. What quarterback is the most productive in snow? What receiver has scored the most points when it rains? What running back has been the most productive when is it below freezing? What west coast player has been the best when traveling to the east coast? These and many more factors like altitude, opponents, game location and much more will be at your finger tips with this fast, easy to use software.

Your cost is just $69.95.

Order any of our products by visiting: http://www.statattacksports.com or calling us at: (479) 750-0817.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

CCLICK ON ANY SCHOOL NAME TO GO THERE.
CLICK ON ANY SCHOOL LOGO TO RETURN TO THIS INDEX PAGE.

Air Force
Akron
Alabama
Appalachian State
Arizona State
Arizona
Arkansas
Arkansas State
Army
Auburn
Ball State
Baylor
Boise State
Boston College
Bowling Green State
BYU
SUNY-Buffalo
California
Central Florida
Central Michigan
Coastal Carolina
Cincinnati
Clemson
Colorado
Colorado State
Connecticut
Duke
East Carolina
Eastern Michigan
Florida Atlantic
Florida
Florida Intl
Florida State
Fresno State
Georgia
Georgia Southern
Georgia State
Georgia Tech
Hawaii
Houston
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Iowa State
Kansas
Kansas State
Kent State
Kentucky
LSU
Louisiana Tech
Louisiana-Lafayette
Louisiana-Monroe
Louisville
Marshall
Maryland
Massachusetts
Memphis
Miami (FL)
Miami (OH)
Michigan State
Michigan
Middle Tennessee St.
Minnesota
Mississippi
Mississippi State
Missouri
Navy
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico
New Mexico State
North Carolina State
North Carolina
UNC Charlotte
North Texas
Northern Illinois
Northwestern
Notre Dame
Ohio
Ohio State
Oklahoma
Oklahoma State
Old Dominion
Oregon
Oregon State
Penn State
Pittsburgh
Purdue
Rice
Rutgers
San Diego State
San Jose State
South Alabama
South Carolina
South Florida
Southern Cal
Southern Methodist
Southern Miss
Stanford
Syracuse
Temple
Tennessee
Texas AM
Texas Christian
Texas
Texas State
Texas Tech
UTEP
Texas-San Antonio
Toledo
Troy
Tulane
Tulsa
UAB
UCLA
UNLV
Utah State
Utah
Vanderbilt
Virginia
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest
Washington
Washington State
West Virginia
Western Kentucky
Western Michigan
Wisconsin
Wyoming

AAC | C-USA | Indy | MAC | MWC | SBC

ACC | BIG 10 | BIG 12 | PAC 12 | SEC

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
15 PARK ROW WEST
PROVIDENCE, FI 02903
401-244-3278
COMMISSIONER: MICHAEL L. ARESCO

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

EAST DIVISION

South Florida
Central Florida
Connecticut
Temple
East Carolina
Cincinnati

WEST DIVISION

Memphis
Houston
SMU
Tulane
Navy
Tulsa

Rainman

EAST DIVISION

South Florida
Central Florida
Cincinnati
Connecticut
Temple
East Carolina

WEST DIVISION

Memphis
SMU
Houston
Tulane
Navy
Tulsa

EAST DIVISION

The East division of the AAC will be a very competitive group. Everybody noticed the improvement in 2015 of South Florida but few people saw how UConn was improving throughout the season. The Huskies are still a year away from contending but they will cause problems this season within the division. Everyone assumes South Florida will walk away with the division but they have problems with both their lines. Without effective line play, few teams become champions. Temple will be slightly better on offense and while most people are calling for a drop back defensively, we feel their defense may actually be better. Cincinnati lost a load of receivers but still have a gun slinger at quarterback. If some new receivers surface, the Cincy offense will again be explosive. Their defense will be better but it still has a long way to go. East Carolina looks to have another bad season coming. They have problems at quarterback and offensive line. Their running game will be awful. Defensively, they lack any play makers. Central Florida is the classic example of what happens when a coach loses his fire in the belly. The previous coach simply quit recruiting, then quit on his team and then the team quit on him. That left a lot of unfilled holes for the current coaches to fill. They will need a few years to rebuild a competitive team.

WEST DIVISION

The American Athletic Conference West division teams came together over the past off season. With the exception of Houston, the better teams in 2015 took steps back and the lesser teams last season have all gotten better. Houston will be head and shoulders better than the rest of the division. They will have another ultra explosive offense and their defense, while not as good as last year's unit, will be good enough until Houston faces any of the “big boy” teams. Navy had a huge loss at quarterback causing some level of step back. Defensively, Navy has major league problems with their secondary. The rest of the defense is very solid but the secondary will be a season long problem. Memphis has to replace their quarterback but they also had to replace their coach. The quarterback replacement looks good and Memphis may have found a gem as their new coach. The surprise will be a much improved Tiger defense. Tulsa was a one dimensional offense in 2015. All they did was throw the ball. This year's offense will be far more balanced. Defensively, the Golden Hurricane will again struggle because of a weak D-line. Tulane will again be offensively challenged but will have a better defense. The defense will be good enough to keep Tulane from being as embarrassed as last year. SMU will be better on both sides of the ball but both units will be very young again in 2016. With youth comes youthful mistakes. SMU will use 2016 to solidify things for 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Central Florida Knights

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Bright House Networks Stadium

4000 Central Florida Blvd. Orlando, FL 32816

Phone: (407) 823-2000

Web: http://www.ucfathletics.com

Capacity: 45,323

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude: 108 ft**

HEAD COACH: SCOTT FROST

O.C.: TROY WALTERS

D.C.: ERIK CHINANDER

SPECIAL TEAMS: JOVAN DEWITT

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	South Carolina State (Not D-1)	38 – 0
10-Sep	A	Michigan (9)	14 – 51
17-Sep	H	Maryland (69)	24 – 30
24-Sep	A	Florida International (105)	53 – 14
1-Oct	A	East Carolina (110)	47 – 29
15-Oct	H	Temple (30)	25 – 26
22-Oct	A	Connecticut (114)	24 – 16
29-Oct	A	Houston (36)	24 – 31
5-Nov	H	Tulane (100)	37 – 6
12-Nov	H	Cincinnati (101)	24 – 3
19-Nov	H	Tulsa (31)	20 – 35
26-Nov	A	South Florida (19)	31 – 48
BOWL	N	Arkansas State (65)	13 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Florida International (105)
9-Sep	H	Memphis (45)
16-Sep	H	Georgia Tech (33)
23-Sep	A	Maryland (69)
30-Sep	H	Maine (Not D-1)
7-Oct	A	Cincinnati (101)
14-Oct	H	East Carolina (110)
21-Oct	A	Navy (35)
4-Nov	A	SMU (86)
11-Nov	H	Connecticut (114)
18-Nov	A	Temple (30)
24-Nov	H	South Florida (19)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	3-4	3-3	8-5-0	4-3-0	4-2-0	4-8-0	0-6-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	113	YPG	350.8	Total Defense;	39	YAPG	370.3
Passing Offense;	89	YPG	209.7	Passing Defense;	28	YAPG	200.8
Rushing Offense;	104	YPG	141.2	Rushing Defense;	62	YAPG	169.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GOLDEN KNIGHTS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
McKenzie Milton	**QB**	**1983-10-7**	**158-3**	**-1-0**
Tre'Quan Smith	**WR**	**853-5**		
Jordan Akins	**TE**	**347-2**		

Four returning starting linemen and three top reserves

By the close of the 2016 season, Central Florida was starting eight freshmen and sophomores on their offense. With such youth comes youthful mistakes and Central Florida struggled offensively while their “kiddie corps” matured. Their passing offense ranked 89th nationally and their rushing offense was even worse ending the year ranked 104th in the country.

McKenzie Milton had good and bad moments last year but considering his inexperience at the time, he didn't have a bad year with 1983 passing yards for 10 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. With more experienced players surrounding him, expect significant improvement in Milton's production. The two reserve quarterbacks have departed and fall practices will feature heavy competition for backup quarterback duties.

Jawon Hamilton (495 yards rushing, 4 touchdowns), Adrian Killins (325 yards, 4 touchdowns) and Taj McGowan (156 yards, 2 touchdowns) are all returning at running back. Killins is the superior

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

receiver after adding another 198 receiving yards. None of the three has displayed featured back quality so you may see UCF utilizing a running back by committee approach in 2017. True freshman Cordarrian Richardson will also get serious looks in the fall and will get playing time if the other three falter.

Tre'Quan Smith is the top returning receiver with 853 receiving yards for 5 touchdowns last year. Cam Stewart, Dredrick Snelson and Tristan Payton are the leading candidates for the other two starting wide receiver jobs but true freshman Emmanuel Greene looks too good to put on the bench. Expect far better production from the wide receivers as Milton matures at quarterback. Tight end is a loaded position for the Knights. Jordan Akins (347yards receiving, 2 touchdowns) and Jordan Franks (143 yards) both return and complete a good receiving unit.

The offensive line will have an experienced foundation of left tackle Aaron Evans, left guard Tate Hernly, right guard Jordan Johnson and right tackle Wyatt Miller. All are returning starters but there may be some position shifting as Central Florida tries to replace graduated center Jason Rae. Redshirt freshman Aaron Dowdell and others provide depth for the improved line.

The 2017 UCF offense will be far better than the 2016 group that averaged just 351 yards per game

G O L D E N K N I G H T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Tony Guerd	**DE**	**62**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Jamiyus Pittman	**NG**	**28**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Shaquem Griffin	**LB**	**63**	**12**	**1**	**0**
T. J. Mutcheson	**SS**	**73**	**1**	**2**	**0**

strengths: D-Line
concerns: lack of play maker at linebacker, cornerback

The defense carried the team last year. That group ranked 28th in passing defense and 62nd in rushing defense. From that excellent eleven, only five starters are back and the Knights will go through a heavy rebuild this year.

Three of the returning starters are ends Tony Guerad and Trysten Hill and nose guard Jamiyus Pittman. Having your full starting front three returning is a huge plus and will help the youthful back eight while they are adjusting to their duties. Guerad is a true play maker and will be the leader of the defense. Joey Connors will be putting heat on Hill and will command significant playing time.

The heaviest losses were within the linebacker unit. Three starters and three key reserves are no longer with the team. Shaquem Griffin is the only returning starting linebacker but he is a dandy. He is a monster in the pass rush and will work will with the veteran front three. Pat Jasinski and Chequan Burkett were both top reserves and were very productive lst year. They will make the step up and provide the starting unit with three fine linebackers. The fourth slot is wide open. Nate Evans is a possibility for the open slot but redshirt freshman Titus Davis will be hard to keep off the field. True freshmen Eric Mitchell and Sterling Jones may get early duty as backups. Considering what all the Knights lost at linebacker, this is going to be a pretty darned good unit and will end the season as a team plus. The secondary will be the problem on defense in 2017. Three quality starters must be replaced. Those three were of play makers of last year's defense.

Strong safety T. J. Mutcheson is the lone returning starter. He is a good one and gives the secondary someone to grow around. The new free safety will be Tre Neal. Kyle Gibson will provide needed depth at safety. Cornerback will be the area creating huge problems as UCF may be forced to go with a complete freshman two deep rotation. The level of production and the ultimate success or failure of the defense will depend completely on how well UCF coaches are able to fill the two voids at cornerback.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

CINCINNATI BEARCATS

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Nippert Stadium

2624 Clifton Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45221-0063

Phone: (513) 556-6000

Web: http://www.gobearcats.com

Capacity: 35,097

Surface: Field Turf **Altitude: 551 ft**

HEAD COACH:	*LUKE FICKELL*
O.C.:	*MIKE DENBROCK*
D.C.:	*MARCUS FREEMAN*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*DOUG PHILLIPS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Tennessee-Martin (Not D-1)	28 – 7
10-Sep	A	Purdue (116)	38 – 20
15-Sep	H	Houston (36)	16 – 40
24-Sep	H	Miami (OH) (83)	27 – 20
1-Oct	H	South Florida (19)	20 – 45
8-Oct	A	Connecticut (114)	9 – 20
22-Oct	H	East Carolina (110)	31 – 19
29-Oct	A	Temple (30)	13 – 34
5-Nov	H	BYU (44)	3 – 20
12-Nov	A	Central Florida (71)	3 – 24
18-Nov	H	Memphis (45)	7 – 34
25-Nov	A	Tulsa (31)	37 – 40

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Austin Peay (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Michigan (9)
16-Sep	A	Miami (OH) (83)
23-Sep	A	Navy (35)
30-Sep	H	Marshall (122)
7-Oct	H	Central Florida (71)
21-Oct	H	SMU (86)
28-Oct	A	South Florida (19)
4-Nov	A	Tulane (100)
10-Nov	H	Temple (30)
18-Nov	A	East Carolina (110)
25-Nov	H	Connecticut (114)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-4	1-4	3-9-0	1-6-0	2-3-0	1-10-1	0-6-1	1-4-0

Total Offense;	99	YPG	374.1	Total Defense;	72	YAPG	422.8
Passing Offense;	44	YPG	255.9	Passing Defense;	74	YAPG	233.3
Rushing Offense;	117	YPG	118.2	Rushing Defense;	75	YAPG	189.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BEARCATS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Hayden Moore	**QB**	**1744-11-7**	**45-2**	**21-1**
Devin Gray	**WR**		**-2-0**	**860-5**
Kahlil Lewis	**WR**		**107-0**	**605-5**

Three returning starting linemen and five top reserves

The two quarterback system is FINALLY over at Cincinnati. Yes, Cincinnati's passing offense ranked 44th in the country with an alternating quarterback situation but that led the Bearcats to a 4-8 record and just one win in the conference. Another big contributor to a really bad 2016 season was a rushing offense ranked 117th nationally.

Hayden Moore is back to be THE quarterback. Last year he had 1744 yards passing for 11 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. Ohio State transfer Torrance Gibson will get a strong look but it may be at receiver and not at quarterback.

The 2016 Cincinnati running game was terrible. The unit didn't have a featured back and of course lacked a play maker. The Bearcats badly need for Mike Boone to regain his 2015 form when he ran for 717 yards. He had last season cut short with a foot in jury. He has the talent if he is again 100%.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Cincinnati Bearcats

Wide receiver will be the strength of the 2017 Cincinnati offense. Devin Gray and Kahlil Lewis are both back after combining for 1465 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns. One or both has the ability to become the go-to guy and both are already play makers. Thomas Geddis and Avery Johnson are staging a heated battle for the third job. Johnson has the most upside and should ultimately get the job. Tyler Cogswell is back to man the tight end and he will get more targeting this year and become a bigger part of the offense.There is existing, established depth in the receiver rotation.

Left tackle Ryan Stout, right guard Will Steur and right tackle Korey Cunningham are returning starters. That trio will provide a good fountain around which to rebuild the offensive line. Left guard Keith Minor and center David Niehaus were key reserves last year and are likely to move up to the starting unit this year. However, Ohio State transfer tackle Grant Schmidt becomes eligible this year and could easily muscle his way to the starting unit and cause some position shuffling. There is excellent depth returning making this a solid offensive line that will help key a good Cincinnati offense. This year's offense should be far more productive, especially if the running game somehow assumes its part of the load.

B E A R C A T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Marquise Copeland	**DT**	**59**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Cortez Broughton	**DT**	**42**	**2.5**	**1**	**0**
Kevin Mouhon	**DE**	**50**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Alex Thomas	**CB**	**25**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Tyrell Gilbert	**FS**	**40**	**0**	**3**	**1**

Cincinnati wasn't especially good on defense in 2016 ranking 74th is passing defense and 74th in rushing defense. Six starters from that group return. There are holes to fill but the Bearcats may actually field a better overall defense this year.

Cincinnati will have a very good defensive line but at the end of spring drills they were unable to definitively say who would start! We know that Kevin Mouhon will start at one end and we further know the defensive tackles will be Marquise Copeland and Cortez Broughton. These three are solid against the run but must up their pressure on opposing quarterbacks substantially. The mystery within the line is for the second end slot. Caleb Ashworth started the last two games in 2016 and looked very good. He excelled in getting after quarterbacks. However, Kimoni Fitz, Mark Wilson and Bryan Wright are all also back and are making solid cases for playing time. Regardless of who earns the last line slot, the line will be a team strength and has some very nice depth.

All three linebackers have graduated. Fortunately Cincinnati rotated linebackers regularly in 2016 and some very solid reserves showed they are capable. Perry Young and Jaylyin Minor look like they have latched on to two starting jobs with Bryce Jenkinson and Chris Murphy the leading contenders for the last opening. The linebacker rotation will need to discover new depth but the starting trio will be okay.

Three starters are back and have reclaimed their assignments in the Cincinnati secondary. Cornerbacks Grant Coleman and Alex Thomas will be a good pair. They have been above average in pass coverage. Tyrell Gilbert started at free safety in 2016 and is back. Carter Jacobs is currently Gilbert's running mate but Malik Clements will battle him for his job in the fall. Linden Stephens provides some experienced, productive depth at cornerback. With an improved line getting better pressure on quarterbacks, the secondary may well prove it is a very good group.

We expect the Cincinnati defense to make a step forward. There are some established producers throughout the unit and some players who may emerge as true play makers. With the offense and the defense making improvements, Cincinnati should become bowl eligible this year.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Connecticut Huskies

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Rentschler Field

352 Mansfield Road Storrs, CT 06269

Phone: (860) 486-2000

Web: http://www.uconnhuskies.com

Capacity: 40,000

Surface: BlueGrass **Altitude:** 613 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*RANDY EDSALL*
O.C.:	*RHETT LASHLEE*
D.C.:	*BILLY CROCKER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Maine (Not D-1)	24 – 21
10-Sep	A	Navy (35)	24 – 28
17-Sep	H	Virginia (118)	13 – 10
24-Sep	H	Syracuse (79)	24 – 31
29-Sep	A	Houston (36)	14 – 42
8-Oct	H	Cincinnati (101)	20 – 9
15-Oct	A	South Florida (19)	27 – 42
22-Oct	H	Central Florida (71)	16 – 24
29-Oct	A	East Carolina (110)	3 – 40
4-Nov	H	Temple (30)	0 - 21
19-Nov	A	Boston College (66)	0 – 30
26-Nov	H	Tulane (100)	13 – 38

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Holy Cross (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	South Florida (19)
16-Sep	A	Virginia (118)
30-Sep	A	SMU (86)
6-Oct	H	Memphis (45)
14-Oct	A	Temple (30)
21-Oct	H	Tulsa (31)
28-Oct	H	Missouri (95)
4-Nov	H	East Carolina (110)
11-Nov	A	Central Florida (71)
18-Nov	H	Boston College (66)
25-Nov	A	Cincinnati (101)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	3-4	0-5	2-9-1	1-6-0	1-3-1	5-7-0	2-5-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	122	YPG	320	Total Defense;	65	YAPG	410.8
Passing Offense;	94	YPG	202.7	Passing Defense;	107	YAPG	264.7
Rushing Offense;	118	YPG	117.3	Rushing Defense;	41	YAPG	146.1

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HUSKIES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Bryant Shirreffs	**QB**	**2010-7-6**	**326-2**	
Arkeel Newsome	**RB**		**715-5**	**273-2**
Alec Bloom	**TE**			**142-1**

Three returning starting linemen and three top reserves

Randy Edsall is back as head coach at Connecticut. He was the man who took the Huskies from being an after thought to being relevant. He has his work to do, especially with an offense coming off a season where it ranked 94th in passing offense and 118th in rushing offense. UConn averaged a nationally worst 14.8 points per game in 2016.

A nice place to start in improving the offense would be finding a competent quarterback. Both Bryant Shirreffs and Donovan Williams return but they combined for 2310 passing yards for just 8 touchdowns and a whopping 11 interceptions. Those numbers won't put fear in the heart of any opposing defensive coordinator. Juco transfer David Pindell is a better passer and at least as good running the ball as the other two options. He should vault to the top of the depth chart and give the offense a nice shot in the arm.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

Arkeel Newsome (715 rushing yards, 5 touchdowns and 273 receiving yards for an additional 2 touchdowns) will be back and again act as the featured back. With the passing game looking to take a step forward, Newsome will not draw as much attention of defenses as he did last year. Depth will be a concern unless an unknown back makes his presents known.

Ten of the eleven players who caught passes in 2016 are back. That sounds good but the one receiver lost was go-to guy Noel Thomas (1179 receiving yards). We have no idea if Edsall will run a two or three man wide receiver offense. For this report we will assume two wide receivers and two tight ends. Hergy Mayala is the most productive returning wide receiver but he only had 296 receiving yards. A bevy of options are in competition for the other wide receiver job but we feel the favorite will be redshirt freshman Quatvon Skanes. Alec Bloom and Tommy Myers are both back and will again start at the two tight end spots. Expect both to be very important parts of the passing game.

Right tackle Andreas Knappe and left guard Richard Levy need to be replaced. Left tackle Matthew Peart, center Ryan Cozier and right guard Brendan Vechery provide three nice parts for the new line. Left guard Kyle Schafenacker and right tackle Trey Rutherford finish the starting line, a unit that will be above average. The offense will be better simply because it can't be any worse.

H U S K I E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Luke Carrezola	**DE**	**43**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Cole Ormsby	**DE**	**26**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Folorunso Fatukasi	**DT**	**43**	**2.5**	**0**	**0**
Vontae Diggs	**LB**	**84**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Junior Joseph	**LB**	**81**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jamar Summers	**CB**	**59**	**0**	**2**	**1**

Had it not been for the defense in 2016, Uconn may have not won a game! Instead the Huskies finished with a 3-9 record. The passing defense was not at all good and ended the season ranked 107th in the country. Where the 2016 defense shined was against the run, ranking 41st in the country for rushing defense. Six key parts and some nice game tested substitutes are back for 2017.

The front seven will be a very good group. The line has ends Luke Carrezola and Cole Ormsby returning. They need to get better pressure on quarterbacks and give the secondary more chances to make plays. Tackle Folorunso Fatukasi is also back. He is especially good against the run and actually isn't too bad a pass rusher. Kevin Murphy will fill the tackle opening and complete a solid line.

Starters Vontae Diggs and Junior Joseph and top 2016 reserve E. J. Levenberry will form a very good starting linebacker trio. Like the rest of the starting defense, the linebackers need to avoid the injury bug as depth is thin.

The secondary wasn't very good last year but if the line does a better job getting after quarterbacks, the secondary could improve. Potential All Conference cornerback Jamar Summers is a nice start for having an improved pass defense. John Robinson is currently his partner but expect several incoming freshmen to get tested at cornerback. Anthony Watkins sits atop the depth chart at strong safety. Brice McAllister and Marshe Terry are continuing an on going battle for the starting free safety job. The secondary will not be a team asset but it also will not be a liability.

The UConn defense looks like it will be better as it is likely to have better pass coverage. Combine this defense with an improved offense, Uconn will have a chance of getting to the 5 win level.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

East Carolina Pirates

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium

East 5th Street Greenville, NC 27858-4353

Phone: (252) 328-6131

Web: http://www.ecupirates.com

Capacity: 50,000

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude: 36**

HEAD COACH:	*SCOTTIE MONTGOMERY*
O.C.:	*TONY PETERSON*
D.C.:	*KENWICK THOMPSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*SHANNON MOORE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Western Carolina (Not D-1)	52 – 7
10-Sep	H	North Carolina State (51)	33 – 30
17-Sep	A	South Carolina (75)	15 – 20
24-Sep	A	Virginia Tech (16)	17 – 54
1-Oct	H	Central Florida (71)	29 – 47
8-Oct	A	South Florida (19)	22 – 38
22-Oct	A	Cincinnati (101)	19 – 31
29-Oct	H	Connecticut (114)	41 – 3
5-Nov	A	Tulsa (31)	24 – 45
12-Nov	H	SMU (86)	31 – 55
19-Nov	H	Navy (35)	31 – 66
26-Nov	A	Temple (30)	10 – 37

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	James Madison (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	West Virginia (21)
16-Sep	H	Virginia Tech (16)
30-Sep	H	South Florida (19)
7-Oct	H	Temple (30)
14-Oct	A	Central Florida (71)
21-Oct	H	BYU (44)
28-Oct	A	Houston (36)
4-Nov	A	Connecticut (114)
11-Nov	H	Tulane (100)
18-Nov	H	Cincinnati (101)
25-Nov	A	Memphis (45)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	3-3	0-6	3-9-0	3-3-0	0-6-0	6-6-0	5-1-0	1-5-0

Total Offense;	23	YPG	467.1	Total Defense;	100	YAPG	452.8
Passing Offense;	6	YPG	334.7	Passing Defense;	62	YAPG	224.3
Rushing Offense;	110	YPG	132.4	Rushing Defense;	111	YAPG	228.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

PIRATES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jimmy Williams	**WR**			**818-8**
Quay Johnson	**WR**		**9-0**	**563-3**

Three returning starting linemen and two top reserves

If you look at the teams how have won the last several college football championships, they all seem to have two things in common. They have a balanced offense and they have a solid defense capable of forcing opposing teams out of their game plans. Now, let's look at the 2016 East Carolina team. Defensively, they couldn't stop anyone and on offense they ranked 6th in the country for passing offense while ranking 110th in rushing offense. No defense + no offensive balance = a 3-9 record.

Quarterback Gardner Minshew returns after having 1347 passing yards for 8 touchdowns and 4 interceptions in 2016. He was a part time starter in 2016 but he doesn't necessarily have the full time job in hand. Duke grad transfer Thomas Sirk will get heavy consideration, assuming he is fully recovered from his Achilles tendon injury. If Sirk is healthy, he will have the job and will give the offense a boost both with his arm and with his running ability.

James Summers was the leading rusher last year and he has exhausted his eligibility. East Carolina

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

MUST get its offense more balanced and that means they have to do a better job running the ball. Anthony Scott (384 rushing yards, 2 touchdowns and 164 yards receiving, 3 touchdowns) is back and will get first crack at becoming the featured back. Devin Anderson (258 yards, 2 touchdowns) also returns. Freshman Trace Christian will also get strong consideration in the fall. We see nothing to indicate the East Carolina running game will improve all that much.

Jimmy Williams (818 yards receiving for 8 touchdowns), Quay Johnson (563 yards, 3 touchdowns) and Deondre Farrier (305 yards, 1 touchdown) provide a very solid starting wide receiver group. Stephen Baggett is also back to man the tight end slot. Several promising freshmen will be strongly considered for filling the reserve receiving group. Receiver will be a team plus in 2017.

Left tackle Messiah Rice, left guard Garrett McGhin and right tackle Brandon Smith are the foundation for this year's line. Center Kyle Erickson and right guard Christian Matau fill out the line but this group must improve greatly as they didn't open many holes for the running backs and gave up 31 sacks in 2016.

If the line holds up, the 2017 East Carolina offense will be okay.

PIRATES DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jordan Williams	**LB**	**71**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Colby Gore	**CB**	**43**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Travon Simmons	**FS**	**53**	**0**	**1**	**1**

The 2016 Pirates defense was bad. The rushing defense was REALLY bad. A load of last year's starters return for 2017 and the thought is, the experienced they got last year will translate into better production in 2017. We'll see.

The front three of the ECU 3-4-4 set returns both starting ends BUT on the spring roster they were both listed as tackles. That tells us there is going to be some position shifting. Until those position changes are announced we are going to assume Demage Bailey and Justin Brown will be the starting ends. Nose Tackle will be a season long problem as none of the spring roster candidates had any starting experience. If some currently unknown person steps in and does a capable job at nose tackle, East Carolina will have a decent starting trio but that is a BIG if.

Jordan Williams leads a group of three starting linebackers returning this year. Yiannis Bowden and Kiante Anderson have reclaimed their linebacker jobs. The final assignment has a big battle taking place among Ray Tillman, Pat Green and juco transfer Cannon Gibbs. Our money is on Gibbs. The two deep depth chart looks good and linebacker should be a team strength. The more assistance the line can chip in, the better the linebacker unit will be.

East Carolina returns cornerbacks Colby Moore and Bobby Hulp. They both need to do a better job in pass coverage. They, like the linebackers, need the line to do a better job pressuring quarterbacks. Trevon Simmons is back and will again man the free safety job. He will be joined by 2016 key free safety reserve Devon Smith who is shifting to the strong safety slot this year. Corey Sergeant and Travis Phillips will provide excellent depth at the corners. The secondary will do a better job than last year and could become a pretty good foursome.

The level of improvement for the 2017 East Carolina defense rests with how the defensive line improves.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Houston Cougars

American Athletic Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: TDECU Stadium

E. Cullen Suite 212 Houston, TX 77204-2018

Phone: (713) 743-1000

Web: http://www.uhcougars.com

Capacity: 40,000

Surface: Artificial Turf **Altitude:** 47 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MAJOR APPLEWHITE*
O.C.:	*DARREN HILLER*
D.C.:	*MARK D'ONOFRIO*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Oklahoma (4)	33 – 23
10-Sep	H	Lamar (Not D-1)	42 – 0
15-Sep	A	Cincinnati (101)	40 – 16
24-Sep	A	Texas St (127)	64 – 3
29-Sep	H	Connecticut (114)	42 – 14
8-Oct	A	Navy (35)	40 – 46
15-Oct	H	Tulsa (31)	38 – 31
22-Oct	A	SMU (86)	16 – 38
29-Oct	H	Central Florida (71)	31 – 24
12-Nov	H	Tulane (100)	30 – 18
17-Nov	H	Louisville (18)	36 – 10
25-Nov	A	Memphis (45)	44 – 48
BOWL	H	San Diego St (28)	10 – 34

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)
9-Sep	A	Arizona (103)
16-Sep	H	Rice (120)
23-Sep	H	Texas Tech (80)
30-Sep	A	Temple (30)
7-Oct	A	SMU (86)
14-Oct	A	Tulsa (31)
19-Oct	H	Memphis (45)
28-Oct	H	East Carolina (110)
4-Nov	A	South Florida (19)
18-Nov	A	Tulane (100)
24-Nov	H	Navy (35)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	7-0	2-4	4-8-1	2-4-1	2-4-0	5-7-0	2-5-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	41	YPG	443.4	Total Defense;	13	YAPG	319.6
Passing Offense;	17	YPG	296.3	Passing Defense;	51	YAPG	219.5
Rushing Offense;	99	YPG	147.1	Rushing Defense;	4	YAPG	100.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

COUGAR OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Duke Catalon	**RB**		**528-4**	**281-3**
Linell Bonner	**WR**	**50-1-0**	**6-0**	**1118-3**
Steven Dunbar	**WR**			**692-5**

Five returning starting linemen and five top reserves

The Tom Herman era ends and the Major Applewhite era begins. Actually, the Major Applewhite era began with a stinker of a loss to San Diego State 10-34 in Houston's bowl game last year but since Applewhite was coaching a team he inherited on short notice, we will give him a do-over. That loss capped a 9-4 Houston season when the passing offense ranked 17th nationally and the rushing offense was ranked 99th.

The Applewhite offense will look different IF Texas A & M transfer quarterback Kyle Allen is able to beat out returning Kyle Postma. Allen is a drop back quarterback while Postma is more like the duel threat man being replaced, Greg Ward. Our pick is Allen.

Duke Catalon (528 yards rushing for 4 touchdowns and 281 yards receiving for 3 touchdowns) is back to lead a deep running back group. If Allen earns the starting quarterback job, Catalon Will have a better chance of being a more traditional featured running back. Dillon Birden (289 yards, 6 touchdowns),

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Mulbach Car (206 yards, 2 touchdowns) and Kevrin Justice (149 yards, 2 touchdowns) are all back and supply fresh legs and differing running styles. Add in Colorado transfer Patrick Carr and you will see Houston will have no shortage of running back options.

The receiver unit is topped by two excellent pass catchers. Linell Bonner (1118 receiving yards, 3 touchdowns) and Steven Dunbar (692 yards, 5 touchdowns) will provide the chosen quarterback two deep threats who can also add yards after the catch. The third receiver slot has Keith Corbin as a possibility but true freshman Jeremy Singleton may surprise everyone and capture the job. The backup wide receivers will be a group of lightly tested options still needing to prove themselves. The tight end will be either Byron Simpson or Romello Brooker. The receivers will be a plus group.

All five starters back up front which will benefit the new emphasis on the running game. Left tackle Josh Jones, left guard Mason Denley, center Will Noble, right guard Marcus Oliver and right tackle Braylon Jones will form an excellent line that will become the strength of the offense. There are also a slew of experienced backups returning for the 2017 O-Line rotation.

Huston's offense may look different but it will be a very good unit less reliant on one person.

COUGAR DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ed Oliver	**DT**	**65**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Matthew Adams	**LB**	**81**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Khalil Williams	**S**	**68**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Garrett Davis	**S**	**65**	**3**	**0**	**0**

How can a defense led by super human defensive tackle Ed Oliver ever be a bad unit? It can't! Houston was ranked 51st for passing defense and 4th for rushing defense last year. However, Oliver's supporting cast took some huge hits and the defense is the major area of concern for Houston's coaches in 2017.

Replacing end Cameron Malveaux is the first task. Nick Thurman has nailed down one end assignment but he MUST up his pressure on quarterbacks if this year's defense is going to thrive. The other end has Jerard Carter and Zach Vaughn as the leading candidates. Of course, Ed Oliver sits in the middle and is a tower of strength around which to reload the defense.

Matthew Adams and D'Juan Hines are back at linebacker and will have to help two new starters get up to speed. Adams has a good chance of becoming a true play maker and establishing himself as the team leader on defense. Emeke Egbule, Nomluis Frudge and Austin Robinson are in a three way battle for the two linebacker opening. The linebacker rotation lacks established depth and with two new starters, Houston coaches need to insure the step taken back at linebacker isn't too great.

The secondary has two distinctively different stories brewing. The safety slots will be filled by Khalil Williams and Garrett Davis. These two are excellent stopping running backs and were able to pick off 5 errant passes inn 2016. There is also very good depth at safety with the return of Terrell Williams and Collin Wilder. The tale being told at cornerback is different. Jeremy Winchester was a top reserve in 2016 and looks capable of handling the step up to the starting secondary. The other corner is a complete mystery. Javian Smith and true freshman Patrick Rosette are possibilities but neither is game tested. They are the old case of until potential is converted to game production, there is nothing about which to get excited.

The two linebacker jobs and one cornerback slot worry us. Until the leading candidates prove themselves, we can see Houston's 2017 defense taking a step back. Making sure that is not a leap back is the key task in fall practices.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR

Memphis Tigers

American Athletic Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium

807 Jefferson Ave Memphis, TN 38152

Phone: (901) 678-2000

Web: http://www.gotigersgo.com

Capacity: 61,008

Surface: AstroTurf **Altitude:** 259 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MIKE NORVELL*
O.C.:	*CHIP LONG*
D.C.:	*CHRIS BALL*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	SE Missouri St (Not D-1)	35 – 17
17-Sep	H	Kansas (124)	43 – 7
24-Sep	H	Bowling Green (107)	77 – 3
1-Oct	A	Mississippi (68)	28 – 48
6-Oct	H	Temple (30)	34 – 27
14-Oct	A	Tulane (100)	24 – 14
22-Oct	A	Navy (35)	28 – 41
29-Oct	H	Tulsa (31)	30 – 59
5-Nov	A	SMU (86)	51 – 7
12-Nov	H	South Florida (19)	42 – 49
18-Nov	A	Cincinnati (101)	34 – 7
25-Nov	H	Houston (36)	48 – 44
BOWL	H	Western Kentucky (23)	31 – 51

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
9-Sep	A	Central Florida (71)
16-Sep	H	UCLA (81)
23-Sep	H	Southern Illinois (Not D-1)
30-Sep	A	Georgia State (112)
6-Oct	A	Connecticut (114)
14-Oct	H	Navy (35)
19-Oct	A	Houston (36)
27-Oct	H	Tulane (100)
3-Nov	A	Tulsa (31)
18-Nov	H	SMU (86)
25-Nov	H	East Carolina (110)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	5-2	3-3	5-8-0	3-4-0	2-4-0	7-5-0	5-2-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	28	YPG	463.7	Total Defense;	106	YAPG	454.6
Passing Offense;	14	YPG	304.4	Passing Defense;	89	YAPG	249.7
Rushing Offense;	84	YPG	159.3	Rushing Defense;	93	YAPG	204.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TIGERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Riley Ferguson	**QB**	**3698-32-10**	**-70-4**	
Rolando Dormouse	**RB**		**810-9**	**77-1**
Anthony Miller	**WR**		**69-1**	**1434-14**
Phil Mayhue	**WR**	**18-0-0**		**677-4**

Four returning starting linemen and five top reserves

Memphis is poised for having a monster season in 2017. Last year the offense simply couldn't score enough points to overcome the terrible defense. That resulted in an 8-5 record even though the offense ranked 14th in passing offense. The rushing offense wasn't as potent and ended the season tanked 84th.

Riley Ferguson came in last year as a juco transfer and immediately looked like he had been playing under the Memphis offensive system all his life. He threw for 3689 passing yards for 32 touchdowns and just 10 interceptions. He is one of a large number of returning starters and will be the trigger man for a very potent 2017 Memphis offense.

2016 leading rusher Doroland Dorceus and the next two leading rushers for last year are back. Dorceus ran for 810 yards and 9 touchdowns in 2016. Patrick Taylor (546 yards, 2 touchdowns) and

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Darrell Henderson (482 yards, 5 touchdowns) also return and round out a very solid running back rotation that will be dramatically better in 2017.

Anthony Miller and Phil Mayhue return and give Ferguson two outstanding targets at wide receiver. They combined for over 2100 receiving yards and 18 touchdowns last year. Tony Pollard (298 yards, 2 touchdowns) and Kedarian Jones (121 yards, 1 touchdown) are fighting for the final wide receiver job but regardless of who earns that assignment, wide receiver will be a huge team plus in 2017. Joey Magnifico was the backup tight end in 2016 and he may be again this year as true freshman Nick Robinson looks too good to redshirt.

Believe it or not, we have not yet discussed the strength of the 2017 Tigers offense. That would be the O-Line. Left tackle Trevon Tate, left guard Dustin Woodland, center Drew Kyser and right guard Gabe Kuhn are all back and are proven run blockers and did a fine job defending Ferguson last year. That leaves the right tackle slot. Jaced Nevell is a possibility but the prize of this year's recruiting class is Obinna Eze and he happens to be a tackle. Including Nevell, the complete backup offensive line also is back.

This Memphis offense will be something special and if the defense can chip in, the Tigers are set.

TIGERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jonathan Wilson	**DT**	**30**	**3**	**1**	**0**
Genard Avery	**LB**	**79**	**5**	**2**	**0**
Curtis Akins	**LB**	**74**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Austin Hall	**CB**	**56**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Jonathan Cook	**SS**	**88**	**0**	**1**	**0**

You have to be impressed with the work head coach Mike Novell did in his first year. However, coach Novell was very vocal about his displeasure with his 2016 defense that ranked 89th in passing offense and 93rd in rushing defense. Instead of just complaining, Novella and his staff went out and did an exceptional job of recruiting to his defense's needs.

End Ernest Scuttles is back and is one of the few returning starters who have been awarded a starting job in 2017. The other end has Christian Johnson back but he is under heavy fire from Bryce Huff and impact freshman Elijah Harris. Jonathan Wilson looks to have settled in at the tackle slot but a war is taking place for the nose tackle job. The combatants are Jared Gentry, Emmanuel Cooper and redshirt freshman John Tate. Do not be shocked to see the two youngsters, Harris and Tate, crack the starting line.

Linebacker Gerard Avery is a play maker in the making. He did a solid job getting after the quarterback last year and with a bit more help from the front four this year, he could become a monster. He will be joined by Curtis Akins, a solid producer in 2016. Sheree White and Darin Porter were key reserves last year and are fighting for the third job. However, redshirt freshman Nehemiah Augustus is making a strong bid for the slot and we feel he has the most upside.

We have some advice for anyone returning for 2017 who was listed on the last 2016 two deep secondary depth chart. “Do not expect to see yourself on this year's depth chart!” The staff hit the recruiting trail heavily in search of a new secondary. They came home with quite a harvest of both juco transfers and potential laden freshmen. At the end of spring practices, the only person who had nailed down a starting secondary job was strong safety Jonathan Cook. Competition for free safety had returning Shaun Rupert but redshirt freshmen Josh Perry and Thomas Pickens and true freshman Alec Long will all get genuine consideration on the fall. Austin Hall and Christian Slaughter are back at cornerback but they will have to fight off extreme challenges from juco transfers Marcus Green and Tito Wind ham. We can't identify the starting secondary but we can tell you whomever gets the four jobs will be better. The defense will not be a world beater but it will be enough better to allow the offense to flourish and not need to win every game in a shootout.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Navy Midshipmen

American Athletic Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

121 Blake Road Annapolis, MD 21402-5000

Phone: (410) 293-1000

Web: http://www.navysports.com

Capacity: 34,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 44 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*KEN NIUMATALOLO*
O.C.:	*IVIN JASPER*
D.C.:	*DALE PEHRSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*DANNY O'ROURKE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Fordham (Not D-1)	52 – 16
10-Sep	H	Connecticut (114)	28 – 24
17-Sep	A	Tulane (100)	21 – 14
1-Oct	A	Air Force (40)	14 – 28
8-Oct	H	Houston (36)	46 – 40
22-Oct	H	Memphis (45)	42 – 28
28-Oct	A	South Florida (19)	45 – 52
5-Nov	H	Notre Dame (82)	28 – 27
12-Nov	H	Tulsa (31)	42 – 40
19-Nov	A	East Carolina (110)	66 – 31
26-Nov	A	SMU (86)	75 – 31
3-Dec	H	Temple (30)	10 – 34
10-Dec	H	Army (76)	17 – 21
BOWL	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	45 – 48

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Florida Atlantic (121)
9-Sep	H	Tulane (100)
23-Sep	H	Cincinnati (101)
30-Sep	A	Tulsa (31)
7-Oct	H	Air Force (40)
14-Oct	A	Memphis (45)
21-Oct	H	Central Florida (71)
3-Nov	A	Temple (30)
11-Nov	H	SMU (86)
18-Nov	A	Notre Dame (82)
24-Nov	A	Houston (36)
9-Dec	H	Army (76)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-5	6-2	3-3	9-5-0	5-3-0	4-2-0	8-5-0	5-2-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	46	YPG	438.3	Total Defense;	84	YAPG	434
Passing Offense;	125	YPG	128.1	Passing Defense;	100	YAPG	254.1
Rushing Offense;	4	YPG	310.1	Rushing Defense;	71	YAPG	179.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MIDSHIPMEN OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Chris High	**FB**		**546-7**	**38-0**

Ttwo starting linemen, three top reserves

In what has seemed like a fall rite, we have predicted Navy would take a major step back each of the past few years. In what has seemed liked a yearly rite, Navy has proven us wrong and fielded surprisingly capable teams.

This year, Navy returns just four offensive starters from a group ranked 125th in passing offense and 4th in rushing offense in 2016.

Quarterback Zach Abey is back to lead the offense. He seems to have all the physical tools to be a good one but his passing mechanics leave a lot to be desired. Of course, passing is an after thought at Navy. Malcolm Perry will again function as the primary backup for the Midshipmen.

The principle running threat returning is fullback Chris High (546 yards rushing for 7 touchdowns and 38 yards receiving). Navy doesn't have its normal bevy of game tested, productive running backs returning in 2017. Darryl Bonner and Tre Watson are the top producers back for 2017 and they have a very unlike Navy stat line. They combined for only 298 rushing yards and 2 touchdowns. However,

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

they added another 406 yards and 5 touchdowns RECEIVING!

Brandon Colon has captured one starting wide receiver job. He had only 149 receiving yards for 1 touchdown last season. The other wide receiver slot has a contest between Taylor Jackson and Craig Scott.

Right guard Evan Martin and right tackle Andrew Wood are the only returning offensive line starters. Navy always uses a deep rotation of linemen and 2016 wasn't an exception. That game experience will help left tackle Jacob Hawk, left guard Lauren Njiki and center Parker Wade make the step up to the starting unit after logging significant playing time as reserves last year.

We know Navy will never be a hugely successful passing team but the rushing game was and is the bread and butter of their offense. This year Navy faces an unusual problem. They have no established running backs they can call on and we feel this will cause a step back offensively.

M I D S H I P M E N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jarvis Polu	**DE**	**53**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Micah Thomas	**LB**	**107**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Tyris Wooten	**CB**	**51**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Sean Williams	**SS**	**74**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Alohi Gilman	**FS**	**75**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Navy will need to rely on their defense far more in 2017. That may be a problem even though seven starters from the 2016 unit return for 2017. The 2016 defense was a horrible 100th in the country defending against passes and a below average 71st stopping running plays. Those stats led to allowing 31 points per game. Matching those levels of production will lead to a disaster 2017 season.

Jarvis Polu will be the foundation of the line. He is a tackle sized end and will create problems for opposing lines. Tyler Sayles, Josh Webb, Nnamdi Uzoma and Anthony Villalobos are all battling for the second end slot in the Navy front three. Jackson Pittman looks like a fit at the nose guard position. The Navy line will be a rebuilt unit but it will also be a nice deep group.

Micah Thomas will be a monster at linebacker and lead a four man set we feel will be far better, especially getting after opposing quarterbacks. Taylor Heflin, D. J. Palmore and Hudson Sullivan project as the other three starters. Kevin McCoy, Brandon Jones and Justin Norton will provide quality depth and insure Navy will have fresh legs on the field at linebacker ever play.

Navy's secondary allowed a whopping 254 yards passing per game last year. A repeat of the level of inept play could doom Navy's chances of repeating the 8-5 record in 2016. Cornerbacks Tyris Wooten and Jarid Ryan and strong safety Sean Williams are all returning starters but the trio had only 3 interceptions last season. They will be joined by top reserve free safety Alohi Gilman. Safety Elijah Merchant and cornerback Khaylan Williams will be two primary backups.

The stark truth is last year's defense had just 20 sacks and only 7 interceptions. If this year's defense does not improve greatly on both those figures, Navy may struggle to become bowl eligible. The defense must shoulder more of the load this year because we feel the offense will not be capable of matching last year's production.

We are once again predicting the Midshipmen will take a step back this year. We'll have to wait and see if Navy proves us wrong AGAIN.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Southern Methodist Mustangs

American Athletic Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Gerald J. Ford Stadium

6425 Boaz Street Dallas, TX 75275-0221

Phone: (214) 768-2000

Web: http://www.smumustangs.com

Capacity: 32,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 451 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*CHAD MORRIS*
O.C.:	*JOE CRADDOCK*
D.C.:	*VAN MALONE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*KEITH GUNN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	North Texas (99)	34 – 21
10-Sep	A	Baylor (56)	13 – 40
17-Sep	H	Liberty (Not D-1)	29 – 14
23-Sep	H	TCU (60)	3 – 33
1-Oct	A	Temple (30)	20 – 45
7-Oct	A	Tulsa (31)	40 – 43
22-Oct	H	Houston (36)	38 – 16
29-Oct	A	Tulane (100)	35 – 31
5-Nov	H	Memphis (45)	7 – 51
12-Nov	A	East Carolina (110)	55 – 31
19-Nov	H	South Florida (19)	27 – 35
26-Nov	H	Navy (35)	31 – 75

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Stephen F. Austin (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	North Texas (99)
16-Sep	A	TCU (60)
23-Sep	H	Arkansas State (65)
30-Sep	H	Connecticut (114)
7-Oct	H	Houston (36)
21-Oct	A	Cincinnati (101)
27-Oct	H	Tulsa (31)
4-Nov	H	Central Florida (71)
11-Nov	A	Navy (35)
18-Nov	A	Memphis (45)
25-Nov	H	Tulane (100)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	7-0	2-4	4-8-1	2-4-1	2-4-0	5-7-0	2-5-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	55	YPG	427.3	Total Defense;	103	YAPG	453
Passing Offense;	34	YPG	264	Passing Defense;	80	YAPG	242.5
Rushing Offense;	81	YPG	163.3	Rushing Defense;	97	YAPG	210.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MUSTANGS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ben Hicks	**QB**	**2930-19-15**	**-82-2**	**2-0**
Braeden West	**RB**		**1036-6**	**92-0**
Courtland Suton	**WR**			**1246-10**
James Proche	**WR**	**2-0-0**	**15-0**	**709-6**

Three returning starting linemen and three top reserves

As spring practices opened, SMU welcomed back 8 offensive starters and 5 defensive starters. The 2016 offense was ranked 34th in passing offense and was the 81st ranked rushing offense. Based on those stats, it would have been safe to have assumed there would be fewer questions to answer on offense. Unfortunately that was not the situation.

The big question during spring drills was who was going to be the starting quarterback. Ben Hicks (2930 yards passing for 19 touchdowns and 15 interceptions) returned but he faced stiff competition from Darrel Colbert, Arkansas transfer Rafe Peavey and freshman D.J. Gillens. By the end of spring practices, no final decision had been made. The good news is, all the options are capable of successfully leading this loaded offense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Braeden West returns after running for 1036 yards and 6 touchdowns. He will be the featured back but he has an excellent backup hot on his heals as Xavier Jones (634 rushing yards in 2015) is fully recovered rom the injury that sidelined him all of last season. Mix in very talented redshirt freshman Jordan Carmouche and the Mustangs have a loaded running back rotation.

Courtland Suton and James Proche are back and give SMU two of the best receivers in the AAC. Suton is that big, tall receiver every offense lusts after. He racked up 1246 receiving yards for 10 touchdowns in 2016 and you can expect at least that much production this season. Proche was able to record 709 receiving yards for 6 touchdowns as a secondary receiver. The third spot will have Xavier Castille (423 yards receiving for 1 touchdown). That is a pretty salty trio. Shelby Walker will provide solid experienced depth and redshirt freshman Brandon Benson adds a nice injection of potential and LSU transfer Trey Quinn could easily muscle his way into the rotation.

Left tackle Nick Natour, center Evan Brown and right guard Jerry Saena form an excellent foundation around whom another very good line will be built. Left guard Braylon Hyder and right tackle Brice Wilds will move up from last year's reserve unit to fill the two vacancies. Some very talented freshmen may crack the two deep depth chart. The line finishes off a very good SMU offense.

M U S T A N G S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Justin Lawler	**DE**	**65**	**6**	**0**	**1**
Kyran Mitchell	**LB**	**67**	**3.5**	**0**	**1**
Jordan Wyatt	**CB**	**50**	**0**	**4**	**1**
Rodney Clemons	**S**	**56**	**1**	**0**	**0**

The 2016 SMU defense was definitely nothing special as it ranked 80th against passing plays and 97th against runs. The secondary had the excuse of being very young but the front seven couldn't make that claim. SMU will have such a high powered offense, the defense doesn't have to be great but if they can make a few stops each game, that will be sufficient.

Justin Lawler is the only returning starter in SMU's front four. He will man his normal end slot and will provide adequate pressure on opposing passers. Demerick Gary is the mot experienced candidate for the other end job but we need to keep an eye on redshirt Robert Hall. Michael Badejo and J. T. Williams are two lightly experienced candidates at the tackle slot. Mason Gentry will man the nose tackle post and complete a front four that hopes to be just average. If the front four can play well enough to NOT be a liability, Mustangs fans should be satisfied.

The linebacker unit badly lacks play makers. Kyran Mitchell and Anthony Rhone are returning starters but neither produced at a level of excellence last year. Both need to improve all areas of their play. R. C. Cox and Jordan Williams are fighting it out for the third job. Depth is limited. The front seven will not be a tower of strength and the SMU coaches only hope for average play out of the line and linebackers.

The secondary looks set with returning starters Jordan Wyatt at one corner and Rodney Clemons at one safety. Kevin Johnson is leading in the battle for the second cornerback job as is Mikial Onu at the open safety job. Two true freshmen, Delano Robinson and Ar'mani Johnson will get serious looks in the fall and may be called upon to provide meaningful depth.

SMU has such a good offense, we feel the Mustangs will improve their 5-7 record from 2016. The defense will not be great but we feel they will be enough better for us to make SMU one of our positive sleepers in 2017. You people who like to make a wager or two should strongly consider backing SMU, especially early in the season before the public realizes how good the Mustangs have become.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

South Florida Bulls

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Raymond James Stadium

4202 East Fowler Ave Tampa, FL 33620-9951

Phone: (813) 974-2011

Web: http://www.gousfbulls.com

Capacity: 65,908

Surface: Tifway Bermuda 419 **Altitude:** 21 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*CHARLIE STRONG*
O.C.:	*STERLIN GILBERT*
D.C.:	*BRIAN JEAN-MARY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JUSTIN BURKE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Towson (Not D-1)	56 – 20
10-Sep	H	Northern Illinois (92)	48 – 17
17-Sep	A	Syracuse (79)	45 – 20
24-Sep	H	Florida St (8)	35 – 55
1-Oct	A	Cincinnati (101)	45 – 20
8-Oct	H	East Carolina (110)	38 – 22
15-Oct	H	Connecticut (114)	42 – 27
21-Oct	A	Temple (30)	30 – 46
28-Oct	H	Navy (35)	52 – 45
12-Nov	A	Memphis (45)	49 – 42
19-Nov	A	SMU (86)	35 – 27
26-Nov	H	Central Florida (71)	48 – 31
BOWL	H	South Carolina (75)	46 – 39

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
26-Aug	A	San Jose State (111)
2-Sep	H	Stony Brook (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Connecticut (114)
15-Sep	H	Illinois (108)
21-Sep	H	Temple (30)
30-Sep	A	East Carolina (110)
14-Oct	H	Massachusetts (125)
21-Oct	A	Tulane (100)
28-Oct	H	Cincinnati (101)
4-Nov	H	Houston (36)
18-Nov	H	Tulsa (31)
24-Nov	A	Central Florida (71)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	11-2	6-1	5-1	8-5-0	5-2-0	3-3-0	8-3-1	6-1-0	2-2-1

Total Offense;	11	YPG	511.5	Total Defense;	120	YAPG	482
Passing Offense;	70	YPG	226.2	Passing Defense;	122	YAPG	285.5
Rushing Offense;	5	YPG	285.3	Rushing Defense;	84	YAPG	196.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BULLS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Quinton Flowers	**QB**	**2812-24-7 1**	**530-18**	**-3-0**
D'Ernest Johnson	**RB**		**543-8**	**293-5**

Three returning starting linemen and three top reserves

South Florida featured a punishing running game last year and threw the ball just enough to keep defenses honest. That approach earned the Bulls a 70th ranking passing the ball and 5th in running offense.

Charlie Strong will want to re-establish himself as a viable head coach. He has a huge plus with the return of quarterback Quinton Flowers. Flowers posted very nice passing stats with 2812 yards for 24 touchdowns and just 7 interceptions. As good as those numbers are, Flowers was even more potent when he ran the ball. He led the team with 1530 rushing yards and tacked on another 18 touchdowns over the ground. Strong will certainly want Flowers to run less.

Strong will better be able to restrict Flowers' number of rushing attempts if he can find someone to effectively replaced running back Marlon Mack. He accounted for three straight 1000+ yards rushing seasons. D'Ernest Johnson is he heir to the featured running back title after being a solid sub last

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

year. Darius Tice was listed as his backup after spring practices but Tice might be wise to watch out for sophomore Trevon Sands.

Now departed wide receiver Rodney Adams had a team-high 822 receiving yards in 2016. The trio of receivers listed as starters and expected to pick up the slack created by Adams' departure are Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Tyre McCants and Chris Barr. They are slated to be joined by returning tight end Mitchell Wilcox. Valdes-Scantling, McCants and Wilcox seem to have firm grasps on their starting jobs but Barr will get heavy competition from Ryeshene Bronson. Expect the production of Wilcox to increase significantly. This will be a good but not great receiving unit.

Left guard Jeremi Hall, center Cameron Ruff and right tackle Marcus Norman are all returning line starters and provide an excellent foundation for the unit. Top reserve Brooks Larkin has stepped up and captured the right guard assignment. If reserve right tackle is not shifted to the vacant left tackle slot, we expect redshirt freshman Christian Gainer to be the top candidate. The line will be solid and will be able to key another powerful South Florida offense.

B U L L S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Deadrin Senat	**DT**	**49**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Bruce Hector	**DT**	**33**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Auggie Sanchez	**LB**	**117**	**6**	**1**	**0**
Ronnie Hoggins	**CB**	**53**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Deatrick Nichols	**CB**	**48**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Khalid McGee	**S**	**52**	**1**	**1**	**0**

Four times last year South Florida's defense allowed 40 or more points. The only times the defense contained opponents was when the Bulls faced offensively challenged teams. That 2016 defense ended the year ranked a terrible 122nd for passing defense and an only slightly better 84th defending against the run. It doesn't take a genius to figure out if South Florida wants to take the next step forward, their defense must improve greatly. New head coach Charlie Strong is defensively minded and his leadership will be a big asset for the 2017 South Florida defense.

The full 2016 defensive line returns for 2017. Ends Kirk Livingstone and Mike Love and tackles Deadrin Senat and Bruce Hector will need to up the pressure on opposing quarterbacks but since they have had a full season as a unit, that increase is possible. Solid, experienced line depth will be provided by Kevin Bronson, Vincent Jackson and Juwuan Brown.

Play making Auggie Sanchez (117 tackles, 6 sacks and 1 interception) is back to handle his linebacker slot. Nico Sawtelle is listed as the other starter but if he isn't up to the task, South Florida has enough depth at defensive end to make a shift to that linebacker slot. Danny Thomas is another possibility as well as redshirt freshman Mi'Cario Stanley. Regardless of who mans the slot next to Sanchez, linebacker will be a team asset.

The secondary will be the strength of the defense. All positions look set with cornerbacks Ronnie Hoggins and Deatrick Nichols and safeties Khalid McGee, Devin Abraham and Tajee Fullwood all firmly entrenched in the five secondary positions. This group racked up 10 interceptions last year and we fully expect that number to increase in 2017. Depth is not abundant so it will behoove South Florida to avoid secondary injuries.

South Florida needs its defense to improve and we think there is a high probability of that happening. How much better the defense will be remains to be seen but any additional help the defense can give to the offense will be a huge plus.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Temple Owls

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Lincoln Financial Field

1801 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19122-6096

Phone: (215) 204-7000

Web: http://www.owlsports.com

Capacity: 68,532

Surface: GrassMaster **Altitude:** 56 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*GEOFF COLLINS*
O.C.:	*DAVE PATENAUDE*
D.C.:	*TAVER JOHNSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Army (76)	13 – 28
10-Sep	H	Stony Brook (Not D-1)	38 - 0
17-Sep	A	Penn St (7)	27 – 34
24-Sep	H	Charlotte (109)	48 – 20
1-Oct	H	SMU (86)	45 – 20
6-Oct	A	Memphis (45)	27 – 34
15-Oct	A	Central Florida (71)	26 – 25
21-Oct	H	South Florida (19)	46 – 30
29-Oct	H	Cincinnati (101)	34 – 13
4-Nov	A	Connecticut (114)	21 – 0
19-Nov	A	Tulane (100)	31 – 0
26-Nov	H	East Carolina (110)	37 – 10
3-Dec	A	Navy (35)	34 – 10
BOWL	H	Wake Forest (59)	26 – 34

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Notre Dame (82)
9-Sep	H	Villanova (Not D-1)
15-Sep	H	Massachusetts (125)
21-Sep	A	South Florida (19)
30-Sep	H	Houston (36)
7-Oct	A	East Carolina (110)
14-Oct	H	Connecticut (114)
21-Oct	A	Army (76)
3-Nov	H	Navy (35)
10-Nov	A	Cincinnati (101)
18-Nov	H	Central Florida (71)
25-Nov	A	Tulsa (31)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	2-4	1-5	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0	7-5-0	4-2-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	66	YPG	413.6	Total Defense;	3	YAPG	282.5
Passing Offense;	63	YPG	237.4	Passing Defense;	3	YAPG	152.1
Rushing Offense;	61	YPG	176.1	Rushing Defense;	25	YAPG	130.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

O W L S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ryquell Armstead	**RB**		**919-14**	**41-0**
Ventrell Bryant	**WR**			**895-4**
Keith Kirkwood	**WR**		**20-0**	**648-4**

Three returning starting linemen and five top reserves

New head coach Geoff Collins has some work to do and that is definitely a huge understatement. He has major rebuilding on both sides of the line and needs to convince this players he is the man for the job. He has some pieces from the 2016 offense that ranked 63rd for passing offense and 61st for rushing offense. That created a very balanced attack and was a big reason the Owls finished last year with a 10-4 record.

Collins must replace a four year starter at quarterback as Phillip Walker exhausted his eligibility. Filling a hole the size of 3300 yards passing for 22 touchdowns will not be simple. Logan Marchi was the primary backup last year but only recorded 29 yards passing and -2 yards rushing. Anthony Russo and Frank Nutile are also in competition for the job but regardless of who wins the job, Temple will take a step back.

The 2016 Temple offense featured a nice one/two punch at running back. Half of that duo is back for

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

2017. Ryquell Armstead (919 rushing yards for 14 touchdowns) will become a true featured back and with the uncertainty at quarterback, he will probably have much higher stats.

Ventell Bryant and Keith Kirkwood are back to man two of the wide receiver spots. They combined for over 1500 receiving yards and 8 touchdowns. Adonis Jennings (574 yards, 4 touchdowns) was a key reserve last year and is ready to graduate up to the starting wide receiver trio. There is also quite a bit of experienced depth, led by Brodrick Yancy (284 yards, 2 touchdowns) making the wide receiving rotation a team plus ASSUMING A QUARTERBACK WHO CAN GET THEM THE BALL IS FOUND. Kenny Yeboah will be the tight end.

The offensive line must replace two starters but having left guard Jovahn Fair, right guard Adrian Sullivan and right tackle Leon Johnson returning is a nice start for the 2017 offensive line. Matt Hennessey will shift over from his reserve guard job and become the starting center and Cole Boozer or Jaelin Robinson will take over at left tackle. The line will be okay.

Finding a quarterback is essential if the Owls want to avoid a huge step back.

O W L S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Michael Dogbe	**DT**	**43**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Delvon Randall	**SS**	**65**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Sean Chandlet	**FS**	**51**	**1**	**2**	**0**

Fans of Temple football will soon be looking longingly at the 2016 passing defense national ranking of 3rd and the 25th ranking for rushing defense. With the loses incurred by the Owls within their defense, there are two chances of duplicating those ranking, slim and none and we aren't certain about the “slim” part.

The front seven at Temple is in shambles. Only one starter returns and that is tackle Michael Dogby. He is a keeper and does a fine job stuffing the run and periodically gets to the quarterback. Freddie Booth-Lloyd is currently listed as the other tackle. Booth-Lloyd logged significant playing time in 2016 but his production was spotty. A large part of the overall success of the 2016 Temple defense was because the ends were able to rush the passer well and help stop the running plays. Now Temple must completely rebuild the defensive end two deep depth chart. Jacob Martin and Julian Taylor are listed as the starting ends but neither has much past playing time. The line will be new and inexperienced and will likely have some incoming freshmen in the hunt for backup duties.

The Owls have lost seven of their top 11 tackles but the loses will be felt heaviest at linebacker where the complete starting threesome is gone. Jared Folks and William Kwenkeu were backups last year and will be stepping up to the starting unit. Chapelle Russell will complete the starting threesome. One of the three needs to establish himself as a play maker and the injury bug needs to be avoided as depth could be a problem. If everything goes right, the linebacker unit will be okay.

The secondary will be a capable group but will not be able to display all their abilities as they will spend a majority of their time covering up for the front seven. Cornerback Artel Foster and safeties Delvon Randall and Sean Chandler are all returning starters. The safety duo is especially strong and are very capable when stopping running plays and when covering receivers. Derreck Thomas will be the other starting cornerback but the corners definitely need to up their production as neither starter has a single interception in 2016.

The defense will take a major step back and when you combine that with the problems we can see in the offense, we expect 2017 to be a tough year for Temple. We feel the Owls will be an excellent negative sleeper for bettors. We suggest bettors oppose the Owls, especially early in the year.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Tulane Green Wave

American Athletic Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Yulman Stadium

6823 St. Charles Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118

Phone: (504)-862-8000

Web: http://tulanegreenwave.cstv.com

Capacity: 30,000

Surface: Synthetic Turf **Altitude:** 2 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*WILLIE FRITZ*
O.C.:	*DOUG RUSE*
D.C.:	*JACK CURTIS*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	A	Wake Forest (59)	3 – 7
10-Sep	H	Southern University (Not D-1)	66 – 21
17-Sep	H	Navy (35)	14 – 21
24-Sep	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	41 – 39
1-Oct	A	Massachusetts (125)	31 – 24
14-Oct	H	Memphis (45)	14 – 24
22-Oct	A	Tulsa (31)	27 – 50
29-Oct	H	SMU (86)	31 – 35
5-Nov	A	Central Florida (71)	6 – 37
12-Nov	A	Houston (36)	18 – 30
19-Nov	H	Temple (30)	0 – 31
26-Nov	A	Connecticut (114)	38 – 13

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Grambling State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Navy (35)
16-Sep	A	Oklahoma (4)
23-Sep	H	Army (76)
7-Oct	H	Tulsa (31)
14-Oct	A	Florida International (105)
21-Oct	H	South Florida (19)
27-Oct	A	Memphis (45)
4-Nov	H	Cincinnati (101)
11-Nov	A	East Carolina (110)
18-Nov	H	Houston (36)
25-Nov	A	SMU (86)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	2-4	2-4	6-6-0	2-4-0	4-2-0	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	118	YPG	341.4	Total Defense;	31	YAPG	364.5
Passing Offense;	126	YPG	113.3	Passing Defense;	33	YAPG	205.3
Rushing Offense;	26	YPG	228.1	Rushing Defense;	52	YAPG	159.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GREEN WAVE OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Glen Cuiellette	**QB**	**1309-10-8**	**216-1**	
Dontrell Hilliard	**RB**		**759-9**	**114-0**
Terren Encalade	**WR**		**41-0**	**500-6**

Tulane finished last year with a 4-7 record. The biggest problem for last year's offense was a passing attack ranked 126th in the country. The running game was actually rather good and ended the season as the 26th best in the country. For the Green Wave to make progress, they must find something resembling a passing attack.

Last year was quarterback Glen Cuiellette's first year at the reigns. It was a below average year as he was surrounded by a large number of players who were equally inexperienced as Cuiellette. He doesn't need to be a top 25 quarterback but he certainly needs to increase his productivity substantially. His backups are even younger than he is so Tulane will rise or fall with Cuiellette.

Dontrell Hilliard is back and looking to up his 759 rushing yards total and with a year of experience under the belts of the offensive line he has a good chance of improving. Sherman Badie will be the primary backup. Hilliard will get more opportunities with the graduation of Josh Rounds and Lazedrick Thompson. The Green Wave needs for one of the youngsters to step forward and provide another capable option at running back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Terren Encalade will become the go-to receiver. He was the most productive receiver for Tulane last year but never separated himself from the other receivers. He needs to become that guy the quarterback looks for every down. Darnell Mooney may have the most upside of any receiver on Tulane's roster. He had a productive freshman season and is fully expected to build on that start. The wild card in the receiver rotation is redshirt freshman Darnell Mooney. He is listed as the third receiver on the post spring depth chart. Kendall Ardoin will again be the tight end but he needs to up his stats measurably. The receiver rotation will be an average unit.

The line returns several players with starting experience. The line shapes up as follows; left tackle – Tyler Johnson, left guard – John Washington, center – Junior Diaz, right guard – Leeward Brown and right tackle – John Leglue. There is also a lot of depth backing up the line. The line will be better and that will make the offense better.

GREEN WAVE DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ade Aruna	**DE**	**43**	**5**	**0**	**2**
Dean Wilson	**NT**	**26**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Parry Nickerson	**CB**	**29**	**0**	**4**	**2**
Roderic Teamer	**SS**	**58**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Jarrod Franklin	**FS**	**79**	**3**	**1**	**0**

Seven starters from last year's defense that ranked 33rd against the pass and 52nd against the run return for 2017 forming a very solid foundation.

The D-Line has some potential play makers returning for this season. End Ade Aruna had five sacks last year and we can see him increasing that number. He will team up with Luke Jackson, a key sub last year. Starting nose tackle Sean Wilson is back and has reclaimed his starting assignment. His new running mate will be tackle Eldrick Washington. The line will be a blend of veterans and hungry newcomers.

The linebacker unit has lost Eric Thomas and Nico Marley. Zachery Harris was a 2016 starter and will be the defensive play maker this season. He will be joined by Rae Juan Marbley, a key reserve in 2016 who recored meaningful playing time. This year's linebacker duo is liable to be better than last year's.

Four of last year's starting five secondary members return for this season. The only loss was at nickle back and that hole will be capably filled by last year's backup, Taris Shenall. He was able to almost duplicate the now departed starter's stats while getting substantially less playing time. Parry Nickerson and Donnie Lewis will again be the cornerbacks and the year of experience they gained in 2016 will pay big dividends this year. Strong safety Roderic Teamer and free safety Jarrod Franklin form what very well be the best safety duo in the American Athletic Conference. The secondary is a little thin but if the starters can stay healthy, opposing teams will have trouble when facing this unit.

Tulane is one of our sleeper teams for 2017 and this defense is the main reason. We expect the defense to hand the ball to their offense in excellent field position frequently enough that the offense will be far more productive. Especially early in the year, keep an eye on Tulane because we strongly feel Las Vegas will under value the Green Wave.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Tulsa Golden Hurricane

American Athletic Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: H.A. Chapman Stadium

600 S. College Ave Tulsa, OK 74104-3189

Phone: (918) 631-2000

Web: http://tulsahurricane.com

Capacity: 30,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 718 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*PHILIP MONTGOMERY*
O.C.:	*PHILIP MONTGOMERY*
D.C.:	*BRIAN NORWOOD*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	San Jose St (111)	45 – 10
10-Sep	A	Ohio St (6)	3 – 48
17-Sep	H	North Carolina A&T (Not D-1)	58 – 21
24-Sep	A	Fresno St (128)	48 – 41
7-Oct	H	SMU (86)	43 – 40
15-Oct	A	Houston (36)	31 – 38
22-Oct	H	Tulane (100)	50 – 27
29-Oct	A	Memphis (45)	59 – 30
5-Nov	H	East Carolina (110)	45 – 24
12-Nov	A	Navy (35)	40 – 42
19-Nov	A	Central Florida (71)	35 – 20
25-Nov	H	Cincinnati (101)	40 – 37
BOWL	H	Central Michigan (78)	55 – 10

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Oklahoma State (11)
9-Sep	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
16-Sep	A	Toledo (46)
23-Sep	H	New Mexico (54)
30-Sep	H	Navy (35)
7-Oct	A	Tulane (100)
14-Oct	H	Houston (36)
21-Oct	A	Connecticut (114)
27-Oct	A	SMU (86)
3-Nov	H	Memphis (45)
18-Nov	A	South Florida (19)
25-Nov	H	Temple (30)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	7-0	3-3	9-4-0	5-2-0	4-2-0	8-4-0	4-2-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	4	YPG	527	Total Defense;	75	YAPG	426.5
Passing Offense;	30	YPG	265.3	Passing Defense;	92	YAPG	250.2
Rushing Offense;	8	YPG	261.7	Rushing Defense;	68	YAPG	176.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GOLDEN HURRICANE OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
D'Angelo Brewer	**RB**		**1435-7**	**19-1**
Justin Hobbs	**WR**			**685-4**

Four returning starting linemen and three top reserves

Last year, Tulsa averaged 527 yards per game and scored 42 points per game. Matching that level of production will not be possible but that is not to say the Tulsa offense will not be good again in 2017. If a couple of key holes get filled by capable replacements, Tulsa will be okay offensively.

Hole number one needing badly to be filled is at quarterback. Dane Evans was the trigger man last year and fully replacing him will be quite a task. Ryan Rubley and Chad President were supposed to be the top candidates for filling the quarterback job but Robley unexpectedly announced he was transferring. President has limited game experience but will offer a true duel threat. Luke Skipper is a redshirt freshman and the leading possibility for backup quarterback duties.

Running back James Flanders is another big loss be his replacement is game tested and ultra productive. D'Angelo Brewer ran for 1435 yards and 7 touchdowns in 2016. True freshman Samari Brooks will get long looks in fall practices and could be a needed reserve in the running back rotation.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Tulsa Golden Hurricane

Tulsa faces the problem of replacing their top two receivers from 2016. Keevan Lucas and Josh Atkinson combined for 2238 receiving yards and 23 touchdowns. Justin Hobbs returns and has the makings of a featured receiver. He pulled in enough passes last season the record 685 receiving yards and 4 touchdowns. Keenen Johnson (305 yards, 1 touchdown) will handle one of the other jobs. The third wide receiver slot has a big cast fighting for the assignment. Nigel Carter and Brodrick Umbalance are familiar with the system but true freshman Sam Crawford and redshirt freshman Josh Stewart will be hard to keep off of the field. The tight end job is in the hands of Chris Minter.

Left tackle Evan Plagg, left guard Tyler Bowling, center Chandler Miller and right tackle Willie Wright are all returning starters and will be four parts of a very good offensive line. Tristan Wyatt will move into the right guard slot after logging playing time last year as a reserve. The is not a lot of established depth so we expect to see redshirt freshman Rowdy Frederick and true freshman Dante Bivens somewhere on the two deep depth chart. The line will be good enough to buy the new quarterback time to settle in.

By conference game time, Tulsa's offense will be a good group.

GOLDEN HURRICANE DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jesse Brubaker	**DT**	**57**	**5.5**	**2**	**1**
Craig Suits	**LB**	**79**	**3.5**	**1**	**1**
Kerwin Thomas	**CB**	**58**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Reggie Robinson	**CB**	**37**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Jordan Mitchell	**S**	**61**	**0**	**0**	**0**
McKinley Whitfield	**S**	**59**	**0**	**1**	**1**

Tulsa's 2016 defense was not a very good group. They ranked 92nd in passing defense and 68th against the run. From that unit, the Hurricane must replace four members from the front seven, including both starting defensive tackles.

The defensive line will be going through a big makeover. The only player with a definite job is Jesse Brubaker and we are not sure if he will man a tackle spot or will be one of the ends. For this report, we are assuming he will man one of the vacant tackle slots and be paired with Sherman Robinson. All that could change if any of a nice trio of redshirt freshmen, Jimmy Nelson, Johnnie Williams or Tyarise Stevenson, step up and earn a starting tackle assignment. If Brubaker stays at tackle, the two end spots have Jeremy Smith and Kolton Shindelar on top but with Myles Mouton in hot pursuit.

Craig Suits is a returning starting linebacker and has the chance of becoming the play maker this front seven so badly needs. The two linebacker vacancies created by the graduation of tackling machine Trent Martin and hard hitting, pass rushing Matt Linscott have three players competing. Pewtera Wilson recorded 6.5 sacks last year but left something to be desired as a tackler. Cooper Edmiston and Damion Cannon are fighting with Wilson for the two jobs.

Three parts of last year's secondary are back and there is hope the added year of experience will be beneficial for the back four. Karwin Thomas and Reggie Robinson will again be the cornerbacks and along with fellow returning starting safety Jordan Mitchell and 2016 key reserve safety McKinley Whitfield form a back four with experience and the ability to help out on running plays. The problem they have is in pass coverage. The four combined for just two interceptions in 2016. That number has to be at least increased by four times!

Last year the offense was able to score enough to cover up for an inept defense. With this season's offense taking a step back, the 2017 defense will have to assume a bigger share of the load. However, we do not see the “horses” that will make this year's defense any better at all.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE
4512 WEYBRIDGE LANE
GREENSBORO, NC 27407
336-854-8787
COMMISSIONER: JOHN D. SWOFFORD

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Florida State
Clemson
Louisville
North Carolina State
Syracuse
Wake Forest
Boston College

COASTAL DIVISION

Virginia Tech
Pittsburgh
Georgia Tech
Miami
North Carolina
Duke
Virginia

Rainman

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Florida State
Clemson
Louisville
North Carolina State
Boston College
Wake Forest
Syracuse

COASTAL DIVISION

North Carolina
Virginia Tech
Miami (FL)
Pittsburgh
Duke
Virginia
Georgia Tech

Atlantic Division

The Florida State offense will be exceptional IF the O-Line comes together. A year of experience at quarterback will pay huge dividends for the Seminoles. The offense has a sack full of play makers. Defensively, Florida State will be much improved in 2017. The line will be a big asset and will give the secondary plenty of chances to make plays. Clemson will benefit from the past several years of solid recruiting in 2017. A bus load of offensive play makers have departed. Filling those vacancies will be a major concern. With a still unnamed new quarterback at the helm, Clemson will rely]heavily on an outstanding O-Line. Expect Clemson to rely far more heavily on their excellent defense. Louisville returns Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson but the rest of the offense had significant loses. We are especially concerned about the O-Line. Defensively, the Cardinals have problems within their front seven. We do not expect Louisville to contend for the championship and see the Cardinals as an excellent team to bet against. The balance of the Atlantic Division will fight for the scraps. Syracuse looks like the most improved team. NC State will lead the “other” ACC teams. Wake Forest has questions at quarterback. Boston College will be better offensively but not enough better to escape the cellar of the Atlantic Division

Coastal Division

Most of the teams in the Coastal Division will be facing the problem of replacing their quarterback. The team doing the best job at quarterback will get the title. The head coach at Virginia Tech has a reputation of developing quarterbacks and we will assume he will continue this year. Tech's defense will make the difference this year. Pitt has a pair of capable replacement quarterbacks and are solid everywhere else on offense. The Pitt defense will not be a plus unit and will prevent the Panthers from winning the division. Georgia Tech will show solid improvement on both sides of the ball and must be considered a legit contender. Miami will have a solid running game and a very stout defense but they seem to have the biggest problem in the league finding and acceptable quarterback. North Carolina was a disappointment last year and has lost some heavy contributors from that group on both sides of the ball. Their defense has potential but it is now time to convert potential to on field production. Duke may have the best returning quarterback in the division but his growth may be hurt by a very so-so O-Line. Duke's defense will have far too many new faces and until they gel as a unit, defense will be a huge problem. Virginia will have a terrible offense and an improving defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Boston College Eagles

Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Alumni Stadium

140 Commonwealth Ave Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Phone: (617) 552-3004

Web: http://bceagles.com

Capacity: 44,500

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 196 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*STEVE ADDAZIO*
O.C.:	*SCOT LOEFFLER*
D.C.:	*JIM REID*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Georgia Tech (33)	14 – 17
10-Sep	A	Massachusetts (125)	26 – 7
17-Sep	A	Virginia Tech (16)	0 – 49
24-Sep	H	Wagner (Not D-1)	42 – 10
1-Oct	H	Buffalo (126)	35 – 3
7-Oct	H	Clemson (1)	10 – 56
22-Oct	H	Syracuse (79)	20 – 28
29-Oct	A	North Carolina St (51)	21 – 14
5-Nov	H	Louisville (18)	7 – 52
11-Nov	A	Florida St (8)	7 – 45
19-Nov	H	Connecticut (114)	30 – 0
26-Nov	A	Wake Forest (59)	17 – 14
BOWL	H	Maryland (69)	36 – 30

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	A	Northern Illinois (108)
9-Sep	H	Wake Forest (59)
16-Sep	H	Notre Dame (82)
23-Sep	A	Clemson (1)
30-Sep	H	Central Michigan (78)
7-Oct	H	Virginia Tech (16)
14-Oct	A	Louisville (18)
21-Oct	A	Virginia (118)
27-Oct	H	Florida State (8)
11-Nov	H	North Carolina State (51)
18-Nov	A	Connecticut (114)
25-Nov	A	Syracuse (79)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	4-4	3-2	6-6-1	3-4-1	3-2-0	4-8-0	2-5-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	127	YPG	292.8	Total Defense;	9	YAPG	314.2
Passing Offense;	120	YPG	143.8	Passing Defense;	34	YAPG	205.6
Rushing Offense;	96	YPG	149.1	Rushing Defense;	7	YAPG	108.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

EAGLES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jon Hilliman	**RB**		**542-6**	**2-0**

Four returning starting offensive linemen and three top reserves

Boston College has become almost as well known over the past few years for its inept offense as its stout defense. The most telling stat showing how incompetent BC has been offensively is their 3.42 yard per carry in 2016.

Quarterback Patrick Towles has used up his eligibility and a new signal caller must be found. Darius Wade is the most productive returning quarterback. However, his 100 yards passing total for 2016 is not inspiring. We feel redshirt freshman Anthony Brown will be the starter come opening kickoff. He is a duel threat option, something head coach Steve Addazio likes. He was also recruited by current offensive coordinator Scot Loeffler. These two factors in addition to his sterling practice play tells us it is now Mr. Brown's time to sink or swim.

Running backs for the 2016 offense were very spotty. Yes, some of the problem was with an offensive line opening few big holes but some of the problem was the decision making of the running backs. An extra year of experience will help returning Jon Hilliman (542 yards) and Davon Jones (361 yards). If

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

the line does a better job, both should have more productive years this season. Youngsters Travis Levy and A. J. Dillon are getting serious looks and could break into the running back rotation.

The receiver starting unit seems set with the returns of starters Michael Walker, Jeff Smith and Charlie Callinan and starting tight end Tommy Sweeney. None of the four was a real go-to guy last year and someone needs to step up and grab that title. The four recorded almost 1500 receiving yards and that number needs to increase by at least 50%.

Last year's line started two sophomores and a freshman and a large part of the backup unit were also underclassmen. Four starters from that line return and a huge improvement is expected from a unit that allowed 2.15 sacks a game in 2016. Left tackle Aaron Montiero, left guard Elijah Johnson, center Jon Baker and right guard Chris Lindstrom all are back. Anthony Palazzolo will move up from the reserve unit and fill out the starting group. The line will be much improved and will provide time for the new quarterback to adjust.

The Boston College offense will be far better than the past two years.

E A G L E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Harold Landry	**DE**	**50**	**17**	**1**	**0**
Zach Allen	**DE**	**36**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Connor Strachan	**LB**	**80**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Kamrin Moore	**CB**	**43**	**0**	**2**	**0**
William Harris	**SS**	**47**	**0**	**2**	**0**

It has been terribly sad to watch the abuse Boston College's defense has gone through the past two year. Both years the unit has begun each season looking like a very solid group but as the years ground on, the offense has been unable to sustain drives and the defense has simply worn out. They have been required to play too many snaps.

Gone from last year's group are end Kevin Kavalec, tackle Truman Gutapfel, linebacker Matt Milano, and safety John Johnson.

Defensive end Harold Landry was expected to enter the NFL draft but shocked everyone by returning for his senior season. He is one of the best in the country and his 17 sacks have to be noticed. He will team up with fellow end Zach Allen to give BC one of the best starting end duos in the country. Nose tackle Ray Smith and tackle Noa Merritt will be given first shots at filling out the front four but they need to watch out for true freshman Nate Emer. Redshirt freshman Bryce Morais is also another youngster getting strong looks. With Landry back, the line will be solid and able to make plays.

Connor Strachan is back for his senior season and will be the heart and soul of the linebacker rotation. He will be joined by fellow returning starter Ty Schwab. The third slot has a heated battle going on among Sharrieff Grice, Mike Strizak, Kevin Bletzer and redshirt freshman Ethan Tucky. Toss in incoming freshmen Isaiah McDuffie and Paul Theobald and you have an all out free-for-all. Expect this to be another very good linebacker rotation.

The secondary returns three starters. Cornerbacks Isaac Yiadom and Kamrin Moore and strong safety William Harris give the back four a very nice foundation but the open free safety may become a problem. Special trams veteran Atem Ntantang is a possibility at free safety. The secondary gave up 28 touchdown passes last year so improvement in this area is essential for the defense to excel.

Boston College will have another salty defense and maybe the offense can assume more of their share of the load so the defense won't have their tongues hanging out come the second half of the season. The only potential problem area is at free safety but that might become a huge problem.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Clemson Tigers

Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Memorial Stadium

201 Sikes Hall Clemson, SC 29634

Phone: (864) 656-4636

Web: http://www.tigernet..com

Capacity: 81,500

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 733 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DABO SWINNEY*
O.C.:	*JEFF SCOTT*
D.C.:	*BRENT VENABLES*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*DANNY PEARMAN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Auburn (22)	19 – 13
10-Sep	H	Troy (41)	30 – 24
17-Sep	H	South Carolina St (Not D-1)	59 -- 0
22-Sep	A	Georgia Tech (33)	26 – 7
1-Oct	H	Louisville (18)	42 – 36
7-Oct	A	Boston College (66)	56 – 10
15-Oct	H	North Carolina St (51)	24 – 17
29-Oct	A	Florida St (8)	37 – 34
5-Nov	H	Syracuse (79)	54 -- 0
12-Nov	H	Pittsburgh (39)	42 – 34
19-Nov	A	Wake Forest (59)	35 – 13
26-Nov	H	South Carolina (75)	56 – 7
3-Dec	H	Virginia Tech (16)	42 – 35
Semi	H	Ohio St (6)	31 – 0
Champ	H	Alabama (2)	35 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Kent State (119)
9-Sep	H	Auburn (22)
16-Sep	A	Louisville (18)
23-Sep	H	Boston College (66)
30-Sep	A	Virginia Tech (16)
7-Oct	H	Wake Forest (59)
13-Oct	A	Syracuse (79)
28-Oct	H	Georgia Tech (33)
4-Nov	A	North Carolina State (51)
11-Nov	H	Florida State (8)
18-Nov	H	The Citadel (Not D-1)
25-Nov	A	South Carolina (75)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	14-1	7-1	7-0	8-7-0	5-4-0	3-3-0	6-6-1	4-4-0	2-2-1

Total Offense;	12	YPG	503.7	Total Defense;	8	YAPG	311.5
Passing Offense;	7	YPG	333.9	Passing Defense;	14	YAPG	181.9
Rushing Offense;	71	YPG	169.7	Rushing Defense;	24	YAPG	129.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TIGERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Deon Cain	**WR**			**724-9**
Hunter Renfrow	**WR**			**495-6**
Ray-Ray McCloud	**WR**		**28-0**	**472-2**

Four returning starting offensive linemen and four top reserves

Yes, Clemson did lose a lot of quality talent since last season. Quarterback Deshaun Watson, running back Wayne Gallman, receivers Mike Williams and Artavis Scott, tight end Jordan Legget and center Jay Guillermo all must be replaced.

Nobody can fully replace Watson but the Tigers have some quality options for taking over the helm. Going into spring practices, there was no clear favorite and frankly, the final decision will not come until fall drills. Kelly Bryant and Tucker Isreal are the two leading candidates FOR NOW. Freshman Hunter Johnson may be the future at quarterback and he took part in spring drills. Duel threat redshirt freshman Zerrick Cooper is another possibility. All are capable physically but the ultimate winner of the job is likely the one displaying the best leadership abilities.

The most productive returning running back is Tavien Feaster. Do not let his 2016 stats (221 yards

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

rushing for 2 touchdowns) confuse you. He is quite capable of filling most of the void created by Gallman's departure. C. J. Fuller is also a possibility. He had 211 yards rushing last year and added an additional 62 yards and 2 touchdowns receiving.

The trio of Hunter Renfrow, Ray-Ray McCloud and Deon Cain will man the wide receiver slots. All are solid receivers but one of the three needs to become the deep threat that was lost when Mike Williams left. Cain is the most likely to fill that role but if he can't, true freshman Tee Higgins or redshirt freshman T. J. Chase will stand ready to take snaps. Tight end may be the most problematic void to fill. Chris Bonds is the most productive returner but he only had 8 receiving yards last year. Freshman J. C. Chalk is an option but we are sure coach Sweeney would like to keep his red shirt on.

The new quarterback, when he is named, will have the luxury of having a talented and deep offensive line in front of him. Left tackle Mitch Hyatt, left guard Taylor Hearn, right guard Tyrone Crowder and right tackle Sean Pollard are all back. Top 2016 reserve center Justin Falcinelli will slide into the starting unit. Hyatt is a first team 2016 All ACC award winner. Tackles Tremayne Anchrum and Maverick Morris and guard John Simpson will be fighting for playing time and the competition they provide the starters will be a big plus factor. Redshirt freshman Chandler Reeves will be in the hunt for playing time. This excellent rotation will be able to buy time for the new qb to become settled in.

C L E M S O N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Christian Wikins	**DE**	**48**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Clelin Ferrell	**DE**	**44**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Dexter Lawrence	**DT**	**63**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Kendall Joseph	**LB**	**107**	**4**	**1**	**0**
Van Smith	**FS**	**96**	**0**	**2**	**0**

The defense loses tackle Carlos Watkins, linebacker Ben Boulware, cornerback Cordrea Tankersley and safety Jadar Johnson. The 2017 defense not only takes a hit by the lost production but even more critical will be the lost leadership.

Ends Christian Wilkins and Clelin Ferrell and tackle Dexter Lawrence all return and will be an excellent foundation for the front four rotation. Albert Huggins is in in the lead to take over as the other tackle starter. Clemson needs to find some depth for the line . Redshirt freshmen Nyles Pinckney and Xavier Kelly are top candidates for the second unit but you also have to throw in Austin Bryant.

The hub of a very good linebacker rotation will be Kendall Joseph. He is a monster and will make tackles all over the field and is a plus pass defender. Fellow 2016 starter Dorian O'Daniel is also back and had reclaimed his starting job. The third slot has a dog fight going on. Jalen Williams was listed atop the post spring practices depth chart but it is time for Tre Lamar and Chad Smith to live up to their reputations and either could pass Williams.

When a coaching staff makes recruiting a premium consideration and is successful several years in a row, depth is the automatic result. In no other area of Clemson's football team is that more apparent than the secondary. Ryan Carter returns at one cornerback and is joined by 2016 starting free safety Van Smith. These two are both excellent but Clemson needs to find running mates for both. Trayvon Mullen, Marcus Edmond and Mark Fields are all game tested and in the hunt for the cornerback opening BUT true freshman A. J. Terrell arrives and has every appearance of being an absolute shut down corner. Tanner Muse and redshirt freshman Isaiah Simmons are the main competitors for the strong safety opening. Our money is on Simmons. He has the physical attributes to make him a “hitting” machine.

The 2017 Clemson defense will be a very good unit. Any questions caused by graduation or early NFL entry has several potential answers waiting for their turn. We expect this unit to actually be better than the 2016 crew and take on more of the load.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Duke Blue Devils

Atlantic Coast Conference, Coastal Divsion

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Wallace Wade Stadium

103 Allen Bldg Durham, NC 27708

Phone: (919) 684-2813

Web: http://www.goduke.com

Capacity: 33,941

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 397 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DAVID CUTCLIFFE*
O.C.:	*ZAC ROPER*
D.C.:	*JIM KNOWLES*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JIM BRIDGE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	NC Central (Not D-1)	49 – 6
10-Sep	H	Wake Forest (59)	14 – 24
17-Sep	A	Northwestern (55)	13 – 24
24-Sep	A	Notre Dame (82)	38 – 35
1-Oct	H	Virginia (118)	20 – 34
8-Oct	H	Army (76)	13 – 6
14-Oct	A	Louisville (18)	14 – 24
29-Oct	A	Georgia Tech (33)	35 – 38
5-Nov	H	Virginia Tech (16)	21 – 24
10-Nov	H	North Carolina (43)	28 – 27
19-Nov	A	Pittsburgh (39)	14 – 56
26-Nov	A	Miami (FL) (20)	21 – 40

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	North Carolina Central (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Northwestern (55)
16-Sep	H	Baylor (56)
23-Sep	A	North Carolina (43)
29-Sep	H	Miami (FL) (20)
7-Oct	A	Virginia (118)
14-Oct	H	Florida State (8)
21-Oct	H	Pittsburgh (39)
28-Oct	A	Virginia Tech (16)
11-Nov	A	Army (76)
18-Nov	H	Georgia Tech (33)
25-Nov	A	Wake Forest (59)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-3	1-5	7-5-0	4-2-0	3-3-0	4-8-0	0-6-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	76	YPG	393.3	Total Defense;	67	YAPG	414.7
Passing Offense;	60	YPG	239.8	Passing Defense;	78	YAPG	239.8
Rushing Offense;	89	YPG	153.6	Rushing Defense;	66	YAPG	174.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BLUE DEVIL OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Daniel Jones	**QB**	**2836-16-9**	**486-7**	
Shaun Wilson	**RB**		**623-4**	**76-0**
T. J. Rahming	**WR**		**-1-0**	**742-1**

Two returning starting linemen and four top reserves

2016 was a tough year at Duke. They ended the season with an overall 4-8 record and 1-7 in conference play. The Blue Devils had a load of new faces on both sides of the ball and experienced the normal growing pains with so much of a turn over.

Quarterback Daniel Jones was one of the bright spots as he had a very nice freshman season. He has cemented himself as the long term solution and Duke fans should anticipate even better things this year out of Jones. He needs to improve his touchdown to interception ratio (16 to 9 in 2016) but that is expected as he matures. Duke needs to find a capable backup and Parker Boehme seems to fit the bill.

Shaun Wilson (623 yards) was the leading rusher in 2016 and returns. He still hasn't displayed that he is a quality featured back. He needs to up his production if Duke wants to again be bowl eligible. Depth at running back needs to step forward.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Three of the top four 2016 receiving targets are also back. T. J. Rahming is the leader of the group and will be the go-to guy this year. As his quarterback matures, Rahming will rack up bigger stats. Chris Taylor and Johnathan Lloyd complete the wide receiver starting trio. Both are expected to have better seasons this year. The tight end will be productive, top 2016 reserve Daniel Helm. Wide receiver Aaron Young and tight end Davis Koppenhaver add game tested, quality backup to the rotation. Redshirt freshman Scott Bracey is very talented and could easily crack the starting unit but will be a valued part of the receiver rotation for sure. This will be a very good receiving group.

Duke loses three starters on the offensive line. Tackles Gabe Brandner and Casey Blaser and guard Tanner Stone all must be replaced. Left guard Zach Harmon and center Austin Davis will be called upon to nurture the line newcomers. Christian Harris is the leading candidate at left tackle and is expected to join right guard Zach Baker and right tackle Sterling Korona as the finishing pieces for the rebuilt O-Line. Ohio State grad transfer center Evan Lisle may muscle his way into the starting unit.

If line solidifies, Duke has a chance for seven or eight wins this year.

B L U E D E V I L D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Mike Ramsay	**DT**	**30**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Ben Humphries	**LB**	**107**	**5**	**1**	**2**
Joe Giles-Harris	**LB**	**107**	**4**	**1**	**1**
Alonzo Saxton	**S**	**53**	**1**	**1**	**2**

Duke's defense was riddled for an average of 6.3 yards per play last year. The rushing and passing defenses were equally at fault and for Duke to have those seven or eight wins we talked about in our offensive summary, the defense has to improve. That is going to be tough with the front four and secondary both having to be rebuilt.

Tackle A.J. Wolf is a huge loss for the front four. He was the sacks leader last year. The only proven D-Lineman will be tackle Mike Ramsay. He will provide leadership and solid performance. After Ramsey, your guess is as good a ours. Marquies Price was supposed to fill one line slot but he was dismissed from the team in the spring. Our leading contended to join Ramsey at tackle is Trevon McSwain. Danny Doyle, James Hornbuckle and Terrell Lucas have all had limited playing time but are the main contenders for the defensive end openings. We feel freshman Drew Jordan has a solid chance of breaking through to the starting unit and provide the badly missing element of pass rushing to the front four. Regardless of who fill the three open line slots, the front four will be an unknown commodity.

The strength of Duke's defense will be at linebacker where tackling machines Ben Humphries and Joe Giles-Harris are both back. They amassed over 200 tackles and 9 sacks last year. Unfortunately they may spend far too much of their time trying to correct mistakes from the new D-Line. If the line gives them a chance to do their jobs, these two linebackers are very capable of making plays.

The secondary is going to be manned by some potential laden but lightly tested youngsters. Free safety Deondre Singleton and corners Devon Edwards and Breon Border were all starters last year and are gone. Cornerback Bryon Fields and safety Alonzo Saxton provide Duke's secondary with two returning starters and a good foundation upon which to build. The other two safety spots will be manned by the Jordan Hayes and Brandon Feamster. Hayes got meaningful playing time last year and was productive but Feamster is an unknown. Mark Gilbert, another untested option, looks to have a lead over Jeremy McDuffie for the open cornerback assignment.

With so many new faces within the front line and the secondary, it is hard to see Duke making a step forward this year. All the Blue Devils fans can hope for is the unit to NOT make too much of a step back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Florida State Seminoles

Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Divsion

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Doak Campbell Stadium

211 Westcott Bldg Tallahassee, FL 32306-1037

Phone: (850) 644-2525

Web: http://www.seminoles.com

Capacity: 82,300

Surface: Tifway Bermuda 419 **Altitude:** 204 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JIMBO FISHER*
O.C.:	*RANDY SANDERS*
D.C.:	*CHARLES KELLY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JAY GRAHAM*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
5-Sep	H	Mississippi (68)	45 – 34
10-Sep	H	Charleston Southern (Not D-1)	52 – 8
17-Sep	A	Louisville (18)	20 – 63
24-Sep	A	South Florida (19)	55 – 35
1-Oct	H	North Carolina (43)	35 – 37
8-Oct	A	Miami (FL) (20)	20 – 19
15-Oct	H	Wake Forest (59)	17 – 6
29-Oct	H	Clemson (1)	34 – 37
5-Nov	A	North Carolina St (51)	24 – 20
11-Nov	H	Boston College (66)	45 – 7
19-Nov	A	Syracuse (79)	45 – 14
26-Nov	H	Florida (14)	31 – 13
BOWL	H	Michigan (9)	33 – 32

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Alabama (2)
9-Sep	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
16-Sep	H	Miami (FL) (20)
23-Sep	H	North Carolina State (51)
30-Sep	A	Wake Forest (59)
14-Oct	A	Duke (93)
21-Oct	H	Louisville (18)
27-Oct	A	Boston College (66)
4-Nov	H	Syracuse (79)
11-Nov	A	Clemson (1)
18-Nov	H	Delaware State (Not D-1)
25-Nov	A	Florida (14)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	6-2	4-1	8-5-0	4-3-0	4-2-0	5-6-0	3-3-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	25	YPG	466.4	Total Defense;	22	YAPG	349.1
Passing Offense;	33	YPG	264.1	Passing Defense;	57	YAPG	221.1
Rushing Offense;	40	YPG	202.3	Rushing Defense;	21	YAPG	128

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

SEMINOLE OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Deondre Francois	**QB**	**3350-20-7**	**195-5**	
Marvin Saunders	**TE**			**182-0**

Three returning starting offensive lineman plus four top reserves

How can a season that ended with a 10-3 record with a nice bowl win be considered a failure? Florida State felt they were a legitimate national championship contender but after their blowout loss to Louisville, any thoughts of a national championship disappeared. Close loses to Clemson and North Carolina further added to the dissatisfaction at Florida State.

Running back Dalvin Cook left early for the NFL and finding his replacement will be about the only concern for Florida State going into the 2017 season.

Deondre Francois had an excellent redshirt freshman season and he looks poised for an even better season this year as he will be surrounded by fine skill position players and a better offensive line. Florida State does need to find a backup quarterback and J. J. Consentino, Bailey Hockman, Jake Rizzo and incoming freshman James Blackman will all get heavy consideration in fall practices.

The heir apparent to Cook is Jacques Patrick. He has the most rushing yardage of any returning

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

running back. He can't assume he has captured the starting assignment as highly touted freshman Cam Akers and Amir Rasul will challenge for playing time. We feel Akers will be the ultimate starter as he is a perfect balance of power and speed.

Wide receivers Nyquan Murray and Auden Tate are both strong candidates for having breakout seasons. One or both will become the primary receiver after spending last year as second and third options. DaVante Phillips is also back and currently is listed as the third starter but redshirt freshman D. J. Matthews will pose a big challenge and we feel Matthews will end up as the third starter. Tight end will be well manned by returning starter Marvin Saunders. Fall practices will have an invasion of a strong group of freshmen who will fight for playing time.

Center Alec Eberle, right guard Wilson Bell and right tackle Brock Ruble are retuning line starters and provide the unit experience and leadership. Ethan Frith and Tick Leonard are in a battle for the left tackle spot and Derrick Kelly and Baveon Johnson are in a battle for the left guard assignment. Florida State also has the redshirt freshman group of Andrew Boselli, Josh Ball and Jauan Williams ready to go.

S E M I N O L E D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Josh Sweat	**DE**	**41**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Brian Burns	**DE**	**24**	**10**	**0**	**0**
Derrick Nnadi	**NG**	**49**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Matthew Thomas	**LB**	**77**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Trey Marshall	**SS**	**58**	**0**	**0**	**0**
A. J. Westbrook	**FS**	**40**	**1**	**0**	**0**

The 2016 Florida State defense struggled early last year. The Louisville slaughter was a perfect example of those problems. By the end of the season, the unit was functioning and becoming a nice group.

The biggest loss to the defense was the early NFL entry of end DeMarcus Walker. However, with the return of ends Josh Sweat and Brian Burns the Seminoles have 17 sacks back for 2017. They will be joined by defensive tackle Demarcus Christmas and nose tackle Derrick Nnadi to complete one of the better D-Lines in the country. Walvenski Aime and Fredrick Jones are back and will provide interior line depth. True freshmen Joshua Kaindoh and Marvin Wilson will probably redshirt but could force the coaches to include them in the line rotation. There are also several very interesting redshirt freshmen and freshmen options. This will be an excellent rotation.

Matthew Thomas is back and will lead the linebackers. He will be joined but fellow returning starters Ro'Derrick Hoskins and Jacob Pugh to form a solid starting threesome. Dontavious Jackson, Emmett Rice and juco transfer Adonis Thomas are capable reserves and incoming freshman Leonar Warner may be too good to redshirt. This will not be a spectacular linebacker group but they certainly will get their jobs done and when combined with the front four, Florida State will have an excellent front seven.

The improvement of Florida State's defense the second half of the season can be traced to the maturing of their secondary. When safety Derwin James went down to injury in week two, the secondary looked lost. That forced cornerback Tarvarus McFadden to pick up his game. McFadden returns and has reclaimed his cornerback job. Strong safety Trey Marshall and free safety A. J. Westbrook return and with the return of James, safety is a loaded position. Nate Andrews, Kyle Meyers and Lavonta Taylor and a bevy of talented freshmen were all duke it out for the the open corner back job but that final decision will be delayed until well into fall practices. The return of James will make this secondary “sing”.

The Florida State defense will be an outstanding unit capable of handing the ball to their offense in excellent field position time after time.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Georgia Tech Yellowjackets

Atlantic Coast Conference, Coastal Divsion

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Bobby Dodd Stadium

150 Bobby Dodd Way NW, Atlanta, GA 30332

Phone: (404) 894-2000

Web: http://www.gatech.edu

Capacity: 55,000

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude:** 1049 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*PAUL JOHNSON*
O.C.:	*PAUL JOHNSON*
D.C.:	*TED ROOF*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*LAMAR OWENS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Boston College (66)	17 – 14
10-Sep	H	Mercer (Not D-1)	35 – 10
17-Sep	H	Vanderbilt (62)	38 – 7
22-Sep	H	Clemson (1)	7 – 26
1-Oct	H	Miami (FL) (20)	21 – 35
8-Oct	A	Pittsburgh (39)	34 – 37
15-Oct	H	Georgia Southern (91)	35 – 24
29-Oct	H	Duke (93)	38 – 35
5-Nov	A	North Carolina (43)	20 - 48
12-Nov	A	Virginia Tech (16)	30 – 20
19-Nov	H	Virginia (118)	31 – 17
26-Nov	A	Georgia (50)	28 – 27
BOWL	H	Kentucky (63)	33 – 18

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
4-Sep	H	Tennessee (25)
9-Sep	H	Jacksonville State (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Central Florida (71)
23-Sep	H	Pittsburgh (39)
30-Sep	H	North Carolina (43)
12-Oct	A	Miami (FL) (20)
21-Oct	H	Wake Forest (59)
28-Oct	A	Clemson (1)
4-Nov	A	Virginia (118)
11-Nov	H	Virginia Tech (16)
18-Nov	A	Duke (93)
25-Nov	H	Georgia (50)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	5-2	4-2	7-4-1	4-3-0	3-1-1	6-4-1	3-2-1	3-2-0

Total Offense;	85	YPG	387.2	Total Defense;	59	YAPG	401.6
Passing Offense;	124	YPG	129.2	Passing Defense;	68	YAPG	229.4
Rushing Offense;	9	YPG	258.1	Rushing Defense;	64	YAPG	172.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

YELLOWJACKET OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Dedrick Mills	**RB**	**0-0-1**	**771-12**	**13-1**
Ricky Jeune	**WR**		**40-0**	**427-1**

Three returning starting linemen and six top reserves

Georgia Tech's rushing offense was ranked 9th nationally last year but the production of that part of Tech's offense was not up to its normal excellence. The Ramblin' Wreck needs to regain its rushing dominance or somehow discover how to throw the ball. Fat chance they will become a passing team!

Georgia Tech, like a majority of the ACC, must find a new starting quarterback. Matthew Jordan was the primary backup in 2016 and is the leading candidate. He will be challenged by redshirt freshmen Lucas Johnson and Jay Jones. All are far better runners than passers.

Georgia Tech will be loaded at running back even after Marcus Marshall (624 yards) chose to transfer. Dedrick Mills had a solid freshman season and he leads a talent returning group. Clinton Lynch returns but had to miss spring drills as he recovered from injury. Qua Searcy and J. J. Green are also back and provide more depth to the running attack. Tech's running back rotation will be a team asset and should flourish as they will be running behind a veteran offensive line.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Georgia Tech Yellowjackets

Leading receiver Ricky Jeune and fellow 2016 starter Brad Stewart have both reclaimed their wide receiver starting assignments. Passing is usually an after thought at Tech but if a quarterback can be found, these two are legitimate threats.

The only starter not returning for 2017 offensive line will be center Freddie Burden. Even with so much starting experience back, there is tremendous competition going on for O-Line duties. It looks like the only sure things are sophomore Kenny Cooper taking over at center and fellow sophomore stud guard Parker Braun at left guard. 2016 starting left tackle Trey Klock and last year's starting right guard Will Bryan and Shamire Devine, Jahaziel Lee and Andrew Marshall are all going head to head for the other three starting assignments. Regardless of which three are victorious, Georgia Tech is going to have a very talented, experienced, deep offensive line rotation.

The line will be the strength of the offense and will allow Tech to regain their normal running game dominance. Georgia Tech will ride their offense to become a contender for the Coastal division of the ACC title.

YELLOWJACKET DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
KeShun Freeman	**DE**	**39**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Kyle Cerge-Henderson	**DT**	**26**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Brant Mitchell	**LB**	**71**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Lance Austin	**CB**	**50**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Corey Griffin	**SS**	**82**	**1**	**2**	**0**
A. J. Gray	**FS**	**72**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Georgia Tech's defense in 2016 was neither an asset nor a liability as the unit gave up 401.6 total yards per game. Most of that unit returns for 2017 and that added year of experience those returning starters and key reserves got last year will pay significant dividends this season.

The closest thing to a problem area for the 2017 Tech defense will be the line where Patrick Gamble and Roderick Rook-Chungong graduated. Returning will be three year starting end KeShun Freeman and tackle Kyle Cerge-Henderson. End Antonio Simmons was a solid reserve last year and looks more than capable of advancing to the starting unit. Anree Saint-Amour, Brentavious Glanton and Desmond Branch are all getting serious consideration for the open tackle assignment.

Spark plug linebacker P. J. Davis must be replaced. Brant Mitchell will be the leader of this linebacker rotation. He has been joined by Vic Alexander and David Curry to form the starting unit. Alexander and Curry shouldn't get too comfortable as Terrell Lewis and Tyler Cooksey are seeking playing time and will pressure the starters all through fall practices. Tech also recruited some talented linebackers and they may enter the picture this fall. All in all, the Yellowjackets will field a good linebacker rotation in 2017.

Safeties Corey Griffin and A. J. Gray and cornerbacks Step Durham and Lance Austin were the starting foursome last year and they are all back for this season. This secondary will be a very nice combination of heavy hitters and ball hawks. Assuming the line can get decent pressure on opposing quarterbacks, this group will be able to make plays. Georgia Tech also recruited some potential laden defensive backs and it will be interesting to see how they develop and are utilized in 2017.

We expect a significant improvement in Georgia Tech's defense. There are no glaring holes and the unit includes what shapes up as an excellent secondary. We can see the Tech defense turning the ball over to their offense in far better field position this year. When you combine this defense with the projected offense, you will come up with a definite contender for the Coastal division of the ACC title in 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium
2100 S. Floyd Street Louisville, KY 40292
Phone: (502) 852-6581
Web: http://www.gocards.com
Capacity: 55,000
Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 461 ft.

HEAD COACH: *BOBBY PETRINO*
O.C.: *LONNIE GALLOWAY*
D.C.: *PETER SIRMON*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Charlotte (109)	70 – 14
9-Sep	A	Syracuse (79)	62 – 28
17-Sep	H	Florida St (8)	63 – 20
24-Sep	A	Marshall (122)	59 – 28
1-Oct	A	Clemson (1)	36 – 42
14-Oct	H	Duke (93)	24 – 14
22-Oct	H	North Carolina St (51)	54 – 13
29-Oct	A	Virginia (118)	32 – 25
5-Nov	A	Boston College (66)	52 – 7
12-Nov	H	Wake Forest (59)	44 – 12
17-Nov	A	Houston (36)	10 – 36
26-Nov	H	Kentucky (63)	38 – 41
BOWL	H	LSU (15)	9 – 21

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Purdue (116)
9-Sep	A	North Carolina (43)
16-Sep	H	Clemson (1)
23-Sep	H	Kent State (119)
30-Sep	H	Murray State (Not D-1)
5-Oct	A	North Carolina State (51)
14-Oct	H	Boston College (66)
21-Oct	A	Florida State (8)
28-Oct	A	Wake Forest (59)
11-Nov	H	Virginia (118)
18-Nov	H	Syracuse (79)
25-Nov	A	Kentucky (63)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	5-2	4-2	5-7-1	3-4-0	2-3-1	8-4-0	4-2-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	3	YPG	532.7	Total Defense;	14	YAPG	322.2
Passing Offense;	23	YPG	290.5	Passing Defense;	37	YAPG	207.1
Rushing Offense;	13	YPG	242.2	Rushing Defense;	12	YAPG	115.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CARDINAL OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Lamar Jackson	**QB**	**3543-30-9**	**1571-21**	
Jaylen Smith	**WR**			**599-6**

Two returning starting linemen and four top reserves

All the press surrounding the 2017 Louisville football team has been about the return of Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Lamar Jackson. Very little has been said about the holes created by graduation and the lack of depth.

Running back Brandon Radcliff, receivers James Quick and Jamari Staples and tight end Cole Hikutini all do not return for 2017.

Jackson was a thing to behold last year as he racked up over 5000 yards of total offense and was responsible for 51 touchdowns. Louisville coaches are in hopes Jackson will either elect to not or be forced to not run as much this year. He does not have a body that is fit for taking too much punishment. He will be breaking in a new receiving group and will have a new tailback behind him so keeping Jackson from tucking and running with the ball may be easier said than done.

Jeremy Smith is the most productive returning running back. He is an excellent receiver out of the

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

backfield and would be a perfect piece as an outlet receiving option for Jackson but he has not displayed the ability to become a featured back. True freshman Colin Wilson will be a big challenger with Malik Williams also a possibility.

Jaylen Smith, Traveon Samuel and Seth Hawkins were a very productive reserve wide receiver unit last year and all return and will assume the starting duties this year. Smith has the look of a go-to guy and could have a big breakout season. Tight end is not as well defined. Charles Standberry is back but he will have to beat out Micky Crum, Texas A & M transfer Jordan Davis and freshman Kemari Averett. This will be a solid receiving rotation for Jackson to target.

The ultimate success or failure of Louisville's offense this year rest with the offensive line. The 2016 line yielded a terrible 47 sacks and that has to improve. Left tackle Geron Christian and guard Lukayus McNeil are the only returning staters. The balance of the line is a mystery but we fell junior college recruit Ronald Rudd and freshman Cole Bentley will be part of the rotation. Line again looks like a liability for Louisville.

CARDINAL DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Drew Bailey	**DE**	**58**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Stacy Thomas	**LB**	**85**	**1**	**0**	**0**
James Hearnes	**LB**	**43**	**8**	**0**	**0**
Zykiesis Cannon	**CB**	**67**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jaire Alexander	**CB**	**39**	**0**	**5**	**0**
Chucky Williams	**S**	**74**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Dee Smith	**S**	**42**	**0**	**0**	**0**

It is essential the defense again carry much of the load as the offense may be hamstrung by the problems within the O-Line. The defense was ranked 14th in the nation last year allowing just 322.2 yards per game. 207.1 of those yards were through the air.

Louisville must replace tackle DeAngelo Brown, linebackers Keith Kelsey and Devonte Fields but many people feel the biggest loss for the 2017 Louisville defense to overcome is the loss of coordinator Todd Grantham.

Drew Bailey is back and has retained his starting end duties. Chris Williams has the early leader for manning the other end slot. De'Asian Richardson is another possibility. The nose tackle assignment is currently in the hands of Kyle Shortridge. Depth will be a problem for Louisville so they need to avoid injuries.

Stacy Thomas and James Hearns are returning starting linebackers. Thomas is a tackling machine while Hearns applies excellent pressure on opposing quarterbacks. They will be joined by top 2106 reserves Isaac Stewart and Jonathan Greenard. Both had a lot of playing time last year and showed they are capable of starting. Depth is again a potential problem but the Cardinals have a couple of solid freshmen recruits they are hoping are ready to contribute.

Cornerback Jaire Alexander is liable to have a breakout season. Zykiesis Cannon had a big year in 2016 and bigger things are expected this season. Depth will come from Ronald Walker and Shaq Williams. Chucky Williams and Dee Smith are slate to start at safety but Khane Pass and freshman C.J. Avery will be pressing for playing time. The secondary will be the strength of this year's defense. It is a deep unit that gained valuable experience in 2016.

The front seven has to concern Louisville coaches. Depth is limited in the front seven and if an injury or two pops up, the defense could be crippled.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Miami Hurricanes

Atlantic Coast Conference, Coastal Divsion

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Sun Life Stadium

1120 NW 14th Street Coral Gables, FL 33124

Phone: (305) 284-2211

Web: http://www.hurricanesports.com

Capacity: 80,120

Surface: Prescription Turf **Altitude:** 7 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MARK RICHT*
O.C.:	*THOMAS BROWN*
D.C.:	*MANNY DIAZ*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*TODD HARTLEY*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Florida A & M (Not D-1)	70 – 3
10-Sep	H	Florida Atlantic (121)	38 – 10
17-Sep	A	Appalachian St (37)	45 – 10
1-Oct	A	Georgia Tech (33)	35 – 21
8-Oct	H	Florida St (8)	19 – 20
15-Oct	H	North Carolina (43)	13 – 20
20-Oct	A	Virginia Tech (16)	16 – 37
29-Oct	A	Notre Dame (82)	27 – 30
5-Nov	H	Pittsburgh (39)	51 – 28
12-Nov	A	Virginia (118)	34 – 14
19-Nov	A	North Carolina St (51)	27 – 13
26-Nov	H	Duke (93)	40 – 21
BOWL	H	West Virginia (21)	31 – 14

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Marshall (122)
9-Sep	H	Austin Peay (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Cincinnati (101)
23-Sep	A	Central Michigan (78)
30-Sep	A	Notre Dame (82)
7-Oct	H	Bowling Green (107)
14-Oct	A	Kent State (119)
21-Oct	H	Buffalo (126)
31-Oct	A	Ohio (58)
7-Nov	H	Akron (82)
15-Nov	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
21-Nov	A	Ball State (98)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	5-2	4-2	9-4-0	5-2-0	4-2-0	5-6-1	3-3-0	2-3-1

Total Offense;	57	YPG	425.9	Total Defense;	20	YAPG	345.5
Passing Offense;	27	YPG	274.2	Passing Defense;	47	YAPG	213.8
Rushing Offense;	93	YPG	151.8	Rushing Defense;	26	YAPG	131.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HURRICANE OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Gus Ragland	**QB**	**1537-17-1**	**202-2**	
Alonzo Smith	**RB**		**709-3**	**89-2**
James Gardner	**WR**			**750-6**
Jared Murphy	**WR**		**-1-0**	**552-5**
Ryan Smith	**TE**			**356-5**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Most people will tell you there are loads of candidates competing to replace quarterback Brad Kaaya. They will tell you Malik Rosier, Jack Allison, Evan Shirreffs, Vincent Testaverde and incoming freshmen Cade Weldon and N'Kosi Perry are all in the hunt. We will tell you with some certainty that is a two man race between Rosier and Allison. Rosier has had his chance already and has not impressed. We feel Allison is the future starter and the future begins this season.

Until the new quarterback settles in, expect a heavy dose of returning starting running back Mark Walton. He racked up 1117 rushing yards in 2016 and was also an excellent outlet pass option recording 240 receiving yards. Depth will need to be found. The new quarterback's transition period will be made much easier by Walton.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Miami Hurricanes

Wide receiver Ahmmon Richards is back after having a record setting freshman season. He amassed the most receiving yards (934) of any freshman receiver at Miami ever. He is an established go-to guy. Braxton Berrios looks like the man for one of the other two slots. Dionte Mullins and DeeJay Dallas are in the mix for the opening as are freshmen Jeff Thomas and Mike Harley. Thomas has blazing speed and would be a an excellent field stretcher. Chris Herndon was a very productive reserve tight end last year and will smoothly slide into that starting slot this year.

Besides having Walton as an effective tool for the new quarterback, Miami also returns four parts of an offensive line that matured nicely the second half of last season. After struggling to protect their quarterback, the line only allowed five sacks the last five games of 2016. Left tackle Trevor Darling, left guard K. C. McDermott, center Nick Linder and right tackle Tyree St. Louis all return and form an excellent foundation for the 2017 offensive line. However, with LSU transfer George Brown eligible and expected to capture the left tackle starting job, we can see some shuffling before the final starting unit is named. Tyler Gauthier, Bar Milo and Hayden Mahoney will challenge for playing time but the player who has a huge chance of cracking the rotation is freshman Navaughn Donaldson. The line will be a very good unit with a nice mix of experience and new faces.

The line and Mark Walton are huge assets but Miami still must find a capable quarterback.

H U R R I C A N E D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Chad Thomas	**DE**	**37**	**4**	**0**	**0**
R. J. McIntosh	**DT**	**46**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Kendrick Norton	**DT**	**39**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Shaquille Quarterman	**LB**	**84**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Jaquan Johnson	**SS**	**38**	**2**	**1**	**0**

Coordinator Manny Diaz has a chance to have an excellent defense. He has a a couple of holes to fill but he also has some fantastic talent returning.

The front four is going to be the strength of this team and will free up the back seven to make plays. All four of last years starters are back and some excellent depth will force them to not take any plays off. Ends Chad Thomas and Joe Jackson will apply pressure on opposing quarterbacks. They combined for 13 sacks last year. Jackson also had 10.5 tackles for loss. Tackles Kendrick Norton and Chad Thomas return. Each racked up double digit tackles for loss. The quality of line play will not drop measurably whenever Trent Harris, Demetrius and Gerald Willis are on the field. If he isn't given a redshirt, freshman Jon Ford will be another play maker along the line.

As freshmen, Shaq Quarterman, Michael Pinckney and Zach McCloud combined for 182 tackles, 6 sacks. These three excellent, young linebackers are liable to have astronomical stats playing behind such an outstanding front four. The players they beat out for the starting assignments last year are all back and will add excellent backups. The freshman class also has a couple of recruits who may simply be too good to keep them off the field.

Strong safety Jaquan Johnson will be the most experienced secondary member returning. Free safety looks like it will be the major problem for this defense. Cornerback has several potential laden possibilities only needing to convert potential to performance. Malek Young had a solid freshman campaign and appears to be the leader for one cornerback job. Transfer Jhavonte Dean was the most sought after juco player and figures to immediately capture the other corner when he arrives this fall. True freshman Trajan Bundy will be called into early action and provides depth at cornerback.

If Diaz can weave together a good secondary, this will be the best defense in the ACC, even better than Clemson and Florida State. He has loads of talent from which to chose. It all depends if the secondary gels as a unit.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

North Carolina State Wolfpack

Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Divsion

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Carter-Finley Stadium

2101 Hillsborough Street Raleigh, NC 27695-7001

Phone: (919) 515-2011

Web: http://www.gopack.com

Capacity: 57,583

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 346 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DAVE DOEREN*
O.C.:	*ELI DRINKWITZ*
D.C.:	*DAVE HUXTABLE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*EDDIE FAULKNER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	William & Mary (Not D-1)	48 – 14
10-Sep	A	East Carolina (110)	30 – 33
17-Sep	H	Old Dominion (48)	49 – 22
1-Oct	H	Wake Forest (59)	33 – 16
8-Oct	H	Notre Dame (82)	10 – 3
15-Oct	A	Clemson (1)	17 – 24
22-Oct	A	Louisville (18)	13 – 54
29-Oct	H	Boston College (66)	14 – 21
5-Nov	H	Florida St (8)	20 – 24
12-Nov	A	Syracuse (79)	35 – 20
19-Nov	H	Miami (FL) (20)	13 -27
25-Nov	A	North Carolina (43)	28 – 21
BOWL	H	Vanderbilt (62)	41 – 17

2017SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	South Carolina (75)
9-Sep	H	Marshall (122)
16-Sep	H	Furman (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Florida State (8)
30-Sep	H	Syracuse (79)
5-Oct	H	Louisville (18)
14-Oct	A	Pittsburgh (39)
28-Oct	A	Notre Dame (82)
4-Nov	H	Clemson (1)
11-Nov	A	Boston College (66)
18-Nov	A	Wake Forest (59)
25-Nov	H	North Carolina (43)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	4-3	3-3	9-4-0	6-2-0	3-2-0	4-7-1	2-4-1	2-3-0

Total Offense;	63	YPG	416.4	Total Defense;	24	YAPG	352.8
Passing Offense;	38	YPG	260.2	Passing Defense;	82	YAPG	244.2
Rushing Offense;	86	YPG	156.2	Rushing Defense;	8	YAPG	108.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

W O L F P A C K O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ryan Finley	**QB**	**3055-18-8**	**94-1**	
Stephen Louis	**WR**		**3-0**	**678-2**
Kalvin Harmon	**WR**			**462-5**
Jaylen Samuels	**TE**	**59-1-0**	**189-6**	**565-7**

Four returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

North Carolina will be one of the more interesting stories in college football in 2017. The offense has a slew of skill position players back and an offensive line full of talent and experience.

Ryan Finley transferred from Boise State and had a successful first year at the helm of NC State. Finley had some consistency problems last year but that is generally the rule with transfer quarterbacks. We expect him to improve greatly in 2017. However, his improvement will be largely dictated by how productive their new running back will be. Jalan McClemdon also returns and will function as Finley's backup.

Matt Dayes rushed for 1,166 yards and 10 scores last season and added 32 receptions for 267 yards. Finding one person who can replace all that production will be difficult if not impossible.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

North Carolina State Wolfpack

Reggie Gallaspy is the most productive returning running back but his 234 yards rushing in 2017 doesn't scare any opposing defensive coordinator. Johnny Frasier missed all of 2016 with a shoulder injury but he has abundant potential and State coaches just may let him loose this year. Converted wide receiver Nyheim Hines is another option. Expect North Carolina State to take a step back with their running game.

Wide receivers Stephen Louis and Kalvin Harmon are returning productive players. Louis was the leader last year with 678 yards. Tight end Jaylen Samuels is back after racking up 565 yards receiving last year. He also became a viable option running the ball and he may get more chances to do that in 2017. Maurice Trowell looks like he has captured the third wide receiver job. This will be a good receiving corpse and we expect their stats to get better this year as their quarterback improves.

The offensive line will be a big plus this season. Left tackle Tyler Jones, left guard Terronne Prescod, center Garrett Bradbury and right guard Tony Adams are all returning starters. They will be joined by Will Richardson to form one of the bast lines in the ACC.

If someone steps up and becomes a good running back, the NC State offense will be very potent.

W O L F P A C K D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Bradley Chubb	**DE**	**55**	**11**	**0**	**0**
Darian Roseboro	**DE**	**25**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Justin Jones	**DT**	**44**	**3**	**0**	**0**
B. J. Hill	**NT**	**38**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jerod Fernandez	**LB**	**89**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Airius Moore	**LB**	**85**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Shawn Boone	**SS**	**67**	**0**	**0**	**0**

The Wolfpack was the 24th ranked defense in 2016. From that group, safety Josh Jones, cornerback Jack Tocho and nickelback Dravious Wright are the biggest losses. Returning are a nice collection of experienced play makers. North Carolina State's defense has a good chance of being even better in 2017. Three year starters dot the depth chart.

The defensive line is set and good. End Bradley Chubb was expected to turn pro but didn't. He and Darian Roseboro will terrorize opposing quarterback all season. They are joined by tackle Justin Jones and nose tackle B. J. Hill. Germaine Pratt, Kentavius Street and juco transfer Larrell Murchison lend some excellent depth to the unit. They complete a line that will free up the rest of the defense to do their jobs.

Jerod Fernandez and Airius Moore are back and supply two excellent linebackers to the front seven. Riley Nicholson will be the third linebacker assuming he can hold off a batch of redshirt freshmen and freshmen. The youngsters need to step forward and provide some quality depth to the rotation.

Strong safety Shawn Boone is a stud and will anchor an inexperienced secondary. Dexter Wright is slated to be his running mate but some quality underclassmen may take away his playing time. Mike Stevens is back to man one cornerback slot but he needs to up his production drastically. Nick McCloud will probably be the other cornerback but just like Wright, he will have to turn back young challengers in the fall practice sessions. The secondary is the one real question mark for the 2017 North Carolina defense. The front seven is so good, the back four can just be average and still be productive.

North Carolina State will have a good defense this season but if the secondary surprises, the defense will be excellent.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

North Carolina Tarheels

Atlantic Coast Conference, Coastal Divsion

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Kenan Memorial Stadium

130 Mason Farm Road Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Phone: (919) 962-2211

Web: http://www.tarheelblue.com

Capacity: 62,980

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 484 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*LARRY FEDORA*
O.C.:	*CHRIS KAPILOVIC*
D.C.:	*GENE CHIZIK*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*LARRY PORTER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Georgia (50)	24 – 33
10-Sep	A	Illinois (108)	48 – 23
17-Sep	H	James Madison (Not D-1)	56 – 28
24-Sep	H	Pittsburgh (39)	37 – 36
1-Oct	A	Florida St (8)	37 – 35
8-Oct	H	Virginia Tech (16)	3 – 34
15-Oct	A	Miami (FL) (20)	20 – 13
22-Oct	A	Virginia (118)	35 – 14
5-Nov	H	Georgia Tech (33)	48 – 20
10-Nov	A	Duke (93)	27 – 28
19-Nov	H	The Citadel	41 – 7
25-Nov	H	North Carolina St (51)	21 – 28
BOWL	H	Stanford (17)	23 – 25

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	California (72)
9-Sep	H	Louisville (18)
16-Sep	A	Old Dominion (48)
23-Sep	H	Duke (93)
30-Sep	A	Georgia Tech (33)
7-Oct	H	Notre Dame (82)
14-Oct	H	Virginia (118)
21-Oct	A	Virginia Tech (16)
28-Oct	H	Miami (FL) (20)
9-Nov	A	Pittsburgh (39)
18-Nov	H	Western Carolina (Not D-1)
25-Nov	A	North Carolina State (51)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	4-4	4-1	8-5-0	3-3-0	5-2-0	4-8-0	3-3-0	1-5-0

Total Offense;	45	YPG	439	Total Defense;	63	YAPG	408.1
Passing Offense;	22	YPG	293.2	Passing Defense;	12	YAPG	180.8
Rushing Offense;	100	YPG	145.8	Rushing Defense;	109	YAPG	227.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TARHEEL OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Austin Proehl	**WR**	**8-0-0**		**597-3**

Four returning starting linemen and two top reserves

North Carolina is coming off a rather disappointing season when they ended 2016 with a loss to Stanford in their Sun Bowl game. The conclude an 8-5 season. From that team, several offensive key players do not return. As you will see, the Tar Heels will be counting on an unusually large number of freshmen and redsdhirt freshmen to fill the newly created holes.

The departure of quarterback Mitch Trubisky is getting all the press. Nathen Elliott was the primary backup in 2016 and has an early lead on capturing the job. He must fend off challenges from redshirt freshmen Logan Byrd and Chazz Surratt but his sternest challenge will come from LSU graduate transfer Brandon Harris. The final decision will depend on that type of offense best fits each quarterback.

The Tar Heels also lost its top two running backs, Elijah Hood and T. J. Logan. Jordon Brown looks like the replacement but expect true freshman Michael Carter to get heavy consideration. The duo of Brown and Carter would give Carolina two very different types of running backs. Brown would get the

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

heavy, tough yards while Carter would be a multi purpose type of back.

The receiving rotation will get a major overhaul with the departure of Ryan Switzer, Bug Howard and Mack Hollin. Austin Proehl is the most productive returning receive after racking up 597 yards last season. Expect that number to jump quite a bit as Proehl is targeted much more frequently in 2017. Auburn transfer Stanton Truitt will be a nice addition to the unit. Thomas Jackson looks like the third starter but that assumes he can withstand a strong challenge from true freshman J. T. Cauthen. Considering the amount of turnover, this will be a solid starting receiving corps.

Center Lucas Crowley and left guard Caleb Peterson must be replaced. Left tackle Bentley Spain and right tackle Jon Heck will be the glue that holds this line together. Tommy Hatton made a few starts at guard last year but will slide over to fill the center opening. R. J. Prince is back and has retained his starting right guard slot. The left guard assignment will feature a battle between Nick Polino and redshirt freshman Jay-Jay McCargo. Florida grad transfer Cameron Dillard may muscle his way into the starting unit. This will be a solid line and give the new quarterback time to settle in.

T A R H E E L D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Malik Carney	**DE**	**47**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Aaron Crawford	**DT**	**42**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jeremiah Clarke	**DT**	**42**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Cole Holcomb	**LB**	**117**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Andre Smith	**LB**	**114**	**1**	**0**	**0**
M. J. Stewart	**CB**	**66**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Donnie Miles	**SS**	**102**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Carolina has a really good passing defense and a really bad rushing defense in 2016. Was the passing defense so good because opponents found it unnecessary to throw the ball because their running games were having so much success?

Tackle Nazair Jones departed early for the NLF and is the only loss within the D-Line. Ends Malik Carney and Tyler Powell will pressure quarterbacks and should help the back seven retain their excellence. Aaron Crawford and Jeremiah Clarke are proven performers and will handle the tackle assignments. Jalen Dalton supplies the tackle spots some quality depth. We like this line and is will be a definite team asset.

North Carolina has two quality linebackers returning in Andre Smith and Cole Holcomb. They combined for 231 tackles last year and Carolina coaches hope that number is repeated. Cayson Collins completes the starting unit and is also a productive returning starter. The starting linebacker unit needs to stay healthy because depth at the position is limited. As long as the injury bug is avoided by the linebackers, the Carolina front seven is quality.

The Tar Heels must reload at two secondary slots. Cornerback Des Lawrence and safety Dominique Green are gone but it appears UNC has some solid options to fill those holes. M. J. Stewart surprised some people and returned for 2017. He is set at one cornerback assignment. Strong safety tackling monster Donnie Miles is also back. Miles Dorn was the top free safety reserve in 2016 and looks quite capable and ready to ascend to the starting secondary. Patrice Rene and Corky Bell look like the leading candidates for the cornerback opening BUT they must beat out true freshman C. J. Cotman. Cotman is very athletic and could be a long tern solution at cornerback. He also could become a primary kick return man this season.

The defense will need to carry more of the load early in the season as the offense will have several new parts that will need to gel. The talent is there on the defense and now it is time for that talent to play up to their potentials.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Pittsburgh Panthers

Atlantic Coast Conference, Coastal Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Heinz Field

4200 Fifth Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: (412) 624-4141

Web: http://www.pittsburghpanthers.com

Capacity: 65,050

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 765 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*PAT NARDUZZI*
O.C.:	*SHAWN WATSON*
D.C.:	*JOSH CONKLIN*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ANDRE POWELL*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Villanova (Not D-1)	28 – 7
10-Sep	H	Penn St (7)	42 – 39
17-Sep	A	Oklahoma St (11)	38 – 45
24-Sep	A	North Carolina (43)	36 – 37
1-Oct	H	Marshall (122)	43 – 27
8-Oct	H	Georgia Tech (33)	37 – 34
15-Oct	A	Virginia (118)	45 – 31
27-Oct	H	Virginia Tech (16)	36 – 39
5-Nov	A	Miami (FL) (20)	28 – 51
12-Nov	A	Clemson (1)	43 - 42
19-Nov	H	Duke (93)	56 – 14
26-Nov	H	Syracuse (79)	76 – 61
BOWL	H	Northwestern (55)	24 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Youngstown State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Penn State (7)
16-Sep	H	Oklahoma State (11)
23-Sep	A	Georgia Tech (33)
30-Sep	H	Rice (120)
7-Oct	A	Syracuse (79)
14-Oct	H	North Carolina State (51)
21-Oct	A	Duke (93)
28-Oct	H	Virginia (118)
9-Nov	H	North Carolina (43)
18-Nov	A	Virginia Tech (16)
24-Nov	H	Miami (FL) (20)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	6-1	2-4	5-7-1	2-5-1	3-2-0	11-1-0	6-1-0	5-0-0

Total Offense;	38	YPG	446.8	Total Defense;	101	YAPG	452.8
Passing Offense;	76	YPG	221.7	Passing Defense;	127	YAPG	333.2
Rushing Offense;	28	YPG	225.1	Rushing Defense;	16	YAPG	119.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

PANTHER OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jester Weah	**WR**			**870-10**

Three returning starting linemen and four top reserves

Pitt has recorded back to back 8-5 seasons and needs to find a way to get over the hump. With a few breaks, Pitt can push for the ACC Coastal Division title. They must make that move with a new offensive coordinator. He is Shawn Watson and was the scape goat for Charlie Strong when the Texas offense went south. He would like nothing better than to make this his redemption project.

The Panthers will have a new signal caller and it is assumed the new guy will be USC graduate transfer Max Browne. The decision of who will be the starting quarterback will be an interesting one as redshirt freshman Thomas MacVittieis is probably the long term solution at quarterback, Will the Pitt coaches take a one year possible wonder like Browne or with they go long term with MacVittieis.

Running back James Conner left early for the NFL. Most fans don't recall that when Connors was sidelined with illness in 2015, then freshman Qadree Ollison stepped in and racked up 1121 yards rushing. Look for a solid return by Ollison as the new featured back. He has a couple of nice options, Darrin Hall and Chawntez Moss, ready to step in as his backup. Fullback George Aston is back to

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

help the line open holes and protect the quarterback. Pittsburgh has a very interesting cast manning the receiving slots. Quadree Henderson is a jack of all trades rushing, receiving, and returning kicks. He racked up over 2000 all purpose yards in 2016 but will concentrate more on his receiving duties this year. Jester Weah is a top production returning wide receiver with 870 yards and an astounding 24.2 yards per catch last year. Rafael Araujo-Lopes, Maurice French, Aaron Mathews, Tre Tipton and redshirt freshmen Ruben Flowers and Michael Vardzel are all in the hunt for playing time. The tight end will be Chris Clark.

Linemen Adam Bisnowaty and Dorian Johnson are out of eligibility. A strong nucleus of center Alex Officer, right guard Alex Bookser and right tackle Brian O'Neill return. Left tackle will be handled by Jaryd Jones-Smith**.** He was slated to be a starter in 2015 but was injured. He returned last year as a top reserve. Left guard is a battle between redshirt freshmen. Either Brandon Ford and Justin Morgan will land the job and complete a solid offensive line.

PANTHER DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jeremiah Taleni	**NT**	**24**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Oluwaseun Idowu	**LB**	**74**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Avonte Maddox	**CB**	**49**	**3**	**3**	**0**
Jordan Whitehead	**SS**	**65**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Head coach Pat Narduzzi inherited an unstable mess when he took over two years ago. He has righted the ship but did so by concentrating a majority of his efforts resurrecting the offense. We are fearful that by not making his defense as much of a priority as his offense will be a huge problem this year as the defense suffered numerous loses and the Pitt roster didn't contain the needed depth for filling those newly created holes.

End Ejuan Price and tackle Shakir Soto leaving created two significant holes. Rush end Rori Blair has made 20 career starts but he faces stiff competition from back from injury Dewayne Hendrix and Allen Edwards. Edwards gained starting experience late last season. The other end opening has the inexperienced and lightly tested group of James Folston, Devon Edwards, redshirt freshmen Patrick Jones and Kaezon Pugh and Erik Sellers fighting for playing time. Tackle Amir Watts looks to have one assignment nailed down. Nose tackle Jeremiah Taleni is the only returning starter and will provide the new line stability. This isn't a pretty picture for Pitt.

Matt Galambos and Mike Caprara will not be back at linebacker. Iluwaseun Idowu will be required to produce and lead as he is the only returning starting linebacker. He will be joined by 2016 reserves Quintin Wirginis and Saleem Brightwell. This trio has talent but we fear far too much of their time will be spent making up for mistakes made by the front four. Depth will have to come from largely untested options.

Cornerback Ryan Lewis and safeties Terrish Webb and Reggie Mitchell all must be replaced. Strong safety Jordan Whitehead will be the foundation of an overhauled Pitt secondary. Dennis Briggs was a backup strong safety in 2016 but necessity may force him to shift to free safety. Jay Stocker is also in the hunt for the free safety assignment. Avonte Maddox is back and will be a very capable cornerback. His running mate is a mystery and may remain that way until late in fall practices. Phillipie Motley and Dane Jackson are the leading candidates for the job.

It is hard to get exited about the defensive prospect for Pitt's 2017 defense. There are simply too many holes and not enough depth.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Syracuse Orange

Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Carrier Dome

106 Walnut Place Syracuse, NY 13244-1100

Phone: (315) 443-1870

Web: http://suathletics.com

Capacity: 49,262

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 398 ft.

FOOTBALL

HEAD COACH:	*DINO BABERS*
O.C.:	*SEAN LEWIS*
D.C.:	*BRIAN WARD*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*TOM KAUFMAN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Colgate (Not D-1)	33 – 7
9-Sep	H	Louisville (18)	28 – 62
17-Sep	H	South Florida (19)	20 – 45
24-Sep	A	Connecticut (114)	31 – 24
1-Oct	H	Notre Dame (82)	33 – 50
8-Oct	A	Wake Forest (59)	9 – 28
15-Oct	H	Virginia Tech (16)	31 – 17
22-Oct	A	Boston College (66)	28 – 20
5-Nov	A	Clemson (1)	0 – 54
12-Nov	H	North Carolina St (51)	20 – 35
19-Nov	H	Florida St (8)	14 – 45
26-Nov	A	Pittsburgh (39)	81 – 76

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Central Connecticut St (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Middle Tennessee State (61)
16-Sep	H	Central Michigan (78)
23-Sep	H	Wake Forest (59)
23-Sep	A	LSU (15)
30-Sep	A	North Carolina State (51)
7-Oct	H	Pittsburgh (39)
13-Oct	H	Clemson (1)
21-Oct	A	Miami (FL) (20)
4-Nov	A	Florida State (8)
18-Nov	A	Louisville (18)
25-Nov	H	Boston College (66)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	2-5	2-3	5-7-0	2-5-0	3-2-0	3-9-0	2-5-0	1-4-0

Total Offense;	42	YPG	440.8	Total Defense;	122	YAPG	501.1
Passing Offense;	11	YPG	321.3	Passing Defense;	118	YAPG	276.1
Rushing Offense;	115	YPG	119.6	Rushing Defense;	108	YAPG	225

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

ORANGE OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Eric Dungey	**QB**	**2679-15-7**	**293-6**	
Dontae Strickland	**RB**	**84-1-0**	**566-4**	**132-0**
Ervin Phillips	**WR**	**10-0-0**	**18-1**	**822-6**
Steve Ishmael	**WR**			**559-1**

Five returning starting linemen and three top reserves

You only have to look at one game last year to see where Syracuse had problems. That was the Pittsburgh game when Syracuse scored 61 points and LOST!

The offense will again be in good hands with the return of Eric Dungey. He had a solid season but needs to stay healthy (something that could take place if the O-Line cuts down on the 38 sacks they allowed last season). His backup, Zack Mahoney is back but he will need to fight off challenges from redshirt freshman Rex Culpepper and true freshman Tommy DeVito.

Running backs Dontae Strickland and Moe Neal both return. They combined for a little over 900 yards in 2016. On the post spring depth chart, Neal was not listed but we feel he will be there by opening kickoff. They will need to up their production and one of the two must prove they are capable of being a

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

featured back. Strickland will get the starting nod as he is a better receiver out of the backfield.

Ervin Philips and Steve Ishmael are both back and give Dungey two excellent targets. They are capable of stretching the field but they also can move the chains. The third named starting receiver was a surprise. Jamal Custis was a redshirt last season after being injured and came on strong during spring drills. Juco transfer Ravian Pierce has grabbed the starting tight end slot. He was one of the top tight ends in the country in the junior college ranks last year. This receiving rotation will be quite good and provide varied targets.

Left tackle Cody Conway, left guard Aaron Roberts, center Colin Byrne and right tackle Jamar McGloster are all returning O-Line starters. Redshirt freshman Airon Servais captured the open right guard slot to finish off the line. As we mentioned earlier, the line simply must do a better job defending their quarterback. Hopefully the additional year of experience will point this unit in the right direction. If there is no significant improvement in the line, Samuel Clausman and Andrejas Duerig are waiting in the wings along with three redshirt freshman currently on the two deep depth chart.

An improved line makes a very good offense. The offense was good last year when the line stunk.

O R A N G E D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Steve Ishmael	**DT**	**32**	**3**	**0**	**1**
Parris Bennett	**LB**	**110**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Zaore Franklin	**LB**	**101**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Cordell Hudson	**CB**	**43**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Daivon Ellison	**SS**	**90**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Rodney Williams	**FS**	**60**	**1**	**2**	**0**

Syracuse had the 9th worst defense in the country last year. They were about equally inept against the pass (276.1 yards allowed per game) and versus the rush (225 yards allowed per game).

The line was the major defensive problem as they didn't put pressure on opposing quarterbacks and certainly didn't stuff the run. Their terrible play forced the back seven to spend a majority of their time covering up for front four mistakes. The result of the poor line play was allowing 38.6 points per game.

Ends Kendall Coleman and Steven Clark both return but Clark is fighting blood clots. Defensive tackle Chris Slayton is the most productive returning lineman. He will be paired up with nose tackle McKinley Williams. This foursome produced little last year but Syracuse is stuck with them as they have very few alternatives. Freshman Jonathan Kingsley is a possibility at end but there are no other incoming freshman who look ready for combat.

Linebackers Zaire Franklin and Parris Bennett both recored over 100 tackles last season and return for 2017. Add to the starting unit Jonathan Thomas and you have a threesome that has already shown they can tackle but until the line performs at an acceptable level, we have no idea if they can handle their other linebacker duties.

Cornerback Cordell Hudson, strong safety Daivon Ellison and free safety Rodney Williams are all back. The trio combined for 193 tackles in 2016 and just 4 interceptions. That shows you where they had to concentrate their efforts. Christopher Frederick will man the other cornerback job after having a very good freshman season. Also in the mix is safety Antwan Cordy. He missed last season due to injury but is considered the best playmaker on the roster and a natural leader. The secondary will be shuffled to make room for Cordy. With even a modest amount of pressure on opposing quarterbacks by the front four, this secondary will be able to concentrate on their real duties and will cut down on the awful number of big plays it gave up last season.

Syracuse has almost everyone back on their defense. That's the good news and that is also the bad news. The 2016 unit started a bus load of under classmen and maybe that awful year of experience will benefit the 2017 unit. Face it, things can't be any worse.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Virginia Cavaliers

Atlantic Coast Conference, Coastal Divsion

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Scott Stadium

1165 Pepsi Place Charlottesville, VA 22904

Phone: (434) 924-0311

Web: http://www.virginiasports.com

Capacity: 61,500

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 467 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BRONCO MENDENHALL*
O.C.:	*ROBERT ANAE*
D.C.:	*NICK HOWELL*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*KELLY POPPINGA*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Richmond (Not D-1)	20 – 37
10-Sep	A	Oregon (87)	26 – 44
17-Sep	A	Connecticut (114)	10 – 13
24-Sep	H	Central Michigan (78)	49 – 35
1-Oct	A	Duke (93)	34 – 20
15-Oct	H	Pittsburgh (39)	31 – 45
22-Oct	H	North Carolina (43)	14 – 35
29-Oct	H	Louisville (18)	25 - 35
5-Nov	A	Wake Forest (59)	20 – 27
12-Nov	H	Miami (FL) (20)	14 – 34
19-Nov	A	Georgia Tech (33)	17 – 31
26-Nov	A	Virginia Tech (16)	10 – 52

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	William & Mary (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Indiana (64)
16-Sep	H	Connecticut (114)
23-Sep	A	Boise State (26)
7-Oct	H	Duke (93)
14-Oct	A	North Carolina (43)
21-Oct	H	Boston College (66)
28-Oct	A	Pittsburgh (39)
4-Nov	H	Georgia Tech (33)
11-Nov	A	Louisville (18)
18-Nov	A	Miami (FL) (20)
24-Nov	H	Virginia Tech (16)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	2-10	1-5	1-5	5-7-0	2-4-0	3-3-0	4-7-1	2-3-1	2-4-0

Total Offense;	112	YPG	352.9	Total Defense;	93	YAPG	446.6
Passing Offense;	61	YPG	239.3	Passing Defense;	103	YAPG	256.6
Rushing Offense;	121	YPG	113.6	Rushing Defense;	78	YAPG	190

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CAVALIERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Kurt Benkert	**QB**	**2552-21-11**	**-94-0**	
Doni Dowling	**WR**			**626-4**
Olasmide Zaccheaus	**WR**		**24-0**	**584-7**

Two returning starting linemen and two top reserves

In his first season as Virginia's head coach Bronco Mendenhall learned something. Recruiting has two parts, attracting and retaining. The previous staff did a wonderful job of attracting top notch talent but they also were a complete failure at retaining those same recruits and that left the cupboard far emptier than Mendenhall ever imagined.

After transferring from East Carolina, quarterback Kurt Benkert became the starter and is back for 2017. He threw for 2,552 yards and 21 touchdowns but had 11 interceptions. He must improved on his touchdown/interception ratio if Virginia is going to make progress offensively. Virginia also needs to find a qualified backup quarterback.

Virginia will have a completely new running back rotation as both Taquan Mizzell and Albert Reid have departed. Jordan Ellis is the most productive returning running back but his whopping 61 yards

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

rushing hardly guarantees him a starting assignment this year. Daniel Hamm and incoming freshmen Jamari Peacock and Lamont Atkins are under consideration and we feel one of the redshirts will be given the job..

Last year's top two receivers, Doni Dowling and Olamide Zaccheaus return. They combined for over 1200 receiving yards and provide the Cavs with two solid options. David Eldridge, Andre Levrone, Hasise Dubois, Warren Craft and Joe Reed are all battling for that third job and for rotation playing time. Evan Butts looks like he will be the tight end. The receiving rotation will be a positive for Virginia,

Going into spring drills, the offensive line was a mess. Finding replacements for starters center Jackson Matteo, left guard Michael Mooney and right tackle Eric Smith was a top priority along with finding linemen who might allow fewer than 36 sacks like last year's unit did. All we learned about the line is that Jake Fieler will shift to center and that Virginia can't wait for graduate transfers Colin McGovern and John Montelus from Notre Dame and Brandon Pertile from Oklahoma State to arrive.

Things look bleak offensively for Virginia in 2017. Any progress over the 2016 unit will be a very pleasant shock!

C A V A L I E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Andrew Brown	**DE**	**38**	**6**	**0**	**1**
Eli Hanback	**DE**	**36**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Micah Kiser	**LB**	**133**	**7**	**1**	**2**
Juan Thornhill	**CB**	**45**	**1**	**3**	**0**
Quin Blanding	**FS**	**118**	**0**	**2**	**1**

Virginia actually has some good talent on the defensive side of the ball. They return eight starters, two of which were all conference. Several young players were forced into duty last year and did a decent job. We expect that year of play will make them better in 2017. The 2016 unit was ranked 99th in the country in scoring defense and that ranking has a chance to be improved quite a bit.

Andrew Brown and Eli Hanback are back to man their defensive end slots. They did a decent job last year. They applied some pressure on quarterbacks and helped slow down running teams. Nose tackle Donte Wilkins graduated. His loss hurts, especially since there is not an obvious replacement making himself known going into fall drills. Juwan Moye, James Tricilla and Jack Powers are all fighting to fill that hole. Brown needs to step up and become a senior leader for the front three.

Virginia has three parts of its four man linebacker unit back. Micah Kiser will lead the 2017 group after having an All Conference season last year. He has one middle linebacker job nailed down. Chris Peace and Jordan Mack are back to man the outside jobs. Landan Word is the leading candidate for the job alongside Kiser. The 2016 unit was young and we expect this group to improve this year.

Free safety Quin Blanding was All Conference last year and looks to finish his collegiate career strongly. He and former cornerback turned strong safety Juan Thornhill give the secondary solid footing. Tim Harris returns from injury exile and is expected to capture one cornerback opening. Bryce Hall will battle for the other job. Incoming freshman Germane Crowell looks to have a solid chance of being part of the secondary rotation.

Things are not as bleak on the defensive side of the ball as they are on offense. The biggest problem for the 2017 Virginia defense will be depth. With an offense lacking the ability to sustain long drives, depth will become essential for the defense as the year drags on and an unhealthy number of snaps begins to pile up on the defenders.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

Virginia Tech Hokies

Atlantic Coast Conference, Coastal Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Lane Stadium

1211 University City Blvd Blacksburg, VA 24061-0131

Phone: (540) 231-6000

Web: http://www.hokiesports.com

Capacity: 65,632

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 2083 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JUSTIN FUENTE*
O.C.:	*BRAD CORNEISEN*
D.C.:	*BUD FOSTER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JAMES SHIBEST*

SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Liberty (Not D-1)	36 – 13
10-Sep	H	Tennessee (25)	24 – 45
17-Sep	H	Boston College (66)	49 – 0
24-Sep	H	East Carolina (110)	54 – 17
8-Oct	A	North Carolina (43)	34 – 3
15-Oct	A	Syracuse (79)	17 – 31
20-Oct	H	Miami (FL) (20)	37 – 16
27-Oct	A	Pittsburgh (39)	39 – 36
5-Nov	A	Duke (93)	24 – 21
12-Nov	H	Georgia Tech (33)	20 – 30
19-Nov	A	Notre Dame (82)	34 – 31
26-Nov	H	Virginia (118)	52 – 10
3-Dec	H	Clemson (1)	35 – 42
BOWL	H	Arkansas (49)	35 – 24

SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	West Virginia (21)
9-Sep	H	Delaware (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	East Carolina (110)
23-Sep	H	Old Dominion (48)
30-Sep	H	Clemson (1)
7-Oct	A	Boston College (66)
21-Oct	H	North Carolina (43)
28-Oct	H	Duke (93)
4-Nov	A	Miami (FL) (20)
11-Nov	A	Georgia Tech (33)
18-Nov	H	Pittsburgh (39)
24-Nov	A	Virginia (118)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-4	6-2	4-2	8-6-0	5-2-0	3-4-0	7-5-1	3-2-1	4-3-0

Total Offense;	39	YPG	444.9	Total Defense;	18	YAPG	340.7
Passing Offense;	35	YPG	261.9	Passing Defense;	26	YAPG	200.2
Rushing Offense;	55	YPG	183.1	Rushing Defense;	32	YAPG	140.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HOKIES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Travon McMillian	**RB**		**671-7**	**129-3**
Cam Phillips	**WR 1**		**40-0**	**983-5**

Three returning starting linemen and five top reserves

Head coach Justin Fuente enters his second season after earning the Coastal Division crown in 2016. What can he do for an encore?

There is a whale of a battle going on at Virginia Tech to see who will become the new starting quarterback. It was assumed that redshirt freshman Josh Jackson would show up and be awarded the starting nod. Junior college transfer A.J. Bush and early enrollee Hendon Hooker hadn't read that script and put up solid spring performances to completely muddy the water. Stay tuned for fall practices.

Travon McMillian returns to handle the featured running back duties. He was a 1000+ yards rusher inn 2015 and Tech needs for him to return to that level of production as the new quarterback settles in. Marshawn Williams provides depth and has been productive when called upon.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Virginia Tech Hokies

Tech will need to find replacements for Isiaiah Ford and Bucky Hodges, two of the top receivers in 2016. Top receiver Cam Phillips returns and will be the go-to guy and is capable of more than his 2016 983 receiving yards total with an expended role in 2017. C. J. Carroll is also back and his number of times targeted will also take a big jump. Eric Kumah and Phillip Patterson are the leading contenders for the third wide receiver job. Tight end Chris Cunningham is also back but he will need to withstand an all out assault for his slot by talented freshman Dalton Keene.

The biggest area of need for Virginia Tech will be rebuilding the offensive line after experiencing the loses of guard Augie Conte and tackle Jonathan McLaughlin. Left tackle Yosuah Nijman, left guard Wyatt Teller and center Eric Gallo are all returning starters and certainly provide a solid foundation around which to build a quality line. Braxton Pfaff will step up from last year's reserve unit to fill the right guard opening as will Parker Osterich at right tackle. Notre Dame grad transfer John Montelus and Oklahoma State grad transfer Brandon Persile will figure into the line rotation somewhere.

Fuente has built a solid reputation for developing quarterbacks. That ability will be critical for the ultimate success for the 2017 Virginia Tech offense.

HOKIES DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Vinny Mihota	**DE**	**43**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Trevon Hill	**DE**	**37**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Ricky Walker	**NT**	**28**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Andrew Motuapuaka	**LB**	**113**	**2**	**3**	**0**
Terrell Edmunds	**LB**	**89**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Brandon Facyson	**CB**	**47**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Adonis Alexander	**CB**	**43**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Tremaine Edmunds	**SS**	**105**	**5**	**1**	**0**

Virginia Tech fans need to be excited about the 2017 defense. Last year's unit ranked 26th versus the pass and 32nd defending against the run. Even with the loses of end Ken Ekanem, tackle Woody Barron and safety Chuck Clark, Tech's defense could be better this year.

Ends Vinny Mihota and Trevon Hill and tackles Ricky Walker and Tim Settle are set as the starting front four. Mihota is the only returning starter but the other three recorded significant playing time last year and showed they can be productive. Redshirt freshman defensive tackle Jarrod Hewitt will be called upon to provide badly needed depth. The starters need to stay healthy but if they do, this will be a very good front four.

The complete starting linebacker trio returns. Andrew Motuapuaka, Mook Reynolds and Terrell Edmunds combined for 266 tackles, 4 sacks and 9 INTERCEPTIONS last year. They showed their ability to stop running plays and cover short passing routes well. Anthony Shegog provides a splash of game tested depth but it will help Tech greatly if freshman Dylan Rivers shows up on campus ready to contribute.

Cornerbacks Brandon Facyson and Adonis Alexander and strong safety Tremaine Edmunds provide three quality parts for the four man secondary group. There is one very interesting candidate to fill the free safety opening. True freshman Devon Hunter has a very realistic chance of becoming an immediate starter, especially with having a mentor as his running mate. Edmunds could teach him the ropes and cover up for him when he makes those expected freshman mistakes. Greg Stroman adds depth at cornerback and redshirt freshman cornerback Khalil Ladler is too skilled to keep on the bench.

This will be an excellent defense with no glaring weaknesses. The only problem this group might face is if the injury bug comes calling. With the exception of the secondary, depth is in short supply.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Wake Forest Demon Deacons

Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: BB&T Field at Groves Stadium

1834 Wake Forest Road Winston Salem, NC 27106

Phone: (336) 758-5255

Web: http://www.wakeforestsports.com

Capacity: 31,500

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 1210 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DAVE CLAWSON*
O.C.:	*WARREN RUGGIERO*
D.C.:	*JAY SAWVEL*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*WAYNE LINEBURG*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Tulane (100)	7 – 3
10-Sep	A	Duke (93)	24 – 14
17-Sep	H	Delaware (Not D-1)	38 – 21
24-Sep	A	Indiana (64)	33 – 28
1-Oct	A	North Carolina St (51)	16 – 33
8-Oct	H	Syracuse (79)	28 – 9
15-Oct	A	Florida St (8)	6 – 17
29-Oct	H	Army (76)	13 – 21
5-Nov	H	Virginia (118)	27 – 20
12-Nov	A	Louisville (18)	12 – 44
19-Nov	H	Clemson (1)	13 – 35
26-Nov	H	Boston College (66)	14 – 17
BOWL	H	Temple (30)	34 – 26

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Presbyterian (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Boston College (66)
16-Sep	H	Utah State (106)
23-Sep	A	Appalachian State (37)
23-Sep	A	Syracuse (79)
30-Sep	H	Florida State (8)
7-Oct	A	Clemson (1)
21-Oct	A	Georgia Tech (33)
28-Oct	H	Louisville (18)
4-Nov	A	Notre Dame (82)
18-Nov	H	North Carolina State (51)
25-Nov	H	Duke (93)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	5-3	2-3	8-5-0	3-4-0	5-1-0	4-7-1	2-4-1	2-3-0

Total Offense;	124	YPG	311.5	Total Defense;	40	YAPG	370.5
Passing Offense;	113	YPG	165.7	Passing Defense;	66	YAPG	228.2
Rushing Offense;	101	YPG	145.8	Rushing Defense;	33	YAPG	142.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

DEMON DEACON OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
John Wolford	**QB**	**1774-9-10**	**521-6**	**-6-0**
Matt Colburn	**RB**		**626-2**	**143-0**
Tabari Hines	**WR**		**-4-0**	**447-3**

Three returning starting linemen and four top reserves

If Wake Forest is going to continue to improve, they have to get far more production out of their offense. 2016 saw the Demon Deacons rank 113th in passing offense and for 101st rushing offense. Both these ranking must improve greatly. The time is right for Wake to take the next step forward as the Demon Deacons return nearly everyone on offense

Quarterbacks John Wolford, Kyle Kearnes and Kendall Hinton competed for the starting quarterback job in spring practices but none of the three distinguished himself enough to be declared the starter. Wolford was the starter in 2016 but obviously the Wake coaching staff was not totally satisfied with his leadership.

Whomever captures the starting qb job will benefit from having running back Cade Carney returning. He had a solid freshman year in 2016. We fully expect that he will continue to improve and could approach 1000 yards rushing in 2017. Matt Colburn will be his backup and will provide nice, game test-

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

experience. This young backfield duo could be the surprise of the ACC. Wake Forest has a slew of wide receivers returning. Tabari Hines was the most productive in 2016 yet he only amassed 626 receiving yards. Cortez Lewis and Alex Bachman are currently sitting atop the depth chart with Hines but you must respect the chances of Chuck Wade and Scotty Washington. With 426 yards receiving for three touchdowns, tight end Cam Serigne will provide another talented target.

The ultimate success or failure for the 2017 Wake Forest offense lies with the offensive line. The 2016 version gave up a horrible 39 sacks. Two key pieces from that unit, guard Tyler Hayworth and center Josh Harris are gone. Left tackle Justin Herron, left guard Tyler Hayworth, center Josh Harris, right guard Phil Haynes and right tackle Ryan Anderson exited the spring practice session as the starting five. Harron, Haynes and Anderson were starters last year and provide this group with a solid foundation. Jake Benzinger and A'Lique Terry supply veteran backup but redshirt freshman Taleni Suhren will be pushing for playing time. The line should be better but by how much is the question.

D E M O N D E A C O N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Duke Ejiofor	**DE**	**50**	**11**	**1**	**0**
Wendell Dunn	**DE**	**32**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Willie Yarbary	**DT**	**21**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Chris Stewart	**DT**	**20**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Jessie Bates	**SS**	**100**	**0**	**5**	**0**

The Demon Deacons defense was the strength of the 2016 team. They ranked 66th for passing defense and 33rd for rushing defense. Lost from that unit are tackle Josh Banks, linebacker Marquel Lee, cornerback Brad Watson and rover Thomas Brown. However, some very key parts return for 2017 around which Wake can build another solid defense.

Ends Duke Ejiofor and Wendell Dunn are back after Ejiofor was a pass rush monster with 11 sacks in 2016. Wake Forest also has tackles Willie Yarbary and Chris Stewart returning but Josh Banks passed Yarbary on the depth chart at the end of spring practices. Paris Black and Chris Calhoun add additional depth to what shapes up as an excellent Wake front four rotation.

Wake runs a two linebacker set so the loss of Lee is a heavy one. Jaboree Williams started six games in 2016 and is back. His running mate will be either Grant Dawson or Justin Strnad. This duet will be functional but do not expect them to be exceptional. The starting pair will be allowed to do their primary duties as the front four will stuff the run well and apply heat to opposing quarterbacks.

The five man Wake Forest secondary took the biggest hit. Only strong safety Jessie Bates and cornerback Amari Henderson are returning starters. Both were redshirt freshmen last year and Bates made a monster debut. He was a hit monster and racked up 5 interceptions. Thomas Brown and Demetrius Kemp are still in a heated battle for the open rover assignment. Brad Watson and Essang Bassey provide two solid options at the other cornerback slot. Free safety is still up in the air with three contenders for the job. Josh Okonye, Dez Wortham and Cameron Glenn are all in the middle of the battle. Glenn was the most productive in 2016 but he didn't show up on the post spring two deep depth chart. While there are sizable questions about the Wake 2017 secondary, there are also plenty of viable, potential answers on hand to fill any holes.

We feel the secondary will come together and complete another nice Wake Forest defense, The front four is certainly the strength of the unit and gives Wake coaches something around which to build a solid defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

BIG TEN CONFERENCE
5440 PARK PLACE
ROSEMONT, IL 60018
847-696-1010
COMMISSIONER: JAMES E. DELANY

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

EAST DIVISION

Penn State
Ohio State
Michigan
Indiana
Michigan State
Maryland
Rutgers

WEST DIVISION

Wisconsin
Iowa
Northwestern
Nebraska
Purdue
Minnesota
Illinois

Rainman

EAST DIVISION

Ohio State
Penn State
Michigan
Rutgers
Maryland
Michigan State
Indiana

WEST DIVISION

Wisconsin
Iowa
Northwestern
Illinois
Nebraska
Minnesota
Purdue

East Division

Penn State lacks the element of surprise. They are loaded this year and everyone knows it. Ohio State has questions at quarterback and wide receiver but their defense will again be strong. The Buckeyes need to find a way to get quarterback J. T. Barrett back on track. Michigan has lost 17 starters and have no identified play makers on either side of the ball. The defense won't be able to carry the offense like they did in 2017. Solid recruiting will provide capable replacements but not all those candidates will live up to their hype. Indiana will continue its long climb back to respectability. Their offense will be about the same as last year and the defense will be slightly better. Maryland will need for their defense to pick up the slack created by an offense taking a big step back in 2017. Michigan State will field a terribly young offense in 2017. They will also need to rebuild their D-Line if they expect to not step even farther back. Rutgers will be out manned again this year. The Rutgers coaches need to identify long term solutions while they continue to try to recruit better athletes.

West Division

Wisconsin will look somewhat different offensively. They will be much better throwing the ball but not as good at running the ball. The offensive line will be the key to Wisconsin's offensive success in 2017. Defensively the Badgers will field a solid unit without any obvious weaknesses. Iowa will need to find a capable quarterback. The Hawkeyes will rely more heavily on their defense while the new offense settles in. Northwestern was doomed by a poor offense last year. An extremely young offensive line was a major part of Northwestern lack of offense. That line is back and has a full year under their belts. Defensively the Wildcats will field another solid unit. Nebraska will rise and fall with its defense. Too many holes exist in their offense for the Cornhuskers to count on winning any high scoring games. Purdue will be adjusting to a new coaching staff and they will be making a step forward in 2017 while Minnesota and Illinois are making steps back. None of these three teams will be any kind of a factor in their division and all the need to be pointing a year or two down the road. All three need to make huge efforts in up grading their recruiting.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Illinois Fighting Illini

Big Ten Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Memorial Stadium Champaign

1402 S 1st St, Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 333-1400

Web: http://www.fightingillini.com

Capacity: 60,670

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 737 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*LOVIE SMITH*
O.C.:	*GARRICK MCGEE*
D.C.:	*HARDY NICKERSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*BOB LIGASHESKY*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Murray St (Not D-1)	52 – 3
10-Sep	H	North Carolina (43)	23 – 48
17-Sep	H	Western Michigan (12)	10 – 34
1-Oct	A	Nebraska (27)	16 – 31
8-Oct	H	Purdue (116)	31 – 34
15-Oct	A	Rutgers (123)	24 – 7
22-Oct	A	Michigan (9)	8 – 41
29-Oct	H	Minnesota (38)	17 – 40
5-Nov	H	Michigan St (97)	31 – 27
12-Nov	A	Wisconsin (10)	3 – 48
19-Nov	H	Iowa (34)	0 – 28
26-Nov	A	Northwestern (55)	21 – 42

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Ball State (98)
9-Sep	H	Western Kentucky (23)
16-Sep	A	South Florida (19)
29-Sep	H	Nebraska (27)
7-Oct	A	Iowa (34)
14-Oct	H	Rutgers (123)
21-Oct	A	Minnesota (38)
28-Oct	H	Wisconsin (10)
4-Nov	A	Purdue (116)
11-Nov	H	Indiana (64)
18-Nov	A	Ohio State (6)
25-Nov	H	Northwestern (55)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	2-5	1-4	5-7-0	2-5-0	3-2-0	6-6-0	4-3-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	123	YPG	315.1	Total Defense;	61	YAPG	405.1
Passing Offense;	109	YPG	174.6	Passing Defense;	17	YAPG	185.9
Rushing Offense;	105	YPG	140.5	Rushing Defense;	105	YAPG	219.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

I L L I N I O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Kendrick Foster	**RB**		**720-7**	**54-2**
Malik Turner	**WR**		**5-0**	**712-6**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Lovie Smith begins his second season at Illinois after suffering through a 3-9 year in 2016. Smith may not have known how much of a mess he was inheriting but the job is his now. He will be forced to try to get Illinois pointed in the right direction utilizing a squad that is the youngest and least experienced team in the Big Ten. In the long run, getting the youngsters game experience is the right way to go. In the short run, it forces the Illinois faithful to watch another bad football team.

The first huge task for Smith and his staff this year is do develop something that looks like an offense. The Fighting Illini were ranked 109th for passing offense and 105th for rushing offense last year.

Chayce Crouch and Jeff George are the leading quarterback candidates that were on campus for spring practices. Couch didn't participate in those drills as he was recovering from injury. Neither he nor George have given any sign they are capable of leading the team out of the wilderness. The best option for Illinois is juco transfer Dwayne Lawson but he has not been cleared to become eligible.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Running backs Kendrick Foster (720 rushing yards) and Reggie Corbin (523 yards) both are back and give the Illinois offense a couple of proven producers. Expect Illinois to use these two a lot, especially early in the year as they sort things out a quarterback and receiver.

Malik Turner (712 receiving yards for 6 touchdowns) will provide whomever ends up being the quarterback one solid target. Hopefully Mike Dudek will be fully recovered from his injury and will be another solid receiver. He had 1038 receiving yards as a freshman in 2014 but has been out with injury the past two years. If he can't go, we expect to see a lot of freshmen Carmoni Green and Rickey Smalling and redshirt freshman M. J. McGriff.

Two starters, right guard Nick Allegretti and tight tackle Christian DiLauro and two more linemen with extensive game experience, left tackle Adam Solomon and left guard Gabe Megginson return and will form the nucleus of the offensive line. The center job is up for grabs but expect the job to go to another of the untested youngsters.

ILLINI DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Tre Watson	**LB**	**102**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Jaylen Dunlap	**CB**	**62**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Stanley Green	**SS**	**62**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Patrick Nelson	**FS**	**75**	**.5**	**0**	**1**

Things look as least as bleak on defense as they do on offense. The line lost three starters and the team leader at linebacker is gone along with a key member of the secondary. The defense wasn't very good last year and it looks like the unit will take a step back this year.

Defensive ends Dawuane Smoot and Carroll Phillips and tackle Chunky Clements have all exhausted their eligibility. Tito Odenigbo and Henry McGraw are the most experienced returning defensive ends but they combined for just 20 tackles and one sack in 2016. Expect five freshman defensive ends lead by Owen Carney to get heavy consideration in the fall. Jamal Milan and Kenyon Jackson will start at tackle and do a respectable job. Depth will be a problem at tackle.

Linebacker and team leader Hardy Nickerson has departed. Tre Watson returns after having 102 tackles last year. Julian Jones will be one of his running mates. The third linebacker job will have heavy competition between 2016 reserve James Crawford and juco transfer Del'Shawn Phillips. Several linebackers got some game experience as freshmen last year and will man the backup unit this year. If Illinois has a strength on defense, it has to be the linebacker rotation. It is a shame they will spend a majority of their time running down mistakes made by the line.

Strong safety Taylor Barton must be replaced but in Stanley Green Illinois has a proven, productive replacement. He will pair up with returning starter free safety Patrick Nelson. They will be solid against the run but need to become more productive defending against the pass. Jaylen Dunlop is back and has again won one cornerback assignment. He also needs to become a better pass defender. He will be joined by Chris James, a graduate from last year's reserve unit. There is a splash of depth backing up this foursome. The secondary will be a slightly above average unit, assuming it is not hit hard by injuries.

The defense will be loaded with youth. With that lack of experience will come the expected mistakes. Illinois fans need to look at this year as a prolonged practice session in preparation for 2018.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Indiana Hoosiers

Big Ten Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Memorial Stadium

107 South Indiana Ave Bloomington, IN 47405-7000

Phone: (812) 855-4848

Web: http://iuhoosiers.com

Capacity: 52,929

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 781 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*TOM ALLEN*
O.C.:	*MIKE DeBORD*
D.C.:	*MARK HAGEN*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*WILLIAM INGE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	A	Florida International (105)	34 – 13
10-Sep	H	Ball St (98)	30 – 20
24-Sep	H	Wake Forest (59)	28 – 33
1-Oct	H	Michigan St (97)	24 – 21
8-Oct	A	Ohio St (6)	17 – 38
15-Oct	H	Nebraska (27)	22 – 27
22-Oct	A	Northwestern (55)	14 – 24
29-Oct	H	Maryland (69)	42 – 36
5-Nov	A	Rutgers (123)	33 – 27
12-Nov	H	Penn St (7)	31 – 45
19-Nov	A	Michigan (9)	10 – 20
26-Nov	H	Purdue (116)	26 – 24
BOWL	H	Utah (24)	24 – 26

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Ohio State (6)
9-Sep	A	Virginia (118)
16-Sep	H	Florida International (105)
23-Sep	H	Georgia Southern (91)
30-Sep	A	Penn State (7)
14-Oct	H	Michigan (9)
21-Oct	A	Michigan State (97)
28-Oct	A	Maryland (69)
4-Nov	H	Wisconsin (10)
11-Nov	A	Illinois (108)
18-Nov	H	Rutgers (123)
25-Nov	A	Purdue (116)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	4-3	2-4	6-7-0	2-5-0	4-2-0	4-8-0	3-4-0	1-4-0

Total Offense;	56	YPG	426	Total Defense;	45	YAPG	380.1
Passing Offense;	28	YPG	273.8	Passing Defense;	53	YAPG	219.7
Rushing Offense;	92	YPG	152.2	Rushing Defense;	53	YAPG	160.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HOOSIER OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Richard Lagow	**QB**	**3362-19-17 -**	**188-2**	**5-1**
Nick Westbrook	**WR**		**1-1**	**995-6**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Indiana goes into the 2017 season with a new head coach. Tom Allen faces some significant challenges.

Part of the coaching change is the arrival of Mike DeBord as offensive coordinator. It remains to be seen if his leadership will have a positive effect on returning quarterback Richard Lagow. He threw for 3362 for 19 touchdowns. Those a decent stats until you include his 17 interceptions. Lagow must improve on his decision making. DeBord must also find a capable backup quarterback after Danny Cameron was suspended indefinitely.

Devine Redding ran for 1122 yards last year and does not return for 2017. A bus load of running backs with limited game experience are back. Camion Patrick had his 2016 season cut short by a knee injury. He is fully recovered and has a slight edge over Tyler Natee, Mike Majette and Devonte Williams. Regardless of who earns the starting job, it is hard to see one person replacing all of

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Redding's production. Nick Westbrook had 965 receiving yards in 2016 and is back to lead the wide receiver unit. Luke Timian and Donavan Hale are two strong candidates for the two open jobs but strong consideration has to be given from two proven receivers returning from injury. Simmie Cobbs racked up 1035 receiving yards in 2015 before missing last season with an injury. J-Shun Harris was a significant contributor in 2014 but has missed the last two seasons. If Cobbs and Harris are 100% recovered, the wide receiver corps will be solid and contain some solid depth. Tight end will again be manned by Danny Friend.

Right guard Dan Feeney and center Wes Rogers have exhausted their eligibility. Left tackle Coy Cronk, right guard Wes Martin and right tackle Delroy Baker are back and give the unit a solid foundation. Simon Stepaniak is the top option for the center vacancy while Hunter Littlejohn appears to have captured Feeney's former slot. The new line will be a good unit and key another productive Indiana running game.

The 2017 Indiana offense will be about as productive as last year's unit.

H O O S I E R D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Nate Hoff	**DT**	**38**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Tegray Scales	**LB**	**123**	**7**	**1**	**0**
A'Shon Riggins	**CB**	**37**	**1**	**1**	**0**
Rashard Fant	**CB**	**33**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Jonathan Crawford	**SS**	**72**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Tony Fields	**FS**	**70**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Indiana's defense had significant improvement last year. That unit allowed 10.4 points less than the 2015 defense.

To be able to match the 2016 effort, Indiana must do a load of work on the defensive line. There are two returning starters, end Greg Gooch and tackle Nate Hoff but Hoff is the only really productive piece of this year's group. Gooch simply must apply more pressure on quarterbacks. He will pair up with Nile Sykes. Sykes had five sacks in limited playing time. Mike Barwick seems to have claimed the second tackle slot. The unit has some game tested depth. The line will be a decent unit but will not be a unit that can take over a game.

Linebacker Tegray Scales has a chance to be one of the best in the country. His 123 tackles and 7 sacks last year tell you about his ability. Chris Covington, a solid reserve in 2016, has the first call for the other linebacker slot but he will need to hold off a stiff challenge from junior college transfer Mike McGinnis. Regardless of who wins the second job, as long as Scales is on the field, Indiana will have an effective linebacker unit.

The complete starting secondary is back and has a chance of being a very good group. The leader of this five man unit is strong safety Jonathan Crawford, He is a tackling machine and a ball hawk. The other two safeties are also quality. Marcelino Ball and Tony Fields are almost as good as Crawford and provide Indiana a trio of players who will make plays all over the field. A'Shon Riggins and Rashard Funt will be the cornerbacks. With such a fine trio of safeties, these corners will be freed up to make plays. The safety trio has a solid backup in Chase Dutra. As long as this group remains healthy, they will create big problems for whenever opponents put the ball in the air.

Indian has a chance of continuing the progress they made last year with their defense. There is a bit of uncertainty regarding the line but it is not such a potential problem that we see any major step being taken back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Iowa Hawkeyes

Big Ten Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Kinnick Stadium

Jessup Hall Iowa City, IA 52242-1316

Phone: (319) 335-3500

Web: http://hawkeyesports.com

Capacity: 70,585

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 668 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*KIRK FERENTZ*
O.C.:	*BRIAN FERENTZ*
D.C.:	*PHIL PARKER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Miami (OH) (83)	45 – 21
10-Sep	H	Iowa St (96)	42 – 3
17-Sep	H	North Dakota St (Not D-1)	21 – 23
24-Sep	A	Rutgers (123)	14 – 7
1-Oct	H	Northwestern (55)	31 – 38
8-Oct	A	Minnesota (38)	14 – 7
15-Oct	A	Purdue (116)	49 – 35
22-Oct	H	Wisconsin (10)	9 – 17
5-Nov	A	Penn St (7)	14 - 41
12-Nov	H	Michigan (9)	14 – 13
19-Nov	A	Illinois (108)	28 – 0
25-Nov	H	Nebraska (27)	40 – 10
BOWL	H	Florida (14)	3 – 30

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Wyoming (52)
9-Sep	A	Iowa State (96)
16-Sep	H	North Texas (99)
23-Sep	H	Penn State (7)
30-Sep	A	Michigan State (97)
7-Oct	H	Illinois (108)
21-Oct	A	Northwestern (55)
28-Oct	H	Minnesota (38)
4-Nov	H	Ohio State (6)
11-Nov	A	Wisconsin (10)
18-Nov	H	Purdue (116)
24-Nov	A	Nebraska (27)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	4-4	4-1	6-7-0	3-4-0	3-3-0	5-7-0	3-4-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	121	YPG	325	Total Defense;	23	YAPG	351.2
Passing Offense;	118	YPG	153.2	Passing Defense;	29	YAPG	201.4
Rushing Offense;	67	YPG	171.8	Rushing Defense;	45	YAPG	149.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HAWKEYE OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Akronum Wadley	**RB**		**1081-10**	**315-3**

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

I am a big fan of head coach Kirk Ferentz. He seems to get the more out of less. It is tough to get the top notch recruits to commit to Iowa so Ferentz simply coaches them into being competitive in the Big Ten.

The 2016 season got off to a rough start with Iowa losing to non D-1 North Dakota State in week three and then a loss to a rebuilding Northwestern team. From that point forward Iowa looked more like Iowa and finished with an 8-5 record. The offense was the big disappointment ranking 118th in passing and 67 running the ball.

Iowa must find a new starting quarterback but matching the 1929 yards passing for 17 touchdowns and 12 interceptions produced by last year's starter shouldn't be that difficult. The job is creating a fight between last year's top reserve Nathan Stanley and Tyler Wiegers. Stanley is the more experienced but coaches need to decide which one is the long term solution.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Iowa Hawkeyes

Akrum Wadley was solid at running back last year rushing for 1,081 yards. Iowa does have to fill the hole created by the departure of LeShun Daniels and his 1,058 rushing yards. The top candidate for replacing Daniels will be true freshman Kyshaun Bryan but sophomore Tokis Akinribade tried to make his case in spring drills.

Jerminic Smith is the most productive returning wide receiver but he only had 314 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns. Matt VandeBerg returns after a season ending injury last year. They appear to have the wide receiver jobs even though Iowa brought in a couple of juco transfers. Tight end will be a more important part of the 2017 offense. Noah Fant, Peter Pekar and redshirt freshman Shaun Beyer will all get playing time. This is not a special receiving group but they are also not a liability.

Four starters return for the offensive line. Left tackle Boone Myers, center James Daniels, right guard Sean Welsh and right tackle Ike Boettger are the returnees. Keegan Render steps in at left guard completing a decent starting five. Depth will be a big problem

Iowa will have a somewhat better offense IF they find a capable quarterback.

H A W K E Y E D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Matt Nelson	**DE**	**42**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Parker Hesse	**DE**	**36**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Nathan Bazata	**DT**	**39**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Josey Jewell	**LB**	**124**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Bo Bower	**LB**	**91**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Miles Taylor	**SS**	**45**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Brandon Snyder	**FS**	**85**	**0**	**3**	**0**

Defense carried Iowa last year and the same can be expected this year. While the offense could be a better unit, any improvement will not mean the offense will not put pressure on the defense. The Hawkeyes lost some key personnel but they also have a very solid core group around which they can build.

The line returns three strong parts with only tackle Jaleel Johnson gone. Ends Matt Nelson and Parker Hesse are both back and will do a solid job defending the edge. A very interesting situation is developing at end. Freshman A. J. Epenesa is the highest rated recruit for Iowa for many years. He will be on the field but will it be as a backup end, a starting end or as a linebacker. One tackle will be capably handles by Nathan Bazata but nothing is written in stone for the other tackle assignment. Right now it is a duel between sophomores Cedrick Lattimore and Brady Reiff. Regardless of who wins the final tackle job, Iowa will have a very good defensive front four.

Josey Jewell, Bo Bower and Ben Niemann are all returning starters and a proven play making group. When you combine this trio with the front four, Iowa has an excellent front seven. Depth will have to be developed at linebacker but as long as the starters are on the field, opposing offenses will face stiff competition.

Replacing cornerback Desmond King won't be easy. Strong safety Miles Taylor and free safety Brandon Snyder form a nice duo. Synder will be the leader of the secondary and has proven he is a solid tackler and also does nice ball hawking. Cornerback looks like it could be a problem. That is probably why the coaching staff recruited six defensive backs. Right now Joshua Jackson and Manny Rugamba sit atop the depth chart but those six incoming freshmen and a couple of redshirt freshmen will get long looks in fall practices. With such a strong front seven, the cornerbacks will have the opportunity to do their jobs and this will definitely help any of the inexperienced candidates to settle in.

Even with some huge questions at cornerback, Iowa will again have a very good defense. Should two solid options step forward and fill the corners, the defense would become excellent.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Maryland Terrapins

Big Ten Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Byrd Stadium

4431 Lehigh Rd College Park, MD 20742

Phone: (301) 405-1000

Web: http://www.umterps.com

Capacity: 54,000

Surface: CoolPlay **Altitude:** 71 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DJ DURKIN*
O.C.:	*WALT BELL*
D.C.:	*ANDY BUH*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*PETE LEMBO*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Howard (Not D-1)	52 - 13
9-Sep	A	Florida International (105)	41 – 14
17-Sep	A	Central Florida (71)	30 – 24
1-Oct	H	Purdue (116)	50 – 7
8-Oct	A	Penn St (7)	14 – 38
15-Oct	H	Minnesota (38)	10 – 31
22-Oct	H	Michigan St (97)	28 – 17
29-Oct	A	Indiana (64)	36 – 42
5-Nov	A	Michigan (9)	3 to 59
12-Nov	H	Ohio St (6)	3 – 62
19-Nov	A	Nebraska (27)	7 – 28
26-Nov	H	Rutgers (123)	31 – 13
BOWL	H	Boston College (66)	30 – 36

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Texas (73)
9-Sep	H	Towson (Not D-1)
23-Sep	H	Central Florida (71)
30-Sep	A	Minnesota (38)
7-Oct	A	Ohio State (6)
13-Oct	H	Northwestern (55)
21-Oct	A	Wisconsin (10)
28-Oct	H	Indiana (64)
4-Nov	A	Rutgers (123)
11-Nov	H	Michigan (9)
18-Nov	A	Michigan State (97)
25-Nov	H	Penn State (7)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	4-2	2-5	4-9-0	3-3-0	1-6-0	4-8-0	2-4-0	2-4-0

Total Offense;	95	YPG	377.8	Total Defense;	77	YAPG	427.1
Passing Offense;	106	YPG	178.2	Passing Defense;	45	YAPG	212.3
Rushing Offense;	43	YPG	199.5	Rushing Defense;	99	YAPG	214.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TERRAPIN OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ty Johnson	**RB**		**1004-6**	**206-1**
D. J. Moore	**WR**	**21-0-0**	**55-0**	**637-6**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Maryland made progress last year but still ended the season with a 6-7 record. Head coach D. J. Durkin enters his second season at Maryland with a slew of holes to be filled on both sides of the ball.

Hole number 1 was created by the graduation of quarterback Perry Hills. Hills only produced 1464 yards through the air for 12 touchdowns and 4 interceptions. He added a bit over 250 rushing yards. It seems likely Maryland will replace a Hills with a Hill as freshman duel threat Kasin Hill will get a strong look in fall practices. Others in the middle of the all out battle for the quarterback job are North Carolina transfer Caleb Henderson, Max Bortenschlage and Tyrrell Pigrome, the leader for the job at the end of spring drills.

Ty Johnson and Lorenzo Harrison give the Terps a solid one-two punch at running back. Johnson had 1004 yards rushing and 206 receiving yards in 2016. Harrison chipped in another 633 yards on the ground. Freshman Anthony McFarland will press for snaps but will likely be giver a red shirt. The running game will be a team asset and will buy time the the new quarterback to settle in.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Maryland Terrapins

Receivers Teldrick Morgan and Levern Jacobs have graduated. The only starting receiver from 2016 back this year is D.J. Moore (637 yards for 6 touchdowns). Taivon Jacobs is back from injury after being the third leading receiver in 2015. They figure to man two wide receiver slots. D. J. Turner and Jahrvis Davenport are the leading candidates for the third job but both have limited game experience.
Derick Hayward is back at tight end. Overall, this unit badly lacks a go-to receiver and has limited depth.

Maryland's 2016 offensive line allowed an unheard of 49 sacks. Three starters from that group are back. The late transfer of key reserve Quarvez Boulware further depleted depth. Center Brendan Moore, right guard Terrance Davis and right tackle Damian Prince return to provide stability while the line is restocked. Derwin Gray is the leading candidate for the left tackle opening but the left guard job remains unfilled. Redshirt freshman Richard Merritt and freshman Marcus Minor are strong possibilities for landing the left guard spot.

This will be a rebuilding year for the offense. Expect a load of fresh faces.

T E R R A P I N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jessie Aniebonam	**DE**	**46**	**9**	**0**	**0**
Chandler Burkett	**DE**	**36**	**5.5**	**0**	**0**
Kingley Opara	**DT**	**39**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Cavon Walker	**DT**	**31**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Shane Cockerille	**LB**	**108**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Jermaine Carter	**LB**	**101**	**6**	**1**	**0**
J. C. Jackson	**CB**	**40**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Darnell Savage	**FS**	**58**	**1**	**1**	**0**

Durkin and his staff made the most progress last year with their defense. The 2015 defense gave up 34.4 points per game but that number was cut to 29.5 last year. While the 2017 defense only has 6 returning starters, they have some very experienced, qualified people to fill in the holes and a very nice group of redshirt freshman ans true freshmen waiting to playing time.

Rush end Jesse Aniebonam is a returning starter in this year's D-Line. He racked up an impressive 9 sacks a year ago. Chandler Burkett will be the other end after recording 5.5 sacks as a reserve in 2016. The two tackle assignments will be very capably handled by 2016 starter Cavon Walker and Kingley Opara. Melvin Keihn and Brett Kulka add a splash of depth but expect Breyton Graddy and other incoming freshmen to vie for backup assignments. This is a solid front four that will free up the back seven to do their jobs and make plays.

Shane Cockerille (108 tackle and 3 sacks), Jernaine Carter (101 tackles and 6 sacks) and Jalen Brooks were the starting linebacker unit last year and all return for 2017. Juco transfer Nick Underwood may mount a strong challenge for Brooks' job. The starting threesome will be a strong group but the backups are not experienced. As long as the starters stay on the field, Maryland will be in good shape.

The wars that will continue into the fall practices for the four secondary starting assignments will be intense. Free safety Darnell Savage looks like the only person who actually captured a starting job in spring drills. Qwuantrezz Knight was last year's backup at strong safety but he is not insured a first string spot as Josh Woods is simply too good to have him act as a backup. He is being given a legit chance to take over the strong safety duties. Markquese Bell adds depth at safety. J. C. Jackson and RaVon Davis were the leading cornerback candidates at the end of spring drills but they are going to have to hold off challenges from juco transfer Alex Woods and highly regarded freshmen Deon Jones and Fofie Bazzie. The newcomers offer loads of potential but they need to convert potential into on field production.

Maryland will have a solid defense but if the secondary gels early, this group will be very good.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Michigan Wolverines

Big Ten Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Michigan Stadium

1011 N. University Ave Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Phone: (734) 764-1817

Web: http://mgoblue.com

Capacity: 109,901

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 864 ft.

HEAD COACH: *JIM HARBAUGH*
O.C.: *TIM DREVNO*
D.C.: *DON BROWN*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *JAY HARGAUGH*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Hawaii (94)	63 – 3
10-Sep	H	Central Florida	51 – 14
17-Sep	H	Colorado (13)	45 – 28
24-Sep	H	Penn St (7)	49 – 10
1-Oct	H	Wisconsin (10)	14 – 7
8-Oct	A	Rutgers (123)	78 – 0
22-Oct	H	Illinois (108)	41 – 8
29-Oct	A	Michigan St (97)	32 – 23
5-Nov	H	Maryland (69)	59 – 3
12-Nov	A	Iowa (34)	13 – 14
19-Nov	H	Indiana (64)	20 – 10
26-Nov	A	Ohio St (6)	27 – 30
BOWL	H	Florida St (8)	32 – 33

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Florida (14)
9-Sep	H	Cincinnati (101)
16-Sep	H	Air Force (40)
23-Sep	A	Purdue (116)
7-Oct	H	Michigan State (97)
14-Oct	A	Indiana (64)
21-Oct	A	Penn State (7)
28-Oct	H	Rutgers (123)
4-Nov	H	Minnesota (38)
11-Nov	A	Maryland (69)
18-Nov	A	Wisconsin (10)
25-Nov	H	Ohio State (6)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	8-0	2-3	6-7-0	4-5-0	2-2-0	8-4-0	5-3-0	3-1-0

Total Offense;	58	YPG	424.9	Total Defense;	1	YAPG	261.8
Passing Offense;	85	YPG	212	Passing Defense;	1	YAPG	142.5
Rushing Offense;	33	YPG	212.9	Rushing Defense;	15	YAPG	119.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

W O L V E R I N E O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Wilton Speight	**QB**	**2538-18-7**	**-60**	
Chris Evans	**RB**		**614**	

Two returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Michigan ended the 2016 season with a very nice 10-3 record but few people recall the Wolverines loss those three games by a combined 5 points? They lost to Iowa and Florida State by a point and Ohio State eked out a double overtime, three point win. Gone from that “close but no cigar” team are 17 staters and a load of key reserves. Yes, Michigan has had a couple of top ten recruiting classes in a row but can the massive insertion of so much untested talent keep the team at such a high level?

Quarterback is a position where Michigan will have productive experience back as Wilton Speight (2538 yards passing for 18 interceptions and 7 interceptions) returns. He is established and will have to be a strong team leader with so many newcomers stepping forward. Finding a capable backup will be one of the tasks in the fall.

Chris Evans is the most productive returning running back. He recorded 614 rushing yards and four touchdowns. He hasn't been given the starting assignment as 2015 second leading rusher Drake

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Johnson returns from injury exile. Another contender for the job is Karan Higdon. He racked up 426 rushing yards for 6 touchdowns in 2016.

Wide receiver looks like a potential problem area. However, Michigan has recruited well at wide receiver the past two years attracting eleven young pass catchers. The most productive pass catcher returning this year is a fullback! Kekoa Crawford and Eddie McDoom racked up significant playing time last season but weren't productive. Grant Perry may or may not be with the team this year after his legal problems so he can't be considered part of the rotation. Freshman Donovan Peoples-Jones will be called upon to produce. Tight end is wide open and the starter will be named in the fall. There is potential but not much proven production at the receiver rotation.

Left guard Ben Bredeson and center Mason Cole are returning starters. Left tackle Grant Newsome was the starter last year prior to his injury. He is back and expected to resume his duties. Michael Onwenu will slide over from his tackle job and fill the hole at right guard. The right tackle will be Jon Runyan and he completes what could be a very good line. It all depends if the five can gel as a unit.

W O L V E R I N E D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Mike McCray	**LB**	**72**	**5**	**2**	**0**

It must be lonesome for linebacker Mike McCray since he is the only starter from 2016 who returns in 2017. Michigan lost not only 10 starters but several members of the backup unit. Name tags would have been nice in spring drills allowing the defensive players to get to know who was playing next to them!

End Rashan Gary may have a monster breakout season in 20-17. His play will be key for the level of success Michigan's all new defense. Key 2016 reserve Maurice Hurst will capably handle the tackle slot and be a force against both running and passing plays. We like how he gets after quarterbacks. Bryan Mone will handle the nose tackle job and he is a bit of an unknown commodity. If Mone falters, incoming freshman Aubrey Solomon will get the call, if he is ready. The line should be a solid group but like the rest of the defense, depth will have to develop in the fall.

We have already mentioned McCray. He will be the heart of the defense and provide badly needed leadership from his starting linebacker position. McCray will put heat on quarterbacks and stand tall against runners. Devin Bush is leading in the fight for one of the three remaining jobs. Converted right end Chase Winovich will handle the hybrid Buck position and converted safety Khaleke Hudson will be the new “Viper”. Freshman Jordan Anthony is likely to be called upon to provide badly needed depth. There are a lot of unanswered questions at linebacker. Until those questions are answered, we have to consider linebacker as an ongoing problem.

Michigan ranked #1 in passing defense last year but the complete secondary has departed. Josh Metellus and Tyree Kinnel are the leading candidates for the two safety assignments and give the secondary a splash of game tested experience. Highly touted but completely inexperienced cornerbacks Lavert Hill and David Long are leading Brandon Watson, Ambry Thomas and Benjamin St. Juste for the two vacancies. Regardless of who earns the four secondary assignments, the unit will be loaded with untested youngsters and that leads to problems, especially early in the season. That is why we feel the Wolverines will be a solid “negative sleeper” this year and we look to bet against them the first half of the season.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Michigan State Spartans

Big Ten Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Spartan Stadium

248 Jenison Field House East Lansing, MI 48824-1042

Phone: (517) 355-1855

Web: http://www.msuspartans.com

Capacity: 75,005

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 853 ft.

HEAD COACH: *MARK DANTONIO*
O.C.: *JIM BOLLMAN*
D.C.: *HARLON BARNETT*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *MARK SNYDER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Furman (Not D-1)	28 – 13
17-Sep	A	Notre Dame (82)	36 – 28
24-Sep	H	Wisconsin (10)	6 – 30
1-Oct	A	Indiana (64)	21 – 24
8-Oct	H	BYU (44)	14 – 31
15-Oct	H	Northwestern (55)	40 – 54
22-Oct	A	Maryland (69)	17 – 28
29-Oct	H	Michigan (9)	23 – 32
5-Nov	A	Illinois (108)	27 – 31
12-Nov	H	Rutgers (123)	49 – 0
19-Nov	H	Ohio St (6)	16 – 17
26-Nov	A	Penn St (7)	12 – 45

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Bowling Green (107)
9-Sep	H	Western Michigan (12)
23-Sep	H	Notre Dame (82)
30-Sep	H	Iowa (34)
7-Oct	A	Michigan (9)
14-Oct	A	Minnesota (38)
21-Oct	H	Indiana (64)
27-Oct	A	Northwestern (55)
4-Nov	H	Penn State (7)
11-Nov	A	Ohio State (6)
18-Nov	H	Maryland (69)
25-Nov	A	Rutgers (123)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	2-5	1-4	4-8-0	3-4-0	1-4-0	5-7-0	2-5-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	75	YPG	395	Total Defense;	32	YAPG	364.8
Passing Offense;	74	YPG	222.3	Passing Defense;	36	YAPG	206.2
Rushing Offense;	65	YPG	172.7	Rushing Defense;	51	YAPG	158.7

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

SPARTAN OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
L. J. Scott	**RB**		**994-6**	**147-1**

One returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Michigan State experienced a dismal 3-9 season in 2016. They were also 1-8 in conference play. That came after going 36-5 over the prior four years. A finger can't be pointed at anything specifically for the 2016 downfall. The Spartans simply didn't do anything particularly well.

A nice starting point for a Michigan State rebound year would be finding an effective quarterback. Damion Terry, last year's primary backup and Brian Lewerke will continue their fight for the starting job well into fall practices. Terry has an edge in experience but Lewerke is a much better long term solution. Our money is on Lewerke.

Regardless of who wins the quarterback assignment, he will rely heavily on L. J. Scott (994 yards rushing) and Gerald Holmes (431 yards rushing). Scott is also a capable receiver coming out of the backfield. Further depth will come from Madre London. This is a nice rotation but to get the best out of the crew, the line must open holes for them.

The Spartans lost two of their top three wide receivers and their top two tight ends. Donnie Corley

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

returns and gives the wide receiver rotation a starting point. He racked up 453 receiving yards and that number will jump as Conley will be targeted much more frequently. Felton Davis and Trishton Jackson are the next two most productive returning receivers but they combined for just 239 receiving yards for only two touchdowns in 2016. Quality redshirt freshman Can Chambers and hot shot true freshman Hunter Rison will definitely get long looks in fall practices. Matt Sokol will have to fight off a stiff challenge from freshman Matt Davis for the tight end job.

The line needs major work with only Brian Allen returning and he will be making the switch from his normal left tackle slot over to center. David Beedle will slide into Allen's old slot. Beyond those two, predicting the full offensive line is a total crap shoot. No final decisions have been made for who will fill the three starting spots and who will man the backup unit. We'll have to wait for fall practices to find out those things. All we know is the line will be young and have little experience. That's not a good combination. Michigan State will have one of the youngest offenses in the Big Ten. Expect sloppy play.

S P A R T A N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Raequan Williams	**DT**	**26**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Chris Frey	**LB**	**95**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Vayante Copeland	**CB**	**36**	**0**	**1**	**0**

The 2017 Michigan State defense needs to be at least as good as last year's unit, if not better. They ranked 36th in passing defense and 51st defending against the run. To reach these lofty needs, the Spartans' coaches have a ton of work to do.

The D-Line lost standout tackle Malik McDowell to the NFL. The returning defensive linemen are either under producing upperclassmen or inexperienced newcomers. Raequan Williams has recaptured his defensive tackle job and it appears Demetrius Cooper has won one end assignment. End Robert Bowers and tackle Mike Panasiuk are the leading candidates for the other two slots but they will have stiff competition from redshirt freshmen and true freshmen. DaNaquan Jones is one of those redshirt freshmen and he will certainly be a factor at one tackle job. The line could easily be a season long problem.

Linebacker Riley Bullough has expired his eligibility but the core of the linebacker starting unit returns with tackling maniac Chris Frey and steady Andrew Dowell. The third job has a large cast of characters in the hunt led by Shane Jones and Byron Bullough. Mix in Joe Reschke, Joe Bachie and T. J. Harrell and suddenly you have a deep linebacker rotation. The linebackers will spend a vast majority of their time covering for mistakes throughout the balance of the defense.

The secondary loses starting free safety Demetrious Cox, strong safety Montae Nicholson and cornerback Darian Hicks. Vayante Copeland started the first five games last year before having a season ending injury. He is back and healthy and will man one corner. Justin Layne is an exceptional athlete and will be the other cornerback. Grayson Miller and Khari Willis were the primary reserves at safety last year. They look to be ready for the starting unit. Matt Morrissey provides depth at safety but the balance of the two man depth chart for the corners will need to come from newcomers. Safety Demetric Vance is a redshirt freshman who will muscle his way to the depth chart.

Michigan State held opponents to 21.7 points per game and limited offenses to 5.5 yards per play in 2016. The rebuilt line will prevent the defense from being that productive this season.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Minnesota Golden Gophers

Big Ten Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: TCF Bank Stadium

515 Darland Admin Building Duluth, MN 55812

Phone: (218) 726-8000

Web: http://www.gophersports.com

Capacity: 50,805

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 659 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*P.J. FLECK*
O.C.:	*KIRK CIARROCCA*
D.C.:	*ROBB SMITH*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ROB WENGER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Oregon St (85)	30 – 23
10-Sep	H	Indiana St (Not D-1)	58 – 28
24-Sep	H	Colorado St (53)	31 – 24
1-Oct	A	Penn St (7)	26 – 29
8-Oct	H	Iowa (34)	7 – 14
15-Oct	A	Maryland (69)	31 – 10
22-Oct	H	Rutgers (123)	34 – 32
29-Oct	A	Illinois (108)	40 – 17
5-Nov	H	Purdue (116)	44 – 31
12-Nov	A	Nebraska (27)	17 – 24
19-Nov	H	Northwestern (55)	29 – 12
26-Nov	A	Wisconsin (10)	17 – 31
BOWL	H	Washington St (29)	17 – 12

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Buffalo (126)
9-Sep	A	Oregon State (85)
16-Sep	H	Middle Tennessee State (61)
30-Sep	H	Maryland (69)
7-Oct	A	Purdue (116)
14-Oct	H	Michigan State (97)
21-Oct	H	Illinois (108)
28-Oct	A	Iowa (34)
4-Nov	A	Michigan (9)
11-Nov	H	Nebraska (27)
18-Nov	A	Northwestern (55)
25-Nov	H	Wisconsin (10)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	6-1	3-3	6-5-2	3-5-0	3-0-2	5-6-1	3-4-0	2-2-1

Total Offense;	107	YPG	357.2	Total Defense;	21	YAPG	348.8
Passing Offense;	111	YPG	173.6	Passing Defense;	73	YAPG	230.9
Rushing Offense;	54	YPG	183.6	Rushing Defense;	14	YAPG	117.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GOPHERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Rodney Smith	**RB**		**158-16**	**188-0**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Minnesota enters its first year under new head coach P. J. Fleck. Fleck's tenure at Western Michigan showed Fleck is very capable of resurrecting a football program. He has his work cut out for himself as Minnesota wants badly to become a contender in the Big Ten.

Fleck's first task is to find a replacement for departed quarterback Mitch Leidner. Leidner was nothing special but had held the starting job quite a while. The most experienced candidate is former walk-on Conor Rhoda with redshirt freshman Seth Green, Demry Croft and juco transfer Neil McLaurin contending. Green looks to have the best long term possibilities and is our pick to capture the job.

Running backs Shannon Brooks and Rodney Smith combined for 1,808 yards last year and will certainly be helpful as the new quarterback adjusts. Kobe McCrary also returns and adds yet another capable ball carrier. Expect Minnesota to use a ball control running game until the passing game gets up to speed.

There will be golden opportunities for any wide receiver who steps up and proves he is ready for a

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

for a starting assignment. The top returning wide receiver is Rashad Still but he had only 349 receiving yards and failed to score a touchdown. Eric Carter and Tyler Johnson also are back but they haven't shown production equal to their potential. Keep an eye on redshirt freshman Phillip Howard and true freshman Christopher Bell. The strength of the receiving rotation will be tight end. Nate Wozniak started in 2016 and returns but Brandon Lingen was a big producer (435 receiving yards for 3 touchdowns) but missed last season with an injury. He returns this year. The Golden Gophers will utilize both tight ends and they will be a blessing for a new quarterback.

Left tackle Donnell Greene, left guard Garrison Wright and right guard Vincent Calhoun will provide a basis and leadership for the line. Center Connor Mayes was a top reserve last year and will move up to the starting unit along with right tackle Nick Connelly. Depth will be in short supply but Minnesota has several redshirt freshmen and true freshmen who may earn their way to the two deep depth chart.

Minnesota needs a quarterback and if they find one their offense will be okay.

G O P H E R D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Steven Richardson	**DT**	**31**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Jonathan Celestin	**LB**	**80**	**3**	**0**	**0**
KiAnte Hardin	**CB**	**39**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Duke McGhee	**S**	**54**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Antoine Winfield	**S**	**52**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Former Arkansas defensive coordinator Robb Smith takes over the same job at Minnesota. He inherits what remains of a 2016 defense that allowed only 22.1 points per game. That group was especially tough defending against the run and finished the year ranked 14th in the country. Matching the production of the 2016 eleven will be quite a job as only four starters return.

Tackle Steven Richardson will be the leader within the defensive line. He is the only certain starter and the other three slots either have under achievers returning or those spots will be assigned to unproven youngsters. Our educated guess for the other three linemen are Gaelin Elmore and Winston DeLattiboudere at the ends and Andrew Stelter. Depth will be a problem for what looks like a below average front four.

Linebackers Blake Cashman and Jonathan Celestin are back and have reclaimed their starting jobs. The third slot has Julian Huff, Carter Couglin and Cody Poock all contending. If Poock is 100% recovered from his 2016 season ending injury, the job is his. There is experienced depth at linebacker. It is unfortunate the line looks so weak and we fear the linebackers will spend far too much time covering for the line mistakes. The group is capable of making plays IF the don't have to work to coverup for others.

Duke McGhee and Antoine Winfield Jr. look like a solid safety duo. One corner will be manned by Antonio Shenault but with Kiante Hardin getting expelled from school, the other corner and any secondary depth must be handled by Ken Hany-Holly, Kindre Thomas and the other freshmen and redshirt freshmen. The secondary was hit especially hard by the sexual assault case and the NFL draft.

Expect Minnesota to take a step back defensively. They look out manned along the defensive line and the secondary will be dotted with new players that have to get up to speed rapidly. If they can not get the job done, Minnesota will be in big trouble.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Nebraska Cornhuskers

Big Ten Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Memorial Stadium

14th and R St. Lincoln , NE 68588

Phone: (402) 472-7211

Web: www.unl.edu

Capacity: 81,091

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 1163 ft.

HEAD COACH: *MIKE RILEY*
O.C.: *DANNY LANGSDORF*
D.C.: *BOB DIACO*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Fresno St (128)	43 – 10
10-Sep	H	Wyoming (52)	52 – 17
17-Sep	H	Oregon (87)	35 – 32
24-Sep	A	Northwestern (55)	24 – 13
1-Oct	H	Illinois (108)	31 – 16
15-Oct	A	Indiana (64)	27 – 22
22-Oct	H	Purdue (116)	27 – 14
29-Oct	A	Wisconsin (10)	17 – 23
5-Nov	A	Ohio St (6)	3 – 62
12-Nov	H	Minnesota (38)	24 – 17
19-Nov	H	Maryland (69)	28 – 7
25-Nov	A	Iowa (34)	10 – 40
BOWL	H	Tennessee (25)	24 - 38

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Arkansas State (65)
9-Sep	A	Oregon (87)
16-Sep	H	Northern Illinois (108)
23-Sep	H	Rutgers (123)
29-Sep	A	Illinois (108)
7-Oct	H	Wisconsin (10)
14-Oct	H	Ohio State (6)
28-Oct	A	Purdue (116)
4-Nov	H	Northwestern (55)
11-Nov	A	Minnesota (38)
18-Nov	A	Penn State (7)
24-Nov	H	Iowa (34)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	7-0	2-4	6-5-2	3-2-2	3-3-0	3-9-0	1-6-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	90	YPG	380.8	Total Defense;	30	YAPG	363.7
Passing Offense;	86	YPG	211.7	Passing Defense;	49	YAPG	215.8
Rushing Offense;	73	YPG	169.2	Rushing Defense;	43	YAPG	147.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CORNHUSKER OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Did you notice we listed nobody, other than the offensive line, as a “most productive returning player” for Nebraska' offense. We had some minimum production numbers for inclusion and nobody met those minimums.

The Nebraska offense needed to find a replacement for departed quarterback Tommy Armstrong. There was a heated battle for the job between Tulane transfer Tanner Lee and redshirt freshman Patrick O’Brien. Just as we were completing these comments, it was announced Lee had won the job. He passed for 1639 yards for 11 touchdowns and 7 interceptions in 2015 while playing for Tulane. He has had a year to become adjusted to Nebraska and the coaches seem positive about his ability to produce at the Big Ten level. We will wait and see how he plays.

2016 leading rusher Terrell Newby and his 879 yards are gone. Also, Armstrong (512 yards) was the second leading rusher. Devine Ozigbo, Mikale Wilbon and Tre Bryant are the top returning running backs but they combined for under 600 rushing yards last season. One of them must step forward and show he can handle the load of being the featured back. Fortunately, these three will play be-hind what looks like a solid offensive line.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp is a significant loss but Nebraska remains in excellent shape at wide receiver. Stanley Morgan and DeMornay Pierson-El both return and each are capable of far better production in 2017. The third slot does not have a proven player to fill it. Two very talented newcomers have a solid chance of grabbing the job. Tyjon Lindsey and Keyshawn Johnson Jr. are both players capable of providing the needed big play the receiving unit currently lacks. Tight end will find several players fighting for the job throughout fall practices.

The solid line will be made up of left tackle Nick Gates, left guard Jerald Foster, right guard Tanner Farmer and right tackle Cole Conrad along with 2016 non starter Michael Decker at center. The line will be the strength of the offense.

C O R N H U S K E R D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Freedom Akinmoladun	**DE**	**31**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Mick Stroltenberg	**DT**	**25**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Carlos Davis	**DT**	**24**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Joshua Kalu	**CB**	**66**	**1**	**1**	**0**
Chris Jones	**CB**	**37**	**1**	**3**	**0**
Kieron Williams	**S**	**69**	**0**	**5**	**0**
Aaron Williams	**S**	**62**	**2**	**3**	**0**

A slew of changes have been made within the defensive coaching staff. Bob Diaco is the new coordinator and he will be installing a new 3-4 set. With the offense looking like it will take a step back, the defense needs to adjust quickly to the new formation and become productive.

Freedom Akinmoladun will man the end slot and line up with tackles Mick Stroltenberg and Carlos Davis. Much is expected of Akinmoladun, especially in pass rushing. This is a good time to switch to the 3 -4 as Nebraska does not have an abundance of defensive linemen. However, a newcomer we will hear a lot about is true freshman Damion Daniels. He has the size to be a significant contributor in the middle.

Chris Weber, Marcus Newby and Dedrick Young will man three of the linebacker jobs but expect top recruit Avery Roberts to grab the fourth slot. Young is the most proven commodity and his leadership will be essential if this unit is going to gel. Besides Roberts, Nebraska has seven other redshirt freshmen or true freshmen linebackers. Several of their names will show up on the two deep depth chart come opening kickoff.

The secondary will be a deep, talented, play making unit. The only loss was the graduation of safety Nate Gerry. Cornerbacks Joshua Kalu and Chris Jones are back and assuming the line can get any pressure on opposing quarterbacks, these two can make plays. Depth will be solid with Lamar Jackson making a big push for playing time. Impact freshman Elijah Blades will get significant playing time as he has the height and wing span to disrupt taller receivers. The safety slots are also well manned. Returning starter Kieron Williams had five interceptions last year while his new running mate, Aaron Williams had five picks. Antonio Reed is also back and will be a solid, experienced option backing up the starters. This could be the best secondary in the Big Ten. It all depends if they spend 100% of their time performing their duties and not making up for mistakes made by others.

We like the Nebraska defense and feel they will make up for some of the step back by the offense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Northwestern Wildcats

Big Ten Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Ryan Field

633 Clark St Evanston, IL 60208

Phone: (312) 491-3741

Web: http://www.nusports.com

Capacity: 47,130

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 606 ft.

HEAD COACH: *PAT FITZGERALD*
O.C.: *MICK MCCALL*
D.C.: *MIKE HANKWITZ*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Western Michigan (12)	21 – 22
10-Sep	H	Illinois St (Not D-1)	7 – 9
17-Sep	H	Duke (93)	24 – 13
24-Sep	H	Nebraska (27)	13 – 24
1-Oct	A	Iowa (34)	38 – 31
15-Oct	A	Michigan St (97)	54 – 40
22-Oct	H	Indiana (64)	24 – 14
29-Oct	A	Ohio St (6)	20 – 24
5-Nov	H	Wisconsin (10)	7 – 21
12-Nov	A	Purdue (116)	45 – 17
19-Nov	A	Minnesota (38)	12 – 29
26-Nov	H	Illinois (108)	42 – 21
BOWL	H	Pittsburgh (39)	31 – 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Nevada (102)
9-Sep	A	Duke (93)
16-Sep	H	Bowling Green (107)
30-Sep	A	Wisconsin (10)
7-Oct	H	Penn State (7)
13-Oct	A	Maryland (69)
21-Oct	H	Iowa (34)
27-Oct	H	Michigan State (97)
4-Nov	A	Nebraska (27)
11-Nov	H	Purdue (116)
18-Nov	H	Minnesota (38)
25-Nov	A	Illinois (108)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	4-4	3-2	8-5-0	3-4-0	5-1-0	4-8-0	1-6-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	73	YPG	398.2	Total Defense;	60	YAPG	404.4
Passing Offense;	53	YPG	245.1	Passing Defense;	109	YAPG	265.2
Rushing Offense;	91	YPG	153.2	Rushing Defense;	30	YAPG	139.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

WILDCATS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Clayton Thorson	**QB**	**3182-22-9**	**98-5**	
Justin Jackson	**RB**		**1525-15**	**219-0**

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

It hasn't been that long ago that Northwestern fans would have been elated with a season ending 7-6 record and a nice bowl win. Coach Pat Fitzgerald may have done too good a job because the expectations are high enough that a 7-6 record is a disappointment. Northwestern will try to get back to its 10-3 level achieved in 2015.

A huge plus would be if junior quarterback Clayton Thorson continues to improve. His first season as a starter led to 1522 yards passing and 397 yards rushing. Last year he improved his passing yards to 3182 for 22 touchdowns and 9 interceptions. He was able to decrease his rushing yards down to 98 yards. His reduced running exposed him to far less possibility for injury. Senior Matt Alviti must withstand a challenge from redshirt freshman Aidan Smith for the backup duties.

Northwestern got a huge surprise when running back Justin Jackson rejected the NFL and returned for his senior year. He has rushing for 1000+ yards his first three years capped by his 1524 yards in 2016. He also was an effective receiver out of the backfield with an additional 219 receiving yards.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

John Moten will again be an effective reserve and give Northwestern quality play whenever Jackson needs to catch his breath.

Top wide receiver Austin Carr has departed taking his 1247 receiving yards with him. Flynn Nagel (447 yards) and Macan Wilson (306) both are back and will try to take up some of the slack created by Carr's departure. Solomon Vault is a possibility for the third wide receiver job but Oregon graduate transfer Jalen Brown looks like a solid addition to the rotation. There is some wide receiver depth but the players standing in line have limited game experience. True freshman tight end Trey Pugh had better be ready to immediately play because we do not see any other options with as much potential as Pugh has. The unit needs a go-to guy and if they find one, this will be a pretty good group

The O-Line was very young last year. Left tackle Blake Hance, left guard J. B. Butler, center Brad North and right guard Tommy Doles all are back and the experience they got last year will help the line be better and reduce the 39 sacks they allowed. Right tackle Ben Oxley completes what could be a solid line.

W I L D C A T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Xavier Washington	**DE**	**38**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Joe Gaziano	**DE**	**24**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Nate Hall	**LB**	**73**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Montre Hartage	**CB**	**60**	**0**	**5**	**0**
Trae Williams	**CB**	**42**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Godwin Igwebuike	**S**	**107**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Kyle Queiro	**S**	**52**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Nine starters return from a 2016 group that allowed just 22.2 points per game even though they ranked 109th defending against the pass. That unit was especially good stopping running plays and earned a 40th national ranking.

Ends Xavier Washington and Joe Gaziano were both productive in 2016. Both racked up 5 sacks apiece. Tyler Lancaster and Jordan Thompson were the mains reasons Northwestern was so effective stopping running plays. Both are back and will man the tackles assignments. Fred Wyatt and Alan Miller provide game tested experience and production as the backup tackles. The line will be solid and will key a very good Northwestern defense.

Linebacker Anthony Walker left early for the NFL. Nate Hall will move from the outside to take over Walker's middle slot. Brett Walsh returns and has again won his outside job. Expect far bigger production out of Walsh this year. Nathan Fox has the lead for the third slot but will have to fend off challenges in the fall that will include some incoming freshmen. Depth may be a problem but the starting unit is nice. The linebackers need to dodge the injury bug.

A good start for improving the secondary will come in the form of the whole 2016 unit coming back. Northwestern made 16 interceptions last year and players accounting for 15 of them are back. The safety duo will be especially tough with the return of Godwin Igwebuike. He had 108 tackles, two interceptions and 6 tackles for loss last year. Kyle Queior and Jared McGee both have starting experience and both will get plenty of snaps at the other safety spot. Montre Hartage and Trey Williams have reclaimed their starting cornerback assignments. Hartage had five interceptions last year and that number could jump in 2017. Depth is limited but Northwestern has several incoming freshmen that could crack the secondary rotation.

Northwestern will again have a solid defense, one that will do a better job defending against the pass in 2017. The defense will not have to carry as much of the load as the offense should improve. If the offense can eat up some clock and give the defense some rest, the starting eleven will get the job done.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Ohio State Buckeyes

Big Ten Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Ohio Stadium

190 N. Oval Mall Columbus, OH 43210

Phone: (614) 292-6446

Web: http://www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com

Capacity: 104,851

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 778 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*URBAN MEYER*
O.C.:	*RYAN DAY*
D.C.:	*GREG SCHIANO*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*KERRY COOMBS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Bowling Green (107)	77 – 10
10-Sep	H	Tulsa (31)	48 – 3
17-Sep	A	Oklahoma (4)	45 – 24
1-Oct	H	Rutgers (123)	58 - 0
8-Oct	H	Indiana (64)	38 – 17
15-Oct	A	Wisconsin (10)	30 – 23
22-Oct	A	Penn St (7)	21 – 24
29-Oct	H	Northwestern (55)	24 – 20
5-Nov	H	Nebraska (27)	62 – 3
12-Nov	A	Maryland (69)	62 – 3
19-Nov	A	Michigan St (97)	17 – 16
26-Nov	H	Michigan (9)	30 – 27
BOWL	H	Clemson (1)	0 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	A	Indiana (64)
9-Sep	H	Oklahoma (4)
16-Sep	H	Army (76)
23-Sep	H	UNLV (104)
30-Sep	A	Rutgers (123)
7-Oct	H	Maryland (69)
14-Oct	A	Nebraska (27)
28-Oct	H	Penn State (7)
4-Nov	A	Iowa (34)
11-Nov	H	Michigan State (97)
18-Nov	H	Illinois (108)
25-Nov	A	Michigan (9)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	11-2	7-0	4-2	6-7-0	4-3-0	2-4-0	6-6-0	3-4-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	31	YPG	459.2	Total Defense;	6	YAPG	296.8
Passing Offense;	81	YPG	213.9	Passing Defense;	7	YAPG	172.2
Rushing Offense;	11	YPG	245.2	Rushing Defense;	19	YAPG	124.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BUCKEYES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
J. T. Barrett	**QB**	**2555-24-7**	**845-9**	
Mike Weber	**RB**		**1096-9**	**91-0**
Marcus Baugh	**TE**			**269-2**

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Former Indiana head coach Kevin Wilson and Ryan Day were brought in with one very specific job; get J. T. Bassett back on track.

Barrett will have to be at his best as he will be dealing with a new receiving rotation. He wasn't bad last year but faltered in crunch time. He threw for 2555 yards and 24 touchdowns. He added another 845 rushing yards and 9 touchdowns. Joe Burrow will again function as Barrett's backup.

Mike Weber will be the featured running back after totaling 1096 rushing yards last year. He is not the best receiving option coming out of the backfield as he only caught enough passes to generate 91 receiving yards. There is no established depth behind Weber but incoming freshman J. K. Dobbins will be a strong contender for playing time. He is a far better receiver than Weber and could become the immediate third down back for Ohio State.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Ohio State Buckeyes

Wide receivers Curtis Samuel, Noah Brown and Dontre Wilson fled for the NFL. However, this IS Ohio State and they have a talent laden group just waiting for playing time. The most productive returning wide receivers are K. J. Hill, Parris Campbell and Terry McLaurin. The trio only combined for less than 500 receiving yards. Sophomores Binjimen Victor and Demario McCall are also in the battle but the person we see with the greatest chance to crack the rotation is freshman Trevon Grimes. Geting all these newcomers and lightly tested options in tune with their quarterback will be a huge job.

The graduation of center Pat Elflein caused a chain reaction that may result in as many as two new starters manning spots even though four members of the 2016 starting line return. Billy Price will slide over from his right guard spot and man the center responsibilities. Having a new right guard may magnify the shortcomings of right tackle Isaiah Prince. Left tackle Jamarco Jones and left guard Miachael Jordan have regained their starting jobs. Freshman Josh Myers will be considered strongly for filling the open guard spot or taking over Price's right tackle spot. Matthew Burrell and Branden Bower also figure in the line rotation.

Ohio State's 2017 offense has an equal number of strengths and questions. Stay tuned.

B U C K E Y E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Dre'Mont Jones	**DE**	**51**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Sam Hubbard	**DE**	**46**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Jerome Baker	**LB**	**83**	**4**	**2**	**0**
Damon Wood	**S**	**57**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Ohio State, like last year, is faced with replacing a majority of its secondary. Also, like last year, excellent recruiting has provided a wealth of potential play makers capable of filling all the holes in the back four.

Three parts of last year's front four return for 2017 and provide an excellent starting point for the defense and will be an asset for the newly formed secondary. Ends Dre'Mont Jones and Sam Hubbard and tackle Michael Hill are set with Robert Landers the leading candidate for filling the fourth spot but the return from injury of Tracy Sprinkle adds some drama. Add in Davon Hamilton and reshirt freshman Malik Barrow and you have an all out battle brewing. The line will be the strength of this year's Ohio State defense.

The Buckeyes must replace departed linebacker Raekwon McMillan. His two starting running mates from last year, Jerome Baker and Chris Worley return and will be quite productive. The return from injury off Dante Booker and Justin Hilliard will help offset the loss of McMillan. Booker was a projected starter last year but was derailed by injury. Freshman potential stud Baron Browning will also be in the mix for membership in the linebackers rotation. This will be a solid linebacker group and further helps the development of the secondary.

Malik Hooker, Gareon Conley and Marshon Lattimor all are gone from the secondary. Strong safety Damon Webb is the sole 2016 starter back this year. Junior college transfer Kendall Sheffield leads an attractive group of possibilities at cornerback. Jeffrey Okudah could be his running mate if he isn't plugged in at free safety. Damon Arnette, Denzel Ward, Shaun Wade and Damon Arnette are also in the hunt at cornerback. Erick Smith, Jordan Fuller and Eric Glover-Williams are fighting it out for the free safety duties. While the actually identity of the parts of the secondary will remain unknown until well into fall drills, the secondary will be well manned come opening kickoff.

Expect Ohio State to have another strong defense capable of handing the offense the ball in excellent field position. While the secondary is currently a question mark, in the end it may become a big team asset.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Penn State Nittany Lions

Big Ten Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Beaver Stadium

201 Old Main University Park, PA 16802-1589

Phone: (814) 865-4700

Web: http://gopsusports.com

Capacity: 106,572

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 1160 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JAMES FRANKLIN*
O.C.:	*JOE MOORHEAD*
D.C.:	*BRENT PRY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*CHARLES HUFF*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Kent St (119)	33 – 13
10-Sep	A	Pittsburgh (39)	39 – 42
17-Sep	H	Temple (30)	34 – 27
24-Sep	A	Michigan (9)	10 – 49
1-Oct	H	Minnesota (38)	29 – 26
8-Oct	H	Maryland (69)	38 – 14
22-Oct	H	Ohio St (6)	24 – 21
29-Oct	A	Purdue (116)	62 – 24
5-Nov	H	Iowa (34)	41 – 14
12-Nov	A	Indiana (64)	45 – 31
19-Nov	A	Rutgers (123)	39 – 0
26-Nov	H	Michigan St (97)	45 – 12
3-Dec	H	Wisconsin (10)	38 – 31
BOWL	H	USC (3)	49 – 52

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Akron (82)
9-Sep	H	Pittsburgh (39)
16-Sep	H	Georgia State (112)
23-Sep	A	Iowa (34)
30-Sep	H	Indiana (64)
7-Oct	A	Northwestern (55)
21-Oct	H	Michigan (9)
28-Oct	A	Ohio State (6)
4-Nov	A	Michigan State (97)
11-Nov	H	Rutgers (123)
18-Nov	H	Nebraska (27)
25-Nov	A	Maryland (69)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	11-3	8-1	3-2	9-4-1	5-3-0	4-1-1	9-3-1	4-2-1	5-1-0

Total Offense;	49	YPG	432.6	Total Defense;	37	YAPG	367.9
Passing Offense;	36	YPG	260.7	Passing Defense;	50	YAPG	216.6
Rushing Offense;	66	YPG	171.9	Rushing Defense;	48	YAPG	151.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

LIONS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Trace McSorley	**QB**	**3614-29-8**	**365-7**	
Saquon Barkley	**RB**		**1496-18**	**402-4**
DaeSean Hamilton	**WR**		**-12-0**	**506-1**
Mike Gesicki	**TE**			**679-5**

Four returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Our biggest question about the 2017 version of Penn State is how will they handle going from being the hunter to becoming the prey? Few people expected they would be as strong in 2016 as they were. Teams who may have overlooked the Nittany Lions last year but those teams have already underlined Penn State on their 2017 schedules.

Few teams can claim they have two realistic Heisman Trophy candidates. Penn State can. The first is returning starting quarterback Trace McSorley. He accounted for 3,979 total yards and 36 overall touchdowns. 2016 backup Tommy Stevens is also back.

The second Heisman contender is running back Saquon Barkley. He has gone over the magical 1000 rushing yards mark the past two years. Last year he ran for 1496 yards and also had 402 receiving

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

yards. He is actually capable of improving both numbers. Miles Sanders and Andre Robinson are capable backups IF they can ever get Barkley off the field.

DeAndre Thompkins and DaeSean Hamilton will provide McSorley two prove targets. Saeed Blacknall had a solid year going in 2016 until he was suspended for the Rose Bowl. Irvin Charles got some valuable game experience last year. He and freshman Kahlee Hamler will be part of the two deep rotation. This is a nice wide receiver group but when you add in monster tight end Mike Gesicki, the leading returning receiver, this group becomes very good.

The skill positions look loaded but everyone knows that without a solid line, no offense will perform up to its capabilities. Center Brian Gaia is the only starter departing. Left tackle Ryan Bates, left guard Steven Gonzalez, right guard Connon McGovern and right tackle Chasz Wright have all reclaimed their starting jobs. Zach Sampson was the backup center last year and may move up to the starting unit but we feel the top rated offensive guard in the 2016 class, redshirt freshman Michael Menet will muscle his way into the starting unit. He might shift to center or force one of the other guards to make the move as Menet steps into a guard slot. The line is the cherry on the top of a very potent 2017 Penn State offense.

L I O N S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Parker Cothren	**DT**	**27**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Kevin Givens	**DT**	**26**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Jason Cabinda	**LB**	**79**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Marcus Allen	**FS**	**111**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Penn State fielded a solid defense last year and they ranked 50th defending against the pass and 48th versus the run. A repeat of those rankings is well within the grasp of this year's unit as seven starters are back.

Ends Evan Schwan and Garrett Sickels have departed and finding their replacements is essential if Penn State doesn't want the defensive to take a step back. Torrence Brown and Shareef Miller were effective reserves in 2016 and are ready to step up to the starting unit. Redshirt freshman Shane Simmons and Ryan Buchholz are their likely backups. The two tackle assignments are being hotly contested by Parker Cothren, Kevin Givens, Robert Windsor and Curtis Cothren. Expect these four to rotate in and out of the game driving opposing lines nuts?!

Penn State suffered a big loss at linebacker as Brandon Bell departed. Returning starter Jason Cabinda and Manny Bowen are expected to lock down starting roles. Brandon Smith and Cameron Brown are dueling for the final linebacker job. Depth could be a problem but there are also some good looking redshirt freshman and freshmen looking for playing time.

Strong safety Malik Golden is the only loss in the secondary. His former running mate, Marcus Allen is back at free safety after recording an amazing 111 tackles in 2016. Koy Farmer is the next in line for the strong safety job but freshman Jonathan Sutherland will be given consideration and could easily make it to the two deep depth chart. Malik Haley is another possibility IF the coaches don't decide he is needed at cornerback. Both of last year's starting cornerbacks return. Grant Haley and John Reid need to become better play makers but with all the help up front and at safety, both should improve. If they don't, the coaches will plug in Haley.

It appears that for every question within the 2017 defense, Penn State has a very capable replacement. The only remaining question is regarding some very talented recruits and how they fit in. Will they redshirt or will they be deemed too good to sit on the sidelines?

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Purdue Boilermakers

Big Ten Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Ross-Ade Stadium

Hovde Hall of Admin West Lafayette, IN 47907-2040

Phone: (765) 494-4600

Web: http://purduesports.com

Capacity: 62,500

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude:** 610 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JEFF BROHM*
O.C.:	*BRIAN BROHM*
D.C.:	*NICK HOLT*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*TONY LEVINE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Eastern Kentucky (Not D-1)	45 – 24
10-Sep	H	Cincinnati (101)	20 – 38
24-Sep	H	Nevada (102)	24 – 14
1-Oct	A	Maryland (69)	7 – 50
8-Oct	A	Illinois (108)	34 – 31
15-Oct	H	Iowa (34)	35 – 49
22-Oct	A	Nebraska (27)	14 – 27
29-Oct	H	Penn St (7)	24 – 62
5-Nov	A	Minnesota (38)	31 – 44
12-Nov	H	Northwestern (55)	17 – 45
19-Nov	H	Wisconsin (10)	20 – 49
26-Nov		Indiana (64)	24 – 26

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Louisville (18)
8-Sep	H	Ohio (58)
16-Sep	A	Missouri (95)
23-Sep	H	Michigan (9)
7-Oct	H	Minnesota (38)
14-Oct	A	Wisconsin (10)
21-Oct	A	Rutgers (123)
28-Oct	H	Nebraska (27)
4-Nov	H	Illinois (108)
11-Nov	A	Northwestern (55)
18-Nov	A	Iowa (34)
25-Nov	H	Indiana (64)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	2-5	1-4	5-7-0	1-6-0	4-1-0	8-4-0	5-2-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	80	YPG	391.1	Total Defense;	91	YAPG	445.8
Passing Offense;	21	YPG	294.9	Passing Defense;	38	YAPG	207.4
Rushing Offense;	125	YPG	96.2	Rushing Defense;	115	YAPG	238.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BOILERMAKERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
David Blough	**QB**	**3352-25-21**	**13-4**	**8-0**
Markell Jones	**RB**	**0-0-1**	**616-4**	**215-0**
Cole Hardman	**TE**			**344-3**

Two returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Jeff Brohm is the new head coach at Purdue. He has earned a solid reputation for creating explosive offenses. Purdue already had a pretty good offense before Brohm arrived so it will be interesting how good that unit can become under Brohm.

It is easy to trace how Purdue ended 2016 with a 3-9 record. They couldn't run the ball (125th ranked rushing offense) and they couldn't stop running teams (115th ranked rushing defense).

Brohm has a gunslinger returning at quarterback. David Blough threw for 3352 yards for 25 touchdowns last year. Those are fine stats but he also threw a disgusting 21 interceptions. Job number one for Brohm is to teach his quarterback to make better decisions. Elijah Sindelar returns and will function as the primary backup at quarterback.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Purdue Boilermakers

Markell Jones is the most productive returning running back (614 yards, 4 touchdowns) and the second most productive receiver (215 yards). Brian Lankford-Johnson (314 rushing yards) and Richie Worship (133 yards rushing) also return. D. J. Knox (409 yards rushing in 2015) is back from injury. This group gives the running back position nice proven depth but one of the candidates needs to step forward and become the featured back.

Purdue must replace last year's top three targets at wide receiver. DeAngelo Yancey, Bilal Marshall and Cameron Posey have graduated leaving tight end Cole Herdman as the top returning receiver (344 yards). The wide receiver slots will remain wide open until coaches have the chance of evaluating five incoming freshmen. There are two redshirt freshmen who will also be in the mix. Gregory Phillips is the most productive returning wide receiver but he had only 172 receiving yards in 2016. We fully expect to see a very young and inexperienced wide receiver rotation come opening kickoff. Brohm will have to pull out some of his magic to make this a decent group.

Center Kirk Barron and right tackle Matt McCann are the only returning offensive linemen. 2016 reserves, left tackle Jalen Neal, left guard Peyton Truitt and right guard Bearooz Yacoobi fill out the projected line but junior college transfer Ethan Smart will get strong consideration. The O-Line in particular and the offense in general look like they are very so-so.

B O I L E R M A K E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Galen Robinson	**DE**	**61**	**5**	**1**	**0**
Eddy Wilson	**DT**	**36**	**3**	**0**	**1**
Markus Bailey	**LB**	**97**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Dawan Hunte	**CB**	**47**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Navon Mosely	**FS**	**45**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Nick Holt is the new defensive coordinator and he inherits a mess. Purdue's defense gave up 38.3 points per game in 2016. Yes, that unit was very young but now Holt must replace tackles Evan Panfil and Jake Replogle and strong safety Leroy Clark. On the brighter side, Holt welcomes back six of last year's top seven tacklers.

Defensive end Gelen Robinson is a key building block for the line. His 61 tackles and 5 sacks give the line a solid start. 2016 reserve Austin Larkin and juco transfer Kai Higgins are fighting it out for the other end job. Eddy Wilson will step up to the starting unit and provide experienced, capable play at tackle. His running mate could possibly be Lorenzo Neal but redshirt freshman Anthoiny Watts is another possibility. This pieced together line could actually blossom into a functional unit.

Linebackers Ja'Whaun Bentley, Danny Ezechukwu and Markus Bailey are back and will be the strength of Purdue's 2017 defense. Bailey lead the team in tackles last year as a freshman so there are high expectations for him and the starting linebacker trio. Purdue got a welcome surprise when graduate transfer T. J. McCollum followed Brohm from Western Kentucky. Redshirt freshman Semisi Fakasiieiki is fighting for playing time and will pride additional depth to the rotation. Count on this group to be roaming the field and making plays.

Dawan Hunte is back and has reclaimed one of the starting cornerback jobs. He is joined by fellow returning starting free safety Navon Moseley forming a nice foundation for the secondary. Josh Hayes has gotten first call to fill the opening at the other corner but he will have to withstand strong challenges from juco transfer T. J. Jallow and redshirt freshman Simeon Smiley. The two safety slots have several capable candidates battling to be the running mate of Moseley. Brandon Roberts was productive in limited playing time last year but he had no guarantee that he will start at of the end of spring drills. C. J. Parker may move from his normal free safety spot. He and Tim Carson and Jacob Thieneman are all fighting for that open strong safety assignment. The secondary will be a competitive group and complete a defense that will be more productive than the 2016 unit.

Coach Brohm has several short term projects but in the long run he must instill a winning attitude and he MUST improve the quality of recruiting.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Rutgers Scarlet Knights

Big Ten Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: High Point Solutions Stadium

83 Somerset St New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1281

Phone: (732) 932-1766

Web: http://www.scarletknights.com

Capacity: 52,454

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 85 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*CHRIS ASH*
O.C.:	*JERRY KILL*
D.C.:	*JAY NIEMANN*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*VINCE OKRUCH*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep		Washington (5)	13 – 48
10-Sep	H	Howard (Not D-1)	52 – 14
17-Sep	H	New Mexico (54)	37 – 28
24-Sep	H	Iowa (34)	7 – 14
1-Oct	A	Ohio St (6)	0 – 58
8-Oct	H	Michigan (9)	0 – 78
15-Oct	H	Illinois (108)	7 – 24
22-Oct	A	Minnesota (38)	32 – 34
5-Nov	H	Indiana (64)	27 – 33
12-Nov	A	Michigan St (97)	0 – 49
19-Nov	H	Penn St (7)	0 – 39
26-Nov	A	Maryland (69)	13 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	H	Washington (5)
9-Sep	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
16-Sep	H	Morgan State (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Nebraska (27)
30-Sep	H	Ohio State (6)
14-Oct	A	Illinois (108)
21-Oct	H	Purdue (116)
28-Oct	A	Michigan (9)
4-Nov	H	Maryland (69)
11-Nov	A	Penn State (7)
18-Nov	A	Indiana (64)
25-Nov	H	Michigan State (97)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	2-10	2-5	0-5	4-8-0	3-4-0	1-4-0	6-6-0	4-3-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	128	YPG	283.2	Total Defense;	97	YAPG	450.7
Passing Offense;	122	YPG	138.3	Passing Defense;	18	YAPG	186.5
Rushing Offense;	103	YPG	144.9	Rushing Defense;	126	YAPG	264.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

K N I G H T S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Robert Martin	**RB**		**625-2**	**37-0**
Jawaun Harris	**WR**		**-6-0**	**481-3**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Rutgers' 2017 offense gets a completely “free roll”. Regardless of what they do, they can't be as bad as the 2016 group that ranked 128th in total offense and 127th in scoring offense. Those ranking are about what you would expect from a team that won only two games.

It was hard for the Rutgers coaches to keep from looking at their watches in spring practices. They wanted to count off the seconds until the freshmen arrived in the fall. One freshman anxiously awaited is quarterback Johnathan Lewis. The departures of Chris Laviano and Hayden Rettig left Rutgers hurting big time at quarterback. Gio Rescigno, Zach Allen and Tylin Oden conducted a heated battle for the job in the spring but none of the three looked like the answer.

The player earning starting status at quarterback will be happy to have running back Robert Martin (625 yards) behind him. Miami graduate transfer Gus Edwards will be counted on to provide decent backup for Martin. Beyond these two, Rutgers has no easily identifiable depth.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Rutgers Scarlet Knights

Jawuan Harris is the most productive returning wide receiver but his 481 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns will not put fear in the hearts of opposing secondaries. Janarion Grant was off to a solid year before having a season ending injury. He elected to return and will handled another starting assignment. Rutgers picked up two transfers who figure to improve the starting rotation. Brothera Ahmir and Damon Mitchell came via Michigan and Arkansas. Damon was recruited at Arkansas as a quarterback while Amir is a natural receiver. Tight end is a void but Rutgers hopes key recruit Jerome Washington is ready to go. This is not a good receiving rotation that will not be helped by the questionable quarterback options.

Left tackle Tariq Cole, left guard Dorian Miller, right guard Marcus Applefield and right tackle Kamaal Seymour all are back. They were young last year and made youthful mistakes. That on the job training will be a huge asset for this year's O-Line. Add in primary backup center Jonah Jackson and you have a decent line that will be the strength of the offense.

Rutgers has a ton of questions still needing answers. Any progress this year will be a big plus.

K N I G H T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Darnell Davis	**DE**	**40**	**2**	**0**	**2**
Trevon Morris	**LB**	**102**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Deonte Roberts	**LB**	**92**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Isaiah Wharton	**CB**	**44**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Blessuan Austin	**CB**	**43**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Saquan Hampton	**SS**	**46**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Kiy Hester	**FS**	**51**	**1**	**0**	**0**

In 2016, Rutgers' offense and defense were equally bad. The rushing defense was ranked 126th in the country. Do not be fooled by the 18th ranking for Rutgers' passing defense. Opponents saw little reason to throw the ball since they could successfully run the ball so easily. Eight starters are back but since we can't blame the prior poor results on youthfulness, we aren't certain having so many starters returning is good or bad news.

End Darnell Davis and tackle Sebastian Joseph were part of the first string D-Line in 2016 and return. Both and the balance of the line must find a way to increase pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Jimmy Hogan is the leader in pursuit of the end opening and Kevin Wilkins has the best chances of filling the opening at the second tackle spot. The roster contains little easily identifiable depth so do not expect a lot from this rotation.

Starting linebackers Trevor Morris, Deonte Roberts and Tyreek Maddox-Williams need to remain healthy. They were productive last year even though they spent far too much of their time covering up for line mistakes. Unfortunately they will face he same problems this year.

Free safety Anthony Cioffi is the only piece of the secondary not returning. Saquan Hampton will again man the strong safety slot with his new running mate being Kiy Hester, a very productive reserve in 2016. Isaiah Wharton and Blessuan Austin have reclaimed their cornerback assignments. The secondary lacks play makers but that may have been the result in the past of poor play by the front four.

Rutgers is still at least two years away from regaining respectability. If the coaches do not up their recruiting, it may take longer. Bottom line, Rutgers simply does not have many players considered to be Big Ten quality. Until they close the recruiting gap, Rutgers will be an after thought and dwell in or near the bottom of the league.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Wisconsin Badgers

Big Ten Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Camp Randall Stadium

500 Lincoln Dr. Madison, WI 53706-1380

Phone: (608) 262-1234

Web: http://www.uwbadgers.com

Capacity: 80,321

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 875 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*PAUL CHRYST*
O.C.:	*JOE RUDOLPH*
D.C.:	*JIM LEONHARD*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*CHRIS HAERING*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	LSU (15)	16 – 14
10-Sep	H	Akron (89)	54 – 10
17-Sep	H	Georgia St (112)	23 – 17
24-Sep	A	Michigan St (97)	30 – 6
1-Oct	A	Michigan (9)	7 – 14
15-Oct	H	Ohio St (6)	23 – 30
22-Oct	A	Iowa (34)	17 – 9
29-Oct	H	Nebraska (27)	23 – 17
5-Nov	A	Northwestern (55)	21 – 7
12-Nov	H	Illinois (108)	48 – 3
19-Nov	A	Purdue (116)	49 – 20
26-Nov	H	Minnesota (38)	31 – 17
3-Dec	H	Penn St (7)	41 – 38
BOWL	H	Western Michigan (12)	24 – 16

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	H	Utah State (106)
9-Sep	H	Florida Atlantic (121)
16-Sep	A	BYU (44)
30-Sep	H	Northwestern (55)
7-Oct	A	Nebraska (27)
14-Oct	H	Purdue (116)
21-Oct	H	Maryland (69)
28-Oct	A	Illinois (108)
4-Nov	A	Indiana (64)
11-Nov	H	Iowa (34)
18-Nov	H	Michigan (9)
25-Nov	A	Minnesota (38)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	11-3	7-1	4-2	9-3-2	4-3-2	5-0-0	6-7-0	5-3-0	1-4-0

Total Offense;	89	YPG	382.1	Total Defense;	7	YAPG	301.4
Passing Offense;	104	YPG	179.1	Passing Defense;	30	YAPG	202.6
Rushing Offense;	39	YPG	203.1	Rushing Defense;	3	YAPG	98.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

B A D G E R S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Alex Hornibrook	**QB**	**1262-9-7**	**-81-0**	
Jazz Peavy	**WR**		**457-5**	**6-0**

Four returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Wisconsin finished last season with an 11-3 record in spite of its horrible 104th ranking for passing offense. Yes, Wisconsin has been known for years as a running team and they ranked 39th nationally for rushing offense in 2016 but the 2017 offense must find better balance.

Wisconsin split quarterback duties last year with Bart Houston recording 1245 passing yards for 5 touchdowns. Alex Hornibrook had 1262 passing yards for 9 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. Houston has used up his eligibility so the job falls into the hands of Hornibrook. Finding his backup was the major task in spring drills. Freshman Jack Coan seems to have a slight edge for the job over redshirt freshman Kare Lyles.

Running back Corey Clement departed and with him went 1375 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns. The Badgers may have a running back by committee with top producing returner Bradrick Shaw (457

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

rushing yards for 5 touchdowns), Taiwan Deal and Pittsburgh transfer Chris James. None of the three has shown the ability to be the featured back but all three are capable. Fullback Austin Ramesh returns and will again be an excellent lead blocker. Any step back in the running game is not going to be a huge one.

Hornibrook has a couple of established receivers to target. Wide receiver Jazz Peavy (635 receiving yards for 5 touchdowns) and tight end Troy Fumagalli (580 yards for 2 touchdowns). Peavy is also a threat on the flanker sweep as he amassed 318 rushing yards for another touchdown last year. George Rushing, Quintez Cephus and A. J. Taylor are all getting long looks for filling the open wide receiver slot. Freshman Danny Davis may be too good to keep on the sidelines and juco transfer Ricky Finco also figures into the depth chart.

Left tackle Ryan Ramczyk is the only loss within the offensive line. Redshirt freshmen Cole Van Lanen looks ready to assume those duties and join the four returning starters, left guard Jon Dietzen, center Michael Dieter, right guard Beau Benzschawel and right tackle David Edwards. This will be a fine starting five and there is a splash of experienced depth.

Expect Wisconsin to get better throwing the ball and make a step back running the ball.

B A D G E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Conor Sheehy	**DE**	**27**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Alec James	**DE**	**23**	**4**	**0**	**0**
T. J. Edwards	**LB**	**89**	**3**	**3**	**0**
D'Cota Dixon	**S**	**60**	**1**	**4**	**0**

While Wisconsin will be required to replace about half of the defense that ranked 30th against the pass and 3rd against the run in 2016, duplicating those lofty rankings will not be completely out of the question.

The defensive line returns all three of last season's starters. Ends Sheehy and Chikwe Obasih and competent but both could improve their pass rushing. Sitting it the wings waiting for their snaps are Alec James and juco transfer Andrew Van Ginkel. These two key reserves could easily advance ahead of the starters as both provide better pass rushing. Nose tackle Olive Sagapolu did a decent job last year stacking up opposing linemen and allowing linebackers to do their jobs.

Inside linebackers Jack Cichy and T. J. Edwards are back. Edwards will be the heart of the four man unit after racking up 89 tackles, 3 sacks and 3 interceptions last season. Wisconsin must replace standout outside linebackers T.J. Watt and Vince Biegel. Fortunately, Wisconsin utilized a deep linebacker rotation last year and return top reserves Ryan Connelly and Leon Jacobs. Connelly played on the outside in 2016 and may move to the middle. The return of Chris Orr from the injury list adds another candidate for the outside slots as does Alabama transfer Christian Bell. The linebacker rotation will again be talented and productive and must be considered a team plus.

Tackle monster free safety Leo Musso and corner Sojourn Shelton have departed. Strong safety D'Cota Dixon and cornerback Derrick Tindal return and provide the Badgers' secondary an excellent starting point. Patrick Johnson and Lubern Figaro are capable replacements for Musso. Hawaii transfer Nick Nelson enters the competition for the open cornerback spot. Caesar Williams and Natrell Jamerson are also in the battle. Jamerson has an experience edge but the other two are just as talented. Regardless of who captures the final secondary starting assignment, this will be a very good group. It has the huge advantage of having a very nice front seven that will do its job thereby freeing up the secondary of make plays.

Wisconsin will have another top notch defense. They will continue the nice habit of handing the ball to the offense in solid field position.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

BIG TWELVE CONFERENCE
400 EAST JOHN CARPENTER FREEWAY
IRVING, TX 75062
469-524-1000
COMMISSIONER: BOB BOWLSBY

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

EAST DIVISION

Oklahoma
Oklahoma State
Kansas State
Texas
TCU
West Virginia
Baylor
Kansas
Texas Tech
Iowa State

Rainman

EAST DIVISION

Oklahoma
Texas
Oklahoma State
Kansas State
Baylor
Texas Tech
TCU
West Virginia
Iowa State
Kansas

Oklahoma finds itself with a surprise new head coach but as long as the dynamic Baker Mayfield is at quarterback, the Sooners will have an offense that will sing. The Sooners have several offensive holes to fill but the one area where they will begin the season solid is the offensive line. These big boys will buy the needed time for the new offense to gel. Defensively, the Sooners look very good. Last year's secondary struggled but the year of experience last year will pay benefits in 2017. Oklahoma State will have such a good offense that we feel the Cowboys can overcome their terrible defense. Every game will be a shootout but we feel Oklahoma State simply has more “bullets” than the teams they will face. Quarterback Mason Rudolph is something special and he is surrounded by a play making supporting cast and a line that will be very solid. Kansas State has a bus load of people returning for the 2017 offense. They also have an unusually deep offensive group. On defense, the Wildcats need to do a complete overhaul of its linebacker unit. If that group can be replenished properly, K-State will have a competitive defense. No team in the country has gotten more hype about hiring a new coach than at Texas. Tom Herman is the new man and his biggest job will be to get a bunch of under achievers to play up to their abilities. The only potential hole we can see for Texas is at wide receiver. Defensively, Texas has unbelievable potential but they also have a group that has never played anywhere close to their capabilities. If Herman can awaken this sleeping giant, Texas will be tough and may contend for the conference title. TCU has two big problems that will likely keep them from beating the top teams in the conference. First, they have a quarterback who makes way too many turnovers and second, they have a defensive line that needs to show they can apply an acceptable level of pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Until TCU proves they have

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Baylor Bears

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: McLane Stadium

1500 South University Parks Drive Waco, TX 76706

Phone: (254) 710-1234

Web: http://www.baylorbears.com

Capacity: 45,000

Surface: SportGrass **Altitude:** 471 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MATT RHULE*
O.C.:	*MATT LUBICK*
D.C.:	*PHIL SNOW*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	***???***

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Northwestern St (Not D-1)	55 – 7
10-Sep	H	SMU (86)	40 – 13
16-Sep	A	Rice (120)	38 – 10
24-Sep	H	Oklahoma St (11)	35 – 24
1-Oct	A	Iowa St (96)	45 – 42
15-Oct	H	Kansas (124)	49 – 7
29-Oct	A	Texas (73)	34 – 35
5-Nov	H	TCU (60)	22 – 62
12-Nov	A	Oklahoma (4)	24 – 45
19-Nov	H	Kansas St (32)	21 – 42
25-Nov	H	Texas Tech (80)	35 – 64
3-Dec	A	West Virginia (21)	21 – 24
BOWL	H	Boise St (26)	31 – 12

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Liberty (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)
16-Sep	A	Duke (93)
23-Sep	H	Oklahoma (4)
30-Sep	A	Kansas State (32)
14-Oct	A	Oklahoma State (11)
21-Oct	H	West Virginia (21)
28-Oct	H	Texas (73)
4-Nov	A	Kansas (124)
11-Nov	A	Texas Tech (80)
18-Nov	H	Iowa State (96)
25-Nov	A	TCU (60)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	5-2	2-4	4-9-0	2-5-0	2-4-0	4-8-0	3-4-0	1-4-0

Total Offense;	6	YPG	522.7	Total Defense;	81	YAPG	430.8
Passing Offense;	24	YPG	280.9	Passing Defense;	71	YAPG	230.2
Rushing Offense;	14	YPG	241.8	Rushing Defense;	87	YAPG	200.7

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BEARS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Zach Smith	**QB**	**1526-13-7**	**-26-1**	**3-0**
Terrence Williams	**RB**		**1048-11**	**22-0**
Chris Platt	**WR**		**8-0**	**567-4**

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Baylor has loads of starters back on offense. However, once you get past the starting eleven, depth looks like it could be a problem. The Bears ranked 24th in passing offense in 2016 and 14th rushing the ball.

Everything starts with quarterback and Baylor will have two fighting for the starting assignment. Returning starter Zach Smith didn't have an overly impressive stats year last season but he did have a head turning performance in last year's Cactus Bowl. He's still young and has room and time for improvement. His main challenger will be Arizona graduate transfer Anu Solomon. You know Solomon didn't come to Waco to sit on the bench. The final decision on who starts will be made in fall practices.

The winner of the quarterback competition will benefit from a nice stable of running backs headed by Terence Williams and JaMycal Hasty. This solid duo racked up almost 1700 rushing yards in 2016.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

While both are excellent runners, they both need to improve as pass catchers. The new coaching staff will be more prone to run the ball so the running game will become more important this season.

Baylor lost two, top notch receivers when K. D. Cannon and Ishmael Zamora left early for the NFL. That's a big hit but the Bears had a nice stockpile of wide receivers and look like they will be able to field a solid group of wide receivers. Chris Platt leads the group after pulling in 567 receiving yards in 2016. He will be joined by youngsters Blake Lynch (another 404 receiving yards) and Pooh Stricklin. One of the three needs to become the go-to, deep threat guy. Expect improvement out of Lynch and Stricklin as they will be targeted much more frequently this year.

Three starting linemen return and are joined by a 2016 top reserve and stud freshman to form a very solid O-Line. The line shapes up as left tackle Maurice Porter, left guard Ishmael Wilson, center Xavier Newman, right guard Blake Blackmar and right tackle Patrick Lawrence.

Baylor will field a potent offense this season. They will need to rack up points as the defense isn't as loaded with talent.

B E A R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
K. J. Smith	**DE**	**67**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Tyrone Hunt	**DE**	**30**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Ira Lewis	**DT**	**36**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Taylor Young	**LB**	**95**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Chance Waz	**S**	**52**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Davion Hall	**S**	**51**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Travon Blanchard	**NB**	**73**	**2**	**1**	**0**

When your defense is ranked 71st in the country for defending against the pass and 87th versus the run, you know you have work to do. That task will fall under the watchful eyes of new offensive coordinator Phil Snow. Snow will have to fill holes in all three levels of the defense.

Defensive tackle Travon Blanchard must be replaced. However, Baylor returns both starting ends giving their front three a solid base. K. J. Smith was All Conference last year and is joined by Tyrone Hunt. Hunt had a solid freshman season and bigger and better things are expected from him. The top candidate for the vacant tackle slot is Ira Lewis but former starter Byron Bonds returns from injury and will be in the hunt for snaps. There will be a group of freshman arriving in the fall who may be in the mix and will be counted on to provide depth.

Linebacker Aiavion Edwards is the biggest loss on the defense. He was a solid tackle and did a nice job in pass coverage. Taylor Young and Raaquan Davis are back and are capable of becoming play makers, especially Young.The third assignment is up for grabs with Jordan Williams and Clay Johnson the top options after spring drills.

The secondary could be a problem area for Baylor in 2017. Safety Orion Stewart is a big loss. Cornerbacks Ryan Reid and Tion Wright also must be replaced. As things stand right now, nickel back Travon Blanchard remains suspended and most people feel he will not return. For this report, we will also have Blanchard as a no show. After the scandal struck Baylor, players bolted from the program leaving areas like the secondary thin. Baylor has several freshmen arriving in the fall who could easily be part of the five man secondary rotation. Without taking those freshmen into consideration, here is what a possible secondary could look like; cornerbacks – Grayland Arnold and Jameson Houston, safeties – Chance Waz and returning starter Davion Hall. The nickel back assignment is a void. Tyletr Gaynes is a possibility but we feel one of the incoming youngsters will end up with the job.

The defense looks solid until you get to the secondary and that group looks like it will be a season long problem. Like the offense, the Baylor defense is lacking depth so when you have a weak starting area, like the secondary, it is tough to see it getting batter as the season progresses.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Iowa State Cyclones

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Jack Trice Stadium

271 Durham Hall Ames, IA 50011

Phone: (515) 294-5836

Web: http://www.cyclones.com

Capacity: 55,000

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 903 ft.

HEAD COACH: *MATT CAMPBELL*
O.C.: *TOM MANNING*
D.C.: *JON HEACOCK*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *BRYAN GASSER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Northern Iowa (Not D-1)	20 – 25
10-Sep	A	Iowa (34)	3 – 42
17-Sep	A	TCU (60)	20 – 41
24-Sep	H	San Jose St (111)	44 – 10
1-Oct	H	Baylor (56)	42 – 45
8-Oct	A	Oklahoma St (11)	31 – 38
15-Oct	A	Texas (73)	6 – 27
29-Oct	H	Kansas St (32)	26 – 31
3-Nov	H	Oklahoma (4)	24 – 34
12-Nov	A	Kansas (124)	31 – 24
19-Nov	H	Texas Tech (80)	66 – 10
26-Nov	H	West Virginia (21)	19 – 49

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Northern Iowa (34)
9-Sep	H	Iowa (34)
16-Sep	A	Akron (82)
28-Sep	H	Texas (73)
7-Oct	A	Oklahoma (4)
14-Oct	H	Kansas (124)
21-Oct	A	Texas Tech (80)
28-Oct	H	TCU (60)
4-Nov	A	West Virginia (21)
11-Nov	H	Oklahoma State (11)
18-Nov	A	Baylor (56)
25-Nov	A	Kansas State (32)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	2-5	1-4	7-5-0	5-2-0	2-3-0	6-5-1	4-3-0	2-2-1

Total Offense;	60	YPG	421.6	Total Defense;	102	YAPG	452.9
Passing Offense;	40	YPG	258.8	Passing Defense;	75	YAPG	234.8
Rushing Offense;	82	YPG	162.8	Rushing Defense;	103	YAPG	218.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CYCLONES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jacob Park	**QB**	**1791-12-5**	**59-1**	**10-0**
David Montgomery	**RB**		**563-2**	**129-0**
Deshaunte Jones	**WR**	**10-0-0**	**31-0**	**536-6**

One returning starting lineman plus four top reserves

What could have been! In 2016, Iowa State won three games but they also lost five games by 10 points or less. On the other side, Iowa State won two of their last three games. Youth and inexperience was a key reason the Cyclones seemed unable to win close games resulting in a 3-9 season..

Iowa State effectively used two quarterbacks in 2016. Jacob Park was the passer (1791 yards passing) and Joel Lanning was the runner (518 yards). Both return for 2017 and you can expect both to get meaningful playing time again. Park will be listed as the starter. Lanning will be utilized at quarterback when the Cyclones are close to the goal line but he also will find some work at running back and at wide receiver.

With David Montgomery (563 yards) and Mike Warren (559) both returning, Iowa State will be okay at running back. It would be nice if one or the other would step up and become a true featured back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Both are also capable of catching passes and will make nice outlets for the quarterback.

The Cyclones got huge break when Allen Lazard, one of the top receivers in the Big 12, didn't opt to enter the NFL draft. Deshaunte Jones will join Lazard after having a solid freshman season. Trever Ryen will be the third wide receiver, assuming he can beat out juco transfer Matt Eaton. Denver Johnson also returns from injury. The tight end slot is wide open and the competition for that job will last well into fall drills.

The biggest concern is the offensive line. Mitchell Meyers, Demond Tucker and Jhaustin Thomas have used up their eligibility. With just two returning starters on the offensive line, a pair of redshirt freshmen, Sean Foster and Josh Mueller, will play heavily in the final offensive line. Our best guess is the starting line will be left tackle Sean Foster, left guard Bryce Meeker, center Will Windham, right guard one of the redshirt freshman and right tackle Julian Good-Jones. Juco transfer Goge Udeogu, USC transfer Kahliel Rodgers, Michigan transfer Dave Dawson and former starter back from injury Jake Compos all figure in the rotation.

The line has potential but also has uncertainty.

CYCLONES DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Willie Harvey	**LB**	**78**	**0**	**3**	**1**
Brian Pevey	**CB**	**62**	**.5**	**1**	**0**
Mike Johnson	**SS**	**44**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Kamari Cotton-Moya	**FS**	**73**	**0**	**2**	**1**

Iowa State was ranked 75th for passing defense and 103rd for rushing defense in 2016. If the cyclones want to make the next step forward and beginning to win those close games, they have to improve their defense, especially against running offenses.

The D-Line has potential. End J. D. Waggoner was off to a fine year in 2016 but was bitten by the injury bug. He is back this year and if healthy, he can provide decent pressure on opposing quarterbacks. JaQuan Bailey will be the other end after being made a Freshman All-American last year. Providing competition and/or depth, juco transfer Matthew Leo has arrived. Spencer Benton gives the end slot additional, experienced depth. Tackle is a different story. The only returning tackle is Varnell Trtent. He is a senior with very limited game experience. ISU again dipped into the juco pool and brought in Ray Lima and Kamilo Tongamoa. Even with these two, tackle looks like a big problem.

Willie Harvey will be the leader of the linebacker group. He will be joined by 2016 top reserves Reggan Northrup and Brian Mills. Like the rest of the defense, lack of depth at linebacker requires the injury bug to be avoided.

The secondary will feature the return of cornerback Brian Peavy and free safety Kamari Cotton-Moya. Both are All Conference quality players and a pair that the coaches can use as the foundation of the back four. The strong safety slot will be filled well by Mike Johnson. The open cornerback job looks to be wide open with a group of lightly tested veterans and totally untested incoming freshmen as the candidates. The fourth part of the secondary will be helped by the talent surrounding him.

There are questions in the D-Line and in the secondary. It looks like Iowa State recruited to need and seem to have added players who can fill the openings. This defense will not be a world beater but the unit also has a chance to be above average.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Kansas Jayhawks

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Memorial Stadium

700 Vermont Street Lawrence, KS 66045

Phone: (785) 864-2700

Web: http://www.kuathletics.com

Capacity: 50,071

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 867 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DAVID BEATY*
O.C.:	*DOUG MEACHAM*
D.C.:	*CLINT BOWEN*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JOE DEFOREST*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Rhode Island (Not D-1)	55 – 6
10-Sep	H	Ohio (58)	21 – 37
17-Sep	A	Memphis (45)	7 – 43
29-Sep	A	Texas Tech (80)	19 – 55
8-Oct	H	TCU (60)	23 – 24
15-Oct	A	Baylor (56)	7 – 49
22-Oct	H	Oklahoma St (11)	20 – 44
29-Oct	A	Oklahoma (4)	3 – 56
5-Nov	A	West Virginia (21)	21 – 48
12-Nov	H	Iowa St (96)	24 – 31
19-Nov	H	Texas (73)	24 – 21
26-Nov	A	Kansas St (32)	19 – 34

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Southeast Missouri St (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Central Michigan (78)
16-Sep	A	Ohio (58)
23-Sep	H	West Virginia (21)
7-Oct	H	Texas Tech (80)
14-Oct	A	Iowa State (96)
21-Oct	A	TCU (60)
28-Oct	H	Kansas State (32)
4-Nov	H	Baylor (56)
11-Nov	A	Texas (73)
18-Nov	H	Oklahoma (4)
25-Nov	A	Oklahoma State (11)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	2-10	2-4	0-6	6-6-0	4-2-0	2-4-0	4-7-1	2-3-1	2-4-0

Total Offense;	106	YPG	359.5	Total Defense;	109	YAPG	456.2
Passing Offense;	59	YPG	240.4	Passing Defense;	54	YAPG	219.8
Rushing Offense;	116	YPG	119.1	Rushing Defense;	114	YAPG	236.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

JAYHAWKS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Steven Simms	**WR**	**40-0-0**	**-9-0**	**859-7**
LaQuvionte Gonzalez	**WR**		**-9-0**	**729-3**
Ben Johnson	**TE**			**112-1**

Four returning starting linemen plus five top reserves

Kansas averaged only 20.3 points a game in 2016. That number MUST jump quite a bit but surprisingly, it looks like Kansas has enough tools to do just that. Overseeing this project will be new coordinator Doug Meacham. He built scoring machines at TCU and will attempt to do the same thing at Kansas.

Kansas has a healthy competition at quarterback. Sophomore Carter Stanley became the starter late last year and is back. He will be challenged by former Washington State recruit and juco transfer Peyton Bender. He racked up 2733 years passing for 21 touchdowns and just 4 interceptions last year. Considering the type of offense Meacham will install, Bender is a perfect fit.

Kansas must replace its top rusher from last season, Ke'aum Kinner. Taylor Martin and Khalil Herbert are the most productive returning running backs but DO NOT expect either to become the featured running back. That title will be awarded to juco transfer Octavius Matthews. He was the top rated junior

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

college running back last year. If Bender is the qb, he will have some solid targets. Steven Sims, Jr. (859 yards) and LaQuvionte Gonzalez (729 yards) are both back and if the offense is modified like we feel it will be, they both will have substantially larger numbers in 2017. Alabama transfer Daylon Charlot may end up as the best starting receiver. Kansas also has some talented but lightly tested youngsters waiting for their chances.

The offensive line will be a team strength as the only loss was at right tackle. Cam Durley looks ready to step up to the starting unit where he will be joined by left tackle Hakeem Adeniji, left guard Jason Rhodes, center Joe Gibson and right guard Mea Ribordy. Four of last year's reserve unit will also be back. This is still a very young line rotation but the year of experience they all got last season will give the unit a big leg up for 2017.

Kansas is definitely headed in the right direction and their 2017 offense will be a solid group. It has talent and depth and an exciting new coordinator. For these reasons, we view Kansas as a really good sleeper for 2017. They won't win the championship but they will cover frequently.

J A Y H A W K S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Dorance Armstrong	**DE**	**56**	**10**	**0**	**3**
Daniel Wise	**DT**	**38**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Deeissac Davis	**DT**	**31**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Mike Lee	**S**	**77**	**0**	**1**	**2**

Progress on the defense must continue this season. The 2016 unit allowed 6.04 yards a play and that sounds bad until you realize the 2015 unit allowed 6.96 yards a play. It will be hard for the defense to improve too much as the group was hard hit by graduation. Fortunately for Kansas fans, the coaching staff has been doing an excellent job recruiting and there are actually possible replacements to fill any holes.

Defensive end Dorance Armstrong (10 sacks) is back and was the team's best player last year. Kansas must find him a new running mate as Damani Mosby must replaced. Isaiah Bean is a possibility but he must fight off a strong challenge from juco transfer KeyShaun Simmons. Daniel Wise and Deeissac Davis were starting D-tackles last year and are back to provide a solid duo in the middle. Kansas had three freshmen linemen in their 2017 recruiting class and they need to be ready to contribute.

Keith Loneker is back at linebacker but he needs to up his production in every area. He will pair up with Joe Dineen. Dineen was off to a good start last year only to incur a season ending injury. Kansas has a splash of experienced depth. The linebacker unit will be nothing special but they also will not be a team liability.

Kansas has work to do in their five man secondary. Four of last year's starters are gone. Only safety Mike Lee returns. He is a nice building block. He was the team's second leading tackle in 2016. Beyond Lee, your guess is as good as ours who will man the secondary. One of the best names for a defensive player, Hasan Defense is a contender for one cornerback job. Also, keep an eye on juco transfer Shakial Taylor. Redshirt freshman Ian Peterson is another possibility and may have the most talent in the bunch. The top two candidates for the safety opening are Tyrone Miller and Shaquille Richmond. Both are young and have had limited experience. The Jayhawks recruited four defensive backs this year and they will get looks along with two other redshirt freshman. The Kansas secondary will be raw and must be considered a liability.

If this defense continues the gradual improvement it showed last year, it will be a success. Do not expect the defense to be very good but Kansas will overall be a better team in 2016.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Kansas State Wildcats

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Bill Snyder Family Stadium
1800 College Ave. Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: (800) 221-CATS
Web: http://www.kstatesports.com
Capacity: 50,000
Surface: GameDay Grass **Altitude:** 1023 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BILL SNYDER*
O.C.:	*DANA DIMEL*
D.C.:	*TOM HAYES*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*SEAN SNYDER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	A	Stanford (17)	13 -26
17-Sep	H	Florida Atlantic (121)	63 – 7
24-Sep	H	Missouri St (Not D-1)	35 – 0
1-Oct	A	West Virginia (21)	16 – 17
8-Oct	H	Texas Tech (80)	44 – 38
15-Oct	A	Oklahoma (4)	17 – 38
22-Oct	H	Texas (73)	24 – 21
29-Oct	A	Iowa St (96)	31 – 26
5-Nov	H	Oklahoma St (11)	37 – 43
19-Nov	A	Baylor (56)	42 – 21
26-Nov	H	Kansas (124)	34 – 19
3-Dec	A	TCU (60)	30 – 6
BOWL	H	Texas A & M (42)	33 – 28

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Central Arkansas (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Charlotte (109)
16-Sep	A	Vanderbilt (62)
30-Sep	H	Baylor (56)
7-Oct	A	Texas (73)
14-Oct	H	TCU (60)
21-Oct	H	Oklahoma (4)
28-Oct	A	Kansas (124)
4-Nov	A	Texas Tech (80)
11-Nov	H	West Virginia (21)
18-Nov	A	Oklahoma State (11)
25-Nov	H	Iowa State (96)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	6-1	3-3	6-7-0	2-4-0	4-3-0	6-6-0	4-2-0	2-4-0

Total Offense;	83	YPG	388.8	Total Defense;	51	YAPG	387.7
Passing Offense;	116	YPG	157	Passing Defense;	114	YAPG	272.7
Rushing Offense;	22	YPG	231.8	Rushing Defense;	11	YAPG	115

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

WILDCATS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jesse Ertz	**QB**	**1755-9-4**	**1012-12**	
Byron Pringle	**RB**		**12-0**	**631-4**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

The biggest question around Manhattan, Kansas is how will head coach Bill Snyder's health issues effect the team. Snyder is fighting throat cancer and at age 77, that can't be good.

Even with an almost nonexistent passing game, Kansas State average 32.2 points per game last year. Does that mean they had a world beater running game? No, it simply tells us how efficient the offense was.

Quarterback Jesse Ertz and seven of his fellow 2016 starters are back. Ertz racked up 1012 rushing yards while passing for an additional 1755 yards. He was responsible for 21 touchdowns. His duel threat ability was the key for last year's offensive efficiency. Alex Delton and Skylar Thompson a fighting for backup duty.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Kansas State Wildcats

Top running back Charles Jones graduated but the cupboard is far from being empty. Alex Barnes looks like a potential monster after racking up 442 yards in a substitute role. Justin Silmon and Alex Barnes both showed promise the later half of last season. Fullback Winston Dimel is back and was a huge asset close to the goal line.

Ertz will have the services of two proven receivers, Byron Pringle (631 yards) and Dominique Heath (438 yards). Neither is considered the go-to guy but in the Kansas State offense, a go-to receiver isn't essential. Isaiah Zuber is a prime candidate for the third starting assignment but Cal transfer Carlos Strickland is also under consideration. Dayton Valentine is back at tight end and is an excellent blocker. The receivers needn't be outstanding and this unit fits the scheme perfectly.

Left tackle Scott Frantz, left guard Abdul Beecham, center Reid Najvar and right tackle Dalton Risner are all returning starters. They will be joined by top 2016 reserve right guard Bryce Fitzner. While this is still a young group, they are game tested and proven producers. There are also three quality reserves back and some interesting juco transfers to fill out the rotation.

There isn't a single gaping hole in the 2017 offense. There is quality and depth everywhere.

W I L D C A T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Reggie Walker	**DE**	**39**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Tanner Joe Wood	**DE**	**36**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Will Geary	**DT**	**45**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Duke Shelley	**CB**	**48**	**0**	**3**	**0**
D. J. Reed	**SS**	**75**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Dendall Adams	**FS**	**62**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Kansas State had the best defense in the Big 12 last year. From that top group, end Jordan Willis, linebackers Elijah Lee, Charmeachealle Moore and Will Davis and defensive backs Dante Barnett and Dante Starks are all gone. The Wildcats have six returning starters and some qualified replacements just waiting for their chances.

Defensive end Reggie Walker is back and was able to apply serious pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Tanner Joe Wood will handle the other end and give the D-Line a nice start. Juco transfer, edge rusher Xavier Davis will battle for playing time. Will Geary is back and has reclaimed his starting tackle assignment. Trey Dishon had a decent freshman season and will man the other tackle job. Depth will come from a couple of juco transfers, some reshirt freshman and possible from the incoming freshman class.

Linebacker will be the primary problem area for State's defense in 2017. All three starters and some key backups are no longer around. Juco transfers Jayd Kirby and Da'Quan Patton are capable and may nail down two of the opening. Another possibility is Baylor transfer Xavier Phillips. Nothing is written in stone and seniors Trent Tanking and Jayd Kirby, juniors Sam Sizelove and Da'Quan Patton, sophomores Elijah Sullivan and Justin Hughes and freshmen Daniel Green and Danny Walker have to be considered candidates for the rotation.

Three parts of last year's starting secondary are back but there has been a bit of shuffling. D. J. Reed is now set to handle one cornerback job and will pair up with Duke Shelley. Free safety Dendall Adams may shift to strong safety but he will start at one safety spot. There is no obvious pick for the open safety slot and tryouts will continue until well into the fall practices. The secondary has a chance to be really good IF a capable safety fills out the starting unit.

Kansas State has for years done an excellent job of installing juco transfers and we have to assume they will do the same this year. The 2017 defense will not be as good as last year but it will still be a team asset.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Oklahoma Sooners

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium

660 Parrington Oval Norman, OK 73019-3072

Phone: (405) 325-0311

Web: http://soonersports.com

Capacity: 82,112

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 1177 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*LINCOLN RILEY*
O.C.:	*LINCOLN RILEY*
D.C.:	*MIKE STOOPS*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JAY BOULWARE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Houston (36)	23 – 33
10-Sep	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	59 – 17
17-Sep	H	Ohio St (6)	24 – 45
1-Oct	A	TCU (60)	52 – 46
8-Oct	H	Texas (73)	45 – 40
15-Oct	H	Kansas St (32)	38 – 17
22-Oct	A	Texas Tech (80)	66 – 59
29-Oct	H	Kansas (124)	56 – 3
3-Nov	A	Iowa St (96)	34 – 24
12-Nov	H	Baylor (56)	45 – 24
19-Nov	A	West Virginia (21)	56 – 28
3-Dec	H	Oklahoma St (11)	38 – 20
BOWL	H	Auburn (22)	35 – 19

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	UTEP (117)
9-Sep	A	Ohio State (6)
16-Sep	H	Tulane (100)
23-Sep	A	Baylor (56)
7-Oct	H	Iowa State (96)
14-Oct	H	Texas (73)
21-Oct	A	Kansas State (32)
28-Oct	H	Texas Tech (80)
4-Nov	A	Oklahoma State (11)
11-Nov	H	TCU (60)
18-Nov	A	Kansas (124)
25-Nov	H	West Virginia (21)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	11-2	7-1	4-1	7-6-0	5-2-0	2-4-0	6-6-0	2-4-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	2	YPG	554.8	Total Defense;	82	YAPG	432
Passing Offense;	12	YPG	318	Passing Defense;	111	YAPG	269.4
Rushing Offense;	18	YPG	236.8	Rushing Defense;	55	YAPG	162.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

SOONERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Baker Mayfield	**QB**	**3965-40-8**	**177-6**	
Mark Andrews	**TE**			**489-7**

Five returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Oklahoma was a bit of a surprise last year. Nobody expected big things out of the Sooners and when they opened the season with a loss to Houston and then were soundly beaten by Ohio State two weeks later, it looked like a long year in Norman, Oklahoma. The Sooners regrouped and ran off eleven straight wins capped by a big bowl win over Auburn.

A lot of the credit for the 12-2 season has to go to quarterback Baker Mayfield. He set an NCAA quarterback rating record of 196.4. He is back but there is a heated battle for his backup. Former five -star recruit Kyler Murray is eligible after transferring from Texas A & M. He and freshman Chris Robison are both potential long term replacements after Mayfield is gone.

Running backs Joe Mixon and Samaje Perine are gone. Rodney Anderson and Abdul Adams are experienced and will get first crack at the featured back duties but the 2nd ranked juco transfer running back, Marcelias Sutton and four star recruit Trey Sermon will get serious consideration. While

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

the running back rotation will take a step back, it will not be as large a step as most people think.

Wide receivers Jordan Evans and Dede Westbrook are now getting ready for the NFL. Mykel Jones, Jeffery Mead and Nick Basquine are returning after producing as backup in 2016. Junior college transfer Marquise Brown gives the Sooners a speedster who can replace Westbrook as a down field threat. Cedarian Lamb and Charleston Rambo offer two more options. Tight end Mark Andrews is also back completing an interesting and potential laden receiving unit.

The strength of the offense will be a line returning all five starters plus guard Cody Ford is back from injury. Big 12 lineman of the year Orlando Brown will be the heart of the unit and offers great leadership. The line will be left tackle Orlando Brown, left guard Ben Powers, center Erick Wren, right guard Dru Samia and right tackle Bobby Evans. Redshirt freshman Erik Swenson will be part of the reserve unit along with Quinn Mittermeier and Jonathan Alvarez.

It may take a while for this offense to gel but the line is so good that they will by time for the new pretty boys to settle in. When conference games begin, this Oklahoma offense will be something.

S O O N E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Neville Gallimore	**DT**	**40**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Emmanuel Beal	**LB**	**81**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Ogbannia Okoronkwo	**LB**	**71**	**9**	**0**	**0**
Jordan Thomas	**CB**	**49**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Steven Parker	**S**	**63**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Oklahoma got torched all too often through the air in 2016. The passing defense was ranked 111th in the country. The Sooners will need to improve that ranking substantially if they expect to survive in the pass happy Big 12.

Oklahoma is going back to a four man front. They will play primarily five in their secondary thereby covering up for the fact they are a bit thin at linebacker.

The D-Line will have Ogbonnia Okoronkwo and D.J. Ward at defensive end and Matt Romar and Neville Gallimore as the tackles. Okoronkwo played linebacker last year and was able to rack up 9 sacks. Romar moves up to the starting unit after being a productive reserve in 2016. Gallimore had a very nice freshman season and expectations are high regarding him.

The new defensive set puts Oklahoma in the position of having a solid linebacker duo in Emmanuel Beal and monster in the making Caleb Kelly. These two can both be play makers. Depth is still undiscovered but the Sooners recruited well at linebacker the last two years. Redshirt freshman Jon-Michael Terry and true freshman Levi Draper will be called up to provide meaningful play backing the starters. Both could eventually be stars but they just need to be solid this year.

Oklahoma's secondary will be a much improved unit and should help lower that awful passing defense number. Jordan Thomas and Jordan Parker are back and have reclaimed their starting cornerback duties. Steven Parker, an All American candidate and Ahmad Thomas are back to take care of business at the safety slots. Starting nickel back Will Johnson completes what looks like a very good secondary. The five-some is experienced and talented. With the new 4-2-5 defensive set, more pressure should be applied to opposing quarterbacks and put this secondary in a position to make plays.

The 2017 Oklahoma defense will be better, especially when defending against the pass.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Oklahoma State Cowboys

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Boone Pickens Stadium

107 Whitehurst Stillwater, OK 74078

Phone: (405) 744-5000

Web: http://www.okstate.com

Capacity: 60,218

Surface: Artificial Grass **Altitude:** 897 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MIKE GUNDY*
O.C.:	*MIKE YURCICH*
D.C.:	*GLENN SPENCER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	SE Louisiana (Not D-1)	61 – 7
10-Sep	H	Central Michigan (78)	27 – 30
17-Sep	H	Pittsburgh (39)	45 – 38
24-Sep	A	Baylor (56)	24 – 35
1-Oct	H	Texas (73)	49 – 31
8-Oct	H	Iowa St (96)	38 – 31
22-Oct	A	Kansas (124)	44 – 20
29-Oct	H	West Virginia (21)	37 – 20
5-Nov	A	Kansas St (32)	43 – 37
12-Nov	H	Texas Tech (80)	45 – 44
19-Nov	A	TCU (60)	31 – 6
3-Dec	A	Oklahoma (4)	20 – 38
BOWL	H	Colorado (13)	38 – 8

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Tulsa (31)
9-Sep	A	South Alabama (88)
16-Sep	A	Pittsburgh (39)
23-Sep	H	TCU (60)
30-Sep	A	Texas Tech (80)
14-Oct	H	Baylor (56)
21-Oct	A	Texas (73)
28-Oct	A	West Virginia (21)
4-Nov	H	Oklahoma (4)
11-Nov	A	Iowa State (96)
18-Nov	H	Kansas State (32)
25-Nov	H	Kansas (124)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	6-1	4-2	8-5-0	4-3-0	4-2-0	7-5-0	5-2-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	14	YPG	494.8	Total Defense;	92	YAPG	446.3
Passing Offense;	9	YPG	323.9	Passing Defense;	98	YAPG	252.8
Rushing Offense;	68	YPG	170.8	Rushing Defense;	82	YAPG	193.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

C O W B O Y S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Mason Rudolph	**QB**	**4091-28-4**	**61-6**	**24-0**
Justice Hill	**RB**		**1142-6**	**46-0**
James Washington	**WR**		**28-0**	**1380-10**
Jalen McCleskey	**WR**		**9-0**	**812-7**
Chris Lacy	**WR**			**489-3**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Oklahoma State finished last season with a 10-3 record and in 7 of their games the offense scored 37 or more points. For the year, they were ranked 9th for passing offense and 68th running the ball. That second ranking is the impressive one. The Cowboys have always been able to throw the ball but last year they finally found a running attack. That added offensive balance forced defensive coordinators to not call heavy pass rushing every play.

The beneficiary of the new running game was quarterback Mason Rudolph. He had more time to find receivers and read coverages and the result was 4,091 passing yards for 28 touchdowns and just 4 interceptions. Rudolph returns along with many of the 2016 skill position players.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Oklahoma State Cowboys

The newly discovered running game is named Justice Hill. His freshman season produced 1,142 yards. The only worries about Hill revolve around his size. He weighs only 185 so it is essential Oklahoma State find some depth behind Hill. The most productive returning running back other than Hill is Jeff Carr and he had a grand total of 83 rushing yards last year.

The Cowboys got a pleasant surprise when wide receiver James Washington opted to not enter the NFL draft. He and his 1,380 receiving yards for 10 touchdowns will be Randolph's primary receiver and deep threat. He will be joined by Jalen McCleskey (812 yards). There is a huge battle for the third starting job between LSU transfer Tyron Johnson and back from injury exile Marcell Ateman (766 yards receiving in 2015). Dillon Stoner returns after having his 2016 season cut short to injury.

All-Big 12 left tackle Victor Salako and right guard Michael Wilson must be replaced. Right tackle Zach Crabtree, center Brad Lundblade and left guard Marcus Keyes provide a solid O-Line foundation. Larry Williams was the starter at right guard for the first five games last year before suffering an injury. He is expected to step back into the starting unit. Left tackle is up for grabs with junior college transfer Arlington Hambright, redshirt freshmen Dylan Galloway and Teven Jenkins and Shane Richards all under heavy consideration. If an effective left tackle steps forward, Oklahoma State will have a fine offensive line that will trigger another explosive offense.

C O W B O Y S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Cole Walterscheid	**DE**	**28**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Jarrell Owens	**DE**	**23**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Chad Whitener	**LB**	**71**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Ramon Richards	**CB**	**64**	**1**	**3**	**0**
Tre Flowers	**S**	**61**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Oklahoma State's defense must begin taking its share of the load. Last year the unit was ranked 98th against the pass and 82nd against the run. Those numbers simply won't cut it if the Cowboys expect to make that step forward to consideration for the playoffs.

Defensive tackle Vincent Taylor made early entry in the NFL draft. His running mate, Motekiai Maile, graduated leaving a sizable hole in the middle of the defensive line. 2016 starting ends Jarrell Owens and Cole Walterscheid are back but both need to up their production. If they don't, Jordan Brailford is back from injury and he and Tralund Webber will gladly take their snaps. De-Quinton Osborne and Darrion Daniels were solid reserves last year and will make the step up to the starting unit at the tackle slots. The D-Line will be nothing special but they also will not ba an embarrassment.

Linebackers Jordan Burton and Devante Averette are gone. Second team All Big 12 winner, middle linebacker Chad Whitener, returns and will be the heart of this year's defense. Junior college defensive player of the year Patrick Macon will handle one outside linebacker job. Justin Phillips looks ready to move up to the starting unit after having an excellent 2016 as a key reserve. Kenneth Edison-McGruder has made the move from free safety the past two years and will battle for playing time as well as Kirk Tucker and Calvin Bundage. This linebacker rotation has a chance of being a very pleasant surprise.

Cornerback Ashton Lampkin and safety Jordan Sterns are not back. Cornerback will feature a bevy of lightly tested, green candidates. Sophomores A. J. Green and Madre Harper and redshirt freshman Rodarius Williams are the leading options right now but Malik Kearse, speedster Bryce Balous and Darius Curry will be in the free-for-all for the two jobs. The safeties will be Tre Flowers and converted cornerback Ramon Richards. Backup will come from Yerel Morrow and Chance Cook.

The likely hole at cornerback is going to be a big problem for Oklahoma State, especially early in the year. The line will be only okay and the linebackers have potential. What does this all add up to? This will be another below average defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas Christian Horned Frogs

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Amon G. Carter Stadium

2800 S. University Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76129

Phone: (817) 257-7000

Web: http://www.gofrogs.com

Capacity: 45,000

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 620 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*GARY PATTERSON*
O.C.:	*SONNY CUMBIE*
D.C.:	*CHAD GLASGOW*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ERIC RUSSELL*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	South Dakota St (Not D-1)	59 - 41
10-Sep	H	Arkansas (49)	38 – 41
17-Sep	H	Iowa St (96)	41 – 20
23-Sep	A	SMU (86)	33 – 3
1-Oct	H	Oklahoma (4)	46 – 52
8-Oct	A	Kansas (124)	24 – 23
22-Oct	A	West Virginia (21)	10 – 34
29-Oct	H	Texas Tech (80)	24 – 27
5-Nov	A	Baylor (56)	62 – 22
19-Nov	H	Oklahoma St (11)	6 – 31
25-Nov	A	Texas (73)	31 – 9
3-Dec	H	Kansas St (32)	6 – 30
BOWL	H	Georgia (50)	23 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Jackson State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Arkansas (49)
16-Sep	H	SMU (86)
23-Sep	A	Oklahoma State (11)
7-Oct	H	West Virginia (21)
14-Oct	A	Kansas State (32)
21-Oct	H	Kansas (124)
28-Oct	A	Iowa State (96)
4-Nov	H	Texas (73)
11-Nov	A	Oklahoma (4)
18-Nov	A	Texas Tech (80)
25-Nov	H	Baylor (56)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	2-6	4-1	3-10-0	0-7-0	3-3-0	5-7-0	4-3-0	1-4-0

Total Offense;	29	YPG	463.2	Total Defense;	73	YAPG	424.8
Passing Offense;	29	YPG	268.2	Passing Defense;	77	YAPG	238.9
Rushing Offense;	46	YPG	195	Rushing Defense;	73	YAPG	185.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HORNED FROGS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Kenny Hill	**QB**	**3208-17-13**	**609-10**	
Kyle Hicks	**RB**		**1042-12**	**417-2**
Taj Williams	**WR**			**702-5**

Four returning starting linemen plus five top reserves

TCU's Horned Frogs sat in an unusual position as they exited spring drills. They are coming off a losing season, something far from the norm in the Gary Patterson era. TCU had a coaching staff shakeup with the most major move being new co-coordinator Sonny Cumbie. How Cumbie alters the offense will go a long way toward TCU being bowl eligible at the end of 2017. The offense wasn't bad in 2016 and ranked 29th in passing offense and 46th running the ball. Still, within those numbers are definite areas needing improvement.

Quarterback is one of those areas. Returning starter Kenny Hill looked fantastic at times and completely lost at others. His 3208 passing yards for 17 touchdowns were nice but his 13 interceptions are unacceptable. Hill has real competition for the starting assignment. Crumbie was the lead recruiter for duel threat quarterback Shawn Robinson. Robinson took part in sporing drills and his chances were enhanced by the transfer of 2016 backup Foster Sawyer. Keep an eye on this battle and do not be

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

shocked to see Robinson sitting atop the depth chart by opening kickoff. The running game looks to be in good hands with the return of Kyle Hicks (1,042 yards). Darius Anderson, Trevorris Johnson and Sewo Olonilua are all in the mix for backup running back duties. However, Shaun Nixon was a big contributor in 2015 and returns after missing last year due to injury. The running back rotation at TCU will be solid.

Taj Williams, John Diarse and KaVontae Turpin all return to man three of the four wide receiver jobs. Expect Turpin to have a monster year as he spent all of 2016 with a nagging knee injury. He is healthy for 2017. The fourth slot will have Emanuel Porter, Jaelan Austin and Desmon White all fighting for playing time.

Part of qb Hill's problems with interceptions can be an O-Line that allowed 31 sacks. Four of that unit's starters are back. The line shapes up this way; left tackle Joseph Noteboom, left guard Austin Schlottmann, center Patrick Morris, right guard Matt Pryor and right tackle Lucas Niang. The added experience should make the line a better performing unit.

TCU will again have a fine offense, especially if the quarterback produces without turnovers.

HORNED FROGS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Mat Boesen	**DE**	**30**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Chris Bradley	**DT**	**31**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Travin Howard	**LB**	**130**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Ty Summers	**LB**	**121**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Jeff Gladney	**CB**	**46**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Ranthony Texada	**CB**	**46**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Nick Ott	**S**	**86**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Niko Small	**S**	**82**	**0**	**2**	**0**

To regain some of its swagger, the TCU defense must rebuild a more effective front four. The back seven looks in good shape but without solid play from the big boys up front, the 2017 offense will have great difficulty improving on their 77th ranking for passing defense and 73rd passing defense in 2016.

The D-Line must replace departed ends James McFarland and three year starter Josh Carraway and tackle Aaron Curry. Mat Boesen was a very productive sub in 2016 and looks prepared to make the step up to the starting group. The same can be said about tackle Chris Bradley. Joseph Broadnax appears to have the other tackle slot firmly in hand but the second end slot remains a mystery. Bradley or L. J. Collier may slide over to end from their tackle spots to make room for juco transfer Exra Tu'ua. A more likely defensive end solution lies with redshirt freshmen Brandon Bowen and Isaiah Chambers. Until that end slot has been properly manned, the line will be a question mark.

All Conference Travin Howard and Ty Summers are firmly entrenched at linebacker after both racked up more than 100 tackles in 2016. There is also depth in the rotation with the return of Sammy Douglas. Also, Montrel Wilson started the first game last year but incurred a season ending injury. He is back this year. If an acceptable alternative at the open end slot can be found, this two man linebacker set can be play makers.

Cornerback Ranthony Texada and safeties Niko Small and Nick Orr were all starters in 2016 and return. Ridwan Issahaku as a solid reserve last year is in line for taking over the safety job left open with the graduation of Denzel Johnson. Jeff Gladney was a key member of last year's cornerback rotation and will take over full time this year. This is a solid five man secondary. There is also some experienced depth and some good looking youngsters who are looking for playing time. The secondary looks like a team strength IF they are allowed to do their jobs.

Much of the level of success for the 2017 TCU defense is in the hands of the front four. If that unit proves to be productive, the back seven will be freed up to do their duties

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas Longhorns

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium

1 University Station Austin, TX 78712

Phone: (512) 475-7348

Web: http://www.texassports.com

Capacity: 100,119

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 489 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*TOM HERMAN*
O.C.:	*TIM BECK*
D.C.:	*TODD ORLANDO*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*CRAIG NAIVAR*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
4-Sep	H	Notre Dame (82)	50 – 47
10-Sep	H	UTEP (117)	41 – 7
17-Sep	A	California (72)	43 – 50
1-Oct	A	Oklahoma St (11)	31 – 49
8-Oct	H	Oklahoma (4)	40 – 45
15-Oct	H	Iowa St (96)	27 – 6
22-Oct	A	Kansas St (32)	21 – 24
29-Oct	H	Baylor (56)	35 – 34
5-Nov	A	Texas Tech (80)	45 – 37
12-Nov	H	West Virginia (21)	20 – 24
19-Nov	A	Kansas (124)	21 – 24
25-Nov	H	TCU (60)	9 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Maryland (69)
9-Sep	H	San Jose State (111)
16-Sep	A	USC (3)
28-Sep	A	Iowa State (96)
7-Oct	H	Kansas State (32)
14-Oct	A	Oklahoma (4)
21-Oct	H	Oklahoma State (11)
28-Oct	A	Baylor (56)
4-Nov	A	TCU (60)
11-Nov	H	Kansas (124)
18-Nov	A	West Virginia (21)
25-Nov	H	Texas Tech (80)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	4-2	1-5	6-6-0	5-2-0	1-4-0	4-8-0	2-5-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	16	YPG	491.3	Total Defense;	94	YAPG	448.3
Passing Offense;	50	YPG	252	Passing Defense;	105	YAPG	258.5
Rushing Offense;	17	YPG	239.3	Rushing Defense;	76	YAPG	189.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

LONGHORNS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Shane Bushel	**QB**	**2958-21-11**	**151-2**	

Five returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

The most compelling story in college football for 2017 is Texas. How will the hiring of Tom Herman effect the play of a team that has been under achieving the past few years?

No player on the Texas roster needs to impress his new head coach more than quarterback Shane Buechele. He led an offense that averaged 31.9 points per game in 2016 however his final four games were awful. Buechele has to prove to Herman that he can adjust his game well enough to fit Herman's new offense. Herman's Houston teams were centered around a quarterback who could beat you passing AND running. Can Buechele do that?

Texas faces having to replace work horse running back D'Onta Foreman. He averaged 29.4 carries a game and that is a lot to replace. The most likely player to fill the hole is Chris Warren. Warren is a prove commodity but he missed most of last year recovering from injury. His biggest competition for the job will come from Kyle Porter.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas Longhorns

Texas needs to find a true go-to wide receiver. Armanti Foreman and Dorian Leonard are two possibilities after acting as key reserves in 2016. They both need to add production as the two combined for only 800 yards receiving. Jerrod Heard will be the third starting wide receiver but Collin Johnson, Lil'Jordan Humphrey, Lorenzo Joe, John Burt, juco transfer Marquise Brown and Devin Duvernay will be fighting for playing time and inclusion in the receiver rotation. Andrew Beck is a strong possibility at tight end.

Texas will have a wonderful offensive line. All Conference left tackle Connor Williams, left guard Patrick Vahe, freshman All American center Zach Shackelford, right guard Jake McMillon and right tackle Brandon Hodge are all returning starters. The line also has four top, game tested backups to help fill the two deep depth chart. Further strengthening an already strong line are redshirt freshmen Patrick Hudson and J. P. Urquidez chomping at the bit for playing time.

Assuming Buechele can adjust to the new offensive scheme, Texas will have a solid offense triggered by one of the best O-Line rotations in the country.

L O N G H O R N S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Poona Ford	**DT**	**54**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Chris Nelson	**DT**	**45**	**1.5**	**0**	**0**
Kris Boyd	**CB**	**48**	**0**	**1**	**2**
Jason Hall	**FS**	**52**	**3**	**0**	**0**

The good news for the 2017 Texas defense is there are 10 returning starters. The bad news is that 2016 defense ranked 105th in the country defending against the pass and 76th for rushing defense. New defensive coordinator Todd Orlando has tons of talent but that under achieving group allowed 31.5 points per game in 2016. He also must turn around a trend of losing close games. The Longhorns lost five games in 2016 by seven points or less. Since Texas ended the season 5-7, those five loses are what kept them from earning a bowl invitation.

It remains to be seen if the Longhorns continue in a 3-3-5 defensive set or go to a 3-4-5. For this report, we are assuming a 3-3-5 formation. End Charles Omen and tackles Poona Ford and Chris Nelson were all starters in 2016 and are back this year. The trio was okay last season but they need to get better pressure on quarterbacks. Malcolm Roach could take over at end and redshirt freshmen Andrew Fitzgerald, Marcel South all and Chris Daniels are demanding snaps and may get them. The line needs to start playing up to their abilities (a common theme for Texas football).

Linebackers Malik Jefferson, Malik Jefferson and Breakneck Eager are currently the starting linebacker group. However, juco transfer Gary Johnson could easily break into the starting crew. If Johnson can earn a starting assignment, Texas would be able to shift Jackson to his natural weak side slot.

Strong safety DeShon Elliott is the only non returning starter on the Texas defense. He will move up to the starting unit and join free safety Jason Hall. Kris Boyd and John Bonney are back at cornerback. Jame Abner Locke is the nickel back. This is an experienced and talented five-some but they have never played up to their abilities. The returning group combined for just 4 interceptions last year. There are no obvious freshmen or redshirt freshmen who might be able to dislodge the starting five so it is imperative the existing starters up their production.

Every level of the 2017 Texas defense is stacked with talented but under achieving players. The biggest job for the new head coach is to remove the prima dona mentality of the returning players. It must be made perfectly clear that nothing these guys did in high school means anything now. It is put up or shut up time for the 2017 Texas defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas Tech Red Raiders

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Jones AT&T Stadium

Broadway and University Ave Lubbock, TX 79409

Phone: (806) 742-2011

Web: http://www.texastech.com

Capacity: 60,862

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 3209 ft.

HEAD COACH: *KLIFF KINGSBURY*
O.C.: *ERIC MORRIS*
D.C.: *DAVID GIBBS*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *JOE ROBINSON*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Stephen F. Austin (Not D-1)	68 – 17
10-Sep	A	Arizona St (84)	55 – 68
17-Sep	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	59 – 45
29-Sep	H	Kansas (124)	55 – 19
8-Oct	A	Kansas St (32)	38 – 44
15-Oct	H	West Virginia (21)	17 – 48
22-Oct	H	Oklahoma (4)	59 – 66
29-Oct	A	TCU (60)	27 – 24
5-Nov	H	Texas (73)	37 – 45
12-Nov	A	Oklahoma (4)	44 – 45
19-Nov	A	Iowa St (96)	10 – 66
25-Nov	H	Baylor (56)	54 – 35

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Eastern Washington (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Arizona State (84)
23-Sep	A	Houston (36)
30-Sep	H	Oklahoma State (11)
7-Oct	A	Kansas (124)
14-Oct	A	West Virginia (21)
21-Oct	H	Iowa State (96)
28-Oct	A	Oklahoma (4)
4-Nov	H	Kansas State (32)
11-Nov	H	Baylor (56)
18-Nov	H	TCU (60)
25-Nov	A	Texas (73)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	4-3	1-4	8-4-0	4-2-0	4-2-0	6-6-0	2-4-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	1	YPG	564.5	Total Defense;	128	YAPG	554.3
Passing Offense;	1	YPG	463	Passing Defense;	125	YAPG	315.8
Rushing Offense;	123	YPG	101.5	Rushing Defense;	116	YAPG	238.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

RED RAIDERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jonathan Giles	**WR**			**1158-13**
KeKe Coutee	**WR**		**2-1**	**890-7**
Dylan Cantrell	**WR**			**675-8**
Cameron Batson	**WR**	**25-0-0**	**4-0**	**644-8**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Patrick Mahomes has to be replaced. He passed for 463 yards per game last year. At any other school, his loss would be lethal. At Texas Tech, the coaches plug the next player into the system and the Red Raiders are off to the races.

Nic Shimonek is the next man in line for the starting quarterback assignment. He was impressive in limited action last season. He will be backed up by juco transfer McLane Carter. Having these two on board guarantees the Texas Tech offense will again be a potent outfit.

The running game is a bit of an after thought at Tech. Da'Leon Ward will get first shot at starting after racking up 428 yards rushing and 131 yards receiving in 2016. Justin Stockton is also back and ran for 154 yards and caught passes for another 220 yards.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Shimonek will have four receivers who racked up at least 55 catches in 2016 back. Jonathan Giles (1158 receiving yards), Keke Coutee (890 yards), Dylan Cantrell (675 yards) and Cameron Batson (644 yards) return for 2017. Ian Sadler (363 yards), Derrick Willies (288 yards) and Tony Brown (128 yards) also return and insure a quality, fresh receiver will be on the field for Texas Tech every play in 2017. Redshirt freshman De'Quan Bowman looks ready to playing time.

Left guard Jack Reichel, center Tony Morales and right tackle Terrence Steele are returning starters and will provide the line a nice base. Pencil in right tackle Madison Akamnonu and right guard Paul Stawarz to fill the two line openings. True freshman early enrollee and Under Armour All-American Jack Anderson will provide stiff competition at guard and we feel he is very likely to unseat Stawarz.

In what may sound like a yearly recorded message, Texas Tech will have another potent offense. They are capable of averaging 40+ points a games but will that be enough to overcome their defense?

RED RAIDERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Kolin Hill	**DE**	**32**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jordyn Brooks	**LB**	**85**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Kisean Allen	**CB**	**43**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Jah'Shawn Johnson	**FS**	**76**	**1**	**2**	**1**

The defense has surrendered at least 40 points per game (on average) over each of the last three seasons. Can this unit take a step forward next fall? Coordinator David Gibbs returns a good chunk of the depth chart, including linebacker Jordyn Brooks and end Kolin Hill. The Red Raiders coughed up 554.3 yards per game last season, which was the worst in the nation by more than 30. Opponents averaged 7.05 yards per play, which ranked 126th out of 128 FBS teams. The Red Raiders allowed 315.8 passing yards per contest and surrendered 8.6 yards per pass attempt – both of which ranked among the bottom 10 nationally. Two games were perfect examples of how bad the defense was, a 68-55 loss to Arizona State and a 66-59 loss to Oklahoma.

Talented defensive lineman Breiden Fehoko left the program, which is a major blow to a unit that also has to replace starting tackle Ondre Pipkins. In total, this defense lost 40.5 percent of its tackling production to graduation, including linebacker Malik Jenkins (64.5 tackles, 2.5 tackles for a loss) and defensive back Justis Nelson (52.5 tackles, 0.5 TFL, 12 pass breakups).

Linebacker Jordyn Brooks is a bright spot that led the team with 73.5 tackles as a true freshman. The balance of the linebacker unit is a mystery.

Free safety Jah'Shawn Johnson also returns. Johnson was the team's second-leading tackler and the only Red Raider with multiple interceptions. Cornerbacks Octavious Morgan and Jaylon Lane look like leaders for their position. Like the balance of the defense, there are question makes in the secondary.

All in all, do not expect much from the Texas Tech defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

West Virginia Mountaineers

Big Twelve Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Mountaineer Field

President's Office Box 6201 Morgantown, WV 26506

Phone: (304) 293-0111

Web: http://www.msnsportsnet.com

Capacity: 60,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 889 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DANA HOLGORSEN*
O.C.:	*JAKE SPAVITAL*
D.C.:	*TONY GIBSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MARK SCOTT*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Missouri (95)	26 – 11
10-Sep	H	Youngstown St (Not D-1)	38 – 21
24-Sep	H	BYU (44)	35 – 32
1-Oct	H	Kansas St (32)	17 – 16
15-Oct	A	Texas Tech (80)	48 – 17
22-Oct	H	TCU (60)	34 – 10
29-Oct	A	Oklahoma St (11)	20 – 37
5-Nov	H	Kansas (124)	48 – 21
12-Nov	A	Texas (73)	24 – 20
19-Nov	H	Oklahoma (4)	28 – 56
26-Nov	A	Iowa St (96)	49 – 19
3-Dec	H	Baylor (56)	24 – 21
BOWL	H	Miami (FL) (20)	14 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Virginia Tech (16)
9-Sep	H	East Carolina (110)
16-Sep	H	Delaware State (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Kansas (124)
7-Oct	A	TCU (60)
14-Oct	H	Texas Tech (80)
21-Oct	A	Baylor (56)
28-Oct	H	Oklahoma State (11)
4-Nov	H	Iowa State (96)
11-Nov	A	Kansas State (32)
18-Nov	H	Texas (73)
25-Nov	A	Oklahoma (4)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	7-1	3-2	5-7-1	2-5-1	3-2-0	5-7-0	4-4-0	1-3-0

Total Offense;	17	YPG	485.5	Total Defense;	74	YAPG	425.9
Passing Offense;	42	YPG	257.2	Passing Defense;	104	YAPG	257.7
Rushing Offense;	25	YPG	228.4	Rushing Defense;	60	YAPG	168.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MOUNTAINEERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Justin Crawford	**RB**		**1184-4**	**68-1**

Two returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

All the hype around West Virginia this off season has been about their new, transfer quarterback Will Grier. Grier needs to prove the hype is equal to his play in 2017 because it looks like the offense will need to shoulder more of the load since the defense has lost eight starters. Matching last year's 10-3 record will largely be the responsibility of new offensive coordinator Jake Spavital.

New quarterback Will Grier is a transfer from Florida. He sat out last season and used that year to familiarize himself with how things are done at West Virginia. In six games in 2015, Grier threw for 1,204 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also added 116 yards and 2 touchdowns running the ball. He should be a good fit for the West Virginia offense. Finding a backup will be a big part of fall practices. Chris Chugunov is the top candidate for the job.

A big plus for the new quarterback will be returning running back Justin Crawford. He amassed 1184 rushing yards last year and gave the Mountaineers a nice change of pace. Kennedy McKoy seeks the backup job after running for 472 yards and 4 touchdowns last year. His major competition will come

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

from Martell Pettaway. Wide receivers Ka'Raun White and Jovan Durante are back. They have two starting assignments nailed down but one or the other needs to become the go-to guy. Gary Jennings and Marcus Simms are two leading candidates for the third wide receiver spot but juco transfer David Sills is also in the hunt. Redshirt freshman Steven Smother is also getting strong consideration and could crack the starting unit. Eijah Wellman will again be the starting tight end. This could be a nice receiving unit and become a real asset for West Virginia's offense.

Left guard Kyle Bosch and right tackle Colton McKivitz are the only returning starting linemen. However, left tackle Yodny Caliuste was a starter last year but was lost for the season in the first game. He is back and healthy and will man this year's left tackle duties. Matt Jones is stepping up from his reserve role to handle the center slot. The right guard spot will have a dog fight between Grant Lingafelter and juco transfer Isaiah Hardy.

Expect another solid West Virginia offense in 2017.

MOUNTAINEERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Al-Rasheed Benton	**LB**	**80**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Kyzir White	**SS**	**56**	**3**	**0**	**0**

The 2017 season will feature a complete rebuild of West Virginia's defense. Expect several youngsters to appear in the starting eleven. With youth comes youthful mistakes.

There is a lot of work needed in the defensive line. All three starters are gone and some depth also exited. At the close of spring practices, little had been written in stone about the starting D-Line members. 2016 reserve Adam Shuler looked to have won one of the end jobs. Reese Donahue was a possibility at the other end but Xavier Pegues has returned from injury and could well take over the job in the fall. The tackle spot looks like a battle between Jaleel Fields and true freshman Lamonte McDougle. He is a bit under sized but has excellent speed and strength. Regardless of who earns the three line jobs, this will be a very inexperienced, thin unit.

Two of the three returning starters are linebackers Al-Rasheed and David Long. Both had decent years last season. We look for Long to have a breakout season. He will spend too much of his time covering for the front thee and that means his tackles will pile up. Xavier Preston is an option for the third job but our money is on redshirt freshman Brendan Ferns. He has all the tools for becoming a top linebacker but this year will be a learning experience for him. Unfortunately he will be learning on the job. The linebacker rotation will be the strength of this year's defense but the unit will seldom get to focus on their duties as they will spend an awfully large amount of their time covering for mistakes in front and in back of them.

Kyzir White is the final retuning starter. He will man the strong safety spot and will be an inspiration to the remainder of the five man secondary. Toyous Avery was last year's primary backup free safety and will graduate to the starting unit this season. The third safety assignment has been awarded to Drayon Henry-Askew. He was a starter in 2015 but was injured last year. Adding depth to safety will be true freshman Derrek Pitts. Elijah Battle is the top option for one cornerback slot but the other one is a void. Syracuse grad transfer is a possibility at the other corner but that is only an educated guess. Cornerback will be a season long problem for West Virginia. This defense will drag down West Virginia in 2017. We aren't sure the offense can score enough to cover for this very bad unit.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

CONFERENCE USA
5201 N. O'CONNOR BLVD, SUITE 300
IRVING, TX 75039
214-774-1300
COMMISSIONER: JUDY MacLEOD

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

EAST DIVISION

Western Kentucky
Old Dominion
Middle Tennessee State
Florida Atlantic
Florida International
Charlotte
Marshall

WEST DIVISION

Texas-San Antonio
Louisiana Tech
Southern Mississippi
North Texas
UTEP
Rice
UAB

Rainman

EAST DIVISION

Western Kentucky
Middle Tennessee State
Florida Atlantic
Old Dominion
Florida International
Marshall
Charlotte

WEST DIVISION

Louisiana Tech
Texas-San Antonio
Southern Mississippi
UTEP
Rice
North Texas
UAB

East Division

Western Kentucky has lost several big contributors from its offense but quality trigger man Mike White is back at quarterback and he will benefit from a vey good offensive line. The 2017 Hilltoppers' defense will be about as productive as last year's group. Old Dominion will be working in a new quarterback but other than that, the pieces are in place for the offense to shine. The line will be especially nice. The Monarchs have one problem area on defense and that is the linebacker rotation. Even with that weakness, Old Dominion will have a solid defense. Middle Tennessee State badly needs for someone to step up at running back and the defense needs to find some capable linemen. Florida Atlantic will be much improved on offense as the line will be solid. Their defense will be somewhat better but there are still problems needing to be solved. Florida International has work to do within both of their lines. Charlotte needs to field a more balanced offense and not rely so heavily on their running game. Defensively, the 49ers are still trying to fill the roster with D-1 quality defenders. Until Marshall can come up with a running game, the Thundering Herd will not have a good offense. Marshall must also fill holes in the receiving unit. The 2017 defense has far too many problems to like the group.

West Division

Texas-San Antonio will be improved on both sides of the ball and since the other contenders seem to be taking steps back, UTSA could easily sneak in and take the divisional title. Louisiana Tech will not be as potent offensively this year as they were last season. They will have a somewhat better defense but not enough better to offset the loses on offense. It remains to be seen if Southern Mississippi can withstand the loss of their quarterback and their offensive genius head coach. Southern Miss will rely on their defense more but they have work to do at linebacker. North Texas will continue to make small steps back to respectability. The defense will be where Mean Green fans see the most improvement in 2017. UTEP will once again try to outscore opponents. Their offense is decent but we doubt it will be good enough to cover up for their awful defense. Rice was bad offensively last year and enters 2017 without a certain quarterback. The running game isn't good enough to aid the new qb. The line will be the best part of the offense. The defense has zero play makers. UAB will be an unknown commodity on both sides of the ball but since they are starting their football program all over again, we can't see much success for them in 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Charlotte 49ers

Conference USA, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Jerry Richardson Stadium

8701 Phillips Rd, Charlotte, NC 28223

Phone: (704) 687-0404

Web: http://www.charlotte49ers.com

Capacity: 15,314

Surface: Matrix Artificial Turf **Altitude:** 763 ft.

HEAD COACH: *BRAD LAMBERT*
O.C.: *JEFF MULLEN*
D.C.: *MATT WALLERSTEDT*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	A	Louisville (18)	14 – 70
10-Sep	H	Elon (Not D-1)	47 - 14
17-Sep	H	Eastern Michigan (67)	19 – 37
24-Sep	A	Temple (30)	20 – 48
1-Oct	H	Old Dominion (48)	17 – 52
9-Oct	A	Florida Atlantic (121)	28 - 23
15-Oct	H	Florida International (105)	26 – 27
22-Oct	A	Marshall (122)	27 - 24
5-Nov	A	Southern Mississippi (74)	38 - 27
12-Nov	H	Rice (120)	21 – 22
19-Nov	H	Middle Tennessee St (61)	31 – 38
26-Nov	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)	14 -33

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Eastern Michigan (67)
9-Sep	A	Kansas State (32)
16-Sep	H	North Carolina A & T (Not D-1)
23-Sep	H	Georgia State (112)
30-Sep	A	Florida International (105)
7-Oct	H	Marshall (122)
14-Oct	A	Western Kentucky (23)
21-Oct	H	UAB (No ranking)
4-Nov	A	Old Dominion (48)
11-Nov	H	Middle Tennessee State (61)
18-Nov	A	Southern Mississippi (74)
25-Nov	H	Florida Atlantic (121)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	1-5	3-3	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

Total Offense;	101	YPG	369.5	Total Defense;	105	YAPG	453.3
Passing Offense;	98	YPG	192.8	Passing Defense;	124	YAPG	309.8
Rushing Offense;	60	YPG	176.8	Rushing Defense;	35	YAPG	143.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

49ERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Hasaan Klugh	**QB**	**1356-10-3**	**426-8**	

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

This will be the third season for Charlotte in D-1 football. Their first year they recorded a 2-10 record but were able to improve to 4-8 last year. That was a nice improvement considering their offense was terrible. The passing offense barely existed and ended the season ranked 98th in the country. The rushing offense was somewhat better ranking 60th nationally.

Hasaan Klugh returns at quarterback. He is supposed to be a duel threat quarterback but no defensive coordinator would consider his 1356 passing yards for 10 touchdowns and 3 interceptions to be much of a threat. He also added 426 rushing yards for an additional 8 touchdowns. If Charlotte intends to continue to improve, Klugh must become more of a passing threat.

Robert Washington (489 yards rushing for 5 touchdowns) returns and will become this year's featured back. True freshman Cameron Duncan will get serious consideration and could easily become a key part of the Charlotte running game. He is a part of a new wave of better recruits Charlotte attracted last year. Quality redshirt freshman Ryan Carriere will be called on to handle the H-Back slot. He is

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

untested but certainly has potential. The receiving corps will be nothing special but will be able to move the chains. The lack of a true play making wide receiver will be a problem. T. L. Ford (430 receiving yards for 4 touchdowns) and Workpeh Kofa (329 yards, 5 touchdowns) have nailed down two starting wide receiver jobs. Uriah LeMay, Chris Montgomery and Trent Bostick are conducting a heated battle for the final spot.

Left tackle Cameron Clark, right guard Wolfgang Zacherl and right tackle Chris Brown will be the hub of the 2017 offensive line. 2016 reserve guard Nate Dais will shift over to center and move up to the starting five. Darren Drake will be the new left guard and complete a decent offensive line. Depth is limited but a nice incoming freshman class contains several potential line backup options.

Charlotte's offense will be a bit better this year but the coaches still need to continue to improve recruiting and get more true D-1 players.

49ERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Karrington King	**LB**	**73**	**2**	**0**	**0**
A. J. McDonald	**CB**	**45**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Anthony Covington	**CB**	**37**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Ed Rolle	**SS**	**49**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Ben DeLuca	**FS**	**68**	**0**	**3**	**0**

Statistics! Aren't they great? If you look at the national rankings for rushing defense in 2016, you would see Charlotte was ranked 36th. Your immediate thought would probably be, “Wow, that was a good unit!” That rushing defense actually wasn't good at all but the passing defense was so totally terrible, opponents seldom found it necessary to run the ball. The 2016 49ers defense was littered with youngsters. There is hope around Charlotte that the year of forced experience will have a positive effect this year.

Charlotte's defensive line was especially hard hit at nose tackle. Starter Larry Ogunjobi and top reserve Tanner Fleming are both gone. Unless Charlotte coaches decide to shift and undersized end over to tackle, the only legit candidate for the nose tackle slot is redshirt freshman Timmy Horne. Nick Carroll, Randy Suydam and juco transfer Julian Wheaton are in a three way battle for the two end slots. Redshirt freshman Johnny Ray looks like the end with the most upside and may slide into the starting unit. All Charlotte fans can hope for is that the 2017 front three isn't too big a liability.

Nick Cook was the team's leading tackler last year and must be replaced. Karrington King will provide the new linebacker foursome senior leadership. He and Tyriq Harris are proven performers and will be joined by either Jeff Gemmell or Garrison Duncan or juco transfers Sean Bernard or Christian Young. The linebacker rotation badly needs to find a playmaker or two. The rotation should get better as the season progresses and the new pieces come together.

Now, let's talk about that awful secondary in 2016. The unit was young and the front seven did a poor job of pressuring opposing quarterbacks. That is generally the formula for a bad passing defense. It was not so much that last year's secondary lacked talent. That foursome didn't get much of a chance to fully utilize their talents. Strong safety Ed Rolle and free safety Ben DeLuca return and were pretty darned good last year both in defending against the run and in pass coverage. Returning starting cornerback Anthony Covington will pair up with A. J. McDonald or Denzel Irvin to complete a decent secondary. They will have the same problem as last year. They will get little help from the front seven.

The defense still needs an influx of talent and will be somewhat similar to the 2016 unit.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Florida Atlantic Owls

Conference USA, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: FAU Stadium

777 Glades Rd Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991

Phone: (561) 297-3000

Web: http://fausports.com

Capacity: 29,419

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude:** 20 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*LANE KIFFIN*
O.C.:	*KENDAL BRILES*
D.C.:	*CHRIS KIFFIN*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*COREY BATOON*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Southern Illinois (Not D-1)	38 - 30
10-Sep	A	Miami (FL) (20)	10 – 38
17-Sep	A	Kansas St (32)	7 – 63
24-Sep	H	Ball St (98)	27 – 31
1-Oct	A	Florida International (105)	31 – 33
9-Oct	H	Charlotte (109)	23 – 28
15-Oct	A	Marshall (122)	21 – 27
29-Oct	H	Western Kentucky (23)	3 – 52
5-Nov	A	Rice (120)	42 - 25
12-Nov	H	UTEP (117)	35 - 31
19-Nov	H	Old Dominion (48)	24 – 42
26-Nov	A	Middle Tennessee St (61)	56 – 77

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Navy (36)
9-Sep	A	Wisconsin (10)
16-Sep	H	Bethune-Cookman (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Buffalo (126)
30-Sep	H	Middle Tennessee State (61)
7-Oct	A	Old Dominion (48)
21-Oct	H	North Texas (99)
28-Oct	A	Western Kentucky (23)
4-Nov	H	Marshall (122)
11-Nov	A	Louisiana Tech (47)
18-Nov	H	Florida International (105)
25-Nov	A	Charlotte (109)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	2-4	1-5	2-10-0	0-6-0	2-4-0	8-4-0	4-2-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	72	YPG	398.3	Total Defense;	124	YAPG	513.8
Passing Offense;	88	YPG	210.1	Passing Defense;	110	YAPG	268.4
Rushing Offense;	51	YPG	188.2	Rushing Defense;	119	YAPG	245.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

O W L S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jason Driskel	**QB**	**2415-9-11**	**242-4**	
Devin Singletary	**RB**		**1021-12**	**163-0**
Gregory Howell	**RB**		**828-13**	**42-0**
Kalib Woods	**WR**			**934-1**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

New head coach Lane Kiffin and new offensive coordinator Kendal Briles are both strong offensive minds. They have a very interesting set of “toys” with which to play in 2017. Last year's 88th ranking for passing offense and 51st ranking for rushing offense will be a thing of the past. Florida Atlantic is going to have an excellent offense and will be fun to watch.

Last year's starting quarterback, Jason Driskel (2415 passing yards for 9 touchdowns and 11 interceptions and 242 rushing yards for 4 touchdowns) is back but he is not guaranteed the starting slot in 2017. Juco transfer De'Andre Johnson was originally a Florida State recruit but was dismissed from the team. Johnson threw for 2645 yards for 26 scores and ran for an additional 834 yards and 5 touchdowns. With Driskel's poor touchdown to interception ratio and Johnson's better running ability, we expect Johnson to start.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Florida Atlantic Owls

The Florida Atlantic running game will be excellent. With both Devin Singletary and Gregory Howell returning, the Owls have a one/two punch that will be one of the better ones in the country. They combined for almost 1900 rushing yards last year and racked up 25 rushing touchdowns. If Johnson starts at quarterback, the Owls have three top level runners.

Kalib Woods (934 receiving yards for 1 touchdown) returns and he and Tavaris Harrison (304 yards, 1 touchdown) give FAU two reliable wide receivers. Nate Terry (242 yards, 2 touchdowns), Henry Bussey (269 yards, 2 touchdowns) and Kamrin Solomon are fighting it out for the third starting job.

Left guard Roman Fernandez, right guard Jakobi Smith and right tackle Matthew Weiner are back and will be joined by Antonio Woods who is making the switch from tackle to center. This gives Florida Atlantic four returning starting offensive linemen. Reggie Bain was scheduled to start last year but was felled by a motor scooter accident. He is healed and will man the left tackle job. There is some existing, experienced depth and some talented, untested youngsters who will be able to provide good backup. The line is as team plus and will trigger a much improved FAU offense.

O W L S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Haiden Nagel	**DE**	**37**	**1.5**	**0**	**0**
Steven Leggett	**DT**	**30**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Azeez Al-Shaair	**LB**	**112**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Raekwon Williams	**CB**	**48**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Sheldon Lewis	**CB**	**32**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jalen Young	**S**	**100**	**0**	**2**	**1**
Andrew Soroh	**S**	**39**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Lane Kiffin brought in his brother Chris to try to get something that resembles a defense on the field for the 2017 season. That will be a very critical task for Chris. The Owls had one of the worst defenses in the country last year. That unit was equally inept defending against the pass (ranked 110th) and against the run (ranked 119th).

The FAU defense returns eight starters from that awful 2016 group. The new coaching staff will make some changes and hope the additional year of experience will lead to improvement in 2017. Florida Atlantic will operate out of a base 4-3-4 defense but will also mix in quite a bit of 4-2-5 sets. Task number one will be to get better pressure on quarterbacks and this must be done without the best pass rusher in 2016. End Haiden Nagel is back and will be asked to up his production greatly. Tackle Steven Leggett also returns and he must do a better job of stuffing the middle. Hunter Snyder and Nick Internicola are battling for the second end job. Josh Kendall and William David are the leading candidates for the tackle opening. Considering Chris Kiffin was the defensive line coach at Ole Miss, we expect the front four to be better in 2017.

The linebacker rotation got a big surprise when inspirational leader Nate Ozdemir decided to leave football behind and pursue a career in the military. We wish him all the best and thank him for his service. Azeez Al-Shaair is returning and will be the heart of the 2017 defensive unit. He is a proven play maker and will be easy to build around. Jacob Douglas and Rashad Smith are dueling for the second job. Ocie Rose will be a linebacker in the 4-3 and shift to nickel back in the 4-2 sets. Even without Ozdemir, the Owls will have good depth at linebacker.

The secondary is set with returning starters at all four spots. Cornerbacks Raekwon and Sheldon Lewis have to get better in pass coverage and making plays on the ball. Safety Jalen Young is a tackling monster and he and fellow safety Andrew Soroh do a pretty good job in pass coverage. IF a play maker steps up at cornerback, the FAU secondary might make a big jump in production.

Nobody can take a defense from awful to great in one year but Florida Atlantic's defense might be able to go from awful to average in 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Florida Int'l Golden Panthers

Conference USA, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: FIU Stadium

11200 S.W. 8th Street Miami, FL 33199

Phone: (305) 348-2000

Web: http://www.fiusports.com

Capacity: 20,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 2 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BUTCH DAVIS*
O.C.:	*RICH SKROSKY*
D.C.:	*BRENT GUY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JAMES VOLLONO*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Indiana (64)	13 – 34
5-Sep	H	Maryland (69)	14 – 41
17-Sep	A	Massachusetts (125)	13 – 21
24-Sep	H	Central Florida (71)	14 – 53
1-Oct	H	Florida Atlantic (121)	33 - 31
8-Oct	A	UTEP (117)	35 - 21
15-Oct	A	Charlotte (109)	27 - 26
22-Oct	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	24 – 44
29-Oct	H	Middle Tennessee St (61)	35 – 42
5-Nov	A	Western Kentucky (23)	21 – 49
19-Nov	H	Marshall (122)	31 - 14
26-Nov	A	Old Dominion (48)	28 – 42

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Central Florida (71)
9-Sep	H	Alcorn State (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Indiana (64)
23-Sep	A	Rice (120)
30-Sep	H	Charlotte (109)
7-Oct	A	Middle Tennessee State (61)
14-Oct	H	Tulane (100)
28-Oct	A	Marshall (122)
4-Nov	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)
11-Nov	H	Old Dominion (48)
18-Nov	A	Florida Atlantic (121)
25-Nov	H	Western Kentucky (23)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	2-5	2-3	5-6-1	3-4-0	2-2-1	7-5-0	4-3-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	98	YPG	375.3	Total Defense;	86	YAPG	434.6
Passing Offense;	69	YPG	226.7	Passing Defense;	76	YAPG	235.8
Rushing Offense;	97	YPG	148.6	Rushing Defense;	86	YAPG	198.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

PANTHERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Alex McGough	**QB**	**1891-13-11**	**117-4**	
Alex Gardner	**RB**		**930-6**	**191-0**
Thomas Owens	**WR**		**1-0**	**652-7**
A. J. Branisel	**TE**			**163-4**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

How can a university sitting smack dab in the middle of one of the most fertile recruiting grounds in the country end the 2016 season with a 4-8 record? Head coach Butch Davis is already familiar with the state of Florida and you can bet he will be mining the Florida talent like crazy. You can already see his signature on the 2017 recruiting class. Davis inherits a roster without quality players but he will slowly replace the current roster with D-1 capable athletes.

Alex McGough (1891 yards passing for 13 touchdowns and 11 interceptions) returns at quarterback. The one thing you can say about McGough is he is TOUGH. At times that toughness works against him. He has often tried to make the impossible play and has had a history of turnovers because of it. Maurice Alexander was the primary backup last year but he had an even worse touchdown to interception ratio, 2 to 6. Davis and his staff must instill in their quarterbacks the idea of taking better care of

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

ball. Alex Gardner ran for 930 yards and 6 touchdowns and hauled in 191 yards of passes in 2016. He is back and will be the featured back. Anthony Jones (562 rushing yards, 4 touchdowns and 89 yards receiving) will provide a quality back who can produce whenever Gardner needs to take a break.

Thomas Owens (654 receiving yards, 4 touchdowns) provides the 2017 offense one established receiver. The second slot has an all out free for all going on with Stanley Thomas (485 yards), Darrius Scott (291 yards), Austin Maloney (185 yards, 2 touchdowns) and 2016 injury exile Shug Oyegunie all in contention.

The offensive line looks like a problem area as left guard Kai Absheer and right tackle Daquane Wilkie are the only returning starters. Left tackle Dallas Connell, center Neal Mars and right guard James Cruise were members of last years reserve unit and will make the move up to the starting five. Depth is limited and at best, this offensive line rotation can be considered average. Until Davis can reload the roster with more talented players, the offense will remain nothing special.

PANTHERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Fermin Silva	**DE**	**42**	**5**	**0**	**1**
Newton Salisbury	**DE**	**31**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Jermaune Sheriff	**DT**	**28**	**2.5**	**0**	**0**
Treyvon Williams	**LB**	**109**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Anthony Wint	**LB**	**108**	**.5**	**0**	**1**
Niko Gonzalez	**S**	**55**	**0**	**1**	**2**
Xavier Hines	**S**	**45**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Last year the FIU defense was defenseless against running plays and the front four never got meaningful pressure on opposing quarterbacks. That usually is bad news for the overall performance of any defense and that was the case with the Panthers.

An already pretty bad line got even worse with the both starting tackles and some D-Line depth departing. Fermin Silva returns at one end and is actually a “keeper”. He did a decent job getting after passers and chipped in his share of stops against the run. Newton Salisbury is also back and will man the other end job. If he expects to retain the assignment, he had better improve both against the pass and the rush. Jermaine Sheriff is the most productive returning defensive tackle. He, Milord Juste and Marques Cheeks are all battling for the two tackle openings. Expect true freshmen ends Tevin Jones and Kevin Oliver to get legitimate consideration in fall practices. The picture isn't very pretty along the D-Line.

Treyvon Williams and Anthony Wint are back and provide the Panthers with play making “hitters” at linebacker. They will help cover up for a lot of the mistakes the line is going to make, especially early in the season. Sage Lewis and Vontarius West were supposed to battle for the third job but West was not on the spring roster and his status is unknown. The starting trio will be solid but expect it to be necessary for true freshman Brandon Jones to jump in and provide immediate backup long with returning Fred Russ.

Returning starter Emmanuel Lubin and interception leader Isaiah Brown have claimed the cornerback slots. They are slightly above average but have the potential to up their production substantially. The Panthers are set at safety with the return of Niko Gonzalez and Xavier Hines. This duo is especially good in chasing down running plays. There is also excellent depth at safety provided by Shermake Spencer and Tyree Johnson. If the rest of the team was as good as the safety rotation, Florida International would be in good shape.

With the mess at the two tackle spots, it is hard to like the 2017 FIU defense. If a miracle takes place and the tackles are at least average, the 2017 defense will take a step forward.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Marshall Thundering Herd

Conference USA, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Joan C. Edwards Stadium
John Marshall Dr. Huntington, WV 25755
Phone: (304) 696-3212
Web: http://www.herdzone.com
Capacity: 38,019
Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 565 ft.

HEAD COACH: *DOC HOLLIDAY*
O.C.: *BILL LEGG*
D.C.: *CHUCK HEATER*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
10-Sep	H	Morgan St (Not D-1)	62 - 0
17-Sep	H	Akron (89)	38 – 65
24-Sep	H	Louisville (18)	28 – 59
1-Oct	A	Pittsburgh (39)	27 – 43
8-Oct	A	North Texas (99)	21 – 38
15-Oct	H	Florida Atlantic (121)	27 - 21
22-Oct	H	Charlotte (109)	24 – 27
29-Oct	A	Southern Mississippi (74)	14 – 24
5-Nov	A	Old Dominion (48)	14 – 38
12-Nov	H	Middle Tennessee St (61)	42 - 17
19-Nov	A	Florida International (105)	14 – 31
26-Nov	H	Western Kentucky (23)	6 – 60

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Miami (OH) (83)
9-Sep	A	North Carolina State (51)
16-Sep	H	Kent State (119)
30-Sep	A	Cincinnati (101)
7-Oct	A	Charlotte (109)
14-Oct	H	Old Dominion (48)
21-Oct	A	Middle Tennessee State (61)
28-Oct	H	Florida International (105)
4-Nov	A	Florida Atlantic (121)
11-Nov	H	Western Kentucky (23)
18-Nov	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)
25-Nov	H	Southern Mississippi (74)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	3-4	0-5	4-7-1	2-4-1	2-3-0	5-7-0	4-3-0	1-4-0

Total Offense;	114	YPG	350	Total Defense;	107	YAPG	456
Passing Offense;	58	YPG	241.8	Passing Defense;	99	YAPG	253.7
Rushing Offense;	122	YPG	108.2	Rushing Defense;	89	YAPG	202.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

THUNDERING HERD OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Chase Litton	**QB**	**2612-24-9**	**-133-1**	
Ryan Yurachek	**TE**		**9-0**	**298-5**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

FICKLE! FICKLE! FICKLE! If you ever wondered why head coaches are paid so much, you needn't look any farther than Marshall University. Doc Holliday has been the coach there for several years. In reverse order, here are his last four seasonal records; 10-4, 13-1, 10-3 and 3-9. Even with a stinker of a year last season, his four year record is 36-17 or a winning percentage of 67.9%. Even with that fine record, Holliday sits squarely on the hot seat.

A good starting point for cooling off his seat would be if quarterback Chase Litton (2612 passing yards for 24 touchdowns and 9 interceptions) continues to develop. Garet Morrell will again be his under-study.

Another way to ease the heat on coach Holliday would be for the Thundering Herd to come up with something resembling a running game. The leading returning rusher is Keion Davis and he was only

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

able to accumulate 469 yards for 6 touchdowns. The Marshall running game was ranked 122nd in the country in 2016. Anthony Anderson, Tony Pittman and Hyleck Foster are all back and each of the three ran for about 300 yards last year. Somebody needs to grab the title of feature back and run with it.

Marshall lost its top five receivers. Tight end Ryan Yurachek is the leading returning receive with 298 receiving yards for 5 touchdowns. Do not be shocked to see his numbers double or triple. Other than Yurachek, not a single proven receiver is on the 2017 spring roster. Expect long, hard looks to be given to several under classmen such as redshirt freshman Simino Walden and true freshman Janiro Crankfield. The running game will have to carry the team until an adequate wide receiver group can be identified.

Left tackle Sandley Jean-Felix, left guard Jordan Dowrey, center Levi Brown and right guard Nathaniel Devers are all returning starters. Right tackle Fedrice Binot takes over at right tackle and completes the starting offensive line. This group needs to improve dramatically in their run blocking.

The coach's hot seat won't cool very much based on what this so-so offense has to offer.

THUNDERING HERD DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ryan Bee	**DE**	**54**	**4.5**	**0**	**1**
Jason Smith	**DT**	**24**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Nyquan Harris	**NT**	**33**	**1.5**	**0**	**0**
Chase Hancock	**LB**	**69**	**1.5**	**0**	**1**
Rodney Allen	**CB**	**76**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Chris Jackson	**CB**	**41**	**1.5**	**2**	**0**
Kendall Gant	**SS**	**77**	**0**	**0**	**1**
C. J. Reavis	**FS**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**1**

The 2016 Marshall defense was a major contributor toward the lousy record. That group was equally inept at stopping the pass (ranked 99th) and stopping running plays (ranked 89th). Eight starters from that group are back for 2017. Is that good or bad news?

End Ryan Bee, tackle Jason Smith and nose tackle Nyquan Harris all return and have reclaimed their starting assignments. All three need to increase their quarterback pressure and do a better job stuffing the run. Ty Tyler and Blake Keller are battling for the vacant end slot. Line depth is limited so the injury bug must be avoided.

The linebacker trio of Chase Hancock, Omari Cobb and Frankie Hernandez are the projected starters but none of the three can be called a true play maker. If no improvement is shown by the three, Davon Durant is awaiting his turn after a productive 2016 as a key reserve. There are also some very attractive freshman. Darius Hodge, Donyae Moody and Artis Johnson may be forced into action. The situation at linebacker is neither good nor bad. This will be a functional rotation but they do not have the ability to make big plays that can turn a game around.

Marshall is just two years removed of having a truly dominant secondary. That all changed badly last year. The four 2016 starters all return but they never seemed to gel as a group. They played like a bunch of individuals, not a unit. Cornerbacks Rodney Allen and Chris Jackson need to work on their pass coverage and one or the other must rise to the level of play maker. Strong safety Kendall Grant and free safety C. J. Reavis are both excellent tacklers but they didn't record a single interception between them last year. Obviously, a better pass rush from the front seven would be a big help for the back four but even with more pressure on opposing quarterbacks, this foursome has got to do much better staying with receivers.

There are simply too many holes in this year's defense. Some of those holes have ben filled but some remain as big question marks. The defense has a chance to be a bit better but not enough to give the offense all the help they are going to need.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Louisiana Tech Bulldogs

Conference USA, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Joe Aillet Stadium

305 Wisteria Ruston, LA 71272

Phone: (318) 257-2000

Web: http://www.latechsports.com

Capacity: 30,600

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 330 ft.

HEAD COACH: *SKIP HOLTZ*
O.C.: *TODD FITCH*
D.C.: *BLAKE BAKER*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Arkansas (49)	20 – 21
10-Sep	H	South Carolina St (Not D-1)	53 - 24
17-Sep	A	Texas Tech (80)	45 – 59
24-Sep	A	Middle Tennessee St (61)	34 – 38
1-Oct	H	UTEP (117)	28 - 7
6-Oct	H	Western Kentucky (23)	55 - 52
15-Oct	A	Massachusetts (125)	56 - 28
22-Oct	A	Florida International (105)	44 - 24
29-Oct	H	Rice (120)	61 - 16
5-Nov	A	North Texas (99)	45 - 24
12-Nov	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)	63 - 35
25-Nov	A	Southern Mississippi (74)	24 – 39
3-Dec	A	Western Kentucky (23)	44 – 58
BOWL	N	Navy (35)	48 - 45

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Northwestern State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Mississippi State (70)
16-Sep	A	Western Kentucky (23)
23-Sep	A	South Carolina (75)
30-Sep	H	South Alabama (88)
7-Oct	A	UAB (No ranking)
21-Oct	H	Southern Mississippi (74)
28-Oct	A	Rice (120)
4-Nov	H	North Texas (99)
11-Nov	H	Florida Atlantic (121)
18-Nov	A	UTEP (117)
25-Nov	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-5	5-0	4-5	8-6-0	3-2-0	5-4-0	10-3-0	4-1-0	6-2-0

Total Offense;	9	YPG	514.7	Total Defense;	71	YAPG	420.9
Passing Offense;	2	YPG	363.4	Passing Defense;	116	YAPG	274.7
Rushing Offense;	94	YPG	151.4	Rushing Defense;	42	YAPG	146.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BULLDOGS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jarred Craft	**RB 1**		**074-9**	**340-4**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Whenever a team loses four first team and two second team All Conference players, the loses have to be felt. That is what the Louisiana Tech offensive coaching staff faces in 2017. Finding a way to match last year's 9-5 record will be hard, especially since the 2016 passing offense was ranked 2nd in the country and now the quarterback and top two receivers from that unit are gone.

Ryan Higgins threw for 4617 yards and 41 touchdowns last year. J'Mar Smith had 412 yards passing for 2 touchdowns and 1 interception and is the leading candidate to take over the job. Price Wilson will compete with talented true freshman Elijah Walker for the backup duties. Tech will obviously take a major step back at quarterback.

The rushing game will need to shoulder far more of the load this season. Jarred Craft (1074 yards rushing for 9 touchdowns and an addition 340 receiving yards for 4 touchdowns) will get a majority of the handoffs but Boston Scott and his 515 yards and 6 touchdowns is no slouch. This will be a nice running back duo and we fully expect to see both of their productions to make a sizable jump.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Louisiana Tech Bulldogs

The loses of Carlos Henderson and Trent Taylor will be huge. How huge? They amassed 3358 receiving yards for 31 touchdowns. We will not attempt to name a starting wide receiver four player group. Instead we are going to list the cast of characters fighting it out for the jobs. Kam McKnight (281 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns), Alfred Smith (232 yards, 1 touchdown), DeJuawn Oliver (225 yards, 2 touchdowns), Rhashid Bonnette (183 yards) and Marlon Watts (83 yards) are all in the mix. One or more of them must step forward and become the go-to guy(s). True freshmen Cualan Williams and Griffin Heberty will also get serious looks in fall practices.

Left guard O'Shea Dugas, right guard Ethan Reed and right tackle Joshua Outlaw are the foundation around which this year's offensive line will be built. Shane Carpenter has claimed the opening at left tackle but center may be a season long problem area.Three juco transfers, Hanner Shipley, Drew Kirkpatrick and Wyatt Santos have been brought in so you can expect some position shuffling to find a way to fill the center vacancy. The line and the complete offense will not be as good as last year. How much worse remains to be seen.

B U L L D O G S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jaylon Ferguson	**DE**	**50**	**15**	**0**	**0**
Deldrick Canty	**DE**	**29**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Jordan Bradford	**DT**	**28**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Russell Farris	**LB**	**75**	**3**	**0**	**0**
DaMarion King	**LB**	**70**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Secdrick Cooper	**S**	**72**	**2**	**0**	**0**

The 2016 Bulldogs defense was terrible defending against the pass ending up ranked 116th in the country. This is one of the more shocking stats from last year. The D-Line did an excellent job of pressuring quarterbacks and still opponents moved the ball through the air at will. What does that tell you about the people who were defending against opposing receivers?

We like the situation Tech has at defensive end. Jaylon Ferguson and his 15 sacks returns. Deldrick Canty is also back and if opposing teams double team Ferguson, expect Canty to get after opposing passers. Tackle Jordan Bradford is another returning starter. He did a solid job last year and we expect nothing but the same in 2017. Key 2016 reserve tackle Cedric Johnson will step up to the starting unit and will complete a very good front four. There is also some experienced depth.

Returning starting linebacker Russell Farris and DaMarlon King provide two proven parts for the three man unit. Brandon Durman logged significant playing time in 2016 and was productive when called upon. He will fill the third linebacker job. Quality depth will be a concern but as long as this starting trio is on the field, solid linebacker play will take place.

Now, let's discuss that awful secondary from last year. The good news is three of them are gone. Safety Secdrick is the only returning starter and he was the only productive member of the 2106 unit. He is a nice starting point for a rebuilt back four. Daryl Lewis and Elliott Blankenship were productive in reserve roles last year and will fight for the other safety job. Ephraim Kitchen had a solid freshman season and should be better in 2017. He has the ability to be an excellent cornerback. Ronald Lewis is a possibility at the other corner but we feel freshman L'Jarius Sneed and juco transfer Michael Sam will end up the top two at the second corner slot. We feel the infusion of new blood in the secondary will be a huge deal. We can see the 2017 secondary taking advantage of the quarterback pressure generated by the front seven and actually making plays.

The 2017 defense will be a better unit than the 2016 version. Will the defense improve enough to offset the loses on offense? Heck, NO! However, the defense will keep the step back being made at Louisiana Tech much smaller.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Middle TN State Blue Raiders

Conference USA, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Johnny 'Red' Floyd Stadium

1301 East Main Street Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Phone: (615) 898-2300

Web: http://www.goblueraiders.com

Capacity: 30,788

Surface: Sportexe Power Blade **Altitude:** 621 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*RICK STOCKSTILL*
O.C.:	*TONY FRANKLIN*
D.C.:	*SCOTT SHAFER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Alabama A & M (Not D-1)	55 - 0
10-Sep	A	Vanderbilt (62)	24 – 47
17-Sep	A	Bowling Green (107)	41 - 21
24-Sep	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	38 - 34
1-Oct	A	North Texas (99)	30 - 13
15-Oct	H	Western Kentucky (23)	43 – 44
22-Oct	A	Missouri (95)	51 - 45
29-Oct	A	Florida International (105)	42 - 35
5-Nov	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)	25 – 45
12-Nov	A	Marshall (122)	17 – 42
19-Nov	A	Charlotte (109)	38 - 31
26-Nov	H	Florida Atlantic (121)	77 - 56
BOWL	N	Hawaii (94)	35 – 52

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Vanderbilt (62)
9-Sep	A	Syracuse (79)
16-Sep	A	Minnesota (38)
23-Sep	H	Bowling Green (107)
30-Sep	A	Florida Atlantic (121)
7-Oct	H	Florida International (105)
14-Oct	A	UAB (No ranking)
21-Oct	H	Marshall (122)
4-Nov	H	UTEP (117)
11-Nov	A	Charlotte (109)
18-Nov	A	Western Kentucky (23)
25-Nov	H	Old Dominion (48)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	3-2	5-3	6-6-1	3-2-0	3-4-1	8-4-0	4-1-0	4-3-0

Total Offense;	8	YPG	517.7	Total Defense;	96	YAPG	449.5
Passing Offense;	8	YPG	325.8	Passing Defense;	95	YAPG	250.8
Rushing Offense;	48	YPG	191.8	Rushing Defense;	85	YAPG	198.7

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BLUE RAIDERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Brent Stockstill	**QB**	**3233-31-7**	**240-0**	**-3-0**
Richie James	**WR**	**80-0-0**	**339-4**	**1625-12**
Ty Lee	**WR**		**107-1**	**699-9**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

There are several things to like about Middle Tennessee State's offense for 2017. After ranking 6th in passing offense and 48th in rushing offense in 2016, several key cogs are returning this season.

Quarterback Brent Stockstill is back after having an excellent 2016 campaign. He is the coach's son and operates like a coach on the field. His 31 to 7 touchdown to interception ratio indicates he makes few mistakes. He has some excellent receivers back to help him rack up even more passing yards. John Urzua was his backup in 2016 and logged significant playing time. He's back and provides experienced depth.

The Blue Raiders had one huge loss from last year's offense. I'Tavius Mathers had 1561 yards rushing and 633 yards receiving in 2016 and numbers like that are impossible to fully replace. He had 232 of the team's 417 rushing attempts so any other running back got very limited exposure. Juco transfer

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Maurice Gordon was brought in to absorb some of the lost production. Terelle West and Shane Tucker were listed as the primary backups on the post spring depth chart. Until Gordon proves himself, running back has to be a concern at MTSU.

Richie James and Ty Lee provide MTSU with two top notch receivers. They combined for over 2300 yards receiving last season. Both return and are joined by Patrick Smith who racked up another 332 receiving yards in 2016. Smith was not shown on the depth chart but we feel in the end he and Desmond Anderson will complete an excellent four man wide receiver unit.

While running back is the most critical concern for the Blue Raiders, the offensive line also has some questions. Right guard Chandler Brewer and right tackle Robert Behanan are the only returning starters. They will be joined by 2016 top reserves Carlos Johnson at left tackle and center Luke Harris. Juco transfer Angelo Owens took a redshirt last year and will step in at the left guard slot. Conner Trent and Lucas Hamilton will provide experienced depth to the unit. The line will take time to gel but MTSU has a history of developing quality linemen.

The Middle Tennessee State offense will take a minor step back unless someone steps up and handles the featured running back duties.

B L U E R A I D E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Chris Melton	**LB**	**96**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Darius Harris	**LB**	**66**	**2**	**0**	**0**
D. J. Sanders	**LB**	**64**	**2**	**2**	**0**
Michael Minter	**CB**	**47**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Jovante Moffatt	**SS**	**72**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Darryl Randolph	**FS**	**58**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Defense was the team downfall in 2016 as that group ranked 95th in passing defense and 85th defending against the run. The 2017 defense will need to assume more responsibility as the offense may not be able to carry as much of the load this season.

The big defensive concern for MTSU will be the defensive line. The whole front four must be replaced and two of the now departed linemen were All Conference selections in 2016. The new designated starters are under sized and lightly tested. One potentially bright spot is former Missouri starter and freshman All American Walter Brady. Brady was dismissed from Mizzou and landed at Middle Tennessee. He will handle one end while 2016 reserve Tyshun Reader will man the other end. The tackles are slated to be Justin Akins and Malik Manciel. They both got game experience last year as reserves. While the line Is a huge question mark, at least Middle Tennessee has some possible answers.

The back seven returns five 2016 starters. Linebackers Chris Melton and D. J. Sanders were on the first unit last season and are back this year. They will be joined by top 2016 reserve Darius Harris. This could be a solid trio IF the front four gels and does their job. Myles Harges, Khalil Brooks and Malik Hawkins will provide capable, experienced depth to the rotation.

The secondary will be the strength of the defense. Michael Minter and Darryl Randolph return to man the two cornerback slots. Both need to make more plays but that depends on how much pressure the front seven puts on opposing quarterbacks. Strong safety Jovante Moffatt is the third returning starter in the secondary. He will be joined by key 2016 reserve free safety Alex Dale. This starting four has the capability of making plays but their level of production will hinge on how well the big guys up front perform.

The line holds the key to how well this defense plays. The addition of Walter Brady gives the front four some hope. He was a proven commodity in his stay at Missouri. His ability to pass rush will be a plus and will help the other newcomers in the D-Line settle in.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

North Texas Mean Green

Conference USA, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Apogee Stadium

Chestnut Ave. Denton, TX 76203-1277

Phone: (940) 565-2000

Web: http://www.meangreensports.com

Capacity: 30,850

Surface: PowerBlade **Altitude:** 657 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*SETH LITTRELL*
O.C.:	*GRAHAM HARRELL*
D.C.:	*MIKE EKELER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MARTY BIAGI*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	SMU (86)	21 – 34
10-Sep	H	Bethune-Cookman (Not D-1)	41 - 20
17-Sep	A	Florida (14)	0 – 32
24-Sep	A	Rice (120)	42 - 35
1-Oct	H	Middle Tennessee St (61)	13 – 30
8-Oct	H	Marshall (122)	38 - 21
22-Oct	A	Army (76)	35 - 18
29-Oct	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)	17 -13
5-Nov	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	24 – 45
12-Nov	A	Western Kentucky (23)	7 – 45
19-Nov	H	Southern Mississippi (74)	29 - 23
26-Nov	A	UTEP (117)	24 – 54
BOWL	N	Army (76)	31 – 38

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Lamar (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	SMU (86)
16-Sep	A	Iowa (34)
23-Sep	H	UAB (No ranking)
30-Sep	A	Southern Mississippi (74)
14-Oct	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)
21-Oct	A	Florida Atlantic (121)
28-Oct	H	Old Dominion (48)
4-Nov	A	Louisiana Tech (47)
11-Nov	H	UTEP (117)
18-Nov	H	Army (76)
25-Nov	A	Rice (120)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-8	3-4	2-4	7-5-1	4-2-1	3-3-0	5-7-0	2-4-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	117	YPG	341.8	Total Defense;	89	YAPG	439.8
Passing Offense;	91	YPG	208.3	Passing Defense;	27	YAPG	200.2
Rushing Offense;	109	YPG	133.5	Rushing Defense;	117	YAPG	239.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MEAN GREEN OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Mason Fine	**QB**	**1572-6-6**	**118-2**	
Jeffrey Wilson	**RB**		**936-14**	**247-1**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

The North Texas Mean Green were 5-8 in 2016 after going 1-11 a year earlier. That is a significant improvement and now it is the job of head coach Seth Luttrell to keep the movement going forward. To achieve that, Luttrell will have significant reloading and shuffling to do on both sides of the ball.

The 2016 offense was ranked 91st for passing offense and 109th for rushing offense. Both of these rankings leave tons of room for improvement. One of the areas needing improvement is at quarterback. Mason Fine returns but his 1572 passing yards for 6 touchdowns and 6 interceptions hardly breeds confidence. He is currently fighting off challenges from Quinn Shanbour and juco transfer Delvin Isadore.

The person earning the quarterback job will have a big asset lining up right behind him. Jeffrey Wilson ran for 936 yards and 14 touchdowns last year and also found time to rack up 247 receiving yards for another touchdown. The fall practice sessions will be dedicated to sorting out the possible backup

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

running backs. Turner Smiley (389 receiving yards for 2 touchdowns) has the tools for becoming an excellent wide receiver. If North Texas gets the needed improvement at quarterback, Smiley's numbers could soar. He and tight end Kelvin Smith have claimed two receiver jobs but the other two wide receiver assignments have a horde of possibilities in heated competition. Tyler Wilson, Rico Bussey and O'Keeron Rutherford are the most productive returning wide receivers but Elijah McIntyre, Michael Lawrence, juco transfer Jalen Guyton and true freshmen Tre Siggers and Jaelon Darden are all going to get heavy consideration in fall drills.

Left tackle Jordan Murray, left guard T. J. Henson and right guard Chris Miles give the Mean Green O-Line three returning starters around whom to build this year's unit. Center will be handled by Creighton Barr while fellow 2016 key reserve Elex Woodworth will take over at right tackle. Juco transfer Jevin Pahinui has the best chance of cracking the starting five.

The 2017 offense will be somewhat better but the coaches need to improve recruiting and point to 2019 as the year of contend for the conference title.

M E A N G R E E N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Roderick Young	**NT**	**38**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Brandon Garner	**LB**	**50**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Joshua Wheeler	**LB**	**42**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Nate Brooks	**CB**	**57**	**1**	**4**	**0**
Kishawn McClain	**S**	**91**	**2**	**3**	**0**

The defense was the key for most of last year's turn around. The passing defense was especially solid ranking 27th in the country. The rushing defense wasn't good with its 117th national ranking but believe it or not, that was better that in 2015! Good parts of the 2016 defense return this year.

The defensive line lost two of its three starters. The one returning starter is Roderick Young and he was solid at the nose tackle slot last season. He will shift over to handle one end job and should be even better at that position. He will team up with another player making a position change, former linebacker LaDarius Hamilton. If Hamilton doesn't adjust to the new position, Andy Flusche and Tillman Johnson both stand ready and provide game experience to the rotation. One big line addition will be new nose tackle Bryce English, a Kansas transfer. T. J. Tauaalo will provide very good depth at nose tackle. After all the shuffling, North Texas will actually have a very solid line.

Cortney Finney and Fred Scott have exhausted their eligibility and leave two openings at linebacker. While depth has yet to be determined, the starting three linebackers look like a good crew. Joshua Wheeler and Brandon Garner are back and are both excellent in pressuring quarterbacks. E. J. Ejiya will graduate up to the starting unit after being productive last year in reserve duty. Calvin Moore provides a splash of experienced, productive depth. Nickle back Dee Baulkman also returns and provides solid support against the run and also can apply heat to passers. Look for Ashton Preston to log significant time as the reserve nickle back. As long as these four starters remain healthy, the middle of North Texas' defense will be good.

Two parts of the four man secondary look solid. Safety Kishawn McClain was last year's leading tackle and he also recorded two sacks and 3 interceptions. Cornerback Nayr Brooks also returns and had a really good year in 2016 with 4 interceptions and a sack. How the North Texas coaching staff fills the openings at cornerback and safety will dictate how much this defense improves in 2017. Eric Jenkins was a key reserve at cornerback last year and could move up to the starting foursome. However, true freshman Cameron Johnson will give him all the competition he could want in fall practices. Taylor Robinson and Khairi Muhammad are battling for the open safety job.

North Texas should be measurably better at defense in 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Old Dominion Monarchs

Conference USA, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Foreman Field

1 Old Dominion University Norfolk, VA 23529

Phone: (757) 683-3000

Web: http://www.odusports.com

Capacity: 20,118

Surface: AstroTurf **Altitude:** 16 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BOBBY WILDER*
O.C.:	*BRIAN SCOTT*
D.C.:	*RICH NAGY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
4-Sep	H	Hampton (Not D-1)	54 - 21
10-Sep	A	Appalachian St (37)	7 – 31
17-Sep	A	North Carolina St (51)	22 – 49
24-Sep	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)	33 - 19
1-Oct	A	Charlotte (109)	52 - 17
7-Oct	H	Massachusetts (125)	36 - 16
22-Oct	A	Western Kentucky (23)	24 – 59
29-Oct	A	UTEP (117)	31 - 21
5-Nov	H	Marshall (122)	38 - 14
12-Nov	H	Southern Mississippi (74)	51 - 35
19-Nov	A	Florida Atlantic (121)	42 - 24
26-Nov	H	Florida International (105)	42 - 28
BOWL	N	Eastern Michigan (67)	24 - 20

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Albany (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Massachusetts (125)
16-Sep	H	North Carolina (43)
23-Sep	A	Virginia Tech (16)
7-Oct	H	Florida Atlantic (121)
14-Oct	A	Marshall (122)
21-Oct	H	Western Kentucky (23)
28-Oct	A	North Texas (99)
4-Nov	H	Charlotte (109)
11-Nov	A	Florida International (105)
18-Nov	H	Rice (120)
25-Nov	A	Middle Tennessee State (61)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	7-0	3-3	8-4-1	5-1-1	3-3-0	8-4-0	4-2-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	50	YPG	430.8	Total Defense;	49	YAPG	383.6
Passing Offense;	64	YPG	234	Passing Defense;	63	YAPG	226.5
Rushing Offense;	45	YPG	196.8	Rushing Defense;	50	YAPG	157.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MONARCHS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ray Lawry	**RB**		**1255-11**	**134-1**
Jonathan Duhart	**WR**			**735-9**
Melvin Vaughn	**TE**			**233-1**

Four returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Old Dominion's Monarchs return lots of key pieces from their 10-3 team in 2016. ODU utilized the offensive talent they had in 2016 very well. Their passing offense was ranked 64th nationally and their rushing offense was rated 45th best. Old Dominion relied heavily on their running game and we should expect the same this season.

The loss of starting quarterback David Washington is the biggest hit the offense took. Blake LaRussa has ridden an excellent spring to leap atop the post spring practices depth chart. He has limited game experience but offers a solid downfield passing option. He will still face major competition in fall drills as juco transfer Jordan Hoy will become more accustomed to the offensive scheme. Hoy is a duel threat option and amassed over 4100 yards of total offense last year.

The new quarterback will have the luxury of having to well established, productive running backs standing behind him. The one/two punch of Ray Lawry and Jeremy Cox ran for just under 2000

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

2000 yards last year and racked up 24 touchdowns. They also found time to amass another 252 yards receiving for an additional 2 touchdowns.

While the Monarchs lost their top receiver, the next nine highest yardage producers return for 2017. Jonathan Duhart looks like the new go-to wide receiver after raking in 735 receiving yards for 9 touchdowns last year. Travis Fulgham (478 yards, 8 touchdowns) gives the offense another solid receiver. The third job has a horde of possibilities led by Isaiah Harper (174 yards, 1 touchdown) and Eri'Reon Hayes. Old Dominion is blessed with two excellent tight ends. Melvin Vaughn is the returning starter (233 yards, 1 touchdown). Vanderbilt transfer DeAndre Woods will add nice depth at tight end. The receiving unit will be a plus unit and provide many and varied targets for the new quarterback.

Left tackle Chad Hendricks, left guard Tony Barnett, center Nick Clarke and right tackle Devin Hannah were all underclassmen last year and all are returning starters this year. Cullen Casey and Manuel Matiarena are battling for the right guard job but regardless of which one wins out, this will be an excellent offensive line.

M O N A R C H S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Bunmi Rotimi	**DE**	**44**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Oshane Ximines	**DE**	**42**	**8**	**0**	**0**
Miles Fox	**DT**	**27**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Brandon Addison	**CB**	**47**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Sean Carter	**SS**	**60**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Justice Davila	**FS**	**47**	**0**	**0**	**0**

While Old Dominion ranked 63rd for passing defense and 50th for rushing defense in 2016, the stats that defined that unit are fumbles lost and sacks. The Monarchs were very opportunistic in 2016 recovering 12 fumbles while losing just 4. They also recorded 34 sacks and gave up just 19. Seven of the 2016 starters return but within the players lost, three of the top four tackles must be replaced.

Old Dominion operates out of a 4-3-4 defensive set and three lof last years starting front four return. Ends Bunmi Rotimi and Oshane Ximines are an excellent pair. They combined for 15 sacks and did a fine job stopping running plays. Miles Fox is back and has reclaimed his stating tackle job. 2016 reserves Torrez Wentz and Pat Toal are amid a continuing battle for the open tackle spot. The D-Line will be a team strength and allow the back seven to do their jobs.

Old Dominion lost its complete starting linebacker unit. It was tough to identify the starting trio as the Monarchs exited spring drills. The most productive returning linebackers are Tim Ward and Marvin Branch but they have not yet been awarded jobs. Jordan Young, Derek Wilder and Keisean Wilson are all also under consideration. Regardless of which three earn the assignments, the linebacker rotation will be inexperienced and unproven. Line backer could be a season long problem.

Three parts of this year's secondary will be manned by returning starters. Brandon Addison will man one cornerback job. Strong safety Sean Carter will pair up with free safety Justice Davilla to form a solid safety duo. The open cornerback job currently has several candidates in the hunt. Rob Thompson and Jamez Brickhouse have some game experience and have to be considered the leaders for the job but redshirt freshman Elijah Blue and true freshman Tracy White have more potential and upside. If the linebacker unit wasn't such a huge question mark, we feel one of the youngsters would get the job but experience will be a key element as the back four will need to cover the linebacker unit's mistakes.

The Old Dominion 2017 defense will be a good group but if by some minor miracle the linebacker unit gels and becomes productive, the defense will be really good.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Rice Owls

Conference USA, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Rice Stadium
6100 S Main Houston, TX 77005
Phone: (713) 348-0000
Web: http://www.riceowls.com
Capacity: 47,000
Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 47 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DAVID BAILIFF*
O.C.:	*BILLY LYNCH*
D.C.:	*BRIAN STEWART*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*DARRELL PATTERSON*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	A	Western Kentucky (23)	14 – 46
10-Sep	A	Army (76)	14 – 31
16-Sep	H	Baylor (56)	10 – 38
24-Sep	H	North Texas (99)	35 – 42
1-Oct	A	Southern Mississippi (74)	28 – 44
15-Oct	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)	13 – 14
22-Oct	H	Prairie View A & M (Not D-1)	65 - 44
29-Oct	A	Louisiana Tech (47)	16 – 61
5-Nov	H	Florida Atlantic (121)	25 – 42
12-Nov	A	Charlotte (109)	22 - 21
19-Nov	H	UTEP (117)	44 - 24
26-Nov	A	Stanford (17)	17 – 41

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
26-Aug	H	Stanford (17)
9-Sep	A	UTEP (117)
16-Sep	A	Houston (36)
23-Sep	H	Florida International (105)
30-Sep	A	Pittsburgh (39)
7-Oct	H	Army (76)
21-Oct	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)
28-Oct	H	Louisiana Tech (47)
4-Nov	A	UAB (No ranking)
11-Nov	H	Southern Mississippi (74)
18-Nov	A	Old Dominion (48)
25-Nov	H	North Texas (99)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	2-4	1-5	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0	7-5-0	4-2-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	86	YPG	384.8	Total Defense;	123	YAPG	504.5
	80	YPG	215.2	Passing Defense;	123	YAPG	287.7
Passing Offense;	72	YPG	169.7	Rushing Defense;	101	YAPG	216.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

O W L S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs

Five returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

The Rice Owls finished the 2016 season with a bad 3-9 record and a very tepid offense has to take its share of the blame. The Owls didn't do anything particularly well. They ranked 80th in passing offense and 72nd in rushing offense. The offense also lacked any play makers and had to put their supporters to sleep from boredom.

Quarterback was not a strength last year and that unit's starter is gone. There are three candidates for the job this year; Jackson Tyner was the most productive but he amassed a whopping 318 yards passing for 2 touchdowns and 1 interception, J. T. Granato and redshirt freshman Sam Glaesmann. One of the three must grab the starting job and prove he is ready for full time duty.

Gone are the days when Rice featured a dynamic running game. Samuel Stewart and Austin Walker are both back but their COMBINED production in 2016 was 822 yards rushing for 7 touchdowns and 180 yards receiving for 5 touchdowns. Those stats are about equal to one average running back. Obviously, one or the other has to step up and be a featured back and produce like one.

Temi Alaka (458 yards receiving for 2 touchdowns) and Kylen Granson (381 yards, 2 touchdowns)

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

are returning starters but neither displayed the characteristics of a go-to wide receiver. Neither displayed the ability to stretch the field. Parker Smith and Lance Wright are also back and showed limited production in reserve roles in 2016. Robbie Wells is back at tight end but he must fend off challenges from a couple of talented true freshmen. The receive rotation is not an inspiring group but if a decent quarterback is found who can get them the ball, the group might be okay.

The strength of the offense will be a veteran line returning all five starters from last year. This same five wasn't outstanding in 2016 but the year of functioning as a unit has to make them better in 2017. Left tackle Calvin Anderson, left guard Peter Godber, center Trey Martin, right guard Cory Klinger and right tackle Sam Pierce are also backed up by some experienced depth that will be fighting for playing time all year.

Until Rice finds a functional quarterback, it is hard to like their offense.

O W L S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Blain Padgett	**DE**	**41**	**2**	**0**	**1**
Preston Gordon	**DT**	**31**	**3.5**	**0**	**0**
Destri White	**S**	**51**	**.5**	**1**	**0**

Rice has nine starters from their 2016 defense back for 2017. That is not necessarily good news as the 2016 group ranked 123rd for passing defense and 101st for rushing defense.

The D-Line of ends Blain Padgett and Brian Womac and defensive tackle Preston Gordon and nose tackle Roe Wilkins didn't do anything especially good last year nor did they do anything especially bad. This front four badly needs to a leader and play maker to stand up and inspire a group still trying to match their potential with their on field production. There is also experienced depth in the reserve unit and if the starting group doesn't improve, there are equally talented players ready to take their playing time.

The projected two man starting linebacker duo combined for just 39 tackles, 1.5 sacks and 1 interception in 2016. If Emmanuel Ellebee and Nick Uretsky do not get their acts together, three freshmen, Kenneth Orji, Randall Royall and Garrett Grammer may slide ahead of them on the post fall practice depth chart. The linebacker rotation looks like it will be a team liability in 2017.

Starting cornerback V. J. Banks is back and has reclaimed his slot. His running mate will either be Brandon Douglas or D'Angelo Ellis. The 2017 corners must do a better job in pass coverage this year if the secondary doesn't want to be continually torched again this season. The three safety set has 2016 starters Destri White and Cole Thomas back and they will be joined by productive key 2016 reserve J. T. Ibe. The trio combined for just one interception last year and weren't especially impressive defending against running plays. There isn't a lot to get excited about the 2017 Rice secondary.

We compare the 2017 defense to being fed grits. There is nothing to especially like or dislike about both. When you see grits on your plate, few people can get excited and when you see the 2017 Rice defense on the field, you will find it hard to get excited.

Rice is completely void of play makers on both sides of the ball and both units seem to be stockpiled with under achievers. It is not a pretty picture at Rice.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Southern Miss Golden Eagles

Conference USA, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: M.M. Roberts Stadium

118 College Drive Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Phone: (601) 266-1000

Web: http://southernmiss.com

Capacity: 36,000

Surface: Momentum Turf **Altitude:** 164 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JAY HOPSON*
O.C.:	*SHANNON DAWSON*
D.C.:	*TONY PECORARO*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JOHN WOZNIAK*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Kentucky (63)	44 - 35
10-Sep	H	Savannah St (Not D-1)	56 - 0
17-Sep	H	Troy (41)	31 – 37
24-Sep	A	UTEP (117)	34 - 7
1-Oct	H	Rice (120)	44 - 28
8-Oct	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)	32 – 55
15-Oct	A	LSU (15)	10 – 45
29-Oct	H	Marshall (122)	24 - 14
5-Nov	H	Charlotte (109)	27 – 38
12-Nov	A	Old Dominion (48)	35 – 51
19-Nov	A	North Texas (99)	23 – 29
25-Nov	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	39 - 24
BOWL	N	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	28 - 21

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Kentucky (63)
9-Sep	H	Southern University (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
30-Sep	H	North Texas (99)
7-Oct	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)
14-Oct	H	UTEP (117)
21-Oct	A	Louisiana Tech (47)
28-Oct	H	UAB (No ranking)
4-Nov	A	Tennessee (25)
11-Nov	A	Rice (120)
18-Nov	H	Charlotte (109)
25-Nov	A	Marshall (122)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	4-2	3-4	4-8-1	1-4-1	3-4-0	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	23	YPG	472.8	Total Defense;	15	YAPG	324.8
Passing Offense;	16	YPG	298.2	Passing Defense;	10	YAPG	174.9
Rushing Offense;	62	YPG	174.5	Rushing Defense;	46	YAPG	149.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GOLDEN EAGLES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ito Smith	**RB**		**1459-17**	**459-2**
Allenzae Staggers	**WR**	**47-0-0**	**39-0**	**1165-7**

Two returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Head coach Jay Hobson will definitely earn his salary this year. With significant loses and with the recently raised level of expectations, Southern Mississippi faces a season where some hard decisions have to be made. Offensively, it will be next to impossible to match last year's 21st ranked total offense.

Hobson's work begins at quarterback. Nick Mullens is no longer at the helm and replacing his production is almost impossible. Keon Howard was the backup last year and recored 365 passing yards for 1 touchdown and 4 interceptions. He also ran for an additional 150 yards and another 2 touchdowns. He and juco transfer Kwadra Griggs staged a heated battle for the starting job during spring drills and that competition is liable to continue well into fall practices. Regardless of which one wins the assignment, Southern Mississippi will be much weaker at quarterback.

A huge part of Southern Mississippi's offense will be provided by running back Ito Smith. He had 1459 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns last year and also hauled in 459 receiving yards for another 2 touchdowns. George Payner and Tez Parks will provide solid backup whenever Smith needs to catch his

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

breath. As good as the running back rotation looks, their ultimate success will be in the hands of a completely rebuilt offensive line.

Alenzae Staggers, Korey Robertson and Isaiah Jones are all back and form a wide receive trio that combined for just under 2000 receiving yards in 2016 and racked up 12 touchdowns. They are joined by tight end Julian Allen (281 yards, 1 touchdown). This is a very solid receiving group who could go totally wasted unless someone steps up and proves they are ready to be a starting quarterback.

The biggest potential problem area will be the offensive line. Right guard Devin Farrior and right tackle Ty Pollard are back. They and key reserve center Tyler Stutzman will be the foundation of the lone but the left side is a complete mystery. Fall practices will be “all hands on deck” for the O-Line. Arvin Fletcher and Drake Dorbeck had good springs but they will compete against five freshmen led by Paul Gainer and Woodlyson Alcius and three redshirt freshmen. It is too early to call the line a bust but we can say with confidence the Southern Mississippi 2017 offense will take a good sized step back.

G O L D E N E A G L E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Xavier Thigpen	**DE**	**33**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Darian Yancey	**DE**	**28**	**3**	**0**	**0**
LaDarius Harris	**DT**	**30**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Picasso Nelson	**NB**	**45**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Cornell Armstrong	**CB**	**47**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Curtis Mikell	**FS**	**36**	**2**	**2**	**0**

The Golden Eagles had the 15th ranked defense in the country last year and were especially tough against passing plays. From that defense, four of the top six tacklers are now gone. That group was a very opportunistic bunch but they were burned almost as often as they came up with a spectacular play. This year's group needs to be steadier. They need to take care of the bread and butter plays and let the highlights come and not force things.

Xavier Thigpen and Darian Yancey return as starting ends. They did a decent job last year and combined for 8 sacks. LaDarius Harris was the top reserve at tackle last year and well suited for full time duty. Draper Riley will shift over from his tackle slot to man the starting nose tackle job and complete a very good front four. There are splashes of D-Line depth.

The Golden Eagles run a two man linebacker set. One of those spots has been claimed by Sherrod Ruff. He was productive in a sub role last year recording 36 tackles and 3 sacks. Beyond Ruff, the linebacker rotation is a complete unknown. Jeremy Sangster and Paxton Schrimsher got some playing time last year but neither have grabbed hold of the other linebacker job. True freshman Freddie Hartz will definitely get heavy consideration in fall practices. The way things stand now, linebacker will be a problem area in 2017.

Free safety D'Nerius Antoine has graduated and his loss will cause some position shuffling if Southern Mississippi wants to field a capable secondary. Nickle back Picasso Nelson returns and will be a solid contributor. Cornell Armstrong is also back and has reclaimed one cornerback assignment. Curtis Mikell will shift from his free safety spot and will man the other corner. Tarvariuys Moore showed flashes of excellence last year and will assume this year's starting free safety job. The strong safety spot is wide open but more than likely a shift will be made by one of the large group of cornerbacks to fill the opening. That means Southern Mississippi will lack size at strong safety.

It is hard to completely look past the situation at linebacker but if that unit can become even average, Southern Mississippi will have another good defense in 2017. It doesn’t help to lose the two leading tacklers – Dylan Bradley off the nose of the defense along with free safety Eridanus Antoine

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas El Paso Miners

Conference USA, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Sun Bowl Stadium

500 West University Avenue El Paso, TX 79968

Phone: (915) 747-5000

Web: http://www.utepathletics.com

Capacity: 51,500

Surface: AstroPlay **Altitude:** 3720 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*SEAN KUGLER*
O.C.:	*BRENT PEASE*
D.C.:	*TOM MASON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*DON YANOWSKY*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	New Mexico St (115)	38 - 22
10-Sep	A	Texas (73)	7 – 41
17-Sep	H	Army (76)	14 - 66
24-Sep	H	Southern Mississippi (74)	7 – 34
1-Oct	A	Louisiana Tech (47)	7 – 28
8-Oct	H	Florida International (105)	21 – 35
22-Oct	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)	52 - 49
29-Oct	H	Old Dominion (48)	21 – 31
5-Nov	H	Houston Baptist (Not D-1)	42 - 10
12-Nov	A	Florida Atlantic (121)	31 – 35
19-Nov	A	Rice (120)	24 – 44
26-Nov	H	North Texas (99)	52 - 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Oklahoma (4)
9-Sep	H	Rice (120)
16-Sep	H	Arizona (103)
23-Sep	A	New Mexico State (115)
30-Sep	A	Army (76)
7-Oct	H	Western Kentucky (23)
14-Oct	A	Southern Mississippi (74)
28-Oct	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)
4-Nov	A	Middle Tennessee State (61)
11-Nov	A	North Texas (99)
18-Nov	H	Louisiana Tech (47)
25-Nov	A	UAB (No ranking)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-4	1-4	6-6-0	3-4-0	3-2-0	7-5-0	4-3-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	102	YPG	369.2	Total Defense;	70	YAPG	419.3
Passing Offense;	103	YPG	183.7	Passing Defense;	41	YAPG	209
Rushing Offense;	53	YPG	185.5	Rushing Defense;	96	YAPG	210.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MINERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ryan Metz	**QB**	**1375-14-4**	**41-0**	

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

We are issuing an “I'll have to see it to believe it” alert. Different coaches have different purposes when the issue a spring depth chart. Most will tell you exactly which players are expected to be the top two at each position. Another group of coaches use the spring two deeps to light fires under particular players. The coaching staff at UTEP is obviously in the second group. For this report we will tell you what the coaches said at the end of spring drills and then we tell you what we feel will actually be at opening kickoff.

Ryan Metz is back and will handle the quarterback duties after recording 1375 passing yards for 14 touchdowns and just 4 interceptions. He was very efficient last year and we like his touchdowns to interceptions ratio. However, he must become more productive throwing the ball. UTEP was ranked 103rd nationally in 2016 for passing offense and unless that number is increased substantially, the Miners will be toast.

Quadraiz Wadley and Kevin Dove were listed as the top two running backs but they combined for just 269 rushing yards for only 1 touchdown last season. It will be hard to keep incoming freshman Josh

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

Fields off the field. Regardless of who makes up the running back rotation, UTEP will not come close to its 53rd ranked rushing offense of 2016.

Okay, wide receiver is the area where we feel the coaches are not being exactly truthful. The depth chart has converted quarterback Kayika Johnson, Warren Redix and Terry Juniel as the starting trio. They combined for 262 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns. The coaches are trying to convince us that the three leading returning receivers, Eddie Sengal, Walter Dawn and Tyler Batson will be held in reserve. We doubt it. We look for their backup unit to be the starting three in the fall. Tight end has a battle between Sterling Napier and David Lucero.

Left guard Willie Hernandez, center Tanner Stallings and right guard Derron Gatewood are returning starters but the depth chart shows Gatewood sliding over to become the starting center and with Stallings as his backup. Greg Long will be the left tackle with Derek Elmendorff at right guard and Jerrod Brooks at right tackle. Those are the starters IF YOU BELIEVE THE SPRING DEPTH CHART.

M I N E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Mike Sota	**DE**	**47**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Sky Logan	**DE**	**34**	**.5**	**0**	**1**
Alvin Jones	**LB**	**93**	**2.5**	**0**	**0**
Dante Lovilette	**LB**	**88**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Devin Cockrell	**SS**	**53**	**0**	**0**	**1**

The most productive defensive ends from last year's 4-8 team are Mike Sota and Sky Logan. On the depth chart Sota is now shown as a backup and Logan is listed as a backup tackle. Chris Richardson and Christian Buckingham are shown as the two starting ends but if you believe that, we have some lovely ocean front property in Nevada we would love to sell you. Denzel Chukwukela is listed as the starting tackle even though he had just 8 tackles last year. Regardless of who wins the three line jobs, the unit must make substantial improvement in rushing the passer.

The linebacker unit looks like it will be decent. Alvin Jones, Dante Lovilette and Lawrence Montegut are all back after having very productive 2016 seasons. They were particularly strong against the running plays and did a good job of covering for the line mistakes. Dylan Parsee is shown as the fourth starter but we feel juco transfer Kalaii Griffin will be the man come opening kickoff. The linebacker rotation also has some decent depth. If UTEP has a team strength this year, it would have to be at linebacker.

Nik Needham and Kalon Beverly are listed as the starting cornerbacks but we feel Justin Rogers will man one slot when the smoke (and BS) clear, Devin Cockrell will again man the strong safety spot and will be the leader of the secondary. Juco transfer Kahani Smith muscled his away into the starting free safety job in spring practices. Like the rest of the defense, it is truly hard to tell who will be the starting secondary and without knowing that, it is hard to access their possibilities.

We will cut these comments shorter than the other reports since the primary source for our information hasn't given the straight scoop yet. We see no reason to give any credibility to what the UTEP coaches published as their post spring depth chart.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas San Antonio Roadrunners

Conference USA, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Alamodome

One UTSA Circle San Antonio, TX 78249

Phone: (210) 458-4011

Web: http://www.goutsa.com/

Capacity: 65,000

Surface: Sport Field **Altitude:** 653 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*FRANK WILSON*
O.C.:	*FRANK SCELFO*
D.C.:	*PETE GOLDING*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*RICKY BRUMFIELD*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Alabama St (Not D-1)	26 - 13
10-Sep	A	Colorado St (53)	14 – 23
16-Sep	H	Arizona St (84)	28 – 32
24-Sep	A	Old Dominion (48)	19 – 33
8-Oct	H	Southern Mississippi (74)	55 - 32
15-Oct	A	Rice (120)	14 - 13
22-Oct	H	UTEP (117)	49 – 52
29-Oct	H	North Texas (99)	31 - 17
5-Nov	A	Middle Tennessee St (61)	45 - 25
12-Nov	A	Louisiana Tech (47)	35 – 63
19-Nov	A	Texas A & M (42)	10 – 23
26-Nov	H	Charlotte (109)	33 - 14
BOWL	N	New Mexico (54)	20 – 23

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Houston (36)
9-Sep	A	Baylor (56)
16-Sep	H	Southern University (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Texas State (127)
7-Oct	H	Southern Mississippi (74)
14-Oct	A	North Texas (99)
21-Oct	H	Rice (120)
28-Oct	A	UTEP (117)
4-Nov	A	Florida International (105)
11-Nov	H	UAB (No ranking)
18-Nov	H	Marshall (122)
25-Nov	A	Louisiana Tech (47)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	4-2	2-5	7-6-0	4-2-0	3-4-0	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	97	YPG	375.5	Total Defense;	55	YAPG	392
Passing Offense;	82	YPG	213.6	Passing Defense;	70	YAPG	229.5
Rushing Offense;	83	YPG	161.8	Rushing Defense;	54	YAPG	162.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

ROADRUNNERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Dalton Shrum	**QB**	**2170-20-6**	**313-4**	
Jalen Rhodes	**RB**		**827-9**	**160-1**
Josh Stewart	**WR**			**682-5**
Kerry Thomas	**WR**		**2-0**	**555-8**
Shaq Williams	**TE**			**158-2**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

The Roadrunners of Texas-San Antonio ended last year with a 6-7 record and as far as we can see, there is only one slot in either the offense or defense where either a starter returns or a top reserve is ready to stand up and fill a hole. UTSA also built the top recruiting class in Conference USA in 2017.

Back to be the trigger man of an offense that ranked 82nd in passing offense and 83rd in rushing offense in 2016 is quarterback Dalton Shrum (2170 passing yards, 20 touchdowns and 6 interceptions and 314 rushing yards for 4 touchdowns). He will have the advantage of having his top four receivers from 2016 back. We fully expect UTSA to improve its passing attack this year.

Jalen Rhodes will be the featured back in 2017 after amassing 827 rushing yards for 9 touchdowns

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

and 160 receiving yards for another touchdown. Depth will have to be identified in fall practices but as long as Rhodes is healthy, the Roadrunners will be just fine at running back.

The wide receiver starting three is set with the return of Josh Stewart (682 receiving yards for 5 touchdowns), Kerry Thomas (555 yards, 8 touchdowns) and Brady Jones (322 yards, 3 touchdowns). Marquez McNair (273 yards, 3 touchdowns) will get plenty of snaps in his reserve wide receiver role.The tight end will be 2016 leading reserve Shaq Williams (158 yards, 2 touchdowns) but Williams faces strong competition from juco transfer Robert Ursua. UTSA has several receivers returning with very limited playing experience but they will form a decent reserve unit.

The 2016 offensive line was no tower of strength allowing a whopping 43 sacks. However, the return of left guard Austin Pratt, center Juan Perez-Isidoro and right guard Stefan Beard provide the 2017 unit with a nice starting point. Top reserve Reed Darragh will step up at left tackle and juco transfer Josh Dunlop will slide in the the right tackle spot. This line will be above average but will not dominate the better defensive lines.

We fully expect the 2017 UTSA offense to be much better. They are talented and have experience and the defense looks capable of handing them the ball in far better field position this season.

R O A D R U N N E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Marcus Davenport	**DE**	**61**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Josiah Tauaefa	**LB**	**105**	**6**	**1**	**0**
La'Kei Bass	**LB**	**78**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Nate Gaines	**FS**	**74**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Eight returning starters and most of last year's second string returns for the 2017 season.

2016 All Conference end Marcus Davenport has been shifted to linebacker. That may tell you how high the coaching staff is on Solomon Wise. He and Kevin Strong will make up a potential laden end starting duo. Eric Banks looms as another possible starter at end. The defensive tackle spot will have King Newton as the starter but his backup, Baylen Baker will also record plenty of playing time. The line has a chance to be better than last year but until the newcomers convert their potential into on field production, we have to question the front three.

With Davenport shifting to linebacker where he will join freshman player of the year, Josiah Tauaefa and very productive La'Kei Bass, Texas-San Antonio may have the best starting linebacker unit in the conference. The linebackers will make plays all over the field and will ably steady pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Marcus Curry has a productive history and he and stud freshman De'Marco Guidry will be solid reserves. If the ends become productive, the front six will be a huge asset for the Roadrunners.

Lots of individual parts for this year's secondary are on hand. However, they all have something in common. They all need to get better defending passing plays. The back five doesn't have a legitimate play maker and one must step up. Cornerbacks Austin Jupe, Devon Davis and Teddrick McGhee all had very similar production stats in 2016. Those three are fighting for the two corner spots but the final decision may take place deep into fall practices. Nate Gaines has again latched onto the starting free safety spot. He is a monster tackler but must do better in passing coverage. The second safety will likely be C. J. Levine. The third safety assignment has a battle between Chase Dahlquist and Andrew Martel.

Yes, there are questions within the 2017 defense but there are also players with a high possibility of filling those holes well. We expect the defense to be much better in 2017 and carry more of the load.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Alabama Birmingham

Conference USA, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Legion Field

400 Graymont Ave W, Birmingham, AL 35204

Phone: (205) 254-2391

Web: http://www.uabsports.com

Capacity: 71,594

Surface: Field Turf **Altitude:** 573 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BILL CLARK*
O.C.:	*LES KOENNING*
D.C.:	*DAVID REEVES*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date	Opponent (Final Rank)	Score

DID NOT PLAY

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Alabama A & M (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Ball State (98)
16-Sep	H	Coastal Carolina
23-Sep	A	North Texas (99)
7-Oct	H	Louisiana Tech (47)
14-Oct	H	Middle Tennessee State (61)
21-Oct	A	Charlotte (109)
28-Oct	A	Southern Mississippi (74)
4-Nov	H	Rice (120)
11-Nov	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)
18-Nov	A	Florida (14)
25-Nov	H	UTEP (117)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY

SEASON BREAKDOWN

Total Offense;
Passing Offense;
Rushing Offense;
YPG = YARDS PER GAME

Total Defense;
Passing Defense;
Rushing Defense;
YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

B L A Z E R S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs

Did not play in 2016

Since The Blazers did not field a team in football in either of the last two years, it is impossible to make any meaningful comments about them on offense or defense. There are exciting things in the future for UAB Football, including a new on-campus stadium and new practice facilities, but for the 2017 season, we'll just have to watch and see what happens!

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

BLAZERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES

Did not play in 2016

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Western Kentucky Hilltoppers

Conference USA, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium

1906 College Heights Blvd Bowling Green, KY 42101

Phone: (270) 745-0111

Web: http://www.wkusports.com

Capacity: 22,113

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 527 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MIKE SANFORD, JR*
O.C.:	*JUNIOR ADAMS*
D.C.:	*CLAYTON WHITE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MIKE SANFORD, SR*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Rice (120)	46 - 14
10-Sep	A	Alabama (2)	10 – 38
17-Sep	A	Miami (OH) (83)	31 - 24
24-Sep	H	Vanderbilt (62)	30 – 31
1-Oct	H	Houston Baptist (Not D-1)	50 - 3
6-Oct	A	Louisiana Tech (47)	52 – 55
15-Oct	A	Middle Tennessee St (61)	44 - 43
22-Oct	H	Old Dominion (48)	59 - 24
29-Oct	A	Florida Atlantic (121)	52 - 3
5-Nov	H	Florida International (105)	49 - 21
12-Nov	H	North Texas (99)	45 - 7
26-Nov	A	Marshall (122)	60 - 6
3-Dec	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	58 - 44
BOWL	N	Memphis (45)	51 - 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Eastern Kentucky (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Illinois (108)
16-Sep	H	Louisiana Tech (47)
23-Sep	H	Ball State (98)
7-Oct	A	UTEP (117)
14-Oct	H	Charlotte (109)
21-Oct	A	Old Dominion (48)
28-Oct	H	Florida Atlantic (121)
4-Nov	A	Vanderbilt (62)
11-Nov	A	Marshall (122)
18-Nov	H	Middle Tennessee State (61)
25-Nov	A	Florida International (105)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	11-3	7-1	4-2	7-7-0	5-3-0	2-4-0	7-6-0	4-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	5	YPG	523.1	Total Defense;	41	YAPG	376.6
Passing Offense;	5	YPG	336.8	Passing Defense;	119	YAPG	279.4
Rushing Offense;	52	YPG	186.4	Rushing Defense;	2	YAPG	97.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HILLTOPPERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Mike White	**QB**	**4363-37-7**	**-74-0**	
Quinton Baker	**RB**		**542-4**	**43-0**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

When looking at the significant loses from Western Kentucky's head coach Jeff Brohm could be the biggest one. Mike Sanford takes over as the head man and the new offensive coordinator is Junior Adams. They are both offensively minded and could keep the Hilltoppers from making too much of a step back.

Ultra productive starting quarterback Mike White returns for 2017. He threw for a whopping 4363 yards for 37 touchdowns and just 7 interceptions in 2016. Drew Eckels was the primary backup at quarterback last year and he also is back.

With the receiving unit hit hard by graduation and early entry in the NFL, Western Kentucky will need to have a solid running game. Anthony Wales has departed leaving a big 1621 yards rushing hole to be filled. If he is fully recovered from a knee injury that has kept him off the field for two seasons, Le-on Allen could quickly make fans forget about Wales. He had 1542 yards rushing for 13 touchdowns

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

and added three more scores via pass receptions in 2014. If Allen isn't 100%, the load falls on Quinton Baker (542 rushing yards for 4 touchdowns) and Marquez Trigg (289 yards, 2 touchdowns). Hopefully D'Andre Fert\by has recovered from his shoulder injury and can be a contributor.

Taywan Taylor and Nicholas Norris have departed. They were the top two receivers in 2016 and replacing their outstanding production will be a task. Narcarius Fant was off to an excellent season racking up 407 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns but was knocked out with a knee injury. If he is fully recovered, he has the makings of this year's go-to guy. Lucky Jackson (395 yards, 2 touchdowns) will provide a second steady receiver. The third slot at wide receiver is wide open. Kylen Towner and Quis Jernighan are two possibilities along with redshirt freshmen Xavier Lane and Chris Cotto. Tight end is a mystery but incoming freshman Mike'Quan Deane is a strong candidate.

Left guard Brandon Ray and right guard Dennis Edwards are the only returning starting linemen. However, quality 2016 reserves, left tackle Matt Nord, center and converted guard Miles Pate and right tackle Peter Howell look capable of becoming starters and complete a line that could be a plus unit.

HILLTOPPERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Nick Dawson-Brents	**DE**	**37**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Derik Overstreet	**DE**	**34**	**4**	**1**	**0**
Chris Johnson	**DT**	**43**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Leverick Jackson	**CB**	**45**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Joe Brown	**CB**	**43**	**2**	**1**	**0**

Western Kentucky's 2016 ranking of second in the country for rushing defense is deceptive. Opponents found such easy goings throwing the ball that they seldom found it necessary to run the ball.

It is a bit surprising how bad the passing defense was in 2016 because the front four actually applied solid pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Ends Nick Dawson-Brents and Derik Overstreet racked up 11 sacks and chipped in stopping running plays. They both return this year and join fellow 2016 starter, tackle Chris Johnson. Johnson was strong against the run and actually added 4 more sacks for the D-Line. Julien Lewis looks like the second starting tackle and completes a decent front four. Juco transfer ends Jaylon George and Carson Jordan will supply badly needed depth.

The Hilltoppers took heavy loses at linebacker. Two solid, very productive starters must be replaced. Joel Iylegbuniwe is back and needs to develop into the unit's play maker. He will be able to pick up some of the lost production. Masai Whyte will move up from his backup role and fill a second linebacker slot. The third starter is a mystery. Under achieving senior Daeshawn Bertram is a possibility. Also, one of the defensive ends could shift to linebacker but we feel freshman Juwuan Jones is best suited for the job. Linebacker will be lacking depth so injuries must be avoided. Do not expect great things out of the linebacker rotation.

This year's secondary will benefit from the extra experience three returning starters got last year. The coaches hope that added experienced will result in a big increase in play making and covering receivers as the trio only racked up 3 interceptions last year. Cornerbacks Joe Brown and De'Andre Simmons have reclaimed their starting jobs but Leverick Jackson isn't far behind them. Strong safety Juwan Gardner is also a returning starter and will pair up with free safety Jason Johnson. However, backup strong safety Drell Greene may shift over to free safety. The secondary will be somewhat better in 2017 but even if the unit gels, it is hard to see this group being much better than average.

Expect this year's defense to be a bit better in passing defense and a bit worse in rushing defense. The net effect will be a 2017 defense about the same as in 2016.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

INDEPENDENTS

Notre Dame

BYU

Army

Massachusetts

As is the situation most seasons, Notre Dame will be the cream of the crop. The Irish will be working in a new quarterback but the offensive line will be so good, they will buy the new signal caller time to get up to speed. The Irish offense is littered with players who can become play makers. On the defensive side, the fate of the complete unit depends on how much improved the line will be in 2017. BYU will feature a nice offense that will benefit from one of the better offensive lines in the country. Expect BYU to throw the ball much more frequently this year and have a far more balanced attack. Defensively, the switch to a four man front will be tough. BYU simply doesn't have the “horses” within their offensive line to allow the rest of their defense to concentrate on their duties. Army will benefit from a group of veterans in their offense in 2017. The Black Knights of the Hudson will have their usual crushing running game. Army MUST rebuild their linebacker rotation and that will be the key to the 2017 defense. Having seven returning defensive starters back is a plus but one or two returnees need to step up and become play makers. UMass will be very similar to the 2016 group. The Minutemen will have an offense with plenty of holes, the most pronounced one will be within the O-Line. That line was the main reason UMass was unable to run the ball in 2016 and we do not see that the problem has been solved. The Massachusetts defense will be decent. They will have the same problem as last year. The offense will not be able to sustain drives and force the defense on the field way too frequently. UMass still is a solid recruiting class or two away from fitting in against D-1 competition.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Army Golden Knights

Independent

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Michie Stadium

639 Howard Road West Point, NY 10996

Phone: (845) 938-3303

Web: http://www.goarmysports.com

Capacity: 38,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 152 ft.

HEAD COACH: *JEFF MONKEN*
O.C.: *BRENT DAVIS*
D.C.: *JAY BATEMAN*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *SEAN SATUNIO*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	A	Temple (30)	28 - 13
10-Sep	H	Rice (120)	31 - 14
17-Sep	A	UTEP (117)	66 - 14
24-Sep	A	Buffalo (126)	20 – 23
8-Oct	A	Duke (93)	6 – 13
15-Oct	H	Lafayette	62 - 7
22-Oct	H	North Texas (99)	18 – 35
29-Oct	A	Wake Forest (59)	21 - 13
5-Nov	H	Air Force (40)	12 – 31
12-Nov	A	Notre Dame (82)	6 – 44
19-Nov	H	Morgan St (Not D-1)	60 - 3
3-Dec	H	Navy (35)	21 - 17
BOWL	N	North Texas (99)	38 - 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	H	Fordham (Non D-1)
9-Sep	H	Buffalo (126)
16-Sep	A	Ohio State (6)
23-Sep	A	Tulane (100)
30-Sep	H	UTEP (117)
7-Oct	A	Rice (120)
14-Oct	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
21-Oct	H	Temple (30)
4-Nov	A	Air Force (40)
11-Nov	H	Duke (93)
18-Nov	A	North Texas (99)
9-Dec	A	Navy (35)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	4-2	4-3	7-6-0	3-2-0	4-4-0	4-8-0	3-2-0	1-6-0

Total Defense;	65	YPG	413.9	Total Defense;	4	YAPG	291.5
Passing Defense;	128	YPG	74.4	Passing Defense;	6	YAPG	170.2
Rushing Defense;	2	YPG	339.5	Rushing Defense;	18	YAPG	121.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GOLDEN KNIGHTS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ahmad Bradshaw	**QB**	**710-4-9**	**826-8**	**12-0**
Andy Davidson	**FB**		**961-12**	

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Most teams become concerned when their leading receiver from the previous year does not return. At Army, when your leading receiver had only 16 receptions all season, the loss of the top pass catcher is hardly noticed.

Ahmad Bradshaw returns at quarterback and will lead a veteran offense. Bradshaw threw for just 710 yards for 4 touchdowns and 9 interceptions. At any other college, those numbers would send you permanently to the bench. At Army, the figures that count are the 826 yards rushing for 8 touchdowns.

Bradshaw is only one piece of the Army rushing game. Army's top nine rushers are back and the players who racked up 46 rushing touchdowns are all back. Fullback Andy Davidson led the team with 961 yards and 12 touchdowns. With a veteran line back for 2017, expect Army's rushing offense to once again flourish. Jordan Asberry (421 rushing yards), Kail Walker (378 yards), Tyler Campbell (326 yards) and Cole Macek (254 yards) are just a few of the capable backs returning and expected to

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

make contributions. Christian Poe and Jeff Ejekam will be the two starting wide receivers but do not expect them to increase their combined 250 receiving yards much in 2017. When Army needs a tight end, Quentin Parker will get the first call IF he can hold off challenges from four incoming freshmen.

Left tackle Brett Toth, center Bryce Hoilland, right guard Joshua Boylan and right tackle Rick Kurz are all returning and form four parts of a very good offensive line. Top 2016 reserve Mike Houghton will move up to the starting unit at left guard completing an excellent group. The line will be the strength of the offense and will be capable of opening big holes for the bus load of quality runners residing in Army's backfield. The line has some depth, mostly from young players who are aching for playing time.

Army will again have one of the best running games in the nation in 2017. The offense has a chance to be better than last year and the 2016 group led Army to a bowl game.

G O L D E N K N I G H T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
John Voit	**DE**	**26**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Alex Aukerman	**LB**	**59**	**8**	**0**	**0**
Kenneth Brinson	**LB**	**45**	**4**	**2**	**0**
Elijah Riley	**CB**	**47**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Rhyan England	**FS**	**53**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Usually when a team returns seven starters from the prior year, it is time for great optimism. Well, Army returns seven starters and most people are concerned their defense may take a pretty good sized step back. Why? Three of the four players lost were the heart and soul of last year's defense and accounted for a huge part of the play making.

The three man defensive line returns two starters. End John Voit and tackle Andrew McLean are okay but are nothing special and need to up the pressure they apply to quarterbacks. Amadeo West is the top contender for the opening at the second end spot. Open competition in the fall could change this front three dramatically.

The major reason for concern about this year's defense is the loses incurred within the four man linebacker unit. Jeremy Timpf and Andrew King combined for 184 tackles in 2015 and last year they managed to come up with 209 tackles. That's a lot of production needed to be distributed to the new starting four. Alex Aukerman is back and is a star in the making. He is a terror rushing the passer and will assume a nice chunk of the tackles lost to graduation. Kenneth Brinson is another returning starter and will do a solid job. Army had 16 linebackers on its spring roster so you can expect significant competition for the two open linebacker jobs. James Nachigal and Calen Holt were main reserves last year and they will be given first consideration but they are not guaranteed starting jobs. The linebacker unit will not be as good as last year and Army coaches will be working hard to insure the drop in production will not derail the 2017 defense.

The Army secondary lost one starter but that was a significant loss. Safety Xavier Moss was the leader of the secondary so the Black Knights of the Hudson will not only need to replace his production but find a new leader. Cornerbacks Elijah Riley and Jaylon McClinton return along with free safety Rhyan England. Marcus Hyatt will move into the strong safety slot.This will be a good secondary but they will not have as talented a front seven in front of them as last year's unit did.

Army's defense will not be as good as last year's but their step back will be offset by the offense's improvement.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Brigham Young Cougars

Independent

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: LaVell Edwards Stadium

30 Smith Fieldhouse Provo, UT 84602

Phone: (801) 422-8948

Web: http://www.byucougars.com

Capacity: 63,470

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 4550 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*KALANI SITAKE*
O.C.:	*TY DETMER*
D.C.:	*ILAISA TUIAKI*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ED LAMB*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Arizona (103)	18 - 16
10-Sep	A	Utah (24)	19 – 20
17-Sep	H	UCLA (81)	14 – 17
24-Sep	A	West Virginia (21)	32 – 35
30-Sep	H	Toledo (46)	55 - 53
8-Oct	A	Michigan St (97)	31 - 14
14-Oct	H	Mississippi St (70)	28 - 21
20-Oct	A	Boise St (26)	27 – 28
5-Nov	A	Cincinnati (101)	20 - 3
12-Nov	H	Southern Utah (Not D-1)	37 - 7
19-Nov	H	Massachusetts (125)	51 - 9
26-Nov	H	Utah St (106)	28 - 10
BOWL	N	Wyoming (52)	24 - 21

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
26-Aug	H	Portland State (Not D-1)
2-Sep	H	LSU (15)
9-Sep	H	Utah (24)
16-Sep	H	Wisconsin (10)
29-Sep	A	Utah State (106)
6-Oct	H	Boise State (26)
14-Oct	A	Mississippi State (70)
21-Oct	A	East Carolina (110)
28-Oct	H	San Jose State (111)
4-Nov	A	Fresno State (128)
11-Nov	A	UNLV (104)
18-Nov	H	Massachusetts (125)
25-Nov	A	Hawaii (94)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	5-1	4-3	9-4-0	3-3-0	6-1-0	3-9-0	2-4-0	1-5-0

Total Offense;	71	YPG	399.1	Total Defense;	34	YAPG	365
Passing Offense;	96	YPG	197.9	Passing Defense;	96	YAPG	252.2
Rushing Offense;	41	YPG	201.2	Rushing Defense;	9	YAPG	112.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

COUGARS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

People outside of Utah said, “Who?” when Kalani Sitake was made the new head coach last year. After a solid 9-4 record in year one, including a bowl victory, most people feel BYU got the right man.

Last year, BYU seemed to get away from their passing game simply to accommodate the talents of now departed quarterback Taysom Hill. Tanner Mangum will take over the helm and is an experienced option who happens to perfectly fit what offensive coordinator Ty Detmer wants to do. Mangum started 12 games in 2015 and was the starter in BYU's bowl win last year. He will be a far superior passer when compared to Hill.

A team has to feel it when they lose the career record holding running back. Jamaal Williams does not return in 2017 and finding an adequate replacement is about all BYU can expect to do. Replacing his total production and leadership is almost impossible. Squally Canada was the primary backup last year but it is not automatic that he will get the featured back designation. Riley Burt is getting strong consideration but the biggest buzz is about true freshman Ula Tolutau. Tolutau has the most upside so do not be shocked to see him atop the depth chart come opening kickoff.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Brigham Young Cougars

BYU loses its top three receivers from 2016. Speedy Jonah Trinnaman is the most productive, returning wide receiver. He should benefit greatly from Mangum taking over at quarterback. Expect BYU to utilize a lot of two wide receiver sets. The second assignment is a mystery as nobody has grabbed the job. Micah Simon and juco transfer Beau Tanner are possibilities. BYU has a dandy pair of tight ends. That's why we expect an increase in two wide receiver sets as the coaches will attempted to get both Morni Laulu-Pututau and Matt Bushman on the field at the same time. Expect every receiver in the rotation to have significant increases in their production as the BYU offense will rediscover their passing game.

The offensive line will make BYU's 2017 offense sing! This is one of the better lines in the country. Center Tejean Koroma is a legitimate All American candidate. Left guard Keyan Norman, right guard Tuni Kanuch and right tackle Thomas Shoaf give the line four excellent parts. Juco transfer Taipe “John” Vaka and 2016 top reserve J. J. Nwigwe are battling for the left tackle job. Regardless of who wins the job, this excellent line will key BYU having a potent offense in 2017.

C O U G A R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Fred Warner	**LB**	**86**	**2**	**3**	**0**
Butch Pau'u	**LB**	**83**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Francis Bernard	**LB**	**79**	**2**	**3**	**0**

BYU will be switching to 4-3 defensive formation in 2017.

The timing for this defensive switch may not be very good as the Cougars are trying to replace the starting front three from last year and add the need for a fourth D-Lineman. Sione Takitaki, Handsome Tanielu, Merrill Taliauli, Kesni Tausinga, Trajan Pili, Moses Kaumatule, Corbin Kaufusi and Tevita Mo’Unga are all candidates for the starting front four but nobody has definitely claimed a starting job. Add to that group true freshman Lorenzo Fauatea. End Pili and nose tackle Tausinga appear to have the lead at their positions. When it isn't possible to even make an educated guess about what four players will make up the starting front four, you have to have questions about the unit.

Linebackers Fred Warner, Butch Pau'u and Francis Bernard are all returning starters. They will lead a very talented and deep linebacker rotation. All three are excellent against the run and capable when asked to drop back and cover receivers. Some of that depth will come from true freshman Will Sedgwick who is returning from a two year mission. The linebacker unit may frequently be called upon to cover up for the new defensive line but they are capable of doing that and still doing their own jobs. Linebacker will be a big team plus.

The secondary lost free safety Kai Nacua. Troy Warner and Dayan Lake are penciled in for the two cornerback jobs and will be joined by returning starter strong safety Micah Hannemann. The open free safety assignment has a heated battle between Kavika Fonua and Matt Hadley. Freshman Chaz Ah You could insert himself in the competition at safety. The secondary will be a solid group but will not be able to display their true talents until something like a line is placed in front of them.

The line will likely be a problem, especially early in the season. The line will need time to gel as a unit and while that is taking place, the BYU defense will suffer.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Massachusetts Minutemen

Independent

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Gillette Stadium

101 University Dr. Suite B5 Amherst, MA 01002-2376

Phone: (413) 545-0111

Web: http://www.umassathletics.com

Capacity: 68,756

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 319 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MARK WHIPPLE*
O.C.:	*MARK WHIPPLE*
D.C.:	*ED PINKHAM*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MARK MICHAELS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Florida (14)	7 – 24
10-Sep	H	Boston College (66)	7 – 26
17-Sep	H	Florida International (105)	21 - 13
24-Sep	H	Mississippi St (70)	35 – 47
1-Oct	H	Tulane (100)	24 – 31
7-Oct	A	Old Dominion (48)	16 – 36
15-Oct	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	28 – 56
22-Oct	A	South Carolina (75)	28 – 34
29-Oct	H	Wagner (Not D-1)	34 - 10
5-Nov	A	Troy (41)	31 – 52
19-Nov	A	BYU (44)	9 – 51
26-Nov	A	Hawaii (94)	40 – 46

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
26-Aug	H	Hawaii (94)
2-Sep	A	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Old Dominion (48)
15-Sep	A	Temple (30)
23-Sep	A	Tennessee (25)
30-Sep	H	Ohio (58)
14-Oct	A	South Florida (19)
21-Oct	H	Georgia Southern (91)
28-Oct	H	Appalachian State (37)
4-Nov	A	Mississippi State (70)
11-Nov	H	Maine (Not D-1)
18-Nov	A	BYU (44)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	2-10	2-4	0-6	7-5-0	3-3-0	4-2-0	7-5-0	3-3-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	109	YPG	356.2	Total Defense;	99	YAPG	452.7
Passing Offense;	43	YPG	256.7	Passing Defense;	106	YAPG	259.6
Rushing Offense;	124	YPG	99.5	Rushing Defense;	81	YAPG	193.1

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MINUTEMEN OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Andrew Ford	**QB**	**2665-26-14**	**-96-2**	
Marquis Young	**RB**		**898-4**	**147-0**
Andy Isabella	**WR**		**100-0**	**801-7**
Adam Breneman	**TE**			**808-8**

Two returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

UMass continues its transition into Division 1 football. They have experienced the same growing pains of any college football moving up to the “big boy” level. They have found there is a big difference between the quality of players they faced at the lower level compared to who they are now facing.

UMass ranked 43rd in passing offense and 124th for rushing last season. That pretty well summarizes the problem the 2016 offense had. The only offense they could generate was through the air. That earned the Minutemen a bad 2-10 season record. The person leading that passing attack was Andrew Ford (2665 passing yards for 26 touchdowns and 14 interceptions). He is back for the 2017 season but will face very similar challenges as he faced last year.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Lining up in back of Ford will be fullback Malik Lee, a primary backup in 2016. Running behind Lee's blocks will be Marquis Young (894 rushing yards, 147 receiving yards). Considering how poorly last year's offensive line blocked, Young didn't have a bad year. He will be a key in this year's offense.

Wide receiver Andy Isabella (801 receiving yards) and tight end Adam Breneman (808 receiving yards) provide Ford with two proven, productive pass catchers. The second wide receiver job is not filled and frankly there are not any really attractive options. Based on 2016 production, Sidig Palmer is the leading candidate. Depth will be lacking so the starters need to remain healthy.

We have already made negative comments about last year's O-Line. The stats showed that group couldn't run block and when you add in the fact they allowed 45 sacks, you realize they couldn't pass block either. From that group, three starters need to be replaced. Left guard Raquan Thomas and right tackle Jack Driscoll return and will function as the foundation for the rebuilt line. Center Derek Dumias and right guard Dan DiNicola will move up to the starting unit after being members of the second string last season. Thomas may slide over to the left tackle slot and allow Jake Largay to take over at left guard. In no other part of the UMass 2017 team is it more apparent that recruiting needs to make at least two steps up. There simply isn't much D-! talent in the O-Line rotation.

M I N U T E M E N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Sha-Ki Holines	**DE**	**44**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Ali Ali-Musa	**NT**	**37**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Steve Casali	**LB**	**105**	**4**	**0**	**3**
Isaiah Rodgers	**CB**	**39**	**0**	**2**	**1**
Lee Moses	**SS**	**43**	**0**	**0**	**0**

The Minutemen have 10 starters back from a 2016 defense ranked 106th against the pass and 81st versus the run. Neither of those two rankings are impressive but with another year of experience under the belts of those 10 starters and with some game tested, productive also back, the 2017 UMass defense should be better and could be measurably better.

The Minutemen operate out of a 3-4 formation. The entire front three is back. End Sha-Ki Holines, nose tackle Ali Ali-Musa and tackle Joe Previte all were decent last season and considering the help they will have from the linebacker unit, we expect the line to become more productive.

Steve Casali, Colbert Calhoun, Da'Sean Downey and Tedrick Lowery are the returning starting linebackers. Cassell is the unit's chief play maker but the foursome can all do a good job stopping the run and getting after opposing quarterbacks. James Bowe, Shane Huber, Lucas Amato, Jeremy Rodriguez and Roderick Jones will provide production when they are asked to spell the starters. The linebacker rotation will be the strength of this year's defense and be a big team plus.

The only loss the defense experienced since last year was at free safety. The duo of Jackson Porter and Isaiah Rodgers are back to man the corners. If they expect to retain those duties, they must do a far better job in pass coverage and make plays. The pair had only two interceptions in 2016. Returning starting strong safety Lee Moses and new free safety Charan Singh complete the back four. Like their cornerback brothers, Lee and Singh have to do better against passing teams. No safety made an interception in 2016. Jesse Monteiro is another option at safety and is the best tackler of the group. The secondary must take advantage of the very solid front seven. The secondary will be free to wheel and deal and hopefully make plays.

The defense for UMass this year will be a nice group. They should hand the ball to their offense in favorable position frequently. Is the defense good enough to cover for a really unbalanced and below average offense? No but the defense is good enough to keep UMass from being as embarrassed as the team was in 2016.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Independent

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Notre Dame Stadium

326 N. Hill Street Notre Dame, IN 46556

Phone: (574) 631-5000

Web: http://www.und.com

Capacity: 80,795

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 735 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BRIAN KELLY*
O.C.:	*CHIP LONG*
D.C.:	*MIKE ELKO*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*BRIAN POLIAN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
4-Sep	A	Texas (73)	47 – 50
10-Sep	H	Nevada (102)	39 - 10
17-Sep	H	Michigan St (97)	28 – 36
24-Sep	H	Duke (93)	35 – 38
1-Oct	A	Syracuse (79)	50 - 33
8-Oct	A	North Carolina St (51)	3 – 10
15-Oct	H	Stanford (17)	10 – 17
29-Oct	H	Miami (FL) (20)	30 - 27
5-Nov	A	Navy (35)	27 – 28
12-Nov	H	Army (76)	44 - 6
19-Nov	H	Virginia Tech (16)	31 – 34
26-Nov	A	USC (3)	27 – 45

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Temple (30)
9-Sep	H	Georgia (50)
16-Sep	A	Boston College (66)
23-Sep	A	Michigan State (97)
30-Sep	H	Miami (OH) (83)
7-Oct	A	North Carolina (43)
21-Oct	H	USC (3)
28-Oct	H	North Carolina State (51)
4-Nov	H	Wake Forest (59)
11-Nov	A	Miami (FL) (20)
18-Nov	H	Navy (35)
25-Nov	A	Stanford (17)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-4	1-4	4-8-0	3-5-0	1-3-0	6-6-0	3-5-0	3-1-0

Total Offense;	62	YPG	417.6	Total Defense;	42	YAPG	378.8
Passing Offense;	48	YPG	254.3	Passing Defense;	21	YAPG	196.4
Rushing Offense;	80	YPG	163.3	Rushing Defense;	72	YAPG	182.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

FIGHTING IRISH OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Josh Adams	**RB**		**933-5**	**193-1**
Equanimeous S. Brown	**WR**			**961-9**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

What the heck happened to Notre Dame last year? Many “experts” felt they were worthy of being ranked in the top 10 in the country. After that early season hype, Notre Dame went on to a 4-8 season and the head coach found himself directly on the hot seat and the temperature will rise daily until he gets things turned around. His first move was to get a new offensive coordinator, Chip Long. He will have the task of getting his offense to improve over last year's 48th passing ranking and 80th ranking for the run.

The Irish will be led by duel threat quarterback Brandon Wimbush. Last year's top two quarterbacks are gone and the Irish now have only two scholarship quarterbacks on their roster. Wimbush is a duel threat signal caller. Wimbush will have the normal adjustment period but all indications from spring practices are he is ready and up to the task. Ian Book will be his backup.

Top rusher Josh Adams (933 rushing yards and 193 receiving yards) returns. He will be a huge

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

asset for Wimbush as Notre Dame will likely rely more heavily on its running game as Wimbush settles in. Dexter Williams will be a reliable reserve at running back. Expect the running back rotation to be heavy contributors this year at Notre Dame.

Three of the team's top four receivers return with Equanimeous St. Brown (961 receiving yards) leading the way. Kevin Steverson (461 yards receiving) and C. J. Sanders (293 yards) round out a capable wide receiver starting trio. Tight end will be an extremely important part of this year's passing game. Durham Smythe is the returning starter but he will have huge challenges from Alize Jones, who missed the 2016 season due to academic issues and freshman stud Brock Wright.

Left tackle Mike McGlicnchey, left guard Quenton Nelson, center Sam Mustipher and right tackle Alex Bars will provide experience and depth to a line that has a strong chance of being very good. Bars will move to the right tackle opening making way for redshirt freshman Liam Eichenberg to assume the right tackle job. There is also good depth for the O-Line with redshirt freshmanTommy Kraemer and others on hand. Kraemer could steal Eichenberg's spot. The line will be outstanding and allow the new quarterback and new coordinator to settle in.

F I G H T I N G I R I S H D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jerry Tillery	**DT**	**37**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Nyles Morgan	**LB**	**88**	**4**	**0**	**1**
Julian Love	**CB**	**45**	**0**	**1**	**1**
Drue Tranquill	**S**	**79**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Last year's defense was solid against passing teams (ranked 21st) and much less productive against running attacks (ranked 72nd). They allowed an average of 27.8 points per game. That figure must improve this year if Notre Dame wants to be relevant in 2017.

Last year's problems defending against the pass began with a defensive line unable to apply meaningful pressure on opposing quarterbacks. The projected starting front four at the end of spring practices was ends Daelin Hayes and Andrew Trumnbetti and the tackles were Daniel Cage and Jerry Tillery. Trumbetti and Tillery were starters in 2016. This projected D-Line did nor record a single sack in 2016!!! If that doesn't change, expect true freshman Darnell Ewell to get more and more playing time.

Notre Dame has seven 2016 starters on hand for 2017. Two of those are Nyles Morgan and Te'Von Conley. They will be joined by Greer Martini, a solid reserve last year. Asmar Bilal is also back and will provide productive depth. This will be a productive linebacker group but it could be even better if the front four would begin getting pressure on quarterbacks.

Drue Tranquill will be the leader of the 2017 Notre Dame secondary. He does a good job both stopping runners and defending against the pass. Devin Studstill is also a returning starter and will again man the other safety assignment. There is also established depth at safety and gives Notre Dame a solid safety rotation. The third returning starter in the 2017 secondary will be cornerback Julian Love. He and new running mate Donte Vaughn both benefitted from getting game experience last season and we expect they will do a far better job of making plays this year. The secondary is talented but all the talent in the world can not be productive unless the front seven applies significant pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

Notre Dame's defense has a chance to be very good but it all hinges on the front four learning how to rush the quarterback. If the line again fails in that area, expect the defense to be about the same as last year.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
24 PUBLIC SQUARE, 15th FLOOR
CLEVELAND, OH 44113
216-566-4622
COMMISSIONER: DR. JON STEINBRECHER

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

EAST DIVISION

Miami
Ohio
Bowling Green
Akron
Buffalo
Kent State

WEST DIVISION

Toledo
Western Michigan
Eastern Michigan
Central Michigan
Northern Illinois
Ball State

Rainman

EAST DIVISION

Miami (OH)
Ohio
Bowling Green
Buffalo
Akron
Kent State

WEST DIVISION

Northern Illinois
Toledo
Western Michigan
Central Michigan
Ball State
Eastern Michigan

East Division

Miami's offense took off when Gus Ragland was inserted in the lineup. He's back and has all the necessary pieces surrounding him for an excellent offense. Defensively, Miami has a chance of being really good if they can get production out of the ends. Ohio simply didn't have enough offense last year. Their defense was the focal point of the team. This year's offense will be somewhat better and the defense will not make as big a step back as most people think. Bowling Green will get improved quarterback play as James Morgan matures. Bowling Green must fill some holes at linebacker so we expect the unit to be okay but not great. Akron does nothing exceptional on either side of the line but they also do nothing terribly. Measuring Buffalo's improvement will be difficult. They have some pieces on offense that could be much better and defensively, they have a nice back seven but the line looks almost as bad as last year. Kent State lost a lot on defense and that unit is the only thing that kept Kent State from being winless last year. Now the defense is almost as bad as the offense.

West Division

Toledo will be required to win every game in a shootout but they seem to have a potent enough offense to do just that. The other teams we expect to contend are incapable of scoring enough to keep up with Toledo. Western Michigan will be relying on a still solid defense as their offense will be far less productive in 2017. Eastern Michigan's offense returns a slew of skill position players but has work to do within the line. The same can be said for their defense. Everything for Central Michigan's offense hinges on finding an effective new quarterback. Defensively, Central Michigan has holes to fill but seem to have replacements ready to fill those holes. Northern Illinois has to identify a quarterback and the front seven on defense is bad. Need we say more? Ball State has one positive and that is their running game. Other than that, Ball State has nothing to get excited about, especially on defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Akron Zips

Mid American Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: InfoCision Stadium-Summa Field
James A. Rhodes Arena Akron, OH 44325
Phone: (330) 972-7111
Web: http://www.gozips.com
Capacity: 30,000
Surface: ProGrass **Altitude:** 1,004 ft.

HEAD COACH: *TERRY BOWDEN*
O.C.: *A.J. MILWEE*
D.C.: *CHUCK AMATO*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *JEFF BOWDEN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Virginia Military (Not D-1)	47 - 24
10-Sep	A	Wisconsin (10)	10 – 54
17-Sep	A	Marshall (122)	65 - 38
24-Sep	H	Appalachian St (37)	38 – 45
1-Oct	A	Kent St (119)	31 - 27
8-Oct	H	Miami (OH) (83)	35 - 13
15-Oct	H	Western Michigan (12)	0 – 41
22-Oct	A	Ball St (98)	35 - 25
27-Oct	A	Buffalo (126)	20 – 41
2-Nov	H	Toledo (46)	17 – 48
9-Nov	H	Bowling Green (107)	28 – 38
22-Nov	A	Ohio (58)	3 – 9

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Penn State (7)
9-Sep	H	Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Non D-1)
16-Sep	H	Iowa State (96)
23-Sep	A	Troy (41)
30-Sep	A	Bowling Green (107)
7-Oct	H	Ball State (98)
14-Oct	A	Western Michigan (12)
21-Oct	A	Toledo (46)
28-Oct	H	Buffalo (126)
7-Nov	A	Miami (OH) (83)
14-Nov	H	Ohio (58)
21-Nov	H	Kent State (119)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	2-4	3-3	4-8-0	1-5-0	3-3-0	5-7-0	2-4-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	84	YPG	387.4	Total Defense;	114	YAPG	466
Passing Offense;	45	YPG	255.3	Passing Defense;	79	YAPG	241.3
Rushing Offense;	111	YPG	132.2	Rushing Defense;	107	YAPG	224.7

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

ZIPS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Thomas Woodson	**QB**	**2079-18-6**	**34-1**	
Austin Wolf	**WR**			**550-5**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Akron's offense has some rebuilding to do but they have the advantages of having an excellent quarterback and almost all of their 2016 offensive line's first and second units back.

Thomas Woodson is that quarterback and he is looking to cap off his college career with another solid performance. His job might be more difficult as Akron lost their two top receivers.

The Akron running game will be by committee with Van Edwards, Manny Morgan and Warren Ball all back. None of the three is capable of being the featured back but when you combine their 2016 productions, you have a 1000+ yard running back rotation. Oregon State transfer Deltron Sands is another option.

With the departure of Jerome Lane and Jojo Natson, the Zips must replace almost 2000 receiving yards. Part of that slack will be picked up by Austin Wolf. Do not be surprised if Wolf ends the season

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

as a 1000 yard receiver. He will be joined by A. J. Coney, who also will handle kick returns. Former Nebraska transfer Kevin Gladney will be called upon for much heavier contributions as he fills out the wide receiver starting unit. If Gladney struggles, Pittsburgh transfer Tra'Von Chapman will be there to take his snaps. Mykel Traylor-Bennett will be the tight end and we can expect him to become a more important part of the passing game.

Right tackle Jovann Letuli, right guard Kyle Ritz, center Lavonne Gauthney and left guard Stephen Erickson are all returning starters. They will be joined by key 2016 left tackle reserve Trevor Brown. The Zips also have some decent depth backing up this starting five. The Akron offensive line will not be a great unit but they will be good. They will buy the offense time as a new receiving rotation gets established.

ZIPS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ibrahima Camara	**DT**	**30**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Darius Copeland	**NT**	**33**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Ulysees Gilbert	**LB**	**121**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Alvin Davis	**CB**	**87**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Zach Guiser	**SS**	**53**	**1**	**1**	**0**

Akron's defense was not good in 2016 ranking 114th in total defense. The unit allowed 6.05 yards per play and 466.0 yards per game. Seven starters from that unit return for 2017.

The front four of ends Deon'tae Moore and Darius Copeland and tackles Ibrahima Camara and Brock Boxen must improve their pass rushing if Akron is to improve defensively.

The linebacking unit will be a team plus IF Brian Bell returns. He was not on the spring roster but all indications are that was a clerical error. He, Ulysees Gilbert and Andrew Hauser form a solid trio.

The secondary needs to replace both starting cornerbacks but 2016 reserves Jordan George and Kyron Brown will join safeties Alvin Davis and Zach Guiser to form a working man's secondary. If the D-Line gets better pressure, this secondary and the whole defense will be better in 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Ball State Cardinals

Mid American Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Scheumann Stadium

2000 W. University Ave Muncie, IN 47306

Phone: (765) 289-1241

Web: http://www.ballstatesports.com

Capacity: 22,500

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 951 ft.

HEAD COACH: *MIKE NEU*
O.C.: *JOEY LYNCH*
D.C.: *DAVID ELSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *PATRICK DOUGHERTY*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS				2017 SCHEDULE		
Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score	Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Georgia St (112)	31 - 21	2-Sep	A	Illinois (108)
10-Sep	A	Indiana (64)	20 – 30	9-Sep	H	UAB (No ranking)
17-Sep	H	Eastern Kentucky (Not D-1)	41 - 14	16-Sep	H	Tennessee Tech (Non D-1)
24-Sep	A	Florida Atlantic (121)	31 - 27	23-Sep	A	Western Kentucky (23)
1-Oct	H	Northern Illinois (92)	24 – 31	30-Sep	A	Western Michigan (12)
8-Oct	A	Central Michigan (78)	21 – 24	7-Oct	A	Akron (82)
15-Oct	A	Buffalo (126)	31 - 21	21-Oct	H	Central Michigan (78)
22-Oct	H	Akron (89)	25 – 35	26-Oct	H	Toledo (46)
1-Nov	H	Western Michigan (12)	20 – 52	2-Nov	A	Eastern Michigan (67)
8-Nov	H	Eastern Michigan (67)	41 – 48	9-Nov	A	Northern Illinois (108)
16-Nov	A	Toledo (46)	19 – 37	16-Nov	H	Buffalo (126)
22-Nov	A	Miami (OH) (83)	20 – 21	21-Nov	H	Miami (OH) (83)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	1-4	3-4	7-5-0	1-4-0	6-1-0	4-8-0	3-2-0	1-6-0

Total Offense;	37	YPG	449.2	Total Defense;	116	YAPG	470.3
Passing Offense;	66	YPG	229.2	Passing Defense;	126	YAPG	319.7
Rushing Offense;	30	YPG	220	Rushing Defense;	47	YAPG	150.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CARDINALS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Riley Neal	**QB**	**2514-13-12**	**540-8**	**10-0**
James Gilbert	**RB**		**1332-12**	**18-0**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Ball State was 4-8 last year but four of their loses were be a touchdown or less and an additional two loses were by 10 points. As we have always said, good teams find ways to win and conversely, bad teams find ways to lose. It is safe to say Ball State was a bad team in 2016 but will they be any better this season?

Ball State ranked 66th in the country for passing offense and 30th in rushing offense. Back from last year is their starting quarterback, Riley Neal. He enters his third year as a starter but he has yet to establish himself as a difference maker when throwing the ball. His touchdown to interception ratio is horrible. His running ability is a team asset but for the Ball State offense to improve, Riley has to get better throwing the ball.

Ball State returns its running game and his name is James Gilbert. He was a first team All MAC selection last year as he racked up an impressive 1332 yards. His return will guarantee opposing defenses

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

will not be able to pass rush continually. The late transfer of second top receiver Damon Hazelton left the receiving unit without a primary receiver and decreased the probability of Riley Neal improving as much as needed. KeVonn Mabon was last year's top receiver and he also does not return. Corey Lacanaria, Jordan Hogue and Devin Reece exited spring drills as the starting wide receiver unit but redshirt Ty Ritz and freshmen Justin Gibbs and Khalil Newton will all be in the mix for playing time when the fall practice session rolls around. Tight end Danny Pinter completes the pass catching unit. There are way too many question marks in this unit and could be a problem area.

The O-Line has a couple of holes to fill. Unfortunately they are both on the left side where Ball State must find a new starting tackle and a new starting guard. Center Andrew Poenitsch, right guard Pay Maloney and right tackle Alex Joss provide an experienced foundation around which State can build. Kadin Booker has been penciled in as the new left tackle and Vinnie Palaveti has landed the left guard job but watch freshmen Curtis Blackwell and Jake McKenvie in fall practices.

CARDINALS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Anthony Winbush	**DE**	**24**	**8.5**	**0**	**1**
Kevin Thurmon	**DT**	**23**	**4.5**	**0**	**0**
Kevin Willis	**DT**	**22**	**2**	**0**	**1**
Marc Walton	**CB**	**63**	**0**	**3**	**1**

Ball State was terrible on the defensive side in 2016. They ranked 116th in total defense but the real problem area was with their 126th ranking against the pass.

The front four has lost two starters from the 2016 unit but end Anthony Winbush and tackles Kevin Thurmon and Kevin Willis all return and form three parts of a solid unit. Winbush and Thurmon combined for 13 sacks last season. Youngster Chris Crumb will fill the vacant nose tackle slot. The front four should actually be better than last year but as you will soon see, they will need to be better.

The complete starting linebacker group from 2016 is gone. Damon Singleton was a key reserve last year and will graduate to the starting unit. After Singleton, the rest of the two deep rotation is a blur. At the end of spring practices, redshirt freshman Brandon Martin and untested Jacob White were the other two starters. The linebacker rotation is definitely still a work in progress and you can expect as many as five freshmen to get legitimate looks during fall practices. Linebacker will be a problem area for Ball State all season long.

The situation at cornerback is markedly better. Marc Walton will be the playmaker for the secondary. His 63 tackles and 3 interceptions in 2016 will need to be at least matched if the secondary is going to improve. He will pair up with 2016 key reserve Josh Miller. Safety looks like a black hole for Ball State in 2017. Romeo Wade is listed as the starting strong safety and his running mate is listed as Armani McNulty. Lamar Anderson is another possibility as are a group of seven untested freshmen and redshirt freshmen. With such a void at safety, it looks like an uphill battle for Ball State to improve on it 126th passing defense 2016 ranking.

Ball State will again be an inferior defensive unit and unless the front four does a stellar job, opponents will have their way through the air and find it unnecessary to run the ball.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Bowling Green Falcons

Mid American Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Doyt Perry Stadium

1610 Stadium Drive Bowling Green, OH 43403

Phone: (419) 372-2401

Web: http://www.bgsufalcons.com

Capacity: 23,724

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 691 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MIKE JINKS*
O.C.:	*KEVIN KILMER*
D.C.:	*PERRY ELIANO*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MATT BROCK*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Ohio St (6)	10 – 77
10-Sep	H	North Dakota (Not D-1)	27 - 26
17-Sep	H	Middle Tennessee St (61)	21 – 41
24-Sep	A	Memphis (45)	3 – 77
1-Oct	H	Eastern Michigan (67)	25 – 28
8-Oct	A	Ohio (58)	24 – 30
15-Oct	A	Toledo (46)	35 – 42
22-Oct	H	Miami (OH) (83)	26 – 40
1-Nov	A	Northern Illinois (92)	20 – 45
9-Nov	A	Akron (89)	38 - 28
15-Nov	H	Kent St (119)	42 - 7
25-Nov	H	Buffalo (126)	27 - 19

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Michigan State (97)
9-Sep	H	South Dakota (Non D-1)
16-Sep	A	Northwestern (55)
23-Sep	A	Middle Tennessee State (61)
30-Sep	H	Akron (82)
7-Oct	A	Miami (OH) (83)
14-Oct	H	Ohio (58)
21-Oct	H	Northern Illinois (108)
31-Oct	A	Kent State (119)
7-Nov	A	Buffalo (126)
15-Nov	H	Toledo (46)
21-Nov	A	Eastern Michigan (67)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-3	1-5	4-8-0	1-5-0	3-3-0	4-8-0	1-5-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	69	YPG	406.9	Total Defense;	113	YAPG	464.3
Passing Offense;	71	YPG	226.1	Passing Defense;	115	YAPG	273.3
Rushing Offense;	58	YPG	180.8	Rushing Defense;	79	YAPG	190.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

FALCONS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
James Morgan	**QB**	**2082-16-15**	**-72-0**	
Josh Cleveland	**RB**		**649-2**	**41-0**
Scott Miller	**WR**			**968-10**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

While Bowling Green finished the 2016 with a 4-8 record, they did win their final three games and Falcons fans are hoping that was a sign of better things to come in 2017.

The BG passing offense was ranked 71st nationally in 2016 and the rushing offense was 58th. Improvement in both areas will be essential for any 2017 improvement.

Quarterback James Morgan returns after a good and bad redshirt freshman season in 2016. His late season improvement was a key factor for the Falcons closing out the season with three wins. His touchdown to interception ratio was bad but considering his youth, it was not unexpected. We expect him to cut down on the picks and increase his td passes.

Josh Cleveland was the team's second leading rusher last season. He will become the featured back

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

this year assuming he can hold off the challenge of redshirt freshman Bryson Denley. Bowling Green will have a decent running game and if we are correct and their quarterback play improves, the running game just might make a step forward.

The receiving unit is an area of extreme interest in 2017. The Falcons will run out of a four receiver set and two of those slots will be well manned by Scott Miller and Teo Redding. After spring drills, Marquis Zimmerman and Janarvis Pough held the other two slots but expect extreme competition for those last two jobs as junior college transfer Tristan Davis, Oregon State transfer Datrin Guyton, freshman Matthew Wilcox and redshirt freshman Jared Wyatt get into the mix in fall practices. The receiving unit will be a team asset and certainly aide the maturity process for their young quarterback.

The O-Line has a rebuild on their hands as left tackle Ryan Hunter and center Tim McAuliffe are the only two returning 2016 starters. Fortunately, a majority of last year's second unit are back. Left guard Lorenzo Taborn, right guard Jack Kramer and right tackle Austin Labus all will move up to the starting unit after getting solid game experience last year. The line will be a decent unit again this year.

We expect the Bowling Green offense will be quite improved this season.

FALCONS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
David Konowaiski	**DE**	**50**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Tyrik Jones	**DE**	**24**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Gus Schwieterman	**DT**	**28**	**5**	**0**	**1**
Robert Jackson	**CB**	**47**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Jamari Bozeman	**FS**	**71**	**0**	**3**	**0**

Bowling Green has some very interesting pieces from their 2016 defense back for this year. How they compliment those pieces will determine if they are able to improve on their 115th ranked passing defense and their 79th ranked rushing defense.

The Falcons are set at defensive end with David Konowaiski and Tyrik Jones back. They combined for 8 sacks last year and we expect a few more this year. Defensive tackle Gus Schwieterman also returns and he chipped in another 5 sacks last year. It looks like Senior Shannon Smith will inherit the nose tackle assignment and complete what looks like a plus unit. Tennessee transfer Malik Brown will fight for playing time.

The biggest question mark area for the Bowling Green defense will be at linebacker. The only returning starter is Brandon Harris. He will need to up his production quite a bit as the linebacker rotation currently lacks an easily identifiable play maker. Nate Locke, Aaron Banks, Nilijah Ballew and Dorian Hendrix were all reserves in 2016 and return. They and redshirt freshman Jerry Judd will all fight it out through the fall for the final twp starting assignments.

Returning starter Robert Jackson has nailed down one starting cornerback job. 2016 reserve Cameron Jefferies and redshirt freshmen Armani Posey, Ty Redding and Torrian Hampton will battle for the other corner job. The losers will provide nice depth. Strong safety Jamari Bozeman will be the heart and leader of this year's defense. He is a tackling machine but he is also an excellent cover guy. Jerry McBride will move up from the reserve unit and assume the starting free safety job. The secondary will be solid, especially if the linebacker unit gels and puts some pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

The Bowling Green defense will be better but the level of improvement will be the direct result of how the lightly tested linebacker unit comes together.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Buffalo Bulls

Mid American Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: UB Stadium

102 Alumni Arena Buffalo, NY 14260

Phone: (716) 645-3142

Web: http://www.buffalobulls.com

Capacity: 29,013

Surface: Momentum Turf **Altitude:** 600 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*LANCE LEIPOLD*
O.C.:	*ANDY KOTELNICKI*
D.C.:	*BRIAN BORLAND*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Albany (Not D-1)	16 – 22
17-Sep	A	Nevada (102)	14 – 38
24-Sep	H	Army (76)	23 - 20
1-Oct	A	Boston College (66)	3 – 35
8-Oct	H	Kent St (119)	20 – 44
15-Oct	H	Ball St (98)	21 – 31
22-Oct	A	Northern Illinois (92)	7 – 44
27-Oct	H	Akron (89)	41 - 20
3-Nov	A	Ohio (58)	10 – 34
12-Nov	H	Miami (OH) (83)	24 – 35
19-Nov	A	Western Michigan (12)	0 – 38
25-Nov	A	Bowling Green (107)	19 – 27

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	A	Minnesota (38)
9-Sep	A	Army (76)
16-Sep	H	Colgate (Not D-1)
23-Sep	H	Florida Atlantic (121)
30-Sep	A	Kent State (119)
7-Oct	H	Western Michigan (12)
14-Oct	H	Northern Illinois (108)
21-Oct	A	Miami (OH) (83)
28-Oct	A	Akron (82)
7-Nov	H	Bowling Green (107)
16-Nov	A	Ball State (98)
24-Nov	H	Ohio (58)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	2-10	2-4	0-6	4-8-0	3-3-0	1-5-0	3-9-0	2-4-0	1-5-0

Total Offense;	111	YPG	353.8	Total Defense;	87	YAPG	434.8
Passing Offense;	95	YPG	200.5	Passing Defense;	13	YAPG	181.5
Rushing Offense;	90	YPG	153.3	Rushing Defense;	124	YAPG	253.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BULLS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Tyree Jackson	**QB**	**1772-9-9**	**399-5**	

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Buffalo suffered through a 2-10 season in 2016 and that horrible year was largely caused by an offense that never gained its identity. In eight of their games, the Bulls scored 20 or less points. The ability to sustain long drives gave the Buffalo defense little time to rest and that above average defensive group simply wore out.

Buffalo was ranked 95th in passing offense. The person at the helm, Tyree Jackson, was a redshirt freshman and returns for 2017. He was not given a heck of a lot of help as the Buffalo running game ranked 90th in the nation. Jackson is a duel threat quarterback and like most young, duel threat quarterbacks, he is currently far more accomplished running the ball. His touchdown to interception ratio was 9 to 9 and that figure needs to improve dramatically.

Johnathon Hawkins will be the featured back after spending last year as the primary backup. He will be an asset to the offense as he has proven he is a capable receiver out of the backfield. With an increased work load we expect him to at least double his 338 yards rushing in 2016. Emmanuel

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Reed and redshirt freshman Theo Anderson are currently battling for reserve running back duties.

The receiving rotation took a big hit. Wide receivers Malcolm Robinson and Marcus McGill and tight end Mason Schreck all must be replaced. No returning receiver was able to amass even 200 receiving yards in 2016. Spring practice found a horde of possibilities for the three wide receiver jobs. Jamari Eiland, Jacob Martinez and Kamathi Holsey were listed as the starting unit but K. J. Osborn and freshman Rodney Scott were hot on the heels and juco college Anthony Scott also figures to earn playing time. Tight end is equally confusing. Tyler Mabry had a decent freshman season and is back but he will face stiff competition in the fall when some talented freshmen arrive. There are way too many unanswered questions surrounding the Buffalo receiving rotation.

The line will be the strength of the Bulls' offense. Left guard Brandon Manosalvas, center James O'Hagen, right guard Tomas Jack-Kurdyla and right tackle David Golsby are all returning starters. The O-Line was very young last year and the year of experience will aide these four greatly. The line will be completed by 2016 key reserve left tackle Evin Ksiezarczyk. The line will be a team asset and will help the offense survive the early season growing pains as the Bulls try to find a decent receiving rotation.

B U L L S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Demone Harris	**DE**	**30**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Chris Ford	**NT**	**28**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Khalil Hodge	**LB**	**123**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Ishmael Hargrove	**LB**	**103**	**2.5**	**1**	**2**
Cameron Lewis	**CB**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Ryan Williamson	**S**	**74**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Tim Roberts	**S**	**64**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Buffalo's defense has a ton of returning starters, including some established play makers. The 2016 unit ranked 13th in passing defense and 124th in rushing defense. That passing defense ranking may be misleading because few 2016 Buffalo opponents found it necessary to throw the ball since they were being so successful keeping the ball on the ground.

Buffalo MUST get better play out of this year's front four. Some new blood was listed in the post spring depth chart. Returning starters Demone Harris and Chris Ford will again man one defensive end and the nose tackle slot. The other end is slated to be Charles Harris while the new defensive tackle looks like it will be Justin Brandon. The two newcomers recorded meaningful playing time in 2016. Juco transfer Wesley Scott and redshirt freshman Jake Fuzak will provide competition for starting duties.

Buffalo is well set at linebacker with the return of twin tackling monsters Ishmael Hargrove and Khalil Hodge plus fellow starter Jarrett Franklin. The linebacker group also has some experienced depth in Matt Otwinowski and Jordan Collier. IF the linebackers do not have to spend 90% of their time covering up for the O-Line, they will be freed to make plays all over the field.

Cameron Lewis returns and has reclaimed his starting cornerback job. He is scheduled to be paired with Brandon Williams but in coming freshman Rick Squires may have something to say about that. The Bulls are set at safety with the return of starters Ryan Williamson and Tim Roberts. They are equally adept defending against the pass and the run. Dev Lamour provides some experienced depth and incoming freshman Dawun Hylton is talented but untested. The secondary completes a talented and tested back seven.

The ultimate success of Buffalo's 2017 defense rests on the shoulders of their front four. Will they again fail in stopping running teams or will they improve enough to allow that nice back seven to flourish?

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Central Michigan Chippewas

Mid American Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Kelly/Shorts Stadium

312U Warriner Hall Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

Phone: (989) 774-4000

Web: http://www.cmuchippewas.com

Capacity: 32,885

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 771 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JOHN BONAMEGO*
O.C.:	*GINO GUIDUGLI*
D.C.:	*GREG COLBY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MIKE DIETZEL*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Presbyterian (Not D-1)	49 - 3
10-Sep	A	Oklahoma St (11)	30 - 27
17-Sep	H	UNLV (104)	44 - 21
24-Sep	A	Virginia (118)	35 – 49
1-Oct	H	Western Michigan (12)	10 – 49
8-Oct	H	Ball St (98)	24 - 21
15-Oct	A	Northern Illinois (92)	34 - 28
22-Oct	A	Toledo (46)	17 -13
29-Oct	H	Kent St (119)	24 – 27
4-Nov	A	Miami (OH) (83)	17 – 37
15-Nov	H	Ohio (58)	27 - 20
22-Nov	A	Eastern Michigan (67)	21 – 26
BOWL	N	Tulsa (31)	10 – 55

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Rhode Island (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Kansas (124)
16-Sep	A	Syracuse (79)
23-Sep	H	Miami (OH) (83)
30-Sep	A	Boston College (66)
7-Oct	A	Ohio (58)
14-Oct	H	Toledo (46)
21-Oct	A	Ball State (98)
1-Nov	A	Western Michigan (12)
8-Nov	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
14-Nov	A	Kent State (119)
24-Nov	H	Northern Illinois (108)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	4-2	2-5	5-8-0	3-3-0	2-5-0	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	78	YPG	392	Total Defense;	54	YAPG	391.9
Passing Offense;	26	YPG	276.1	Passing Defense;	60	YAPG	222.9
Rushing Offense;	120	YPG	115.9	Rushing Defense;	61	YAPG	169

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CHIPPEWAS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Devon Spalding	**RB**		**758-6**	**204-1**
Corey Willis	**WR**		**4-0**	**1087-9**
Mark Chapman	**WR**		**71-0**	**592-4**
Tyler Conklin	**TE**			**560-6**

Five returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Central Michigan looked like it was going to have a wonderful season last year, especially when they upset Oklahoma State (something that was predicted in our newsletter “PIGSKIN PROPHESY”) but after that game, things went south.

Central Michigan had a few loses from last year's team but none are bigger that the graduation of quarterback Cooper Rush. Tony Poljan looks like he has won the starting quarterback job. While he didn't look stellar in the spring scrimmage, he was impressive enough during spring practices to nail down the assignment. Juco transfer Tommy Lazzaro is the new backup but remember no quarter-back but Rush threw a pass last year.

Poljan will have the benefit of having Devon Spalding (758 rushing yards and 204 receiving yards) and Jonathan Ward (200 yards rushing). With such an experienced line returning, these two can be

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

expected to up their production significantly. The new quarterback also has a plus receiving unit coming back. Corey Willis is a solid go-to guy as he racked up an impressive 1087 receiving yards for 9 touchdowns in 2016. He is joined by fellow returning starter Mark Chapman (592 receiving yards for 4 touchdowns). Tight end Tyler Conklin (560 yards and 6 touchdowns) completes a very good three man receiving unit. Brandon Childress will be the top reserve this year after having 327 yards for 1 touchdown. Assuming the new quarterback can get them the ball, this group will be a big team plus and will move the chains.

As attractive as the other returning offensive assets are at the disposal of the new quarterback, the offensive line will be his greatest. The full line from 2016 returns. Left tackle Joe Austin, left guard Shakin Carr, center Austin Doan, right guard J. P Quinn and right tackle Derek Edwards will form an excellent foundation for the offense.

If Central Michigan can get effective quarterback play, the 2017 offense will be a plus unit.

CHIPPEWAS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Joe Ostman	**DE**	**69**	**8**	**0**	**8**
Malik Fountain	**LB**	**90**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Josh Cox	**CB**	**54**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Amari Coleman	**CB**	**48**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Otis Kearney	**S**	**52**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Central Michigan has an interesting defense coming back. There are some excellent pieces within each of the three levels but there are also glaring holes in all three as well. How those holes are filled will tell us a lot about how the defense will function as a unit.

Joe Ostman is a solid pass rusher and was able to record 8 sacks last year. He will be joined by Chris Kantzavelos at the end slots. However, there are big problems on the insider where it looks like Nate Brisson-Fast and Andre Dill seem to have a lead for the assignments. However, they hardly have a firm grip on their jobs and you can expect additional auditions in fall practices.

Malik Fountain will give the linebacker unit a proven, productive leader. Alex Briones logged significant, productive time last year and has landed one of the open linebacker jobs. The third starter will be chosen from Trevor Aspey, Carlos Clark or Michael Oliver. Regardless of who wins out, the third linebacker spot will be manned by an unproven player. How the third linebacker produces will be the difference in the unit being okay or pretty good.

The secondary looks like it might be the strength of the team IF a new safety steps forward. Josh Cox and Amari Coleman return and have reclaimed their starting duties. They combined for seven interceptions last year proving they are capable in pass covering. Otis Kearney also returns and will again be the starter at one safety slot. These three are all excellent but Central Michigan coaches hope they do not have to spend too much time covering up for a new safety. Zach Oakley looks like the top contender for the opening but he will need to fight off challenges from some incoming freshmen.

Basically, Central Michigan has four holes to fill on defense. If they can effectively fill just half of them, the defense will be an improved unit. If they have solutions for all four slots, the 2017 defense will be a very good unit and will hand the ball to the offense with good field position frequently.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Eastern Michigan Eagles

Mid American Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Rynearson Stadium

1000 College Place Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Phone: (313) 487-1849

Web: http://www.emueagles.com

Capacity: 30,200

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 726 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*CHRIS CREIGHTON*
O.C.:	*AARON KEEN*
D.C.:	*NEAL NEATHERY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*AARON KEEN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Miss Valley St (Not D-1)	61 - 14
10-Sep	A	Missouri (95)	21 – 61
17-Sep	A	Charlotte (109)	37 - 19
23-Sep	H	Wyoming (52)	27 - 24
1-Oct	A	Bowling Green (107)	28 - 25
8-Oct	H	Toledo (46)	20 – 35
15-Oct	A	Ohio (58)	27 - 20
22-Oct	A	Western Michigan (12)	31 – 45
29-Oct	H	Miami (OH) (83)	15 – 28
8-Nov	A	Ball St (98)	48 - 41
16-Nov	H	Northern Illinois (92)	24 – 31
22-Nov	H	Central Michigan (78)	26 - 21
BOWL	N	Old Dominion (48)	20 – 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	H	Charlotte (109)
9-Sep	A	Rutgers (123)
23-Sep	H	Ohio (58)
30-Sep	A	Kentucky (63)
7-Oct	A	Toledo (46)
14-Oct	A	Army (76)
21-Oct	H	Western Michigan (12)
26-Oct	A	Northern Illinois (108)
2-Nov	H	Ball State (98)
8-Nov	A	Central Michigan (78)
15-Nov	A	Miami (OH) (83)
21-Nov	H	Bowling Green (107)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	3-3	4-3	10-3-0	4-2-0	6-1-0	4-8-0	1-5-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	35	YPG	455.2	Total Offense;	83	YAPG	432.7
Passing Offense;	18	YPG	296.1	Passing Offense;	108	YAPG	265.2
Rushing Offense;	85	YPG	159.1	Rushing Offense;	59	YAPG	167.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

EAGLES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Brogan Roback	**QB**	**2694-18-7**	**223-2**	
Ian Erickson	**RB**		**771-9**	**243-0**
Sergio Bailey	**WR**		**22-0**	**868-7**
Dan Buschman	**TE**			**166-2**

One returning starting lineman plus five top reserves

If you look only at the offensive skill position players returning for Eastern Michigan in 2017, you will think the Eagles are set. After all, Eastern Michigan ranked 18th nationally in passing offense last year and 85th in rushing offense.

Brogan Roback returns to his starting quarterback position. He had almost 3000 total yards last year and was responsible for 20 touchdowns while throwing just 7 interceptions. His primary backup, Todd Porter, also returns. This one/two punch has the Bulls well manned at quarterback.

Starting running back Ian Erickson is also back and standing behind his 771 yards rushing is the group of Breck Turner, Blake Banham and Shaq Vann. As a group they amassed another 877 yards rushing and 138 yards receiving. Western Michigan will have a nice stable of experienced running backs.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Central Michigan Eagles

As deep as the running back rotation will be, the receiving unit is even better. Sergio Bailey will be the featured receiver but he will be joined by fellow returning starter Antione Porter and key 2016 reserves Dieuly Aristilde, John Niupalau, Eddie Daugherty and Issac Holder. All told, this group of returning receivers racked up close to 2500 yards receiving in 2016. Starting tight end Dan Buschmann and his 166 receiving yards returns. Quarterback Roback will not be lacking for capable targets.

We finally look at an area where Eastern Michigan may actually have problems, the offensive line. The only returning starter is right guard Jimmy Leatiota. However, all is not lost. The complete 2016 reserve unit is back and they will be joined by Michigan grad transfer Dan Samuel and juco transfer Sam Dervil. While it may take time for the new line to gel, in the end this will be a solid group capable of opening running lanes and protecting Roback.

Eastern Michigan's offense may actually be better in 2017. It all depends on how quickly the new line becomes a functional unit.

E A G L E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jeremiah Harris	**DE**	**70**	**4**	**1**	**0**
Kyle Rachwal	**LB**	**104**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Ikie Calderon	**ROVER**	**63**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jason Beck	**SS**	**104**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Vince Coleman	**FS**	**77**	**0**	**3**	**0**

As clear as things look for the 2017 Eastern Michigan offense, things are not as settled on the defensive side of the ball. After ranking 108th in passing defense and 59th in rushing defense, Eastern Michigan will have to fill some critical holes to keep from taking a step back.

If Eastern Michigan's 2016 defense had a strength, it was against rushing teams. Gone from that unit are two of the starting three man front. Only end Jeremiah Harris returns. For the time being, the new defensive tackle is Chris Hendricks and the new nose tackle is Oddie Granger, two lightly tested subs from 2016. Tackles Luke Maclean and Kwani Figueroa are also under consideration as is nose tackle Derrick Dunlap. Juco transfer Tyler LaBarbers will also get a long look in the fall.The final selection of the front three will take place in the fall and will be critical to the success or failure of the Eagles' 2017 defense.

Seven of last year's back eight return beginning with the linebacker trio of Kyle Rachwal, Derric Williams and Ike Spearman. Rachal is a tackling machine and will be the primary play maker of the defense. Jaylen Pickett provides some experience depth. While the rotation is thin, if the linebackers remain healthy the unit will be a big team asset. The 2016 starting Rover also returns. Ikie Calderron will man the spot solidly.

Starting cornerback Jaslen Phelps also returns but he needs to improve his cover skills. He is slated to be joined by Kevin McGill. We feel incoming freshman Jeff Hubbard will get consideration and certainly be part of the rotation. Starting strong safety Jason Beck and starting free safety Vince Calhoun are both back to form a very solid safety duo. Beck is the “hit man” while Calhoun excels in pass coverage. Both of their main backups also return in Brody Hoying and Justin Moody. The secondary is improved but to reach their potential, the front three must get better pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

The 2017 Eastern Michigan defense will improve at the same level as the front three improves. As the front three goes, so goes the complete Eastern Michigan 2017 defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Kent State Golden Flashes

Mid American Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Dix Stadium

800 E. Summit Street Kent, OH 44242-0001

Phone: (330) 672-3000

Web: http://www.kentstatesports.com

Capacity: 20,500

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 1063 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*PAUL HAYNES*
O.C.:	*DON TREADWELL*
D.C.:	*BEN NEEDHAM*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*DAVE MCMICHAEL*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Penn St (7)	13 – 33
10-Sep	H	North Carolina A&T (Not D-1)	36 – 39
17-Sep	H	Monmouth (Not D-1)	27 - 7
24-Sep	A	Alabama (2)	0 – 48
1-Oct	H	Akron (89)	27 – 31
8-Oct	A	Buffalo (126)	44 - 20
15-Oct	A	Miami (OH) (83)	14 – 18
22-Oct	H	Ohio (58)	10 – 14
29-Oct	A	Central Michigan (78)	27 - 24
8-Nov	H	Western Michigan (12)	21 – 37
15-Nov	A	Bowling Green (107)	7 – 42
25-Nov	H	Northern Illinois (92)	21 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Clemson (1)
9-Sep	H	Howard (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Marshall (122)
23-Sep	A	Louisville (18)
30-Sep	H	Buffalo (126)
7-Oct	A	Northern Illinois (108)
14-Oct	H	Miami (83)
21-Oct	A	Ohio (58)
31-Oct	H	Bowling Green (107)
8-Nov	A	Western Michigan (12)
14-Nov	H	Central Michigan (78)
21-Nov	A	Akron (82)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	1-5	2-4	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0	7-5-0	4-2-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	125	YPG	309.2	Total Defense;	50	YAPG	386.5
Passing Offense;	121	YPG	141.7	Passing Defense;	22	YAPG	196.8
Rushing Offense;	76	YPG	167.5	Rushing Defense;	76	YAPG	189.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GOLDEN FLASHES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Justin Rankin	**RB**		**511-3**	**335-1**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Kent will be trying desperately to become relevant again. They were considered to be one of the worst teams in the country in 2016. They finished the season with a 3-9 record but five of those loses were by four points or less. Remember, we feel good teams find ways to win close games and conversely, bad teams find ways to lose close games.

Kent returns three quarterbacks who had game experience in 2016. If you combine the production for all three, they have 1600+ passing yards and 1100+ rushing yards. The passing total is especially poor. Nick Holley seems to have the starting job simply because he is a better runner (920 rushing yards).

The picture at running back looks far brighter. All of last year's rushing yards return. We have already mentioned Holley, the leading rusher in 2016. Running back Justin Rankin returns and his versatility is a team plus. He ran for 511 yards burt he also was able to rack up 335 yards receiving. There is a splash of depth headed by Raekwon James. He is more of a receiver after amassing 225 receiving

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Kent State Golden Flashes

The receiving unit looks to be a severe problem all season. Not only does Kent not have a quarterback who can throw the ball, the receiving unit, top to bottom, has limited game experience and almost no production. The only two pass catchers returning with more than 100 receiving yards last season are both running backs. The six returning receivers, including a tight end, with any 2016 production totaled 317 yards combined! We can not hazard a guess about what players will be awarded the starting assignments but whomever they are, expect them to be a very poor unit.

Center Nathan Puthoff, right guard Connor Shinsky and right tackle Stefano Millin are all returning and provide the line with an experienced starting point. 2016 top reserves Mike Marinelli and Adam Gregoire will move up to the first string and complete a decent offensive line. Depth is lacking in the unit but the starters will be okay. Expect an offense that can't throw the ball and will rely way too heavily or the running game. Watch opponents stack the line with 8 defenders daring Kent to throw the ball.

G O L D E N F L A S H E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jon Cunningham	**DT**	**34**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Jerrell Foster	**CB**	**39**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Juantez McRae	**S**	**59**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Were it not for the defense in 2016, Kent State might not have won a game. That unit was ranked a very solid 22nd in the country for passing defense and 76th for rushing defense. Considering how few games Kent won, both these rankings are surprising.

The defense took some big hits beginning with defensive end Terence Waugh. End Theodore Eboigba returns but his 2016 production was poor. Jon Cunningham is back at one tackle and he actually will be a team asset and do a good job stuffing the run. Right now, two very inexperienced, unproven players man the other two line slots. Matthew Sommers is plugged in at the end opening and Dominic Hill has the other tackle job. Expect redshirt freshmen Hakeem Enis and Matt Bell to get extensive auditions in the fall practices.

Linebacker Nick Cuthbert has exhausted his eligibility. The projected linebacker rotation is without a play maker and like the line, the players filling the holes have limited game experience. Jim Jones, James Alexander and Nick Faulkner or Marques Moore will be the starting unit. One of the candidates needs to step up and become a team leader and all need to increase productivity substantially.

Cornerback Najee Murray has graduated and safety Nate Holley will not return after being charged with felony kidnapping. Kent will be okay at cornerback with the return of starter Jerrell Foster and key 2016 reserve Jamal Parker. One safety spot will be manned by Juantez McRae. He took over for Holley after he was charged and was productive. Manny Lawrence-Burke will be the other safety. He is totally green but does have potential. The secondary, like the balance of the defense will lack depth unless some big surprises pop up. If Kent has a defensive strength, the secondary would be our pick.

Last year, the inept offense could call for the defense to bail them out. This year the defense will be almost as bad as the offense. It is a bleak looking year at Kent.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Miami (OH) Redhawks

Mid American Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Yager Stadium

500 High St Oxford, OH 45056

Phone: (513) 529-1809

Web: http://muredhawks.com

Capacity: 24,286

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 921 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*CHUCK MARTIN*
O.C.:	*GEORGE BARNETT*
D.C.:	*MATT PAWLOWSKI*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ISRAEL WOOLFORK*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Iowa (34)	21 – 45
10-Sep	H	Eastern Illinois	17 – 21
17-Sep	H	Western Kentucky (23)	24 – 31
24-Sep	A	Cincinnati (101)	20 – 27
1-Oct	H	Ohio (58)	7 – 17
8-Oct	A	Akron (89)	13 – 35
15-Oct	H	Kent St (119)	18 - 14
22-Oct	A	Bowling Green (107)	40 - 26
29-Oct	A	Eastern Michigan (67)	28 - 15
4-Nov	H	Central Michigan (78)	37 - 17
12-Nov	A	Buffalo (126)	35 - 24
22-Nov	H	Ball St (98)	21 - 20
BOWL	N	Mississippi St (70)	16 – 17

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Marshall (122)
9-Sep	H	Austin Peay (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Cincinnati (101)
23-Sep	A	Central Michigan (78)
30-Sep	A	Notre Dame (82)
7-Oct	H	Bowling Green (107)
14-Oct	A	Kent State (119)
21-Oct	H	Buffalo (126)
31-Oct	A	Ohio (58)
7-Nov	H	Akron (82)
15-Nov	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
21-Nov	A	Ball State (98)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	3-3	3-4	9-4-0	3-3-0	6-1-0	4-8-0	1-5-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	104	YPG	366.9	Total Defense;	25	YAPG	353.2
Passing Offense;	65	YPG	230.6	Passing Defense;	40	YAPG	208.8
Rushing Offense;	107	YPG	136.3	Rushing Defense;	37	YAPG	144.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

REDHAWKS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Gus Ragland	**QB**	**1537-17-1**	**202-2**	
Alonzo Smith	**RB**		**709-3**	**89-2**
James Gardner	**WR**			**750-6**
Jared Murphy	**WR**		**-1-0**	**552-5**
Ryan Smith	**TE**			**356-5**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Miami started 2016 with six straight loses. The closed out the regular season with six straight wins and ended the season with a very close loss to Mississippi State. It was a “Tale of two cities” type of year. We are now faced with deciding which half of 2016 more accurately reflects Miami football.

The 2016 offense was not a juggernaut. They average about 23 points a game and the 2017 offense has to figure out to run the ball consistently. The 2016 offense ranked 65th for passing and 107th for rushing.

The passing ranking from last year are a bit misleading. Returning starting quarterback Gus Ragland didn't get into the lineup until the sixth game. Considering he played in just seven games and still

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

up 1537 yards passing for 17 touchdowns and an impressive 1 interception, Miami can expect sterling play out of their rising star quarterback.

Alonzo Smith (709 yards rushing), Kenny Young (557 yards) and Maurice Thomas (258 yards) were the top three rushers in 2016 and all three are back. Young is also a nice outlet receiver as he hauled in enough passes to get 201 receiving yards. One of these three must step up as a featured back. Any of the three are capable and with a more experienced line in front of them, you can expect far better, consistent production out of the rotation.

James Gardner (750 receiving yards), Jared Murphy (552 yards and Sam Martin (134 yards) will form the wide receiver starting trio with Ryan Smith (356 yards) back to handle the tight end assignment. This will be a solid group and redshirt freshman Isaiah Hill and a large group of freshmen will challenge for playing time.

The line was young last year and they made the typical newcomer mistakes. However, as the season wore on fewer and fewer mistakes were made. Left tackle Jordan Rigg, left guard Jordan Diamond, center Danny Godlevske and right guard Sam McCollum are all back and will be joined by right tackle Sam Murrer to form a very good offensive line.

REDHAWKS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Nate Trawick	**DT**	**35**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Zach Smierciak	**DT**	**30**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Junior McMullen	**LB**	**90**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Brad Koenig	**LB**	**72**	**3**	**1**	**0**
Heath Harding	**CB**	**67**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Tony Reid	**S**	**98**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Nine of the eleven starters from the 2016 defense that ranked 40th against the pass and 37th against the run return for this season. Unfortunately the two missing starters are both of last year's defensive ends, J. T. Jones and Austin Gearing. Jones was quite disruptive for opposing passers and finding a capable replacement for him will be difficult.

Doug Costin and Quinn Calcagno are the most experienced returning defensive ends but they may not be the most talented. Freshmen Josh Maize and Andrew Sharp will get every opportunity to prove the are ready and capable of stepping in at the ends. Nate Trawick and Zach Smierciak are back at tackle and will be very effective stopping the run. Ikeem Allen and A. J. Burdine will provide productive backup at tackle.

Junior McMullen, De'Andre Montgomery and Brad Koenig are three proven, productive returning linebackers. The trio gathered in nine interceptions in 2016. That is what makes it so important the new ends are able to be effective pass rushers. If the line hurries the quarterback, these three and the secondary will produce turnovers. There is a splash of proven backup here.

Heath Harding and Deondre Daniels are capable and return to reclaim their starting cornerback jobs. Harding is a play maker and an accomplished ball hawk. The safeties will be Tony Reid, a tackling monster and steady Joshua Allen. The secondary has some depth and will be a big team plus.

Miami has a chance to have an even better defense this year. It all depends if the people who fill the two defensive end holes are able to apply adequate pressure on opposing quarterbacks. The back seven is very good and will be even better if the line performs.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Nothern Illinois Huskies

Mid American Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Huskie Stadium

1425 W. Lincoln Highway DeKalb, IL 60115-2828

Phone: (800) 892-3050

Web: http://niuhuskies.cstv.com

Capacity: 24,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 877 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*ROD CAREY*
O.C.:	*MIKE UREMOVICH*
D.C.:	*KEVIN KANE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*KELTON COPELAND*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Wyoming (52)	34 – 40
10-Sep	A	South Florida (19)	17 – 48
17-Sep	H	San Diego St (28)	28 – 42
24-Sep	H	Western Illinois (Not D-1)	23 – 28
1-Oct	A	Ball St (98)	31 - 24
8-Oct	A	Western Michigan (12)	30 – 45
15-Oct	H	Central Michigan (78)	28 – 34
22-Oct	H	Buffalo (126)	44 - 7
1-Nov	H	Bowling Green (107)	45 - 20
9-Nov	H	Toledo (46)	24 – 31
16-Nov	A	Eastern Michigan (67)	31 - 24
25-Nov	A	Kent St (119)	31 - 21

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	H	Boston College (66)
9-Sep	H	Eastern Illinois (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Nebraska (27)
30-Sep	A	San Diego State (28)
7-Oct	H	Kent State (119)
14-Oct	A	Buffalo (126)
21-Oct	A	Bowling Green (107)
26-Oct	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
2-Nov	A	Toledo (46)
9-Nov	H	Ball State (98)
15-Nov	H	Western Michigan (12)
24-Nov	A	Central Michigan (78)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	2-4	3-3	6-5-1	2-3-1	4-2-0	6-6-0	2-4-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	27	YPG	463.8	Total Defense;	98	YAPG	451.5
Passing Offense;	73	YPG	224	Passing Defense;	93	YAPG	250.7
Rushing Offense;	16	YPG	239.8	Rushing Defense;	88	YAPG	200.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HUSKIES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Anthony Maddie	**QB**	**1213-8-5**	**558-7**	**9-0**
Jordan Huff	**RB**		**703-5**	**70-0**
Shane Wimann	**TE**			**254-6**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Northern Illinois experienced several key loses on offense. The Huskies ranked 73rd for passing offense and 16th for rushing offense last season. Matching those rankings will be a job in 2017.

Northern Illinois badly needs a quarterback to step up and take command. Anthony Maddie wasn't granted a sixth year of eligibility leaving Ryan Graham and Daniel Santacaterina as the returning quarterbacks having the most game experience. Those three combined for only 17 touchdowns and had 13 interceptions. The person who may have stepped up is redshirt freshman Marcus Childers. He got more reps with the starting unit in spring drills than any other candidate.

Leading running back Joel Bouagnon is gone. However, the Huskies have Jordan Huff coming back and he was almost as productive as Bouagnon. A couple of quality transfers have arrived and will fight for playing time. Tommy Mister comes from Indiana while Tre Harbison stated his career at

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Virginia. There is enough talent at running back to pick up the lost yards created by Bouagnon's graduation. Wide receivers Kenny Golloday and Argerious Turner departed and left a 1500+ yards void. Christian Slate is one proven option for the 2017 wide receiver rotation. Iowa State transfer Jauan Wesley will be asked to step in and become a starter. The third slot is a mystery as D. J. Brown and his 91 receiving yards is the top other returning receiver. Tight end Shane Wimann returns and will be a valued target after racking up 254 yards and 6 touchdowns last season.

Center Luke Shively, right guard Jordan Steckler and right tackle Max Scharping return and provide the line a good starting point. Shane Evans got game experience at guard and center last year but will concentrate only at center this year as he will be the starter. Dale Brown looks ready to move up from the reserve unit and will handle the left tackle duties. This will be an above average line but depth will be a problem.

Northern Illinois should have a somewhat better offense in 2017. How much better will depend how much production they get at quarterback.

H U S K I E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Shawun Lurry	**CB**	**40**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Daniel Ison	**CB**	**39**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Brandon Mayes	**S**	**71**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Mycial Allen	**S**	**61**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Northern Illinois' defense in 2016 was far below average as the front seven seldom applied pressure and had difficulty stopping running plays. That unit ranked a dismal 93rd defending against the pass and a not so much better 88th against the run. Northern Illinois has some good pieces back but they also have some deep holes.

The line had loses but defensive tackle William Lee and end Josh Corcoran are back but neither was overly productive in 2016. The other end projects to be Joe Sanders. Juco transfer Justin Nwachukwa is being counted on the fill the tackle opening. This starting foursome is not impressive and unfortunately there is little depth. Things do not look good for the Northern Illinois D-Line.

Bobby Jones is a returning linebacker but he needs to become more productive and develop as a leader. Alex Schwab and Lance Deveaux will complete the linebacker unit. Just like the line, linebacker depth will be a problem. This is a below average rotation and their insufficiencies will be magnified by having to cover up for mistakes made by the front four.

It is very unfortunate the front seven will be such a poor group because the secondary is talented and deep. If they were given an opportunity to do their jobs, they are quite capable of making plays. Shawun Lurry and Daniel Ison are back to man their starting cornerback slots. Mayomi Olootu and redshirt freshmen Albert Smalls and Jalen Embry will provide excellent depth at the corners. Safeties Brandon Mayes and Mycial Allen are a very good duo, defending equally well against the run and pass. Trequan Smith and Travshon Foster are top notch reserves and will give the starters breaks without costing the secondary.

2017 looks like a tough season on the defensive side of Northern Illinois' team. The front seven is well below average and will waste the talents of an excellent secondary. Expect this team to be vulnerable both in the air and on the ground. Any step forward be the offense will be offset by a sizable step back by the defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Ohio Bobcats

Mid American Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Peden Stadium

350 W. State Street Athens, OH 45701-2979

Phone: (740) 593-1000

Web: http://www.ohiobobcats.com

Capacity: 24,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 720 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*FRANK SOLICH*
O.C.:	*TIM ALBIN*
D.C.:	*JIMMY BURROW*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*BRIAN HAINES*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Texas St (127)	54 – 56
10-Sep	A	Kansas (124)	37 - 21
17-Sep	A	Tennessee (25)	19 – 28
24-Sep	H	Gardner-Webb (Not D-1)	37 - 21
1-Oct	A	Miami (OH) (83)	17 - 7
8-Oct	H	Bowling Green (107)	30 - 24
15-Oct	H	Eastern Michigan (67)	20 – 27
22-Oct	A	Kent St (119)	14 - 10
27-Oct	A	Toledo (46)	31 - 26
3-Nov	H	Buffalo (126)	34 - 10
15-Nov	A	Central Michigan (78)	20 – 27
22-Nov	H	Akron (89)	9 – 3
2-Dec	H	Western Michigan (12)	23 – 29
BOWL	N	Troy (41)	23 – 28

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Hampton (Not D-1)
8-Sep	A	Purdue (116)
16-Sep	H	Kansas (124)
23-Sep	A	Eastern Michigan (67)
30-Sep	A	Massachusetts (125)
7-Oct	H	Central Michigan (78)
14-Oct	A	Bowling Green (107)
21-Oct	H	Kent State (119)
31-Oct	H	Miami (OH) (83)
8-Nov	H	Toledo (46)
14-Nov	A	Akron (82)
24-Nov	A	Buffalo (126)

SEASON BREAKDOWN	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
	8-6	4-3	4-3	8-6-0	1-5-0	7-1-0	1-11-1	1-5-0	0-6-1

Total Offense;	77	YPG	392.3	Total Defense;	27	YAPG	360.2
Passing Offense;	72	YPG	224.4	Passing Defense;	102	YAPG	255.8
Rushing Offense;	75	YPG	167.9	Rushing Defense;	5	YAPG	104.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

B O B C A T S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Quinton Maxwell	**QB**	**1252-8-4**	**193-1**	
Dorian Brown	**RB**		**825-4**	**21-0**
Papi Smith	**RB**		**206-3**	**672-8**
Tony Mangen	**TE**			**142-1**

Three starting linemen and five top reserves

Ohio tied for the top spot in the MAC East last year even though there offense was not all that good. That group ranked 72nd in pass offense and 75th in rushing. With several key defenders now departed, it is essential for Ohio to improve on offense as they will not be able to rely on their defense as much this season.

Quinton Maxwell was a part rime starter last year sharing duties with now departed Greg Windham. It would seem reasonable to assume Maxwell will become the full time starter in 2017 but that is not necessarily true. Juco transfer Nathan Rourke was able to take part in spring drills and showed he is quite capable of leading this offense.

Ohio has a very realistic chance of improving their running game measurably. Dorian Brown led the

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

team with 825 rushing yards last season. He is back but the big difference this year is the leading rusher for 2015 is back after sitting out last year with an injury. A. J. Quellette was hurt on the third play last year but is recovered. He had 687 yards rushing in 2015. Ohio also has the perfect third down back returning. Papi White had just 206 rushing yards in 2017 but he added an outstanding 672 receiving yards. This will be a nice, talented, deep running back rotation.

Sebastian Smith and Jordan Reid are both gone and were the top two wide receivers last year. Ohio does have two productive youngsters back and expect much bigger things from Kyle Belack (269 receiving yards) and Elijah Ball (212 yards). With “wild card” slot back Papi White added in, the starting wide receiver trio looks decent. Depth may be a problem but Ohio does have some untested but talented options available. Tight end Tony Mangen (142 yards) returns and will be an asset to the receiving rotation.

Left tackle Joe Lowery, center Jake Pruehs and right guard Durrell Wood all started 14 games last year and will be the foundation for this year's O-Line. Jared McCray will move up to the starting unit at right tackle. The open guard slot looks to be Joe Anderson. This will be a plus unit and help the Ohio offense improve in 2017.

B O B C A T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Cleon Aloese	**NT**	**36**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Quentin Poling	**LB**	**109**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Chad Moore	**LB**	**96**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Javon Hagan	**S**	**50**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Kylan Nelson	**S**	**33**	**0**	**3**	**0**

In 2016, Ohio had a terrible passing defense (ranked 102nd) and an exceptional rushing defense (ranked 5th nationally). From that awful passing defense, almost everyone is back. From that sterling rushing defense, three of the front four have departed.

With the loss of ends Tarell Basham and Kurt Laseak and tackle Casey Sayles 113 tackles but more importantly, 21 sacks are gone. Ohio also has a new defensive line coach. Cleon Aloese does return to handle the nose tackle slot. He is excellent against the run and will provide a good starting point for the new D-Line. Fortunately for Ohio, the 2016 line was a very deep unit. Tony Porter looks ready to slide into the defensive tackle spot. The ends will be 2016 key reserves Kevin Robbins and Trent Smart. Keep an eye on Robbins. He excels at rushing the passer and will be a key to any line success. This line will not be as deep as last year but the starting four are quality.

The loss of outside linebacker Blair Brown and his 128 tackles and 5 sacks is big but it isn't fatal. Quentin Poling and Chad Brown both return after combining for 205 tackles, 5 sacks and 2 interceptions in 2016. Evan Croutch is game rested and was productive as a top reserve in 2016. He will move up to the starting unit and complete a solid starting threesome. The linebacker unit will need to identify depth but the starting group will be the strength of the team.

The secondary was a year long problem in 2016. The rotation was young and experienced those common growing pains. One youngster who became an immediate impact player was MAC freshman of the year, safety Javon Hagan. He is back and will pair with Kylan Nelson to give Ohio a solid safety duo. Nelson was forced to alternate between safety and cornerback last year because depth was lacked at the corners. Grant Cunningham give the safety rotation some decent, experienced depth. The biggest area of concern for this defense is at cornerback. Bradd Elis is back and will do a decent job. He needs to improve in pass coverage. Jalen Fox looks like the other starter but he also has to do better against passing teams. Depth is a big question mark. The secondary will be a bit better.

The Ohio defense will not make is big a step back as most people think. It will still be an okay unit.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Toledo Rockets

Mid American Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Glass Bowl

2801 W Bancroft Toledo, OH 43606-3390

Phone: (419) 530-4636

Web: http://www.utrockets.com

Capacity: 26,248

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 610 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JASON CANDLE*
O.C.:	*BRIAN WRIGHT*
D.C.:	*BRIAN GEORGE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ROBBY DISCHER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	A	Arkansas St (65)	31 - 10
10-Sep	H	Maine (Not D-1)	45 - 3
17-Sep	H	Fresno St (128)	52 - 17
30-Sep	A	BYU (44)	53 – 55
8-Oct	A	Eastern Michigan (67)	35 - 20
15-Oct	H	Bowling Green (107)	42 - 35
22-Oct	H	Central Michigan (78)	31 - 17
27-Oct	H	Ohio (58)	26 – 31
2-Nov	A	Akron (89)	48 - 17
9-Nov	A	Northern Illinois (92)	31 - 24
16-Nov	H	Ball St (98)	37 - 19
25-Nov	A	Western Michigan (12)	35 – 55
BOWL	N	Appalachian St (37)	28 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Elon (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Nevada (102)
16-Sep	H	Tulsa (31)
23-Sep	A	Miami (FL) (20)
7-Oct	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
14-Oct	A	Central Michigan (78)
21-Oct	H	Akron (82)
26-Oct	A	Ball State (98)
2-Nov	H	Northern Illinois (108)
8-Nov	A	Ohio (58)
15-Nov	A	Bowling Green (107)
24-Nov	H	Western Michigan (12)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	5-2	4-2	6-6-1	3-4-0	3-2-1	5-5-1	3-2-1	2-3-0

Total Offense;	7	YPG	517.8	Total Defense;	57	YAPG	396.5
Passing Offense;	10	YPG	322.8	Passing Defense;	56	YAPG	220.8
Rushing Offense;	46	YPG	195	Rushing Defense;	67	YAPG	175.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

ROCKETS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Logan Woodside	**QB**	**4129-45-9**	**-40-0**	
Terry Swanson	**RB**		**583-5**	**74-1**
Cody Thompson	**WR**			**1269-11**
Jon'Vea Johnson	**WR**			**773-10**

Two returning starting linemen plus five top reserves

Toledo was an offensive machine in 2016. They were ranked 10th in passing offense and 46th running the ball. The Rockets have a decent chance of matching or slightly improving on their 2016 numbers.

The whole key to another fantastic offense is back and he is named Logan Woodside. His passing numbers were outstanding and he has enough tools returning to do as well this year.

Terry Swanson was the backup running back and will move up and become the featured back in 2017. With the additional carries he will get this year, it is easy to see him racking up 1000+ rushing yards. Art Tompkins will be his capable backup giving Toledo a realistic running threat every down.

Two of the three starting wide receivers from 2016 return and they combined for over 2000 receiving

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

yards and 21 touchdowns. Cody Thompson will be the featured target but if opponents overlook Jon'Vea Johnson, they will pay a heavy price. The third slot is currently manned by Danzel McKinley-Lewis but several capable challengers will be given a chance to take his assignment. Redshirt freshman Neru N'Shaka is the leading challenger and he will be part of the receiver rotation even if he doesn't win the starting job. The loss of tight end Michael Roberts will the most difficult hole to fill. His 533 receiving yards and whopping 16 touchdowns will be missed. Adan Kulon was listed as the starting tight end at the end of spring drills but he must withstand Jordan Fisher's challenge. Regardless of who ends up manning the third wide receiver slot and the tight end job, Toledo will again offer a potent air attack.

The offensive line lost three starters but Toledo has done an excellent job of preparing multiple linemen for future duties. Elijah Nkansah has started the last two year and will man the left tackle spot. The other returning starter will be right guard Nate Jeppeson. Bryce Harris moves into the center position where he has had six starts. Yazeed Atariwa will man the left tackle slot after being a key reserve. Brant Weiss will move into the right tackle slot. Redshirt freshman Luke Doerger will lead a nice group of youngsters who will compete for playing time. The line will be solid and we expect no step back by the unit.

All the questions about Toledo's offense are minor ones. Expect Toledo to light up the scoreboard.

ROCKETS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Olasunkanmi Adeniyl	**DE**	**49**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Marquise Moore	**NT**	**35**	**90**	**0**	**0**
La'Wuan Woodley	**LB**	**79**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Tyler Taafe	**LB**	**70**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Trevon Mathis	**CB**	**44**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Toledo will be hard pressed to match their 56th national ranking for passing defense and 67th for rushing defense. Problems for the 2017 defense begin with the line. Two starters return as Olasunkanmi Adenlyl is back to handle one end assignment and Marquise Moore has retained his nose tackle starting job. They are a decent start for a line but the candidates available to join them in the front four are mostly untested and frankly unimpressive. At the end of spring ball, Tuzar Skipper was atop the depth chart at the other end and Daniel Davis was the projected starter at defensive tackle. We fully expect some heated competition this fall for a couple of starting line jobs and backup duty.

Toledo is set at its two linebacker spots with the return of Ja'Wuan Woodley and Tyler Taafe. Neither has been a play maker in the past but Woodley may develop into one this year. Jack Linch and redshirt freshman Tre'Shun Wilson will battle for playing time. The linebacker unit will be good but not good enough to cover up for all the mistakes made by the front four.

Last year's starting cornerbacks were Trevon Mathis and KaDar Hollman. They both return for 2017 but it is not a given they will retain their jobs. Both need to make more plays as the two combined for just one interception last season. Redshirt freshman Justin Clark, Kareem Felder and Keelen Roberts are in the hunt for cornerback snaps. Two of Toledo's starting safeties must be replaced. John Teachey is back but who he will join in the safety trio set is a mystery. Dedaraloo Blue had a nice freshman season and is the leading contender for filling one opening. The third job is wide open with redshirt freshman Jordan Williams, Kahlil Robinson, Ronnie Tames and Anthony Davis all under consideration. The secondary will be neither an asset nor a liability. Unfortunately Toledo badly needs production out of their back five.

Toledo will once again have to rely on its offense. The defense simply has too many question that do not seem to have satisfactory answers.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Western Michigan Broncos

Mid American Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Waldo Stadium

1903 West Michigan Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Phone: (269) 387-3530

Web: http://www.wmubroncos.com/

Capacity: 30,200

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 786 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*TIM LESTER*
O.C.:	*KEVIN JOHNS*
D.C.:	*TIM DAOUST*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Northwestern (55)	22 - 21
10-Sep	H	NC Central (Not D-1)	70 - 21
17-Sep	A	Illinois (108)	34 - 10
24-Sep	H	Georgia Southern (91)	49 - 31
1-Oct	A	Central Michigan (78)	49 - 10
8-Oct	H	Northern Illinois (92)	45 - 30
15-Oct	A	Akron (89)	41 - 0
22-Oct	H	Eastern Michigan (67)	45 - 31
1-Nov	A	Ball St (98)	52 - 20
8-Nov	A	Kent St (119)	37 - 21
19-Nov	H	Buffalo (126)	38 - 0
25-Nov	H	Toledo (46)	55 - 35
2-Dec	A	Ohio (58)	29 - 23
BOWL	N	Wisconsin (10)	16 – 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	USC (3)
9-Sep	A	Michigan State (97)
16-Sep	H	Idaho (57)
23-Sep	H	Wagner (Not D-1)
30-Sep	H	Ball State (98)
7-Oct	A	Buffalo (126)
14-Oct	H	Akron (82)
21-Oct	A	Eastern Michigan (67)
1-Nov	H	Central Michigan (78)
8-Nov	H	Kent State (119)
15-Nov	A	Northern Illinois (108)
24-Nov	A	Toledo (46)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	13-1	6-0	7-1	9-4-1	4-3-0	5-1-1	7-6-0	5-2-0	2-4-0

Total Offense;	19	YPG	481.2	Total Defense;	26	YAPG	353.6
Passing Offense;	49	YPG	252.4	Passing Defense;	25	YAPG	200.1
Rushing Offense;	24	YPG	228.9	Rushing Defense;	49	YAPG	153.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

B R O N C O S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jarvion Franklin	**RB**		**1353-12**	**288-2**

Two returning starting linemen plus thee top reserves

Western Michigan had some loses on offense but none will be as great as the loss of head coach P. J. Fleck. Tim Lester is the new head man and earned his job after being the person most responsible for the rebirth of the offense.

Lester's first job is going to have to be finding an acceptable quarterback. Zach Terrell is gone and he was the center of Western Michigan's 13-1 record in 2016. Tom Flacco was the backup in 2016 but he threw one pass all year. He had more playing time in 2015 and showed better ability to run the ball than to throw it. Illinois transfer Alex Masstt is another possibility. Final decision on the starter will come in the fall but our money is on Flacco.

Javion Franklin (1353 yards rushing for 12 touchdowns) and Jamauri Bogan (923 yards for 8 touchdowns) are back and give Wester Michigan an excellent running back tandem. Davon Tucker (210 yards for 4 touchdowns) gives the rotation further depth. By necessity the running game will play a bigger part in the offense this season. Flacco gives the running game a third option.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Western Michigan Broncos

Wide receiver Corey Davis departed for the NFL and Michael Henry and Carrington Thompson used up their eligibility. Franklin is the most productive returning receiver and he is a running back. The lack of a passing threat is compounded by the lack of established receivers. Wide receiver D'Wayne Eskridge and tight end Donnie Ernsbeger are back and have two of the four receiver slots filled. A free for all containing three 2016 roster members, three redshirt freshmen and three true freshmen will take place in the fall to try to find the best two options for the two openings.

Two starting linemen are back. Left tackle Chukwuma Okorafor and right guard Luke Juriga will be leaders in the reformed line. Center Curtis Doyle and right tackle Elliott Jordan will move up from the second string and fill two line openings. The left guard spot is a void. We feel the player most likely to earn the job is redshirt freshman Spencer Kanz. Line depth will come from a big redshirt freshman group waiting their turn.

This will be a transformation year for the Western Michigan offense. The key is to limit how much of a step back the unit takes.

B R O N C O S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Eric Assoua	**DE**	**37**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Andre Turner	**DE**	**35**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Caleb Bailey	**LB**	**71**	**3**	**2**	**0**
Sam Beal	**CB**	**56**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Darius Phillips	**CB**	**40**	**1**	**4**	**0**
Justin Tranquill	**SS**	**88**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Asantay Brown	**FS**	**95**	**3**	**1**	**0**

Western Michigan's offense got all the press last year but their defense was an excellent unit. They ranked 26th in the country in total defense. Nine of that unit's starters are back for 2017.

Tackle Keion Adams and nose tackle David Curle are the two departed starters. That leaves a pretty sizable hole in the middle. However, with a little shuffling, Western Michigan will have another solid line. Andre Turner will shift over from his end assignment and take over one tackle job. He will be joined by Ken Finley. Nathen Braster has regained his end slot and will be a nice pass rusher. Up from the second string will be Eric Assoua. He was more productive then Turner last year. This will be a plus unit and will allow the back seven to do their jobs.

Caleb Baileywll again be the hub of the linebacker unit. Converted free safety Asantay Brown will fill the second slot. Western Michigan got good news as Robert Spillane changed his mind and will not transfer. He completes a solid linebacker starting three. Depth has yet to be determined.

The secondary will be the strength of the defense. All Conference cornerback Dariue Phillips is back and will team up with fellow returning starter Sam Beal to form one of the best duos in the MAC. Justin Tranquill will capably handle the strong safety duties and play beside free safety Davonrae Ginwright and complete an excellent secondary. There is some capable depth available to give the starters a breather so we expect quality play out of Western Michigan's secondary every play.

It is definite that the Western Michigan offense will not be as good this year and will very heavily rely on the running game. It is essential the defense maintain their level of excellence they displayed last year. The more the defense can hand the ball to their offense in good field position, the smaller a step back the team will make.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE
10807 NEW ALLEGIANCE DRIVE, SUITE 250
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80921
719-488-4040
COMMISSIONER: CRAIG THOMPSON

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Boise State
Colorado State
New Mexico
Utah State
Wyoming
Air Force

WEST DIVISION

San Diego State
Hawaii
Nevada
UNLV
San Jose State
Fresno State

Rainman

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Boise State
Wyoming
Utah State
Colorado State
Air Force
New Mexico

WEST DIVISION

San Diego State
UNLV
Nevada
San Jose State
Fresno State
Hawaii

Mountain Division

Boise State has a top flight quarterback returning but have lost several skill position players from their offense. Especially concerning is the offensive line. The defense experienced significant loses. We feel Boise State will be a good team to bet against, especially early in the year. Colorado State will trey to rebound from a terrible 2016. The Rams will benefit from an added year of experience both on offense and defense. We fully expect a measurable improvement on both sides of the ball.The back eight will not be a plus group. New Mexico will again have a power running game running behind a rebuilt but solid line. The defense looks like it will be taking a step back. New Mexico fans need to hope the step back isn't too significant. Wyoming will take a step back offensively but they will also take a step forward defensively. The net effect will be a team about as productive as last year. Air Force will be able to run the ball successfully. The O-Line will be a team strength. The Falcons defense is a concern. Utah State will have to rebuild its offensive line and may waste some solid skill position players while the line gels. Their defense depends greatly on how the front three performs.

West Division

San Diego State will still have a nice running game even with the graduation of Donnell Pumphrey. However, the new running game will be hindered by an O-Line with just one returning starter. Expect a far more balanced offense at San Diego State. Their defense will need production from a slew of youngsters who are attempting to fill some sizable holes created by graduation. Slowly but surely, Hawaii is marching back to respectability. Their 2017 offense will be somewhat improved but the defense will not be as good as last year in spite of an excellent group of linebackers. Nevada has a new coach and he will install a new offense that will require much more passing. Expect an adjustment period. Nevada's defense must prove they can stop running plays. UNLV will be a more balanced team offensively this year. Opposing defenses will not be able to stack the line with eight men. Problems at linebacker and safety will keep their defense from improving much this year. San Jose State must get better play out of their veteran line. That would help the transition of their new quarterback. Defensively, being able to stop running plays is priority number one. Fresno State has a new head coach and he has tons of work to do to make his team respectable. The offense lacks skill position offensive play makers and the defense needs to establish a decent secondary.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Air Force Falcons

Mountain West Conference, Mountain Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Falcon Stadium

2169 Field House Drive USAFA, CO 80840-9500

Phone: (719) 333-4008

Web: http://goairforcefalcons.com

Capacity: 46,692

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 6621 ft.

HEAD COACH:	***TROY CALHOUN***
O.C.:	MIKE THIESSEN
D.C.:	STEVE RUSS
SPECIAL TEAMS:	BEN MILLER

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Abilene Christian (Not D-1)	37 - 21
10-Sep	H	Georgia St (112)	48 - 14
24-Sep	A	Utah St (106)	27 - 20
1-Oct	H	Navy (35)	28 - 14
8-Oct	A	Wyoming (52)	26 – 35
15-Oct	H	New Mexico (54)	40 – 45
22-Oct	H	Hawaii (94)	27 – 34
28-Oct	A	Fresno St (128)	31 - 21
5-Nov	A	Army (76)	31 - 12
12-Nov	H	Colorado St (53)	49 - 46
19-Nov	A	San Jose St (111)	41 - 38
25-Nov	H	Boise St (26)	27 - 20
BOWL	N	South Alabama (88)	45 - 21

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Virginia Military (Non D-1)
16-Sep	A	Michigan (9)
23-Sep	H	San Diego State (28)
30-Sep	A	New Mexico (54)
7-Oct	A	Navy (35)
14-Oct	H	UNLV (104)
21-Oct	A	Nevada (102)
28-Oct	A	Colorado State (53)
4-Nov	H	Army (76)
11-Nov	H	Wyoming (52)
18-Nov	A	Boise State (26)
25-Nov	H	Utah State (106)

SEASON BREAKDOWN	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
	10-3	6-2	4-1	6-7-0	4-4-0	2-3-0	7-5-0	4-3-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	36	YPG	452.2	Total Defense;	33	YAPG	364.8
Passing Offense;	123	YPG	134.8	Passing Defense;	94	YAPG	250.7
Rushing Offense;	3	YPG	317.4	Rushing Defense;	10	YAPG	114.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

FALCONS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Arion Worthman	**QB**	**546-4-2**	**674-6**	
Timothy McVeigh	**RB**	**708-10**	**193-2**	
Ryan Reffitt	**TE**			**173-2**

Three returning starting linemen

Air Force was one of the last two teams to post their spring roster. It is all together possible they needed more time to identify who was on the team after experiencing ultra heavy loses on both sides of the ball! The offense will have less work to do as it loses “only” five starters.

Air Force is set at quarterback with the return of starter Arion Worthman. He had 546 yards passing for 4 touchdowns and 2 interceptions but more importantly he ran for 674 yards and 6 touchdowns. Senior Nate Romine has started in the past but will function as the backup in 2017.

Tim McVeigh (708 yards rushing and 193 yards receiving) will be the featured back but with his lack of size, expect Benton Washington, Malik Miller and Christian Mallard to get plenty of snaps whenever McVeigh needs a rest. There is potential in this running back rotation but the line will need to function if the backs are to have any chance of converting potential into production. Fullback Parker

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Wilson will be in charge of helping open holes. Wide receivers Tyler Williams and Ronald Cleveland had more rushing yards (430 yards combined) than they had receiving yards (298 receiving yards) Tight end Ryan Reffitt rounds out the three man receiving unit after having 173 receiving yards in 2016. Considering how seldom Air Force throws the ball, when you combine these three with McVeigh's ability to catch passes out of the backfield, the Falcons will have a decent receiving group.

The offensive line returns left tackle Jake Barnhorst, center Alexander Norton and right tackle James Rast forming a very solid foundation. Guards Ryan Beveridge and Griffin Landrum will complete the starting five. While it is difficult to identify the line depth at this time, by the end of fall practices the Air Force coaches will have put together a nice backup unit. The line will be okay and that means Air Force will once again be able to successfully run the ball.

F A L C O N S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Santo Coppola	**DT**	**29**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Grant Ross	**LB**	**67**	**3**	**0**	**0**

The caravan of buses you recently saw leaving Colorado Springs contained all the players now missing from the 2016 defense! On those buses were 12 of the top 13 tacklers last season. I haven't any idea how much defensive coordinator Steve Russ is being paid but I can assure you, this year it isn't enough.

Santo Coppola got significant playing time last year and was productive. He will handle the end slot. Cody Moorhead is penciled in at defensive tackle and Cody Gessler is currently the starting nose tackle. This is not an impressive front three. We suggest every freshman who can play the defensive line be prepared for duty.

Linebacker Grant Ross is the ONLY returning starter. Jack Flor and Shaquaille Vereen were reserves in 2016 and will be called upon to fill two of the three openings at linebacker. Ja'Mel Sanders and R. J. Jackson are battling for the fourth starting assignment. Ross is the closest thing to being a play maker this defense has. Depth will be an issue as a ton of youngsters may be called upon before they are ready.

As bad as things look in the line and at linebacker, the area of the most concern has to be the secondary. Air Force will have to completely rebuild the two deep depth chart. The only member of the secondary with any meaningful game experience is strong safety Kyle Floyd and he had all over 4 tackles in 2016! The free safety could be anyone, regardless if they have ever played a down. The cornerbacks are scheduled to be Marquis Griffin and Dailen Sutton. It will be essential for any incoming defensive back to be ready for immediate playing time. The secondary looks like a season long heart break for Air Force.

The defense looks like a wreck but many of you may recall I have been calling for a huge step back for Air Force the last three years in a row and the Falcons have not faltered. This season, I see no way to avoid a major step back by the defense and I'm not sure the offense is capable of carrying a lot more of the load.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Boise State Broncos

Mountain West Conference, Mountain Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Bronco Stadium

1910 University Dr Bosie, ID 83725

Phone: (208) 426-4737

Web: http://www.broncosports.com

Capacity: 37,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 2681 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BRYAN HARSIN*
O.C.:	*ZAK HILL*
D.C.:	*ANDY AVALOS*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*KENT RIDDLE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	45 - 10
10-Sep	H	Washington St (29)	31 - 28
24-Sep	A	Oregon St (85)	38 - 24
1-Oct	H	Utah St (106)	21 - 10
7-Oct	A	New Mexico (54)	49 - 21
15-Oct	H	Colorado St (53)	28 - 23
20-Oct	H	BYU (44)	28 - 27
29-Oct	A	Wyoming (52)	28 – 30
4-Nov	H	San Jose St (111)	45 - 31
12-Nov	A	Hawaii (94)	52 - 16
18-Nov	H	UNLV (104)	42 - 25
25-Nov	A	Air Force (40)	20 – 27
BOWL	N	Baylor (56)	12 – 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Troy (41)
9-Sep	A	Washington State (29)
16-Sep	H	New Mexico (54)
22-Sep	H	Virginia (118)
6-Oct	A	BYU (44)
14-Oct	A	San Diego State (28)
21-Oct	H	Wyoming (52)
28-Oct	A	Utah State (106)
4-Nov	H	Nevada (102)
11-Nov	A	Colorado State (53)
18-Nov	H	Air Force (40)
25-Nov	A	Fresno State (128)

SEASON BREAKDOWN	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
	10-3	6-0	4-3	3-10-0	0-7-0	3-3-0	5-7-0	2-4-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	21	YPG	472.8	Total Defense;	52	YAPG	389.8
Passing Offense;	15	YPG	298.3	Passing Defense;	46	YAPG	213
Rushing Offense;	63	YPG	174.5	Rushing Defense;	69	YAPG	176.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

B R O N C O O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Brett Rypien	**QB**	**3646-24-8**	**-16-2**	**33-1**
Cedrick Wilson	**WR**	**84-1-0**	**7-0**	**1129-11**
Jake Roh	**TE**			**113-9**

Two returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

For the first time in many years, Boise State will enter the 2017 season NOT being the favorite to win the Mountain West title. You might be thinking, “With one of the best quarterbacks in the country retuning, how can Boise State not be the favorite?” They lost 18 seniors, that's how.

Brett Rypien and his 3,646 yards and 24 touchdowns return so Boise State is set at quarterback. The only question at this vital position is who his backup might be. Redshirt freshman Jake Constantine looks like the quarterback of the future and will handle the reserve duties.

Running back Jeremy McNichols has departed and is a significant loss. Alexander Mattison is the most productive returning running back but his 328 rushing yards will not scare many opposing defensive coordinators. There is great hope that true freshman Drake Beasley will be as good as advertised and quickly become the featured back. He is anther example of great potential not yet converting that

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

potential into on the field production. Until he produces, we have to consider the running game as not as good as last year.

Wide receiver Thomas Sperbeck is another significant loss. However, the wide receiver rotation does have a true go-to guy in Cedrick Wilson (1129 receiving yards). After Wilson, the receiver rotation gets very muddy. Sean Modster logged some time as a reserve in 2016 but didn't "wow" anyone. We fully expect a flood of under classmen to appear on the final two deep depoth chart by opening kickoff. Redshirt freshman Julian Carter and true freshmen Octavius Evans and Cantrell Carter all have greater upsides than the returning options. Tight end will become an even more important position as Rypien gets in sync with his new receivers. Jake Roh and Alec Dhaenens are both capable and will provide refief.

The only returning starting linemen are center Mason Hampton and left tackle Archie Lewis. They both missed spring prasctices and missed the chance to gel with their new running mates. Andrew Tercek has the lead for the left guard opening and John Molchon looks ready for the right tackle job. Other possibilities include juco transfer Zachary Troughton and a group of four redshirt freshmen led by Kole Bailey. Expect growing pains as the line gels.

B R O N C O D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jabril Frazier	**DE**	**38**	**4**	**0**	**0**
David Moa	**NT**	**30**	**8.5**	**0**	**0**
Tyler Horton	**CB**	**35**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Cameron Hartsfield	**FS**	**65**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Boise State experienced some very key loses from their defense. Last year, the Boise State defense ranked 46th against passing teams and 89th against rushing teams. Unless some newcomers make themselves know immediately, matching those rankings could be difficult.

The D-Line has a chance to be good this year. All Conference nose tackle David Moa and 2016 starting end Jabril Frazier are both back and will be the hub of the D-Line and the complete defense. Durrant Miles offers nice, productive, experienced depth at end. Daniel Auelua, Sonstane Lui and Austin Silsby are all in the hunt for the vacated tackle spot. All in all, the line will be the strength of this season's defense.

Three starting linebackers from the four man unit have to be replaced. The one returning starter is Blake Whitlock. It looks as if 2016 top reserves Leighton Vander Esch and Joe Martarano will slide into the starting foursome. The fourth slot is wide open with Joe Provenzano, redshirt freshman Desmond Williams and true freshmen Ezekiel Noa and Breydon Boyd all battling. The linebacker rotation MUST find a play maker. With a good front three, the linebackers should have more time to do their normal jobs. If the experienced players do not make plays, expect all the youngsters top get much more significant playing time.

The secondary looks like it could be a season long problem. Cornerback Tyler Horton was a starter in 2016 but he didn't display difference making ability. He is atop the depth chart along with DeAndre Pierce but both need to keep an eye on juco transfer Michael Young. Cameron Hartsfield will man the free safety duties. He had meaningful, productive playing time in 2016 and looks ready for full time. Strong safety is wide open but we feel by opening kickoff, redshirt freshmen Jordan Happle will have captured the job. Just like the linebacker rotation, this group lacks a play maker.

The back eight is a concern. The overall lack of playmakers will be difficult to overcome. Do not expect to see a measurable improvement in the Boise State defense. We are looking at Boise State as a good team to bet against in 2017, a negative sleeper.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Colorado State Rams

Mountain West Conference, Mountain Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Hughes Stadium

102 Administration Building Fort Collins, CO 80523

Phone: (970) 491-1101

Web: http://www.csurams.com

Capacity: 32,500

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 5010 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MIKE BOBO*
O.C.:	*WILL FRIEND*
D.C.:	*MARTY ENGLISH*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JAMIE BRYANT*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	A	Colorado (13)	7 – 44
10-Sep	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)	23 - 14
17-Sep	H	Northern Colorado (Not D-1)	47 - 21
24-Sep	A	Minnesota (38)	24 – 31
1-Oct	H	Wyoming (52)	17 – 38
8-Oct	H	Utah St (106)	31 - 24
15-Oct	A	Boise St (26)	23 – 28
22-Oct	A	UNLV (104)	42 - 23
5-Nov	H	Fresno St (128)	37 - 0
12-Nov	A	Air Force (40)	46 – 49
19-Nov	H	New Mexico (54)	49 - 31
26-Nov	A	San Diego St (28)	63 - 31
BOWL	N	Idaho (57)	50 – 51

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	A	Colorado (13)
9-Sep	H	Abilene Christian (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Alabama (2)
23-Sep	H	Oregon State (85)
30-Sep	A	Hawaii (94)
7-Oct	A	Utah State (106)
14-Oct	H	Nevada (102)
21-Oct	A	New Mexico (54)
28-Oct	H	Air Force (40)
4-Nov	A	Wyoming (52)
11-Nov	H	Boise State (26)
18-Nov	H	San Jose State (111)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	5-2	2-4	10-3-0	5-1-0	5-2-0	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	30	YPG	462.5	Total Defense;	69	YAPG	419.2
Passing Offense;	55	YPG	244.7	Passing Defense;	32	YAPG	205.2
Rushing Offense;	31	YPG	217.8	Rushing Defense;	98	YAPG	214

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

RAMS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Nick Stevens	**QB**	**1936-19-5**	**53-2**	
Dalyn Dawkins	**RB**		**919-4**	**162-1**
Michael Gallup	**WR**		**15-0**	**1272-14**
Olabial Johnson	**WR**		**13-0**	**613-4**

Two returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

Colorado State was ranked 55th for passing offense and 31st for rushing offense in 2016. Several of the key contributors from that offense are back for 2017.

Back to lead the offense is Nick Stevens. He started last season poorly but came on like a freight train later. He is a very efficient passer and makes few mistakes. Considering how little he played early last year, he could easily have huge increases in his stats. Collin Hill will again be his backup. Hill started four games last year and will provide a game tested second quarterback for the Rams.

Stevens has the luxury of having a trio of accomplished running backs returning. Darlyn Dawkins, Izzy Matthews and Marvin Kinsey, Jr. guarantee Colorado State will have a quality, fresh running back on the field every down. The three combined for almost 2200 yards rushing and 24 touchdowns a year ago. Their ability to move the ball on the ground will prevent opponents from all out pass

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

rushing every down. The wide receiver group is talented and game tested. Michael Gallup, Olabisi Johnson and Detrich Clark were three of 2016's top four receivers. They amassed almost 2000 receiving yards in 2016 and that number could go up. There is also some nice depth backing this trio. Dalton Fackrell will be the tight end. The receiving rotation caps off an excellent group of skill position players returning in 2017.

The situation looks perfect so far for Colorado State. Now, we must discuss the one potential problem area. The Rams lost some quality linemen. Only center Jake Bennett and right tackle Zack Golditch were starters in 2016 and return for 2017. Tentatively left guard Colby Meeks, left tackle Trae Moxley and right guard Jeff Taylor will fill in the three line openings but keep an eye on juco transfers Tyler Bjorklund and Ben Knox and freshman Scott Brooks. The line will not be as deep as last year and may take time to gel but in the end, it will be an above average unit.

Colorado State will have an explosive offense in 2017. A bus load of skill possession players will be good but if the line comes together, they will be really good.

R A M S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Evan Colorito	**DE**	**63**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Darnell Thompson	**DE**	**29**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Jakob Buys	**DT**	**25**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Josh Lovingood	**NT**	**25**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Josh Watson	**LB**	**90**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Jake Schlager	**SS**	**72**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Braylin Scott	**FS**	**39**	**0**	**3**	**0**

Colorado State's defense was a disappointment last year, especially defending against running teams. The passing defense was ranked 32nd in the country but the running defense was an awful 98th. The Rams must figure out how to stop rushing attacks if it wants to improve.

Defensive ends Evan Colorito and Darnell Thompson, defensive tackle Jakob Buys and nose tackle Josh Lovingood were all starters in 2016 and return this season. End Toby McBride is also back and will provide solid depth. The front four needs to increase its pressure on quarterbacks while doing a better job stuffing the run. The year of experience together has to be a plus for this front four.

Linebacker will be the key position that determines the ultimate success or failure of the 2017 Colorado State defense. The Rams lost their primary play maker when Kevin Davis graduated. Returning is Josh Watson and he will step in and assume some of the lost production Davis provided. Key 2016 reserve Tre Thomas will step up to the starting unit but the best news for the Rams is the return of Deonte Clyburn. Clyburn missed all of last season after experiencing blood clots. He was the rising start in 2015 and he could be this year's play maker. Patrick Elsenbast, Kiel Robinson and Deshon Mayes are also back and form a solid second string. They combined for 81 tackles last year. The linebacker rotation must step up and lend a hand to the front four and stop teams from running wild.

The secondary returns three starters. Cornerback Kevin Nutt, strong safety Jake Schlager and free safety Braylin Scott give the back four a nice foundation. Shun Johnson is slated to fill the cornerback opening but stiff competition for his and Nutt's jobs will come from Robert Awunganyi and Jamal Hicks. Also, keep an eye on freshman Christian Cumber. The Rams will field an decent secondary but it can be rather good if the front seven gets better pressure on quarterbacks and stops the run thereby allowing the secondary to do their jobs.

Colorado State has a chance to be far better defensively this year. The player that can key the improvement is returning from injury exile linebacker Deonte Clyburn.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Fresno State Bulldogs

Mountain West Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Bulldog Stadium

5241 N. Maple Ave. Fresno, CA 93740

Phone: (559) 278-4240

Web: http://www.gobulldogs.com

Capacity: 41,031

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 306 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JEFF TEDFORD*
O.C.:	*KALEN DeBOER*
D.C.:	*ORLONDO STEINAUER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JAMIE CHRISTIAN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Nebraska (27)	10 – 43
10-Sep	H	Sacramento St (Not D-1)	31 - 3
17-Sep	A	Toledo (46)	17 – 52
24-Sep	H	Tulsa (31)	41 – 48
1-Oct	A	UNLV (104)	20 – 45
8-Oct	A	Nevada (102)	22 – 27
14-Oct	H	San Diego St (28)	3 – 17
22-Oct	A	Utah St (106)	20 38
28-Oct	H	Air Force (40)	21 – 31
5-Nov	A	Colorado St (53)	0 – 37
19-Nov	H	Hawaii (94)	13 – 14
26-Nov	H	San Jose St (111)	14 – 16

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Incarnate Word (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Alabama (2)
16-Sep	A	Washington (5)
30-Sep	H	Nevada (102)
7-Oct	A	San Jose State (111)
14-Oct	H	New Mexico (54)
21-Oct	A	San Diego State (28)
28-Oct	H	UNLV (104)
4-Nov	H	BYU (44)
11-Nov	A	Hawaii (94)
18-Nov	A	Wyoming (52)
25-Nov	H	Boise State (26)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	1-11	1-5	0-6	7-4-0	5-0-0	2-4-0	5-6-0	2-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	120	YPG	329.3	Total Defense;	68	YAPG	415.1
Passing Offense;	84	YPG	213.1	Passing Defense;	5	YAPG	167.7
Rushing Offense;	119	YPG	116.2	Rushing Defense;	123	YAPG	247.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BULLDOGS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Chason Virgil	**QB**	**2021-13-10**	**122-2**	**9-0**
Dontel James	**RB**		**697-5**	**9-0**
KeeSean Johnson	**WR**		**13-0**	**773-6**
Jamire Jordan	**WR**		**83-1**	**713-2**

Five returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

CHANGE! That will be the key word around Fresno State this year. There has already been a change in head coach as Jeff Tedford has been brought on board. He has to change the mental attitude of the players he inherits and player changes are expected after the Bulldogs ended the 2016 season with a 1-11 record without a win over a D-1 team.

Whenever you have a team that failed to defeat any D-1 teams the prior year, there is plenty of blame to go around. Offensively, Fresno State ended the season ranked 84th for passing and 119th when running the ball. Neither area offers a foundation for growth.

Chason Virgil returns at quarterback but his production last year was spotty. He threw for 2021 yards for 13 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He added 121 yards rushing so there was nothing that

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

put fear in the hearts of opposing offensive coordinators. Yes, he was a redshirt freshman last year but is he the long term solution at quarterback? Mark Salazer and Jorge Reyna were brought in from the juco ranks and will create nice competition for the job. Renya's skills better match what the new coach wants to do offensively.

Dontel James (697 yards rushing) is back and will be the featured running back but depth will be a problem. Kee Sean Johnson (773 yards receiving yards) and Jamire Joran (713 yards) will give the qb (whomever that might be) two proven, reliable targets. Delvon Hardaway is a possibility for the third wide receiver job but juco transfer Derrion Grim will also get heavy consideration. Kyle Riddering and juco transfer Gunner Javernick are battling for the tight end job. IF Fresno State finds a quarterback to get them the ball, this group of receivers will be pretty good.

The offensive line returns all five starters but that isn't necessarily a positive. They struggled in 2016 and the new coaching staff will hope an additional year of experience will make this year's unit better. The line allowed 31 sacks last year. If the line is better, the offense will improve somewhat.

BULLDOGS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Malik Forrester	**NG**	**38**	**1.5**	**0**	**0**
Tobenna Okeke	**LB**	**51**	**2.5**	**0**	**0**
DeShawn Potts	**SS**	**59**	**0**	**0**	**1**

Anyone looking at the various ranking from last year might see that Fresno State was ranked 5th in the country for passing defense and think “Wow! That was a good secondary!” They would think that only if they missed the fact last year's rushing defense was ranked 123rd in the country. Opponents found no reason they needed to pass the ball as they got big chunks of yardage keeping the ball on the ground.

Nose guard Malik Forrester returns and will do a good job of clogging the middle. Nathan Madsen and Kyle Hendrickson have leads for the vacated end jobs but juco transfer Emeka Ndoh and true freshmen T. J. Mauga and Netane Muti are in hot pursuit for playing time and any of the three could jump to the top of the ending fall depth chart.

Linebacker will be a position of strong possibilities this year. James Bailey, Robert Stanley and Tobenna Okeke are three returning starters form last year's four man unit. The fourth spot is currently a free-for-all with Trent Soechting, Nela Oyukolo, Jeffrey Alison and redshirt freshman Tanner Rice all in the hunt. At least one of the linebackers must become a play maker. The nice group of people contending for membership in the linebacker rotation lack a true play maker.

Fresno State has a bunch of work to do in their secondary. Strong safety DeShawn Potts is the only returning starter but he will be a nice foundation around which to build the new back four. Free safety Mike Bell was a productive reserve last year and will make the move up to the starting unit. Juju Hughes was a second string cornerback in 2016 and is in competition for a starting job this year. Others under legitimate consideration for the two open corner slots are Jaron Bryant, juco transfers Matt Boatneg, Earl Chambers and Sherman Coleman and freshman Wylan Free. The candidates for the secondary have more potential than the players they are trying to replace. If all depends on if they can convert potential into on field production.

We feel Fresno State's defense will be better in 2017 and that improvement could be meaningful if the secondary can gel and function as a unit.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Hawaii Rainow Warriors

Mountain West Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Aloha Stadium

2500 Campus Road Hawaii Hall HI 96822-2301

Phone: (808) 956-7651

Web: http://hawaiiathletics.com

Capacity: 50,000

Surface: Sports Speed Turf **Altitude:** 75 ft.

HEAD COACH: *NICK ROLOVICH*
O.C.: *NICK ROLOVICH*
D.C.: *KEVIN LEMPA*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *MAYUR CHAUDHARI*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
26-Aug	A	California (72)	31 – 51
3-Sep	A	Michigan (9)	3 – 63
10-Sep	H	Tennessee-Martin (Not D-1)	41 - 36
17-Sep	A	Arizona (103)	28 – 47
1-Oct	H	Nevada (102)	38 - 17
8-Oct	A	San Jose St (111)	34 - 17
15-Oct	H	UNLV (104)	38 – 41
22-Oct	A	Air Force (40)	34 - 27
29-Oct	H	New Mexico (54)	21 – 28
5-Nov	A	San Diego St (28)	0 – 55
12-Nov	H	Boise St (26)	16 – 52
19-Nov	A	Fresno St (128)	14 - 13
26-Nov	H	Massachusetts (125)	46 - 40
BOWL	N	Middle Tennessee St (61)	52 - 35

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
26-Aug	A	Massachusetts (125)
2-Sep	H	Western Carolina (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	UCLA (81)
23-Sep	A	Wyoming (52)
30-Sep	H	Colorado State (53)
7-Oct	A	Nevada (102)
14-Oct	H	San Jose State (111)
28-Oct	H	San Diego State (28)
4-Nov	A	UNLV (104)
11-Nov	H	Fresno State (128)
18-Nov	A	Utah State (106)
25-Nov	H	BYU (44)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-7	4-3	3-4	6-7-0	3-4-0	3-3-0	8-4-0	4-2-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	79	YPG	391.3	Total Defense;	112	YAPG	461.6
Passing Offense;	68	YPG	227.5	Passing Defense;	64	YAPG	227.4
Rushing Offense;	79	YPG	163.8	Rushing Defense;	113	YAPG	234.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

WARRIORS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Dru Brown	**QB**	**2488-19-7**	**306-4**	
Diocemy Saint Juste	**RB**		**1006-3**	**56-1**
John Ursua	**WR**		**8-1**	**652-3**
Metuisela 'Unga	**TE**			**189-5**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

After years of frustration watching Norm Chow trying to force players to fit his system, Nick Rolovich came in and adjusted his offense to fit the styles of the players he had on hand and the result was a nice 7-7 record with a bowl game at the end. That is called good coaching. He also gave the excitement level among Hawaii fans a nice injection of optimism.

It wasn't a case of going back to the pass happy days of June Jones but Rolovich relied on a balanced attack that ended the season ranked 68th in passing and 79th in rushing. While those rankings aren't great, they do point the Rainbow Warriors in the right direction.

Dru Baker returns as quarterback after throwing for 2488 yards for 19 touchdowns and 7 picks. He ran enough to keep defenses honest (305 rushing yards). Last year was his first year as a starter and

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

better things are expected from him in 2017. Aaron Zwahlen will be battling a pair of juco transfers, Cole Brownholtz and Kyle Gallop, to act as Baker's backup.

Diocemy Saint Juyste ran for 1006 yards last year and again will line up in back of Brown. He needs to become a better receiver but nothing bad can be said about his running ability.

Brown will have some game tested, productive receivers as targets this year. John Ursua (652 receiving yards, Dylan Collie (322 yards) and Ammon Barker (231 yards) will be the starting wide receivers. They will be joined by the duo of Metuisela 'Unga and Dakota Torres at tight end. They will split playing time and will both be assets for the offense.

Left tackle Dejon Allen, left guard John Wa'a and center Asotui Eli are back and will be the hub of this year's offensive line. Guard Elijah Tupai and tackle Matt Norman will be given first chance at completing the O-Line but UCLA transfer Fred Ulu-Perry must fit in somewhere. The line will be a team asset and key another year of improvement for the Hawaii offense.

W A R R I O R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Meffy Koloamatangi	**DE**	**37**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Jahlani Taval	**LB**	**118**	**7**	**1**	**0**
Malachi Mageo	**LB**	**71**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Trayvon Henderson	**S**	**86**	**2**	**3**	**0**

Last year's defense had great difficulty stopping running teams and finished the year ranked 113th in the nation. The passing defense had a better ranking (64th) but that part of the defense was just as much of a problem as the run defense.

End Meffy Koloamatangi is a good starting point for a better defense. His stats weren't outstanding in 2016 but he did a workman-like job and is expected to improve in 2017. He and Samiuela Akoteu are returning starters and will function as the leaders of the new line. There are 13 redshirt freshmen or true freshmen D-Linemen on the spring roster and somewhere in that horde will be found the players who will challenge end David Manoa and tackle Viane Moala for the other two line assignments. The coaching staff at Hawaii have recruited heavily for defensive linemen and this is an area they feel is a priority.

Jahlani Tavai is a monster at linebacker. He recorded 118 tackles last year and still found time to rack up 7 sacks and an interception. He is joined by almost monster Malachi Mageo and steady Russell Williams. This will be a fine starting linebacker trio. The more time the line gives the linebackers to do their jobs, the better the Hawaii defense will be in 2017. There is also nice depth at linebacker.

The only really prover, productive member of the secondary returning for 2017 is safety Trayvon Henderson. Yes, he is joined by fellow 2016 starting cornerback Rojesterman Farris but Farris was quite mediocre last year. The second area where Rolovich and his staff made a huge recruiting push was defensive backs. Corner back Ben Scruton and safety Keala Santiago lead a large group that includes 9 redshirt freshman and true freshmen fighting to fill the two vacancies in the secondary. There will definitely be growing pains when the secondary rotation is finally filled. Rolovich has been able to attract athletes with higher levels of potential and in the long run, this will help the secondary but we don't know how it will play out this coming season.

While the linebackers are really good, Hawaii fans need to be happy with any improvement by this year's defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Nevada Wolfpack

Mountain West Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Mackay Stadium

900 N. Virginia Street Reno, NV 89557

Phone: (775) 784-1110

Web: http://nevadawolfpack.com

Capacity: 29,993

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 4505 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JAY NORVELL*
O.C.:	*MATT MUMME*
D.C.:	*JEFF CASTEEL*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Cal Poly SLO (Not D-1)	30 - 27
10-Sep	A	Notre Dame (82)	10 – 39
17-Sep	H	Buffalo (126)	38 - 14
24-Sep	A	Purdue (116)	14 – 24
1-Oct	A	Hawaii (94)	17 – 38
8-Oct	H	Fresno St (128)	27 - 22
15-Oct	A	San Jose St (111)	10 – 14
22-Oct	H	Wyoming (52)	34 – 42
5-Nov	A	New Mexico (54)	26 – 35
12-Nov	H	San Diego St (28)	16 – 46
19-Nov	H	Utah St (106)	38 - 37
26-Nov	A	UNLV (104)	45 - 10

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Northwestern (55)
9-Sep	H	Toledo (46)
16-Sep	H	Idaho State (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Washington State (29)
30-Sep	A	Fresno State (128)
7-Oct	H	Hawaii (94)
14-Oct	A	Colorado State (53)
21-Oct	H	Air Force (40)
4-Nov	A	Boise State (26)
11-Nov	H	San Jose State (111)
18-Nov	A	San Diego State (28)
25-Nov	H	UNLV (104)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	4-2	1-5	4-8-0	2-4-0	2-4-0	5-7-0	4-2-0	1-5-0

Total Offense;	88	YPG	382.2	Total Defense;	107	YAPG	456
Passing Offense;	92	YPG	208.2	Passing Defense;	4	YAPG	158.4
Rushing Offense;	64	YPG	174	Rushing Defense;	128	YAPG	297.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

W O L F P A C K O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ty Gangi	**QB**	**1301-8-6**	**217-3**	
James Butler	**RB**		**1337-12**	**381-3**
Wyatt Demps	**WR**			**686-9**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Nowhere in college football does the performance of one person weigh as heavily on the success or failure of a team as it does at Nevada. When Jay Norvell was named the head coach at Nevada, he exposed his hand quickly when he hired Matt Mumme as his offensive coordinator. He is the son of Hal Mumme, one of the architects of the pass-happy “Air Raid” system. It is obvious Norvell feels the best way of improving his offense will be to improve drastically throwing the ball.

That is not good for incumbent quarterback Ty Gangi (1301 yards passing for 8 touchdowns and 6 interceptions). Okay, it is now time to introduce to you that one player we mentioned in the opening comments. He is Alabama transfer David Cornwell. Judging by his spring scrimmage numbers (302 yards passing for 2 touchdowns) in only one half, Cornwell has obviously digested Mumme's offense and is set to thrive.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Nevada Wolfpack

The beauty of what is going on at Nevada is they also return a very fine running game. James Butler is back after running for 1,336 yards and 12 touchdowns. His primary backup in 2016 was Jaxson Kincaide and he also returns.

The three of the top receivers (when you include Butler) return but they haven't scratched the surface of their abilities. Wyatt Demps (686 receiving yards) and Andrew Celis (318 yards) seem to have two of the wide receiver slots manned but the third has some previously unused players showing they like the new offense and have vaulted into the picture for inclusion in the wide receiver rotation. Brendan O'Leary-Orange was the star of the spring scrimmage and looks to have a slight lead over Ahki Muhammad and Tucker Melcher for the final job. Brandon Scott will be the starting tight end.

The offensive line will have two new starters but the full five man front will have to adjust to pass blocking far more than last year. Right now we project the starting line to be left tackle Clifford Porter, left guard Tyler Rosentreter, center Ilya Lopez, right guard Sean Krepsz and right tackle Austin Corbett but we will not be surprised to see some different names atop the depth chart by opening kickoff. How this line adjusts to the new offense is the key this year.

W O L F P A C K D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Malik Reed	**DE**	**59**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Jordan Silva	**DE**	**33**	**2**	**0**	**1**
Gabe Sewell	**LB**	**78**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Dameon Barber	**SS**	**74**	**0**	**0**	**3**
Assuni Rufus	**FS**	**95**	**1**	**1**	**2**

While things are looking rosy on offense, Nevada has some heavy lifting to do with their defense. The coaches must first decide if their passing defense that was ranked 4th in the country in 2016 was actually that good or was the rushing defense so terrible (ranked dead last in the country) that opponents saw no reason to put the ball in the air since they could successfully run the ball anytime they wanted.

The front four returns all the 2016 starters. Ends Malik Reed and Jordan Silva did okay applying pressure on passers. Tackles Hauysia Sekona and Nakita Lealao did nothing particularly well but were especially inept at clogging the middle during running plays. Redshirt freshman Nick Gregg may be called on to try to get the middle of the line more productive.

Gabe Sewell will be the hub of the linebacker unit. He had to spend too much time covering up for line errors last year and didn't have the opportunity to display all of his abilities. Jaden Sawyer looks to have another job nailed down as he is the best returning option when it comes to pass coverage. The third assignment has Austin Paulhus and Travis Wilson battling it out. The linebacker rotation is a bit thin but given the chance to do their jobs, they could be decent.

The combination of returning strong safety Dameon Barber and free safety Asauni Rufus is impressive. They have duel abilities of defending against the run and falling into pass coverage. They will be leaders of this defense and are the closest things to play makers this group has. Three players are fighting for the two cornerback jobs. Whomever wins the jobs will need to get better covering pass receivers. The trio combined for just one interception last year. The three candidates are Kendall Johnson, Elijah Mitchell and E. J. Muhammad. We are concerned about the cornerbacks but you have to love the safeties.

The Nevada defense will be a long term project. Improvement of any meaningful level will make 2017 a successful season for this unit.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

New Mexico Lobos

Mountain West Conference, Mountain Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: University Stadium

1007 Stanford Drive NE Albuquerque, NM 87131

Phone: (505) 277-0111

Web: http://www.golobos.com

Capacity: 39,224

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 5194 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BOB DAVIE*
O.C.:	*BOB DEBESSE*
D.C.:	*KEVIN COSGROVE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*APOLLO WRIGHT*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	South Dakota (Not D-1)	48 - 21
10-Sep	A	New Mexico St (115)	31 – 32
17-Sep	A	Rutgers (123)	28 – 37
1-Oct	H	San Jose St (111)	48 - 41
7-Oct	H	Boise St (26)	21 – 49
15-Oct	A	Air Force (40)	45 - 40
22-Oct	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	59 - 17
29-Oct	A	Hawaii (94)	28 - 21
5-Nov	H	Nevada (102)	35 - 26
12-Nov	A	Utah St (106)	24 - 21
19-Nov	A	Colorado St (53)	31 – 49
26-Nov	H	Wyoming (52)	56 - 35
BOWL	N	Texas-San Antonio (77)	23 - 20

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Abilene Christian (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	New Mexico State (115)
16-Sep	A	Boise State (26)
23-Sep	A	Tulsa (31)
30-Sep	H	Air Force (40)
14-Oct	A	Fresno State (128)
21-Oct	H	Colorado State (53)
28-Oct	A	Wyoming (52)
4-Nov	H	Utah State (106)
11-Nov	A	Texas A & M (42)
18-Nov	H	UNLV (104)
25-Nov	A	San Diego State (28)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	6-1	3-3	6-7-0	3-4-0	3-3-0	10-2-0	6-0-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	33	YPG	456.8	Total Defense;	56	YAPG	394.8
Passing Offense;	127	YPG	106.8	Passing Defense;	59	YAPG	222.3
Rushing Offense;	1	YPG	350	Rushing Defense;	65	YAPG	172.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

LOBOS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Lamar Jordan	**QB**	**681-6-4**	**739-3**	
Tyrone Owens	**RB**		**1097-7**	**54-0**
Richard McQuarley	**RB**		**656-19**	**94-0**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

It is no secret what New Mexico wants to do offensively. Last year they were ranked next to worse passing the ball while were ranked first in the country running the ball. While this imbalance might not work in the major conferences, it works perfectly in the Mountain West Conference.

Quarterback Lamar Jordan threw for just 681 yards and 6 touchdowns but at New Mexico that is sufficient. He also ran for another 739 yards. He is back along with JaJuan Lawson. However, one of the more interesting newcomers is Arizona State transfer Coltin Gerhart. He is listed as a quarterback/running back. He easily could be handling the backup quarterback duties by opening kickoff.

Most teams would panic whenever they lose a runner who racked up 1269 yards for 13 touchdowns but at New Mexico that is business as usual. Tyrone Owens (1097 rushing yards) and Richard McQuarley (656 yards) both return and lead another loaded running back stable. Adding in Jordan's production,

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

you can see how potent this rushing offense is going to be. Daryl Chestnut and Diquon Woodhouse also return and last year they chipped in another 521 rushing yards. New Mexico also has redshirt freshman Kentrail Moran needing playing time.

While the running game is the core of any New Mexico offense, the passing game is NOT an after thought. Q'Drennan (284 receiving yards), Patrick Reed (237 yards) and Matt Quarells (180 yards) give the Lobos just enough of a receiving threat to keep opposing defenses honest.

Th offensive line needs some work. Center Blaise Fountain, right guard Aaron Jenkins and right tackle Avery Hordan all return giving the line a very solid foundation. Charlie Grammel looks ready to move up to the starting left guard slot but left tackle is where the problem lies. New Mexico lost their top two 2016 left tackles and now there is a fight among juco transfer Sammy Benard and redshirt freshmen Kameron Smith and Jonathan Brys. There will probably be some position shuffling before the final starting line is finalized. The line will again be a good group even though they might struggle a bit early in the season as the unit gels.

L O B O S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Garrett Hughes	**DE**	**26**	**7**	**0**	**0**

The 2017 New Mexico offense had better be prepared to carry a much larger part of the load because the defense will not be capable of contributing as much this year as they did in 2016. Matching a 59th national ranking for passing defense and 65th against the run may not be possible. Eight of last year's top nine tacklers are gone.

Garrett Hughes is back at one end and Cody Baker is expected to assume the other end assignment. Nose tackle could be a problem this season as unproven Johnny Williams is the leading candidate. However, impact freshman Langston Murray may get the job if he can prove in the fall he is ready for action. The front three will not be a team asset and the best New Mexico fans can hope for is the unit is not a liability.

Kimmie Carson is the only returning starter at linebacker but he wasn't all that much more productive than 2016 top reserves Austin Ocasio and Alex Hart. This trio looks like the starters but depth needs to be discovered in fall practices. One thing is certain, one of the starting threesome needs to step up and become a play maker. Like the front three, all New Mexico can hope for is the linebacker unit not being a team liability.

Three of the starting five members of the 2016 secondary must be replaced. Especially problematic will be finding a qualified replacement at nickel back. Jadon Boatright and Isaiah Brown are penciled in at cornerback. Jake Rothschiller is currently listed as the starting strong safety and Jacob Girgle is the free safety. Do not write any of those names in stone as none of the four were productive last year and they are getting challenges from juco transfers Michael Sewell, Willie Hobdy and D'Angelo Ross. I know this is beginning to sound like a recording but all the New Mexico fans can hope for is the secondary is not a team liability.

With all three levels of the 2017 New Mexico defense having an upside of “just hope the unit isn't a liability”, chances are extremely good the 2017 defense will take a significant step back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

San Diego State Aztecs

Mountain West Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Qualcomm Stadium

5500 Campanile Dr San Diego, CA 92182

Phone: (619) 594-5000

Web: http://www.goaztecs.com

Capacity: 70,561

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 50 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*ROCKY LONG*
O.C.:	*JEFF HORTON*
D.C.:	*ROCKY LONG*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*BOBBY HAUCK*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	New Hampshire (Not D-1)	31 - 0
10-Sep	H	California (72)	45 - 40
17-Sep	A	Northern Illinois (92)	42 - 28
1-Oct	A	South Alabama (88)	24 – 42
8-Oct	H	UNLV (104)	26 - 7
14-Oct	A	Fresno St (128)	17 - 3
21-Oct	H	San Jose St (111)	42 - 3
28-Oct	A	Utah St (106)	40 - 13
5-Nov	H	Hawaii (94)	55 - 0
12-Nov	A	Nevada (102)	46 - 16
19-Nov	A	Wyoming (52)	33 – 34
26-Nov	H	Colorado St (53)	31 – 63
3-Dec	A	Wyoming (52)	27 - 24
BOWL	N	Houston (36)	34 - 10

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Cal-Davis (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Arizona State (84)
16-Sep	H	Stanford (17)
23-Sep	A	Air Force (40)
30-Sep	H	Northern Illinois (108)
7-Oct	A	UNLV (104)
14-Oct	H	Boise State (26)
21-Oct	H	Fresno State (128)
28-Oct	A	Hawaii (94)
4-Nov	A	San Jose State (111)
18-Nov	H	Nevada (102)
25-Nov	H	New Mexico (54)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	11-3	6-1	5-2	7-6-1	4-2-1	3-4-0	8-5-0	3-3-0	5-2-0

Total Offense;	68	YPG	407.4	Total Defense;	11	YAPG	315.4
Passing Offense;	119	YPG	144.5	Passing Defense;	42	YAPG	209.7
Rushing Offense;	7	YPG	262.9	Rushing Defense;	6	YAPG	105.7

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

AZTECS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Christian Chapman	**QB**	**1994-20-6**	**63-0**	
Rashaad Penny	**RB**		**1005-11**	**224-3**
Mikah Holder	**WR**			**581-5**
David Wells	**TE**			**294-4**

One returning starting lineman plus three top reserves

San Diego State's offense was hit hard by graduation. Not only did the unit lose quality, they also lost quantity. The result of this mass exodus will be an influx of youngsters and along with them come the normal growing pains. San Diego State ranked 119th in passing offense and 7th in rushing offense. Expect this year's offense to be more balanced.

Quarterback Christian Chapman will be a far more important part of the offense this year. The Aztecs relied very heavily on their running game last year and Chapman took a secondary role. Even under less than perfect circumstances, Chapman posted solid numbers. He will have to withstand a strong challenge from Syracuse grad transfer Chris Laviano. However, since Chapman is the long term solution at quarterback, we feel he will retain starting duties.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

San Diego State Aztecs

It isn't often a team can lose a 2000+ yard rusher like Donnell Pumphrey and still expect to have a solid running game. Rashaad Penny was a 1000+ yard rusher in 2016 and will become the featured back this year. Juwan Washington racked up 454 rushing yards last season and is also back to provide good depth at running back.

Mikah Holer will again man one of the two wide receiver slots. Quest Truxton is slated to be the other wide out but that assumes he will hold off a strong challenge from juco transfer Fred Trevillion. David Wells was an excellent secondary target from his tight end slot last year and will handle the same responsibilities this year. While the passing game will not be as much of an after thought this year, any great increase in productivity isn't expected.

The line will be a huge concern as right guard Antonio Rosales is the lone returning starter. Center Nick Gerhard and right tackle Ryan Pope were solid backups in 2016 and graduate to this year's starting unit. The left side of the line will be manned by two redshirt freshman, tackle Tyler Roemer and guard Keith Ismael. Line depth will come almost exclusively from redshirt freshmen and untested sophomores. The line will suffer growing pains and will hinder the San Diego State offensive production.

AZTECS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ron Smith	**CB**	**54**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Parker Baldwin	**S**	**64**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Kameron Kelly	**S**	**38**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Trey Lomax	**S**	**33**	**0**	**1**	**0**

San Diego State's 42nd ranked passing defense and 6th ranked rushing defense took some big hits. Both starting ends must be replaced along with the most productive linebacker, a play making cornerback and a starting safety.

Noble Hall has been moved from tackle to end. He started at tackle last year but the needs at end are so critical, the position shaft was necessary. He will be joined by Dakota Turner. He was recruited as a fullback, was moved the linebacker and made another shift to end in 2015 and was promptly injured. In 2016 he proved himself racking up 40 tackles. Tackle will be handled by top 2016 reserve Sergio Phillips. Juco transfer Anthony Luke figures to earn significant playing time. The piecemeal line will be respectable but any injury to a starter will be a critical blow.

The linebacker unit for 2017 also required some position shifting. Ryan Dunn was the starter in the middle but has been moved outside this year. The new man in the middle will be Jay Henderson, a senior who has been an under achiever so far. The other outside linebacker will be Ronley Lakalaka, the most productive returning starter. Depth will have to come from untested youngsters.

Damontae Kazee recorded seven interceptions last year and has graduated. His 2016 running mate, Ron Smith is back and will attempt to assume some of that lost production. He will be joined by Kameron Kelly who is entering his first year to ever play cornerback. Parker Baldwin and Trey Lomax are back and will add solid game experience to the three man safety unit. Lightly tested Trenton Thompson will man the third job and is a completely unknown commodity. Depth will also be a problem for the secondary. Untested youngsters will be called upon if the injury bug shows up.

The San Diego State defense is held together with glue and tape. Injuries will be a disaster. San Diego State's defense will need to get some unexpected production out of their “kids” if they expect to not make a big step back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

San Jose State Spartans

Mountain West Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Spartan Stadium

1 Washington Square San Jose, CA 95192-0001

Phone: (408) 924-1000

Web: http://www.sjsuspartans.com

Capacity: 30,456

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 80 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BRENT BRENNAN*
O.C.:	*ANDREW SOWDER*
D.C.:	*DERRICK ODUM*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Tulsa (31)	10 – 45
10-Sep	H	Portland St (Not D-1)	66 - 35
17-Sep	H	Utah (24)	17 – 34
24-Sep	A	Iowa St (96)	10 – 44
1-Oct	A	New Mexico (54)	41 – 48
8-Oct	H	Hawaii (94)	17 – 34
15-Oct	H	Nevada (102)	14 - 10
21-Oct	A	San Diego St (28)	3 – 42
29-Oct	H	UNLV (104)	30 - 24
4-Nov	A	Boise St (26)	31 – 45
19-Nov	H	Air Force (40)	38 – 41
26-Nov	A	Fresno St (128)	16 - 14

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
26-Aug	H	South Florida (19)
2-Sep	H	Cal Poly SLO
9-Sep	A	Texas (73)
16-Sep	A	Utah (24)
23-Sep	H	Utah State (106)
30-Sep	A	UNLV (104)
7-Oct	H	Fresno State (128)
14-Oct	A	Hawaii (94)
28-Oct	A	BYU (44)
4-Nov	H	San Diego State (28)
11-Nov	A	Nevada (102)
18-Nov	A	Colorado State (53)
25-Nov	H	Wyoming (52)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS					
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-3	1-5	5-6-0	3-2-0	2-4-0	5-6-0	2-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	94	YPG	377.8	Total Defense;	88	YAPG	435.3
Passing Offense;	75	YPG	222.1	Passing Defense;	19	YAPG	188.6
Rushing Offense;	87	YPG	155.8	Rushing Defense;	122	YAPG	246.7

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

SPARTANS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Justin Holmes	**WR**			**613-3**
Tre Hartley	**WR**		**18-0**	**572-4**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

San Jose State ended last season with an unimpressive 4-8 record. A goodly portion of the blame for that lousy record can be given to an offense that never seemed to get a true identity.

The Spartans need to find a productive quarterback. Josh Love will move up to the starting unit. So far he has not impressed as he threw for just 392 yards for only 2 touchdowns and 5 interceptions. A couple of juco transfers were brought in to shore up the quarterback situation but the job is Long's and he must swim or sink!

Malik Roberson and Jamore Zigler are returning running backs. They combined for a little over 900 yards rushing in 2016. One or the other needs to grab the starting job and prove he is capable of being a featured back. With expected improvement from the offensive line, both should be more productive this year.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

San Jose State Spartans

The wide receiving rotation has lost leading 2016 receiver Tim Crawley and star tight end Billy Freeman. The wide receiver group does have Justin Holmes (613 receiving yards) and Tre Hartley (572 yards) back. Rahshead Johnson is the top candidate for the third starting job. True freshman JaQuan Blackwell may be forced into duty to provide badly needed depth. Josh Oliver and true freshman Billy Humphreys are fighting it out to fill the vacancy created by Freeman's departure. The receiver rotation will be okay IF Long can get them the ball.

The offensive line allowed 50 sacks last year. That does not bode well for the new quarterback. However, four senior starters are back. Left tackle Nate Velichko, left guard Jeremiah Kolone, center Keoni Taylor and right guard Chris Gonzalez should be better this year and will be joined by either Charles Nelson or juco transfer Jake Coleman. The line will also be deeper this year.

They offense may be better in 2017 but not enough to make a huge difference.

S P A R T A N S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Owen Roberts	**DT**	**56**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Bryson Bridges	**DT**	**32**	**2**	**0**	**1**
Frank Ginda	**LB**	**98**	**6.5**	**1**	**2**
Andre Chachere	**CB**	**36**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Trevon Bierria	**SS**	**54**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Maurice McKnight	**FS**	**68**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Part of the reason the offense wasn't effective last year is the defense seldom gave them the ball in decent field position. The run defense was especially bad and unless that problem is corrected, this will be another long year for the Spartans. It will be tough for this year's defense to get much better as the top four tacklers and five of the top six, have to be replaced.

Last year's defense was terrible defending against running plays. They ranked a horrible 122nd in the country. To make matters worse, the four players San Jose State lost from last year's defense were the best play makers and most productive. The first two holes needing to be filled are the ends. Both of last year's tackles Owen Roberts and Bryson Bridges are back and will function as the base of the front four. Eugene Taylor has some starting experience and is penciled in at one end. The other leader for a defensive end assignment is Mikal Berry, a converted tight end with just five years of football experience. Two freshmen, Cameron Woodard and Cameron Alexander may be called upon to play immediately.

The Spartans suffered one huge loss at linebacker. Tau Lotulelei and his 117 tackles must be replaced. Frank Grinda is back and he was almost as productive as Lotulelei. The remaining linebacker jobs have four players contending for two slots. They are William Ossai, Noah Failauga, juco transfer Justin Parcells and Arizona State transfer Jamal Scott. The linebacker rotation has a good chance of being a solid group.

The secondary has to replace safety Troy Hawthorne. He was the soul of the secondary and the second leading tackler in 2016. Fortunately, San Jose State played a bevy of people in the safety rotation last year and have Trevon Bierria and Ethan Aguayo back and both are capable strong safeties. Free safety has Maurice Mc Knight back to start with Chad Miller backing him up. The cornerbacks will be Andre Chachers and Jermaine Kelly completing a very good secondary.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Nevada Las Vegas Rebels

Mountain West Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Sam Boyd Stadium
4505 S Maryland Pky Las Vegas, NV 89154
Phone: (702) 895-3011
Web: http://unlvrebels.cstv.com
Capacity: 36,800
Surface: DURAPlay **Altitude:** 2005 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*TONY SANCHEZ*
O.C.:	*BARNEY COTTON*
D.C.:	*KENT BAER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ANDY LARUSSA*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Jackson St (Not D-1)	63 - 13
10-Sep	A	UCLA (81)	21 – 42
17-Sep	A	Central Michigan (78)	21 – 44
24-Sep	H	Idaho (57)	30 – 33
1-Oct	H	Fresno St (128)	45 - 20
8-Oct	A	San Diego St (28)	7 – 26
15-Oct	A	Hawaii (94)	41 - 38
22-Oct	H	Colorado St (53)	23 – 42
29-Oct	A	San Jose St (111)	24 – 30
12-Nov	H	Wyoming (52)	69 - 66
18-Nov	A	Boise St (26)	25 – 42
26-Nov	H	Nevada (102)	10 – 45

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Howard (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Idaho (57)
23-Sep	A	Ohio State (6)
30-Sep	H	San Jose State (111)
7-Oct	H	San Diego State (28)
14-Oct	A	Air Force (40)
21-Oct	H	Utah State (106)
28-Oct	A	Fresno State (128)
4-Nov	H	Hawaii (94)
11-Nov	H	BYU (44)
18-Nov	A	New Mexico (54)
25-Nov	A	Nevada (102)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-3	1-5	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0	9-3-0	5-1-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	70	YPG	404.4	Total Defense;	80	YAPG	430.1
Passing Offense;	114	YPG	162.9	Passing Defense;	81	YAPG	243.2
Rushing Offense;	15	YPG	241.5	Rushing Defense;	74	YAPG	186.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

REBELS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Charles Williams	**RB**		**763-3**	**8-0**
Devonte Boyd	**WR**			**746-4**
Tim Holt	**TE**			**140-0**

Four returning starting linemen plus five top reserves

The Runnin' Rebels were just that in 2016. They generated their offense on the ground or they didn't move the ball at all. UNLV posted a completely unbalanced 114th racked passing the ball and 15th running it. If the INLV coaches want to get any improvement over last year's 4-8 record, they must find something resembling a passing game.

UNLV returns three quarterbacks with game experience and none of the three were particularly effective last year. Kert Palandech (647 yards passing for 5 touchdowns and 2 interceptions – 359 yards rushing), Johnny Statton (676 yards passing for 6 touchdowns and 6 interceptions – 231 yards rushing) and Dalton Sneed (632 yards passing for 5 touchdowns and 2 interceptions – 348 yards rushing). However, none of the three is expected to start. Redshirt Armani Rodgers looks to be the “man”. He is a pro-style quarterback and has the physical tools that can help UNLV balance their offense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Nevada Las Vegas Rebels

As you might expect, UNLV returns a deep, solid running attack. Charles Williams (763 yards rushing), Lexington Thomas (642 yards) and Xzaviar Campbell (233 yards) insure the Rebels will have a quality back on the field every play this year.

The receiving corps gets a lift from the return of last year's leading pass catcher after he missed the later part of the season with a broken arm. Devonte Boyd racked up 746 receiving yards even though the quarterback play was awful. After Boyd, things are not as clear. Darren Woods (189 yards), Mekhi Stevenson (171 yards) and Jericho Roberts (147 yards) are all possibilities for the other two wide receiver slots. The tight end will be Tim Holt (130 yards). It is hard to tell how good this rotation will be since they will finally have a quarterback who can get them the ball.

UNLV returns four starting linemen. Center Will Kreitier is the only player needing to be replaced. The hub of the line will be tackle Kyle Saxelid. He will be joined by Nathan Jacobson at the other tackle. The guards will be Michael Chavalier and Justin Polu. J'Ondray Sanders will complete the line as a capable center. The line will be good and the offense should be much better.

REBELS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Mike Hughes	**NT**	**37**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Darius Mouton	**CB**	**51**	**0**	**1**	**1**

Gone from the 2016 UNLV defense that ranked 81st versus the pass and 74 against the run are the top 5 tacklers plus one more starter. UNLV looked to the junior college ranks to try to get an immediate boost.

The defensive line was especially ineffective last year. The front four didn't get enough pressure on quarterbacks and they didn't stuff the run. The Rebels welcome back last year's starting tackle duo, nose tackle Mike Hughes and tackles Jason Fao and Salanoa-Alo Wily. While they didn't do a very good job last year, the added year of experience should help the 2017 defense. Mark Finuau will man one end slot but the new star of the line should be juco transfer Roger Mann. The line should be somewhat better in 2017.

Jacob Rominger is another key juco transfer. He will man the middle of a very inexperienced linebacker unit. Bailey Laolagi, Brian Keyes and Gabe McCoy are the three leading candidates for the two linebacker openings. All have limited game experience but two of them must prove in the fall they are ready for full time duty. It isn't a very pretty picture at linebacker.

The secondary is either feast of famine. UNLV has a pair of solid cornerbacks returning. Darius Mouton and Tim Hough will form a capable duo as both have proven they are solid tacklers and decent in coverage. Troy Hawthorne and Kenny Keys both must be replaced at the safety spots. Free safety Dalton Baker was a reserve in 2016 but did little play making. He will start this year. The strong safety job is wide open and being contended for by nothing but inexperienced candidates. When the dust has settled, we feel redshirt freshman Tykenzie Daniels will get the job..

The 2017 UNLV defense will have questions at all three levels. They seem to have answers for some of those questions but the defense still has some glaring holes, especially at linebacker and safety. Matching last year's so-so rankings may be a task for the 2017 group.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Utah State Aggies

Mountain West Conference, Mountain Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Romney Stadium

Old Main Hill Logan, UT 84322-1400

Phone: (435) 797-1000

Web: http://utahstateaggies.com

Capacity: 25,513

Surface: AstroTurf **Altitude:** 4543 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MATT WELLS*
O.C.:	*DAVID YOST*
D.C.:	*FRANK MAILE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*STACY COLLINS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Weber St (Not D-1)	45 - 6
10-Sep	A	USC (3)	7 – 45
16-Sep	H	Arkansas St (65)	34 - 20
24-Sep	H	Air Force (40)	20 – 27
1-Oct	A	Boise St (26)	10 – 21
8-Oct	A	Colorado St (53)	24 – 31
22-Oct	H	Fresno St (128)	38 - 20
28-Oct	H	San Diego St (28)	13 – 40
5-Nov	A	Wyoming (52)	28 – 52
12-Nov	H	New Mexico (54)	21 – 24
19-Nov	A	Nevada (102)	37 – 38
26-Nov	A	BYU (44)	10 – 28

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	A	Wisconsin (10)
7-Sep	H	Idaho State (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Wake Forest (59)
23-Sep	A	San Jose State (111)
29-Sep	H	BYU (44)
7-Oct	H	Colorado State (53)
14-Oct	H	Wyoming (52)
21-Oct	A	UNLV (104)
28-Oct	H	Boise State (26)
4-Nov	A	New Mexico (54)
18-Nov	H	Hawaii (94)
25-Nov	A	Air Force (40)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	3-3	0-6	3-9-0	2-4-0	1-5-0	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	96	YPG	376.3	Total Defense;	44	YAPG	379.8
Passing Offense;	93	YPG	205.8	Passing Defense;	11	YAPG	176.5
Rushing Offense;	69	YPG	170.5	Rushing Defense;	91	YAPG	203.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

AGGIES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Kent Myers	**QB**	**2394-10-8**	**449-6**	
Tonny Lindsey	**RB**		**763-6**	**123-0**
Ron'Quavion Tarver	**WR**			**602-3**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Utah State suffered through a 3-9 2016 season. Considering the Aggies had 27 players get their first D-1 playing experience, that bad record is more understandable. 2016 was a rebuild/reload season,

The Utah State passing offense needs a bit of help and the person who can provide just that is new offensive coordinator David Yost. His task will be to improve a passing game ranked 83rd nationally in 2016.

Yost will get to work with a veteran quarterback, Kent Myers (2394 yards passing for 10 touchdowns and 8 interceptions). Myers also ran the ball for another 449 yards. Damion Hobbs and D. J. Nelson will fight it our for backup quarterback duties.

Tonny Lindsey (735 yards rushing) is back and will join Myers will form a nice rushing duo. Utah State coaches would probably prefer Myers decrease his rushing plays so they are hoping redshirt freshman

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Morian Walker steps forward and provides another reliable running option. Ron'Quavion Tarver (602 receiving yards) and Rayshad Lewis (469 yards) are both back and along with Jaren Colston-Green or Braelon Roberts form a solid starting trio at wide receiver. Tight end will be a bit of a problem unless freshman Carson Terrell or redshirt freshman Travis Boman step up and prove they are ready.

Utah State was hit hard along the line and returns just left tackle Preston Brooksby and right guard K. J. Uluave. Left guard Brandon Taukeiaho, center Demytrick Ali'Fua and right tackle Cody Boyer were all members of last years second unit and are prepared to step up to the first string. There will be an adjustment period while this new line gets on the same page. Also, depth will be limited.

The Utah State offense will go just as far as the new offensive line will take them. There is enough talent within the skill positions for this to be a very good offense, IF the line produces.

AGGIES DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ian Togiai	**DE**	**38**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Jalen Davis	**CB**	**37**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Gaje Ferguson	**SS**	**37**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Dallin Leavitt	**FS**	**57**	**0**	**3**	**0**

Utah State ranked 44th for total defense in 2016. That was good for most teams but at Utah State, they are used to better. From that unit, eight starters return and if the line can do their job, Aggies fans can expect a return to the lofty levels of not so many years ago.

End Ian Togiai must be more productive this year if the defense wants to make that big step forward. He wasn't bad in 2016 but he needs to become the D-Line's play maker. The second end assignment is wide open but you can bet redshirt freshmen Logan Lee and Caden Anderson will be right in the middle of the competition. Nose guard has a deep, experienced rotation with Christopher 'Unga, Gasetoto Achuster and Mohelika Uasike all returning and having been game tested. If the line rotation can just become average, the Utah State defense has a chance to be special.

Alex Huerta and Derek Larsen are returning starters at linebacker. They have reclaimed their jobs and will be joined by Chase Christiansen. These three are all game tested and have been productive. The fourth starting spot and depth for the unit will come from Logan Lee, Justus Te'i, Patrick Miranda and redshirt freshmen Troy Murray and Kevin Meitzenheimer. The rotation badly needs a play maker but with all the competition, we expect at least one to step forward.

The secondary looks like it can be exceptional If the front seven do their jobs. The back four can be game changers. Opposing offenses made it a habit of not throwing in the direction of returning cornerback Jalen Davis. Free safety Dallin Leavit is also back and will pair with strong safety Gaje Ferguson to form one of the better safety duos in the Mountain West. Wesley Bailey looks to have the lead at the other corner and there is depth backing up this starting group. Utah State will have a better defense this year but if the front three does a better job, the defense will be much better in 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Wyoming Cowboys

Mountain West Conference, Mountain Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: War Memorial Stadium

Corner of Ninth and Ivinson Laramie, WY 82071

Phone: (307) 766-1121

Web: http://www.gowyo.com

Capacity: 29,181

Surface: Artificial Turf **Altitude:** 7166 ft.

HEAD COACH: *CRAIG BOHI*
O.C.: *BRENT VIGEN*
D.C.: *SCOTTIE HAZELTON*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *A.J. COOPER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Northern Illinois (92)	40 - 34
10-Sep	A	Nebraska (27)	17 – 52
17-Sep	H	Cal-Davis (Not D-1)	45 - 22
23-Sep	A	Eastern Michigan (67)	24 – 27
1-Oct	A	Colorado St (53)	38 - 17
8-Oct	H	Air Force (40)	35 - 26
22-Oct	A	Nevada (102)	42 - 34
29-Oct	H	Boise St (26)	30 - 28
5-Nov	H	Utah St (106)	52 - 28
12-Nov	A	UNLV (104)	66 – 69
19-Nov	H	San Diego St (28)	34 - 33
26-Nov	A	New Mexico (54)	35 – 56
3-Dec	H	San Diego St (28)	24 – 27
BOWL	N	BYU (44)	21 – 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Iowa (34)
9-Sep	H	Gardner-Webb (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Oregon (87)
23-Sep	H	Hawaii (94)
30-Sep	H	Texas State (127)
14-Oct	A	Utah State (106)
21-Oct	A	Boise State (26)
28-Oct	H	New Mexico (54)
4-Nov	H	Colorado State (53)
11-Nov	A	Air Force (40)
18-Nov	H	Fresno State (128)
25-Nov	A	San Jose State (111)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-6	6-2	2-4	9-5-0	7-1-0	2-4-0	9-4-0	4-3-0	5-1-0

Total Offense;	48	YPG	434.5	Total Defense;	104	YAPG	453.1
Passing Offense;	67	YPG	229.1	Passing Defense;	88	YAPG	249.5
Rushing Offense;	36	YPG	205.4	Rushing Defense;	92	YAPG	203.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

C O W B O Y S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Josh Allen	**QB**	**3203-28-15**	**512-7**	**4-1**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Wyoming's 2017 offense has several holes to fill as many of their most productive skill positions players either graduated or elect to make an early entry into the NFL. Head coach Craig Bohl has tried in his three years at Wyoming to develop depth. We will get to see this year how successful that project has been.

Returning quarterback Josh Allen burst onto the scene last year and exceeded almost everyone's expectations. He was highly successful throwing the ball and good enough with his legs to provide opposing defenses something else to think about. Nick Smith also returns giving the Cowboys an experienced backup.

Wyoming has work to do at running back as there is no easily identifiable replacement for the departed Brian Hill and Shaun Wick. The leave a 2200+ yard hole in the running game. Nico Evans, Kellen Overstreet, Milo Hall and redshirt freshman Mike Green are all getting solid looks but no decision will be made on the featured back until well into the fall. Running back could be a real problem. Two year

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

starting fullback, Drew Van Maanen is back and will be an asset for anyone earning the starting running back assignment.

Tanner Gentry and Jake Maulhardt were the top two receivers in 2016 and are now gone. C.J. Johnson, James Price, Austin Conway and John Okwoli will all be given chances to replace some of the 1900+ receiving yards Gentry and Maulhardt took with them. Johnson had 304 receiving yards as a freshman last year and looks like a sure replacement. The other wide receiver slot was still wide open after spring drills. The tight end looks to be key 2016 reserve Tyree Mayfield**.** The receiver rotation is similar to the running back situation. There are talented but untested options who must replace huge amounts of yardage.

Left tackle Zach Wallace, left guard Gavin Rush, center Cole Turner, right guard Kaden Jackson and right tackle Brinkley Jolly will make up the offensive line. The O-Line will be an asset and allow all the new skill position players time to get adjusted.

There are too many holes to fill in the 2017 offense.

C O W B O Y S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Kevin Prosser	**DE**	**36**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Youhanna Ghaifan	**DT**	**33**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Logan Wilson	**LB**	**94**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Antonio Hull	**CB**	**79**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Rico Gifford	**CB**	**60**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Marcus Epps	**SS**	**111**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Andrew Wingard	**FS**	**130**	**2**	**2**	**0**

It is essential the defense carry more of the load this season. The offense simply has too many question marks. Not all of those questions have obvious answers. If the defense steps up and gives the offense the ball in good field position, the Wyoming drop off will be minimized.

The good news is the front four has a ton of game tested options returning. Eight different returning linemen saw quite a bit of playing time in 2016. End Kevin Prosser and tackle Youhanna Ghaifan will be the foundation of the line. Carl Granderson and Josiah Hall ended spring practices tied for the end opening while Conner Cain and Sidney Malauulu were battling for the open tackle assignment. The line will definitely be a team asset and will have solid depth.

Freshman All American Logan Wilson is the only returning starting linebacker. Tim Kamana, Adam Pilapil, Cassh Maluia and Ben Wisdorf are all in the hunt for the other two linebacker jobs but no final selection is expected until all the freshmen arrive for fall practices. Having Wilson by himself insures a decent linebacker rotation so if he gets meaningful help from his two new running mates, linebacker has a chance to be a big plus.

The entire secondary returns plus a lot of experienced backup players are also back. The Wyoming secondary has a chance to be really good, depending on how good the front seven ends up being. Antonio Hull and Rico Gifford will again be the cornerbacks and Marcus Epps has reclaimed his starting strong safety duties. He will be again joined by free safety Andrew Wingard. The safety duo loves to hit but they also are good in coverage. The corners are above average in covering receivers. If the linebacker crew can help the front four get pressure on opposing quarterbacks, this secondary could be the best in the Mountain West Conference.

The defense looks like it is about to make a significant step forward. If they do, that will help out an offense that has lost too many key cogs.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

PAC 12 CONFERENCE
360 3rd STREET, 3rd FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107
415-580-4200
COMMISSIONER: LARRY SCOTT

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

NORTH DIVISION

Washington
Oregon
Stanford
Washington State
Oregon State
California

SOUTH DIVISION

USC
UCLA
Utah
Arizona State
Colorado
Arizona

Rainman

NORTH DIVISION

Washington
Stanford
Oregon State
California
Oregon
Washington State

SOUTH DIVISION

USC
Colorado
Utah
UCLA
Arizona State
Arizona

North Division

Washington's offense should give opposing defensive coordinators many sleepless nights. Jake Browning is back and has a nice compliment of skill position players and a solid line surrounding him. The Huskies defense took some big hits in the secondary but capable replacements seem to be ready and the front seven will be excellent. Oregon has a new coach and his style will be a perfect fit. Oregon has all the pieces for an excellent offense. On defense, new coordinator Jim Leavitt has arrived and is known for miracles. Expect a dramatic improvement in Oregon's defense. Stanford is currently in a quarterback controversy. Nobody has grabbed hold of the starting job and until someone does, a cloud will hang over an offense that is otherwise very solid. Stanford's defense will be excellent and will hand the offense plenty of good field position situations. Washington State will again be a powerful offense but the difference this year is the defense will actually not be a liability. Oregon State enters another year where they are out manned by their conference foes. Cal has a new coach and his work is cut out for him as he has tons of holes on both sides of the ball.

South Division

While USC lost several skill position players, they have talented replacements anxiously waiting their turn. The only offensive problem area will be the line early in the season. It will take time for the new line to come together as a unit. If the front three takes care of business, USC will have a fine defense. UCLA's offense has two concerns. They must develop a running game and they must keep Josh Rosen healthy. Defensively, the Bruins lost a lot but seem to have acceptable people to fill all the holes. Utah will have difficulty on offense as they have had to do a complete rebuild of the offensive line. The defense carried the team last year but will not be as strong this year. We expect the Utes to take a step back on both sides of the ball. Arizona State has a new coordinator directing the offense and we should expect an adjustment period. State also has questions surrounding who will be the quarterback. Defensively, Arizona State will be better simply because they couldn't be worse than the 2016 unit. Colorado has lost a slew of key players on both sides of the ball and lost their excellent defensive coordinator, Jim Leavitt. Was Leavitt's departure like the rats leaving the sinking ship? No PAC 12 team or unit needs to avoid injury more than the Arizona offense. If the first unit can stay healthy, Arizona will have a pretty good offense but “pretty good” won't be good enough to cover up for an awful defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Arizona Wildcats

PAC 12 Conference, South Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Arizona Stadium

1 National Championship Drive Tucson, AZ 85721

Phone: (520) 621-2211

Web: http://www.arizonawildcats.com

Capacity: 51,811

Surface: CoolPlay **Altitude:** 2489 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*RICH RODRIQUEZ*
O.C.:	*CALVIN MAGEE*
D.C.:	*MARCEL YATES*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*CHARLIE RAGLE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	BYU (44)	16 – 18
10-Sep	H	Grambling St (Not D-1)	31 - 21
17-Sep	H	Hawaii (94)	47 - 28
24-Sep	H	Washington (5)	28 – 35
1-Oct	A	UCLA (81)	24 – 45
8-Oct	A	Utah (24)	23 – 36
15-Oct	H	USC (3)	14 – 48
29-Oct	H	Stanford (17)	10 – 34
5-Nov	A	Washington St (29)	7 – 69
12-Nov	H	Colorado (13)	24 – 49
19-Nov	A	Oregon St (85)	17 – 42
25-Nov	H	Arizona St (84)	56 - 35

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Northern Arizona (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Houston (36)
16-Sep	A	UTEP (117)
22-Sep	H	Utah (24)
7-Oct	A	Colorado (13)
14-Oct	H	UCLA (81)
21-Oct	A	California (72)
28-Oct	H	Washington State (29)
4-Nov	A	USC (3)
11-Nov	H	Oregon State (85)
18-Nov	A	Oregon (87)
25-Nov	A	Arizona State (84)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	3-5	0-4	2-10-0	2-6-0	0-4-0	7-5-0	4-4-0	3-1-0

Total Offense;	67	YPG	413.1	Total Defense;	115	YAPG	469.3
Passing Offense;	108	YPG	178.1	Passing Defense;	117	YAPG	275.2
Rushing Offense;	19	YPG	235	Rushing Defense;	83	YAPG	194.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

WILDCATS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Brandon Dawkins	**QB**	**1348-8-6**	**944-10**	
Shun Brown	**SLOT**		**62-0**	**521-3**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Arizona stumbled to a bad 3-9 mark last season. There were several reasons for the dismal season but none or the reasons were stronger than Arizona's rash of injuries. If they can avoid that plague in 2017, things have to get better.

The 2016 offense was especially hamstrung by injuries and that resulted in a completely uncharacteristic 24.9 points per game. One thing that has always been a signature of Rich Rodriguez teams is their ability to score and cover up for traditionally very poor defenses.

Last year's quarterback depth chart looked like the sign in book at any hospital emergency room. Anu Solomon went down early. That opened the door for Brandon Dawkins (1,345 passing yards and 944 rushing yards). Since Solomon transferred to Baylor, Dawkins needs only to beat out Khalil Tate and the job is his but he must become far more efficient.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

The running back position was especially hard hit by injuries in 2016. Nick Wilson and J. J. Taylor have abundant talent and are back for 2017. However, Wilson had a serious knee injury last year in game five and Taylor took over and looked like an excellent option only to go down with an ankle injury. If they can stay healthy, they will be a fine one/two punch in 2017. If they get hurt again, look for the emergence of Nathan Tilford. He had a fine spring and looks ready.

Shun Brown (521 yards) the team's most-established target back for 2017 but he is the only returnee from last season's top four receivers returning. Redshirt freshman Devaughn Cooper is one possibility for filling one of the three vacancies._Shun Brown, Shawn Poindexter, Cedric Peterson and Tyrell Johnson are other options. The final wide receiver rotation will not be finalized until fall practices.

Left tackle Layth Friekh, center Nathan Eldrige, right guard Jacob Alsadek and right tackle Gerhard de-Beer are all returning starters. Christian Boettcher will take over at left guard and complete a plus offensive unit. There is also game tested, established depth for the line.

IF injuries are avoided, Arizona will have a far more productive offense in 2017.

W I L D C A T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Dane Cruikshank	**CB**	**60**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Jace Whittker	**CB**	**35**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles	**SS**	**78**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Isaiah Hayes	**FS**	**38**	**1**	**0**	**0**

Arizona switched from their disastrous 3-3-5 defensive set to their current 3-4 formation last year and the result was another awful year. That unit ranked 117th in scoring defense, about average for Rodriguez teams. They allowed 38.3 points per game.

The defensive line simply must get a better pass rush or this year's group is doomed. The projected starting front three is Justin Belknap at end, Parker Zellers at nose tackle and Luca Bruno at tackle. If Arizona coaches expect this trio to lead them to the promised land, they are sadly mistaken. Jack Banda and Larry Tharpe will press for playing time but Arizona also has some promising incoming freshmen who will get serious looks in the fall. This will be a well below average D-Line.

Arizona's top defensive producers last year were linebackers Michael Barton and Paul Magloire. They both are gone and have left sizable holes to be filled. Deandre Miller is returning and will be the soul of Arizona's 2017 defense. It is unfortunate he will spend a goodly portion of his time covering for defensive line errors. Lightly tested Brandon Rutt and Carrington Vaughn are the leading candidates for the other two jobs but expect redshirt freshmen Jacob Colacion and Kahi Neves to hard press or overtake them. The linebacker rotation lacks depth and will have some very inexperienced people manning key slots. That is not a pretty picture.

Four of last year's five secondary starters are back for 2017. Cornerbacks Dane Cruikshank and Jace Whittaker have reclaimed their starting assignments. Strong safety Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles and free safety Isaiah Hayes also return. The only new face will be safety Jarvais McCall. The five had just six interceptions last season. Part of that low number had to be the result of tepid pressure on quarterbacks, something the secondary will have to live through again this year.

Arizona must hope for drastic improvement in their offense because this will be another typical Rich Rodriguez defense. Bettering last years 38.3 points per game allowed will be a task for this very bad unit!

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Arizona State Sun Devils

PAC 12 Conference, South Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Sun Devil Stadium
Carson Center Tempe, AZ 85287
Phone: (480) 965-3482
Web: http://thesundevils.com
Capacity: 71,706
Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude:** 1163 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*TODD GRAHAM*
O.C.:	*BILLY NAPIER*
D.C.:	*PHIL BENNETT*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*SHAWN SLOCUM*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Northern Arizona (Not D-1)	44 - 13
10-Sep	H	Texas Tech (80)	68 - 55
16-Sep	A	Texas-San Antonio (77)	32 - 28
24-Sep	H	California (72)	51 - 41
1-Oct	A	USC (3)	20 – 41
8-Oct	H	UCLA (81)	23 - 20
15-Oct	A	Colorado (13)	16 – 40
22-Oct	H	Washington St (29)	32 – 37
29-Oct	A	Oregon (87)	35 – 54
10-Nov	H	Utah (24)	26 – 49
19-Nov	A	Washington (5)	18 – 44
25-Nov	A	Arizona (103)	35 – 56

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	New Mexico State (115)
9-Sep	H	San Diego State (28)
16-Sep	A	Texas Tech (80)
23-Sep	H	Oregon (87)
30-Sep	A	Stanford (17)
14-Oct	H	Washington (5)
21-Oct	A	Utah (24)
28-Oct	H	USC (3)
4-Nov	H	Colorado (13)
11-Nov	A	UCLA (81)
18-Nov	A	Oregon State (85)
25-Nov	H	Arizona (103)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	4-2	1-5	6-6-0	5-1-0	1-5-0	7-5-0	4-2-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	81	YPG	390.8	Total Defense;	127	YAPG	520.5
Passing Offense;	39	YPG	259.3	Passing Defense;	128	YAPG	357.4
Rushing Offense;	112	YPG	131.5	Rushing Defense;	56	YAPG	163.1

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

SUN DEVILS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Manny Wilkins	**QB**	**2329-12-9**	**246-5**	
Demario Richard	**RB**	**2-0-0**	**593-3**	**136-0**
N'Keal Harry	**WR**	**46-0-0**	**69-2**	**659-5**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

In what is becoming a yearly ritual, Arizona State had extensive coaching changes again this off season. Alabama receivers coach Billy Napier takes over as offensive coordinator and veteran Phil Bennett will be in charge of resurrecting the putrid defense.

The offense suffered through several injuries and having to rely on several untested newcomers in 2016 and were still able to average 33.3 points per game. That indicates State's offense was not to blame for the team missing out on a bowl game last year. Napier inherits a very cluttered situation at quarterback. Manny Wilkins, Dillon Sterling-Cole and Brady White all have game experience and return for 2017. From that group, Wilkins has made the most of his opportunities. Last year he had 2329 passing yards for 12 touchdowns and 9 interceptions. That does not guarantee he will start this year as Alabama transfer Blake Barnett has arrived. He was a top rated quarterback out of high school and his familiarity with Napier will get him the starting job.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Demario Richard (593 yards rushing) and Kalen Ballage (536 yards) return and give State a solid running back duo. Ballage is the better receiver racking up another 469 yards through the air. Nick Ralston adds additional depth and incoming Sno Benjamin will fight for playing time. The running back rotation will be a plus unit in 2017.

Wide receiver rising star N'Keal Harry (659 receiving yards) is the only returning player guaranteed a starting job. Jalen Harvey (330 yards) and Cameron Smith (183 yards) will have stiff competition from Oklahoma transfer John Humphrey and Texas transfer Ryan Newsome. Arizona State's receiving unit will be above average and could be quite good if the transfers adjust to their new system well. Tight end will be handled by Jay Jay Wilson.

Right guard Sam Jones, center A. J. McCollum and right tackle Quinn Bailey are back from a unit that surrendered 41 sacks in 2016. Cohl Cabral will take over at left tackle and Zach Robertson is expected to handle the right guard assignment. Depth will need to be identified in fall practices.

There will be an adjustment period for the players to get used to the new coordinator and vice versa.

SUN DEVILS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
JoJo Wicker	**DE**	**39**	**2.5**	**0**	**1**
Tashon Smallwood	**DE**	**28**	**2.5**	**0**	**0**
D. J. Calhoun	**LB**	**77**	**4.5**	**0**	**0**
Kareem Orr	**CB**	**53**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Armand Perry	**FS**	**59**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Mr. Bennett has a bunch of work to do to be able to field a decent defense, even though a majority of last year's starters are back. The 2016 group allowed 39.8 points a game. They were especially inept defending against passes and ranked last in the country in that area.

Improving passing defense begins with improvement by the D-Line in rushing the quarterback. The three man front faced with that task will be ends JoJo Wicker and Tashon Smallwood and nose tackle George Lea. They combined for just 5.5 sacks last year. End Reneel Wren showed promise last season and will be first in line for playing time. We do not expect to see measurable improvement with the line and that spells trouble for the balance of the 2017 defense.

Marcus Bell and D. J. Calhoun are back and give the linebacker unit a solid foundation. 2016 top reservers Koron Crump and Alani Latu will make the jump up to the starting team and complete a decent starting linebacker foursome. Depth will be a problem unless some newcomers surprise us all.

The secondary was dreadful in 2016 allowing over 350 passing yards a game. Opponents seldom ran the ball because they knew there were easy pickings through the air. Three parts of that secondary are back. Cornerbacks Kareem Orr and Maurice Chandler are back but they combined for one interception last year. Obviously, they must increase that number tremendously. Free safety Armand Perry also returns but he didn't have a single pick in 2016. J'Marcus Rhodes will man the strong safety slot but he also was without an interception last season. Arizona State has recruited defensive backs heavily the past two years. Redshirt freshman Chase Lucas and true freshmen Tyler Johnson and Alex Perry may be forced into immediate action if the starting group again fails in pass coverage.

The 2017 Arizona State defense will not be a good group. They are hurting along the front three, they lack depth at linebacker and the secondary has no play makers and the coverage skills have not been shown.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

California Golden Bears

PAC 12 Conference, North Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: California Memorial Stadium
2538 Channing Way Berkeley, CA 94720
Phone: (510) 642-6000
Web: http://www.calbears.com
Capacity: 63,186
Surface: Matrix Turf **Altitude:** 313 ft,

HEAD COACH:	*JUSTIN WILCOX*
O.C.:	*BEAU BALDWIN*
D.C.:	*TIM DeRUYTER*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
26-Aug	H	Hawaii (94)	51 - 31
10-Sep	A	San Diego St (28)	40 – 45
17-Sep	H	Texas (73)	50 - 43
24-Sep	A	Arizona St (84)	41 – 51
1-Oct	H	Utah (24)	28 - 23
8-Oct	A	Oregon St (85)	44 – 47
21-Oct	H	Oregon (87)	52 - 49
27-Oct	A	USC (3)	24 – 45
5-Nov	H	Washington (5)	27 – 66
12-Nov	A	Washington St (29)	21 – 56
19-Nov	H	Stanford (17)	31 – 45
26-Nov	H	UCLA (81)	36 - 10

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	North Carolina (43)
9-Sep	H	Weber State (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Mississippi (68)
23-Sep	H	USC (3)
30-Sep	A	Oregon (87)
7-Oct	A	Washington (5)
13-Oct	H	Washington State (29)
21-Oct	H	Arizona (103)
28-Oct	A	Colorado (13)
4-Nov	H	Oregon State (85)
18-Nov	A	Stanford (17)
25-Nov	A	UCLA (81)

SEASON BREAKDOWN	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
	5-7	5-2	0-5	5-7-0	4-2-0	1-5-0	8-4-0	4-2-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	10	YPG	513.2	Total Defense;	125	YAPG	518.3
Passing Offense;	4	YPG	358.8	Passing Defense;	84	YAPG	245.4
Rushing Offense;	88	YPG	154.3	Rushing Defense;	127	YAPG	272.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GOLDEN BEARS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Tre Watson	**RB**		**709-4**	**241-4**
Demetris Robertson	**WR**		**10-0**	**767-7**

Two returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

New offensive coordinator Beau Baldwin, the former head coach at Eastern Washington, will install a fun offense but his plan makes running the ball important. The prior staff relied on throwing the ball all over the field and turned every game into a track meet. Baldwin will try to get his players to buy into an offense that will be far more balanced.

Baldwin's first huge job will be to find a quarterback to replace departed Davis Webb. His search will be hamstrung by the fact that Davis took 100% of the snaps last year. Not one returning quarterback played a single down in 2016. Redshirt junior Chase Forrest, redshirt sophomore Ross Bowers, redshirt freshmen Victor Viramontes and Max Gilliam and freshman Collin Moore are the candidates. Bowers is the most productive returning quarterback simply because he ran for 2 yards in 2016. We feel Gilliam is the best long term solution and Cal coaches have to look at the long term and use the 2017 season as a prolonged tryout for future years.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

California Golden Bears

Cal lost its top running back, Khalfani Muhammad (827 yards). Tre Watson is back and he racked up 709 yards while being given limited opportunities. He and Vic Enwere (336 yards) will help Baldwin implement his much more important rushing game.

Chad Hansen left for the NFL but the wide receiver cupboard is definitely not empty. Demetris Robertson (767 receiving yards) and Melquise Stovall (415 yards) are back and will provide two proven options. Jordan Veasy, Vic Wharton and Raymond Hudson are all going to be in the two deep rotation but one of the three will complete the wide receiver starting unit. Tight end Malik McMorris is back and will be counted on to play a larger role in the new offense.

Gone from a so-so 2016 offensive line are Steven Moore, Aaron Cochran and Chris Borrayo. Center Addison Ooms and right guard Dwayne Wallace are back but their starting jobs are not guaranteed. Your guess is as good as ours regarding the starting five at Cal. All we can tell you is there will be some redshirt freshman and freshman getting significant playing time as the linemen must learn how to run block. This line will be an experiment this year and like the balance of the team, it will be pointed to next year.

G O L D E N B E A R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Cameron Saffle	**DE**	**57**	**4**	**0**	**0**
James Looney	**DT**	**51**	**2**	**0**	**1**
Tony Mekari	**DT**	**35**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Devante Downs	**LB**	**83**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Marloshawn Franklin	**CB**	**46**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Like Rubenzer	**FS**	**55**	**0**	**2**	**2**

Change is coming at California but it won't happen all at once. Officials at Cal made a bold statement when they fired Sonny Dykes after the 2016 team ended the season with a 5-7 record. The statement was, “That no longer cuts it at Cal!” Cal then went out and hired a defensive minded coach who then hired a talented defensive coordinator. Suddenly defense might become something other than an after thought.

The defense gave up 42.6 points per game in 2016. New coordinator Tim DeRuyter obviously has some work ahead of him. He will install his version of the 3/4 set and rely of linebackers and edge rushers, if he can identify them.

End Cameron Saffle and tackles James Looney and Tony Mekari give DeRuyte an all returning starter three man front. They will be forced to play faster and increase pressure on passers. Ends Evan Weaver and Noah Westerfield will provide depth.

Linebackers Devante Downs and Raymond Davison had solid years in 2016 and will be the foundation of this linebacker rotation. Jordan Kunaszyk and Hamilton Anoa'l are back after getting significant playing time last season but they are not guarantee getting the two open assignments. Cal dug into the juco ranks and brought in Alex Funches and Jordan Kunnaszyk. The linebacker section is lacking depth and the existing options will have a steep learning cure to get up to speed regarding what is expected of them.

Both of last year's starting cornerbacks, Darius Allensworth and Marioshawn Franklin are back. However, keep an eye on redshirt freshman Nygel Edmonds. He may not crack the starting unit but will definitely be part of the rotation. Luke Rubenzer has claimed the free safety assignment but strong safety is wide open with Malik Psalms, Trey Turner and juco transfer Derron Brown in the hunt. The Cal secondary will be better but not improved enough to cover for the offense.

The expectations are low at Cal and they should be as it is going to take two or three years to clean up this mess.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Colorado Buffaloes

PAC 12 Conference, South Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Folsom Field

Regent Drive at Broadway Boulder, CO 80309-0017

Phone: (303) 492-1411

Web: http://www.cubuffs.com

Capacity: 53,613

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 5328 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MIKE MACINTYRE*
O.C.:	*DARRIN CHIAVERINI*
D.C.:	*D.J. ELIOT*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Colorado St (53)	44 - 7
10-Sep	H	Idaho St (Not D-1)	56 - 7
17-Sep	A	Michigan (9)	28 – 45
24-Sep	A	Oregon (87)	41 - 38
1-Oct	H	Oregon St (85)	47 - 6
8-Oct	A	USC (3)	17 – 21
15-Oct	H	Arizona St (84)	40 - 16
22-Oct	A	Stanford (17)	10 – 5
3-Nov	H	UCLA (81)	20 - 10
12-Nov	A	Arizona (103)	49 - 24
19-Nov	H	Washington St (29)	38 - 24
26-Nov	H	Utah (24)	27 - 22
2-Dec	A	Washington (5)	10 – 41
BOWL	N	Oklahoma St (11)	8 – 38

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	H	Colorado State (53)
9-Sep	H	Texas State (127)
16-Sep	H	Northern Colorado (Not D-1)
23-Sep	H	Washington (5)
30-Sep	A	UCLA (81)
7-Oct	H	Arizona (103)
14-Oct	A	Oregon State (85)
21-Oct	A	Washington State (29)
28-Oct	H	California (72)
4-Nov	A	Arizona State (84)
11-Nov	H	USC (3)
25-Nov	A	Utah (24)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-4	7-1	3-3	10-4-0	5-3-0	5-1-0	5-8-0	2-5-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	47	YPG	437.1	Total Defense;	19	YAPG	342.5
Passing Offense;	47	YPG	254.5	Passing Defense;	20	YAPG	193.6
Rushing Offense;	56	YPG	182.6	Rushing Defense;	44	YAPG	148.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BUFFALOES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Steven Montez	**QB**	**1078-9-5**	**231-1**	
Phillip Lindsay	**RB**		**1252-16**	**493-1**
Shay Fields	**WR**		**12-0**	**883-9**
Devin Ross	**WR**		**10-0**	**787-5**
Bryce Bobo	**WR**		**67-1-0**	**548-2**

Four returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

2016 was a dream year for Colorado. They won 10 games and won the PAC 12 South title. It was a year where it seemed the Buffs got every bounce to go their way. They got big plays on both sides of the ball at just the moments they most needed them. Are we saying Colorado was lucky last year? Yes, they were but good teams seem to always have good luck..

The Buffs have few replacements needed for their high powered offense but a big one will be filling the hole left by the departure of quarterback Sefo Liufau. He was a long time starter and was productive throughout his career. Steven Montez (1078 yards passing, 231 yards rushing) was his backup and graduates up to the starting unit this year. He has been productive in his limited playing time and looks like he will be an adequate replacement. Redshirt freshman Sam Noyer and true freshman Tyler Lytle

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Colorado Buffaloes

The new quarterback will have the luxury of returning starting running back Phillip Lindsay. He ran for 1252 yards and 16 touchdowns and recorded 493 receiving yards for another touchdown. Kyle Evans is a solid backup back and will make the rotation effective.

A further benefit for the new quarterback is the return of four prover, productive wide receivers. Shay Fields (883 receiving yards), Devin Ross (787 yards), Bryce Bobo (548 yards) and Jay MacIntyre (412 yards) insure a variety of styles at receiver every down. Joining this group will be tight end Chris Bounds. This will be one of the better receiving units in the PAC 12 this season. They will create match-up problems for any opposing defensive coordinator, especially when you mix in Lindsey's pass catching ability out of the backfield.

The line returns left tackle Jeromy Irwin, left guard Gerrard Kough, right guard Tim Lynott and right tackle Aaron Haigler. Reserve guard Jonathan Huckins may shift over to center. It will be a plus offensive line and the unit has some quality youngsters who will be pressing for playing time.

Colorado's offense will again be a potent unit. They are capable of scoring many ways and will put pressure on all their opponents.

B U F F A L O E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Rick Gamboa	**LB**	**76**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Ryan Moeller	**SS**	**64**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Afoiabi Laguda	**FS**	**67**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Colorado's 2016 defense was one of the better units nationally. They allowed just 21.7 points a game.

Matching the excellence of that group this year will be very unlikely. Only three starters return but more importantly, coordinator Jim Leavitt left for Oregon. D. J. Elliot will take over the defensive play calling.

The rebuilding job begins up front where all three starters must be replaced. The departed trio accounted for 144 tackles, and 9 sacks in 2016. Ends Leo Jackson and Timothy Coleman and tackle Jase Franke will get first call for filling the vacancies but juco transfers Javier Edwards, Shamar Hamilton and Chris Mulumba will definitely be under heavy consideration before opening kickoff. The defensive line will take a step back. How big that step will be strongly depends on how quickly the transfers settle in and play within the new system.

Rick Gamboa is one of the returning starters and he will form the base of the linebacker unit. Addison Gillam was a productive reserve last year and he and Gamboa will be the starting inside linebackers. Identifying the outside starters will not be easy. Drew Lewis and N. J. Falo are possibilities but we fell Terran Hasselbach will be somewhere in the rotation. The linebacker unit will not be as productive as last year simply because they will spend a lot of their time covering up for errors in front and in back of them.

Free safety Afolabi Laquda is the only returning starter in the secondary. He was a tackling specialists in 2016. Nick Fisher is the top candidate for the strong safety job but Ryan Moeller may unseat him. Isaiah Oliver has claimed one cornerback assignment. The other corner is wide open. Dante Wigley and Kevin George, a pair of highly regarded junior college transfers, should immediately push for playing time. Andrew Bergner is a possibility but keep and eye on several newcomers. Trey Udoffia and Ronnie Blackmon are two redshirt freshmen with realistic possibilities of cracking the starting secondary.

Remember those bounces we talked about that always seemed to go Colorado's way last year? Many of the bounces were created by the defense but you shouldn't expect this unit to do the same.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Oregon Ducks

PAC 12 Conference, North Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Autzen Stadium

110 Johnson Hall Eugene, OR 97403

Phone: (541) 346-3014

Web: http://www.goducks.com

Capacity: 54,000

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 431 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*WILLIE TAGGART*
O.C.:	*MARIO CRISTOBAL*
D.C.:	*JIM LEAVITT*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*RAYMOND WOODIE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Cal-Davis (Not D-1)	53 - 28
10-Sep	H	Virginia (118)	44 - 26
17-Sep	A	Nebraska (27)	32 – 35
24-Sep	H	Colorado (13)	38 – 41
1-Oct	A	Washington St (29)	33 – 51
8-Oct	H	Washington (5)	21 – 70
21-Oct	A	California (72)	49 – 52
29-Oct	H	Arizona St (84)	54 - 35
5-Nov	A	USC (3)	20 – 45
12-Nov	H	Stanford (17)	27 – 52
19-Nov	A	Utah (24)	30 - 28
26-Nov	A	Oregon St (85)	24 – 34

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Southern Utah (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Nebraska (27)
16-Sep	A	Wyoming (52)
23-Sep	A	Arizona State (84)
30-Sep	H	California (72)
7-Oct	H	Washington State (29)
14-Oct	A	Stanford (17)
21-Oct	A	UCLA (81)
28-Oct	H	Utah (24)
4-Nov	A	Washington (5)
18-Nov	H	Arizona (103)
24-Nov	H	Oregon State (85)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-3	1-5	2-9-1	1-5-0	1-4-1	7-5-0	5-1-0	2-4-0

Total Offense;	15	YPG	491.7	Total Defense;	126	YAPG	518.4
Passing Offense;	31	YPG	265.3	Passing Defense;	113	YAPG	271.9
Rushing Offense;	27	YPG	226.4	Rushing Defense;	121	YAPG	246.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

DUCKS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Justin Herbert	**QB**	**1936-19-4**	**161-2**	
Royce Freeman	**RB**		**945-9**	**144-1**
Darren Carrington	**WR**		**6-0**	**606-5**
Charles Nelson	**WR**		**37-1**	**554-5**
Jacob Breeland	**TE**			**123-0**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Oregon finished the 2016 season with a very unlike Oregon record of 4-8. That caused a coaching change and Willie Taggart was brought in from South Florida. With the new staff, a different philosophy will come to Eugene, Oregon.

That new philosophy could have a direct bearing on who starts at quarterback. Justin Herbert stepped forward last year and took over the starting assignment mid way through the season. He had 1936 yards passing for 19 touchdowns and just four interceptions in limited duty. Taggart has always liked duel threat quarterbacks and while Herbert can run the ball, Taggart has a true freshman who is a true duel threat option. He is early enrollee Braxton Burmeister and he and Herbert will continue to battle for playing time in the fall.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Oregon Ducks

Royce Freeman returns at running back (945 yards rushing, 144 yards receiving). Excellent depth will be provided by explosive Tony Brooks-James (771 yards rushing, 155 yards receivi8ng) and Kani Benoit (300 rushing yards). This rotation will be a definite team plus, especially with the much anticipated improvement in the still very young line.

Darren Carrington (606 yards receiving) and Charles Nelson (554 yards) are both back and have claimed the starting wide receiver duties. One or the other needs to establish himself as the crunch time receiver. Tight end Jacob Breeland looks ready for full time starting responsibilities.

Whenever you start four freshmen offensive linemen, like Oregon did last year, you have to expect growing pains. However, that year of forced service will be a big plus for the line in 2017. Left tackle Brady Aiello, left guard Shane Lemeiux, center Jake Hanson and right tackle Calvin Throckmorton are all back and we can expect significantly better play out of them. Put returning tackle Tyrell Crosby who missed 2016 due to injury and juco transfer George Moore in the mix and the line becomes even better. After being a big negative last year, the line will actually be a team plus in 2017.

The Oregon offense has all the needed pieces in place. The big question is, will those pieces fit into the new offense being installed.

D U C K S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Justin Hollins	**DE**	**51**	**3**	**0**	**1**
Henry Mondeaux	**DE**	**35**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jalen Jelks	**DT**	**31**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Troy Dye	**LB**	**91**	**6.5**	**1**	**0**
Jimmie Swain	**LB**	**77**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Tyree Robinson	**CB**	**53**	**1**	**1**	**0**
Ugo Amadi	**CB**	**42**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Brendon Schooler	**S**	**74**	**.5**	**4**	**0**
Khalil Oliver	**S**	**46**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Last year, Oregon's defense stunk. They ranked 126th in scoring defense and were equally inept defending against the pass and the run. Enter defensive guru and new coordinator Jim Leavitt. He performed a miracle at Colorado and will be called upon to do the same at Oregon. The difference between what Leavitt inherited at Colorado and what he is walking into in Oregon is there is actually some decent talent at Oregon.

The line returns three established parts with ends Justin Hollins and Henry Mondeaux and tackle Jalen Jelks. None of the three were outstanding in 2016 but all three were adequate. Better pressure on passers is essential. Elijah George and Gary Baker are battling for the open tackle assignment. However, they will have a tough time keeping Clemson graduate transfer Sam Pagano out of the starting unit. The line will be better under the direction of Leavitt and with the addition of Pagano.

Freshman All-American linebacker, Troy Dye is a monster in the making. He will be the heart and soul of this defense and will make players around him better. If the line improves as much as we think it might, Dye could post unbelievable numbers this season. Jimmy Swain is also back and was a solid producer in 2016. Key 2016 reserve A. J. Hotchkins is ready to assume the other linebacker job but he must overcome the challenge of Kaulana Apelu.

The secondary returns all four starters from last year and some quality backup depth. Tyree Robinson and Ugo Amadi are back at the corners but they have some solid youngsters wanting to take away their playing time. Thomas Graham and Deommodore Lenoir are extremely talented true freshmen and are in the mix. Brenden Schooler and Khalil Oliver are returning starters at the safety slots but they also have some people hot on their heals led by true freshman Brady Breeze. He has the tools to become a difference maker. Like the linebacker unit, this secondary will benefit greatly from the much improved D-Line. The front seven is good enough that the secondary can concentrate on their jobs instead of making up for mistakes made up front.

The Oregon defense will be substantially better in 2017. Will they be good enough to help Oregon contend for their divisional title? Heck YES.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Oregon State Beavers

PAC 12 Conference, North Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Reser Stadium

16 Memorial University Corvallis, OR 97331

Phone: (541) 737-0123

Web: http://www.osubeavers.com

Capacity: 45,674

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 228 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*GARY ANDERSON*
O.C.:	*KEVIN MCGIVEN*
D.C.:	*KEVIN CLUNE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	A	Minnesota (38)	23 - 30
17-Sep	H	Idaho St (Not D-1)	37 - 7
24-Sep	H	Boise St (26)	24 – 38
1-Oct	A	Colorado (13)	6 – 47
8-Oct	H	California (72)	47 - 44
15-Oct	H	Utah (24)	14 – 19
22-Oct	A	Washington (5)	17 – 41
29-Oct	H	Washington St (29)	31 – 35
5-Nov	A	Stanford (17)	15 – 26
12-Nov	A	UCLA (81)	24 – 38
19-Nov	H	Arizona (103)	42 - 17
26-Nov	H	Oregon (87)	34 - 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Portland State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Minnesota (38)
16-Sep	A	Washington State (29)
23-Sep	A	Colorado State (53)
30-Sep	H	Washington (5)
7-Oct	A	USC (3)
14-Oct	H	Colorado (13)
26-Oct	H	Stanford (17)
4-Nov	A	California (72)
11-Nov	A	Arizona (103)
18-Nov	H	Arizona State (84)
24-Nov	A	Oregon (87)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	4-3	0-5	9-3-0	6-1-0	3-2-0	5-7-0	3-4-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	105	YPG	365.5	Total Defense;	79	YAPG	429.2
Passing Offense;	110	YPG	173.8	Passing Defense;	44	YAPG	211.2
Rushing Offense;	49	YPG	191.7	Rushing Defense;	102	YAPG	218

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BEAVERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Marcus McMarylon	**QB**	**1286-10-5**	**75-1**	
Ryan Nall	**RB**		**951-13**	**214-2**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Oregon State showed improvement last year in almost every area but that improvement could have been greater were it not for a rash of injuries.

The Beavers were especially hit hard on offense. Darrell Garrerson started six game at quarterback but suffered a broken leg. Marcus McMaryion started the final six games. Neither was overly successful. Juco transfer Jake Lutton enters the mix and may be the most talented of the three. A final decision on who starts is likely to be made mid way through fall practices. Our pick is Litton based on his size and big arm.

The person earning the quarterback job will have the luxury of having running back Ryan Nall (951 yards) returning. Artavis Pierce (523 yards) is also back and will provide a solid second option to the running game. Both Nall and Pierce are competent receivers coming out of the backfield.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Oregon State Beavers

Top 2016 receiver Victor Bolden will not be back for 2017. Also, some of the leading candidates for the receiver rotation are still recovering from injury and their returns are not certain. Seth Collins is one of the wounded warriors but if he is able to play, he will give the offense one decent receiving option. Jordan Villamin is a second proven receiver but he is still recovering from a knee injury. 2016 key reserve Timmy Hernandez is back and healthy. He will definitely man one job. Hunter Jarmon, and Trevor Bradford are candidates but freshman Isaiah Hodgins is also getting heavy consideration. He's 6' 4" and has good hands. Expect him to be a contributor in 2017 even if he doesn't start.

Three of last year's starting linemen have to be replaced. Left guard Gus Lavaka and right tackle Blake Brandel return and will be two blocks around which to rebuild the line. 2016 reserves Will Hopkins and Kammy Delp will step up to the starting unit and man the left tackle and right guard spots. Center is a problem area and either a newcomer will be installed or there will be some position shifting. The line will not be a team strength. All the Beavers can hope for is an adequate unit.

A lot of the level of success for the 2017 Oregon State offense depends on the production at quarterback and how well the line gels.

B E A V E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Elu Aydon	**NT**	**21**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Manase Hungalu	**LB**	**83**	**0**	**1**	**3**
Bright Ugwoegbu	**LB**	**54**	**5.5**	**0**	**1**
Xavier Crawford	**CB**	**70**	**1**	**1**	**0**
Brandon Arnold	**S**	**68**	**0**	**1**	**1**

Oregon State's defense allowed 6.5 fewer points per game last year than they gave up in 2015. That is progress but it also means there is still a ton of work to do. Improving a very bad rushing defense would be a good starting point to continue on the path to a solid defense.

Last year's defense didn't get much pressure on quarterbacks and couldn't stop the run. An improved line would help ease these two critical weaknesses. Last year's starting three man defensive line returns. End Baker Pritchard, nose tackle Elu Aydon and tackle Kalani Vakameilalo didn't get the job done last year. They either will improve or Phillip Napoleon, Titus Failauga, Summer Houston and Paisa Savea will take their snaps. The best Oregon State can hope for is if the line becomes an average unit.

The loss of linebacker Caleb Saulo will hurt. Right now, the Beavers have two of the four linebacker slots filled with Manase Hungalu manning one inside job and Bright Ugwoegbu on the outside. Jonathan Willis and Andrzel Hughes-Murray are battling for the inside opening while Shemiah Unutoa-Whitson has the lead for the second outside spot. The unit badly needs a play maker. Expect true freshman David Morris to get some consideration in the fall.

Oregon State must replace two solid starters in their secondary, cornerback Treston Decoud and safety Devin Chappell. Back to handle one corner job is Xavier Crawford. Crawford looks to improve after an impressive freshman season. Brandon Arnold and Jalen Moore have the lead for the safety starting assignments. Dwayne Williams and Jay Irvine are in a continuing fight for the second cornerback slot. Redshirt freshman Christian Williams will also be in the fight for that corner job. The secondary has possibilities but will not be able to maximize their potential as the front seven will not be able to give the needed assistance.

Oregon State's defense needs to continue its improvement but with the man power available this year, that could be difficult.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Stanford Cardinal

PAC 12 Conference, North Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Stanford Stadium

198 Junipero Serra Boulevard Stanford, CA 94305

Phone: (650) 723-2300

Web: http://www.gostanford.com

Capacity: 50,000

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 100 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DAVID SHAW*
O.C.:	*MIKE BLOOMGREN*
D.C.:	*LANCE ANDERSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*PETE ALAMAR*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Kansas St (32)	26 - 13
17-Sep	H	USC (3)	27 - 10
24-Sep	A	UCLA (81)	22 - 13
30-Sep	A	Washington (5)	6 – 44
8-Oct	H	Washington St (29)	16 – 42
15-Oct	A	Notre Dame (82)	17 - 10
22-Oct	H	Colorado (13)	5 – 10
29-Oct	A	Arizona (103)	34 - 10
5-Nov	H	Oregon St (85)	26 - 15
12-Nov	A	Oregon (87)	52 - 27
19-Nov	A	California (72)	45 - 31
26-Nov	H	Rice (120)	41 - 17
BOWL	N	North Carolina (43)	25 - 23

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
26-Aug	A	Rice (120)
9-Sep	A	USC (3)
16-Sep	A	San Diego State (28)
23-Sep	H	UCLA (81)
30-Sep	H	Arizona State (84)
7-Oct	A	Utah (24)
14-Oct	H	Oregon (87)
26-Oct	A	Oregon State (85)
4-Nov	A	Washington State (29)
10-Nov	H	Washington (5)
18-Nov	H	California (72)
25-Nov	H	Notre Dame (82)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	4-2	6-1	7-6-0	2-5-0	5-1-0	5-7-0	2-4-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	103	YPG	367.1	Total Defense;	38	YAPG	368.1
Passing Offense;	115	YPG	158.2	Passing Defense;	61	YAPG	223.6
Rushing Offense;	35	YPG	208.9	Rushing Defense;	38	YAPG	144.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CARDINAL OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Ryan Burns	**QB**	**1151-5-7**	**11-0**	
Bryce Love	**RB**		**779-3**	**83-1**
Dalton Schultz	**TE**			**222-1**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Stanford faces something unusual for them. They have problems at quarterback. Ryan Burns started the first half of last year but struggled with only 1151 passing yards for 5 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. Keller Chryst stepped in mid-season and was more effective, 905 yards, 10 touchdowns and just 2 interceptions. He looked like the quarterback of the future but suffered a knee injury in Stanford's bowl game. Burns, Chryst and former five star recruit Davis Mills are all back for 2017. Add to the competition redshirt freshman K. J. Costello. Based on the spring scrimmage, the job will be Chryst's, assuming he is physically able to go.

How do you replace Christian McCaffrey? You don't. You simply adjust your offense to fit the pieces you have on hand. Bryce Love (779 yards rushing) did an excellent job acting as McCaffrey's backup last year. He amassed that yardage on only 111 carries. Cameron Scarlett, Dorian Maddox and Trevor Speights all performed well in spring practices and will contend for the reserve roles at running back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Trenton Irvin (442 receiving yards) and J. J. Whiteside (379 yards) are the top producing returning wide receivers. Considering the ineffective quarterback play last year, their production numbers are not that bad. True freshman Osiris St. Brown will get a look and is capable of handling the third receiver spot. Depth will be a problem unless some previously no-productive returning players suddenly awaken. Tight end will be well manned by returning Dalton Schultz and redhirt freshman Kaden Smith. Expect heavy targeting to the tight ends this year.

Returning starting tackles David Bright and A. J. Hall traded positions with Bright now on the left side and Hall on the right. They welcome back fellow starters left guard Nate Herbig and center Jesse Burkett. Key 2016 reserve Nick Wilson will move up the depth chart and start at right guard. Stanford has long been a haven for offensive linemen and the Cardinal captured two of the best line recruits in Foster Sarell and Walker Little. We're sure the coaches would like to redshirt both but they may be called into duty to provide the line with badly needed depth.

Stanford needs to clear up the qb log jam. If they get solid production there, this unit could be good.

C A R D I N A L D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Harrison Phillips	**DT**	**47**	**8**	**0**	**0**
Joey Alfieri	**LB**	**51**	**5**	**2**	**0**
Alameen Murphy	**CB**	**36**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Stanford will have a defense this year that will be the strength of the team. While the unit lacks any easily identifiable stars, the unit is loaded with proven producers. It is a blue collar group that takes care of business and seldom will make huge mistakes.

Tackle Harrison Phillips will be the foundation of the three man front line. He was a monster against the run and was able to record 8 sacks along the way last year. Dylan Jackson looks like a rising star at the end position. The second end job is wide open. Stanford coaches may go well into fall practices before they award the third D-Line starting assignment or identify line depth. The line will not be a team asset in 2017 and Cardinal fans need to hope the unit is adequate.

The four man linebacker unit returns all four staters from 2016. The group needs for one of the four to step up and become the leader but even if Joey Alfieri, Kevin Palma, Peter Kalambayi or Bobby Okereke do not take that leadership mantel, this will be a solid starting four. There is a ton of experienced depth returning lead by Sean Barton. There are so many experienced linebackers, we fully expect one or two of them to shift to defensive end.

Stanford's secondary allowed more than 2900 passing yards last year. That is a misleading stat as injuries in the secondary caused Stanford coaches to insert untested players. The secondary is healthy again. Quenton Meeks is back from injury and many feel he will be in the discussion for All-American honors at cornerback. Alameen Murphy will handle the other corner but he needs to become a better pass defender. If he doesn't improve, Frank Buncom is also returning from injury and will take over the job. Ben Edwards and Brandon Simmons currently sit atop the depth chart at the two safety slots. The secondary has a chance of being a pretty solid group. It all depends if the line can apply adequate pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

The defense will be good enough to lead Stanford to another nine or ten win season. The question is, is it good enough to have Stanford contend for their divisional title?

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

UCLA Bruins

PAC 12 Conference, South Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Rose Bowl

405 Hilgard Ave Los Angeles, CA 90095

Phone: (310) 825-4321

Web: http://www.uclabruins.com/

Capacity: 91,136

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 283 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*JIM MORA*
O.C.:	*JEDD FISCH*
D.C.:	*TOM BRADLEY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*SCOTT WHITE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Texas A & M (42)	24 – 31
10-Sep	H	UNLV (104)	42 - 21
17-Sep	A	BYU (44)	17 - 14
24-Sep	H	Stanford (17)	13 – 22
1-Oct	H	Arizona (103)	45 - 24
8-Oct	A	Arizona St (84)	20 – 23
15-Oct	A	Washington St (29)	21 – 27
22-Oct	H	Utah (24)	45 – 52
3-Nov	A	Colorado (13)	10 – 20
12-Nov	H	Oregon St (85)	38 - 24
19-Nov	H	USC (3)	14 – 36
26-Nov	A	California (72)	10 – 36

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Texas A & M (42)
9-Sep	H	Hawaii (94)
16-Sep	A	Memphis (45)
23-Sep	A	Stanford (17)
30-Sep	H	Colorado (13)
14-Oct	A	Arizona (103)
21-Oct	H	Oregon (87)
28-Oct	A	Washington (5)
3-Nov	A	Utah (24)
11-Nov	H	Arizona State (84)
18-Nov	A	USC (3)
25-Nov	H	California (72)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-3	1-5	4-8-0	2-4-0	2-4-0	4-7-1	4-2-0	0-5-1

Total Offense;	91	YPG	379.8	Total Defense;	47	YAPG	382
Passing Offense;	19	YPG	295.6	Passing Defense;	43	YAPG	210.5
Rushing Offense;	127	YPG	84.3	Rushing Defense;	63	YAPG	171.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BRUINS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Josh Rosen	**QB**	**1915-10-5**	**-72-7**	
Darrten Andrews	**WR**		**27-1**	**709-4**
Jordan Lasley	**WR**	**30-0-0**		**620-5**
Austin Roberts	**TE**			**261-1**
Caleb Wilson	**TE**			**220-0**

The whole world wants to explain UCLA's bad 4-8 record in 2016 on the shoulder injury suffered by their talented, young quarterback Josh Rosen. His loss was a part of the reason UCLA's offense was ranked 91st in total offense but he wasn't the only reason. There were other problems and those things need to be fixed this year if the Bruins plan on getting back to their normal nine or ten win level.

Quarterback will be considered as a team strength by most people but we beg to differ. Rosen played well below expectations prior to his injury. He threw for way too many interceptions and 5 of his 10 touchdowns were throw against two of the weakest defenses, Arizona and Arizona State. Rosen needs to improve his completion percentage and produce better against quality teams.

Another huge problem for the 2016 UCLA offense was the lack of a running game. The whole TEAM

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

barely ran for 1000 yards. Soso Jamabo is the leading returning running back and he had a whopping 321 yards rushing. Nate Starks (281 yards) and Bolu Olorunfunmi (280 yards) also return. One of the three must step forward and provide a meaningful running game. The new starting fullback will be named in the fall.

UCLA does return some nice receivers. Darren Andrews (709 yards receiving) and Jordan Lasley (620 yards) and tight end Austin Roberts (261 yards) will provide Rosen with some nice productive targets. There is also solid depth in Eldridge Massington.

The offensive line must replace All-PAC-12 left tackle Conor McDermott. Left guard Kenny Lacy, center Scott Quessenberry, right guard Najee Toran and right tackle Andre James are all back and have reclaimed their starting jobs. Kolton Miller was starting ahead of James at right tackle before his season was ended by injury. Either Miller or James will shift to left tackle and complete a capable line. There is some nice depth sitting in reserve.

The big problem area for UCLA's offense will be at running back. The potential is there but until that potential is converted into game production, it's hard to like this group.

B R U I N S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jacob Tuioti-Mariner	**DE**	**42**	**0**	**3**	**1**
Matt Dickerson	**DT**	**34**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Kenny Young	**LB**	**90**	**5**	**1**	**3**
Adarius Pickett	**CB**	**42**	**0**	**3**	**1**
Jaleel Wadood	**S**	**76**	**0**	**0**	**0**

UCLA enters this season with its third defensive coordinator in three years. That's a lot of change and when combined with the turnover within the defense, there is a load of work to do.

Gone from last year’s defense that allowed 27.5 points per game are tackles Eddie Vanderdoes and Eli Ankou and end Takkarist McKinley. End Jacob Tuioti-Mariner is a returning starter at one end. Rick Wade is slated to join him at the other end. Freshman Jaelan Phillips will be fighting for playing time at one of the end slots as will juco transfer Chigozie Nnoruka. Tackle Matt Dickerson was a key reserve last year and is ready for starting duties. The other tackle job is wide open with Boss Tagaloa the leading contender.

Linebacker Jayon Brown is on his way to the NFL. Some of his lost production will be assumed by future monster Kenny Young. Josh Woods looks like a strong possibility at one of the other two linebacker slots. Mique Juarez was one of the highest rated recruits in 2016 but had a neck injury. He then took a leave of absence. He is back and is expected to be a strong part of the linebacker rotation. Redshirt freshman Breland Brandt is another possibility. There is a lot of potential in this linebacker group but little game tested experience.

Cornerbacks Marcus Rios and Fabian Moreau and safety Randall Goforth are all gone and leave huge holes in the secondary. Adarius Pickett and Nathan Meadors got significant playing time and were productive last year at the corners. Jaleel Wadood also is back and will very capably handle one safety assignment. The second safety job has a horde of people including a nice redshirt freshmen group fighting to fill the opening. There will be some rough edges in the secondary early in the season but if they gel and become a unit, this secondary has good possibilities.

Considering how much talent was lost off of last year's defense, the 2017 version has a chance of being okay. The defense will take a step back but it won't be as large of a step as many people fear.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Southern California Trojans

PAC 12 Conference, South Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
University Park Los Angeles, CA 90089
Phone: (213) 740-2311
Web: http://www.usctrojans.com
Capacity: 93,607
Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 285 ft.

HEAD COACH: *CLAY HELTON*
O.C.: *TEE MARTIN*
D.C.: *CLANCY PENDERGAST*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Alabama (2)	6 – 52
10-Sep	H	Utah St (106)	45 - 7
17-Sep	A	Stanford (17)	10 – 27
23-Sep	A	Utah (24)	27 – 31
1-Oct	H	Arizona St (84)	41 - 20
8-Oct	H	Colorado (13)	21 - 17
15-Oct	A	Arizona (103)	48 - 14
27-Oct	H	California (72)	45 - 24
5-Nov	H	Oregon (87)	45 - 20
12-Nov	A	Washington (5)	26 - 13
19-Nov	A	UCLA (81)	36 - 14
26-Nov	H	Notre Dame (82)	45 - 27
BOWL	N	Penn St (7)	52 - 49

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Western Michigan (12)
9-Sep	H	Stanford (17)
16-Sep	H	Texas (73)
23-Sep	A	California (72)
29-Sep	A	Washington State (29)
7-Oct	H	Oregon State (85)
14-Oct	H	Utah (24)
21-Oct	A	Notre Dame (82)
28-Oct	A	Arizona State (84)
4-Nov	H	Arizona (103)
11-Nov	A	Colorado (13)
18-Nov	H	UCLA (81)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	6-0	4-3	8-5-0	5-1-0	3-4-0	3-9-0	1-5-0	2-4-0

Total Offense;	20	YPG	477.1	Total Defense;	36	YAPG	367.2
Passing Offense;	25	YPG	276.4	Passing Defense;	65	YAPG	227.5
Rushing Offense;	42	YPG	200.7	Rushing Defense;	31	YAPG	139.6

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TROJANS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Sam Darnold	**QB**	**3086-31-9**	**250-2**	
Ronald Jones	**RB**		**1082-12**	**76-1**
Deontay Burnett	**WR**		**31-0**	**622-7**
Daniel Imatorbhebhe	**TE**			**250-4**
Tyler Petite	**TE**			**156-2**

Two returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

USC enters the 2017 season flush with skill players and a 2017 recruiting class that will provide some solid options for holes left by graduation and early entry in the NFL draft.

The Trojans welcome back the early leader for this year's Heisman Trophy, quarterback Sam Darnold. He had a breakout season in 2016 racking up 3086 yards passing for 31 touchdowns and 9 interceptions. Darnold also displayed decent running ability by recording another 250 yards on the ground.

Ronald Jones (1082 yards rushing) returns as the featured running back. Aca'Cedric Ware (397 yards) also returns and adds depth. Ware shouldn't get to comfortable as incoming freshmen Ronald Jones and Vavae Malepeai both have the tools to demand immediate playing time. The USC running back

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

back stable is loaded this year. Receivers JuJu Smith-Schuster and Darreus Rogers are departed and picking up their production will be the major task prior to the opening kickoff. Deontay Burnett (622 receiving yards) and Steven Mitchell (226 yards) will pick up some of the slack. Michael Pittman is a sophomore and has a good chance of becoming a starter. Redshirt freshmen Trevon Sidney and Tyler Vaughns also look ready for playing time. Also entering the mix will be true freshman Joseph Lewis. As you can see, there is no shortage of solid options. The fall practices will be the time when the final sorting process takes place and the starting unit will be named.

So far, the Trojans either have someone on the roster or somebody who will arrive on campus to fill any holes. The offensive line may be their toughest job for 2017. Damien Mama, Zach Banner and Chad Wheeler have all departed. Only center Nico Falah and right guard Viane Talamaivo are back for 2017. Chuma Edoga and Chris Brown will elevate to the starting unit at left tackle and left guard. Redshirt freshman Nathan Smith looks like the leader for the right tackle job. The line will need time to gel but should be good.

TROJANS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Rasheem Green	**DE**	**54**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Cameron Smith	**LB**	**83**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Porter Gustin	**LB**	**68**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Iman Marshall	**CB**	**51**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Ajene Harris	**CB**	**29**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Chris Hawkins	**SS**	**44**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Marvell Tell	**FS**	**43**	**0**	**1**	**0**

The 2016 USC defense was a good group. They allowed just 24.2 points per game. Seven key players are back but replacing the four starters lost will be a job.

Tackle Stevie Tu'ikolovatu is the major loss on the defensive front three. End Rasheem Green is the play maker up front and will make the people around him better. Malik Dorton and Kenny Bigelow are the leading candidates for the two tackle jobs but they need to watch out for incoming freshman Jay Tufele. Freshman Marlon Tuipulotu will get long looks in the fall and could earn a spot on the two deep depth chart. The line will be a very athletic group but it remains to be seen if they can function as a unit.

USC must fill a big hole created by the departure of linebacker Michael Hutchings. Three parts of the four man unit have been filled by Cameron Smith and Uchenna Nwosu on the inside and Porter Gustin at one outside slot. Connor Murphy is the leader for the one opening but true freshman Levi Jones may be too good to leave on the bench. There is good depth, especially for the inside jobs.

Cornerback Adoree' Jackson and safety Leon McQuay will need to be replaced. Iman Marshall is back and has reclaimed his starter status at one corner. Ajene Harris is slated to make the move from the second string up to the starting secondary. Free safety Marvell Tell was a starter last year and will hold the same capacity this year. He will have a new running mate at strong safety but Chris Hawkins got plenty of playing time last year and was quite productive. There is excellent existing depth at cornerback and a very good looking group of redshirt freshmen safeties is looking for playing time. Our biggest question about the secondary is how USC will keep freshman Bubba Bolden off the field!

The back eight of the 2017 USC defense will be quality through and through. If there is an actual concern defensively, it would be about the front three. If that group comes together as a unit and allows their All American candidate, end Rasheem Green, to make plays, opponents are in for a very long season.

The 2016 USC defense was a good group. They allowed just 24.2 points per game. Seven key players are back but replacing the four starters lost will be a job.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Utah Utes

PAC 12 Conference, South Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Rice-Eccles Stadium

201 President's Circle Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9008

Phone: (801) 581-7200

Web: http://utahutes.cstv.com

Capacity: 45,017

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 4265 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*KYLE WHITTINGHAM*
O.C.:	*JIM HARDING*
D.C.:	*MORGAN SCALLEY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*SHARRIEFF SHAH*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Southern Utah (Not D-1)	24 - 0
10-Sep	H	BYU (44)	20 - 19
17-Sep	A	San Jose St (111)	34 - 17
23-Sep	H	USC (3)	31 - 27
1-Oct	A	California (72)	23 – 28
8-Oct	H	Arizona (103)	36 - 23
15-Oct	A	Oregon St (85)	19 - 14
22-Oct	A	UCLA (81)	52 - 45
29-Oct	H	Washington (5)	24 – 31
10-Nov	A	Arizona St (84)	49 - 26
19-Nov	H	Oregon (87)	28 – 30
26-Nov	A	Colorado (13)	22 – 27
BOWL	N	Indiana (64)	26 - 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	North Dakota (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	BYU (44)
16-Sep	H	San Jose State (111)
22-Sep	A	Arizona (103)
7-Oct	H	Stanford (17)
14-Oct	A	USC (3)
21-Oct	H	Arizona State (84)
28-Oct	A	Oregon (87)
3-Nov	H	UCLA (81)
11-Nov	H	Washington State (29)
18-Nov	A	Washington (5)
25-Nov	H	Colorado (13)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	5-2	4-2	7-6-0	3-4-0	4-2-0	6-6-0	3-3-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	51	YPG	430.7	Total Defense;	48	YAPG	383		
Passing Offense;	78	YPG	216.7	Passing Defense;	101	YAPG	254.3		
Rushing Offense;	32	YPG	214	Rushing Defense;	22	YAPG	128.7		

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

U T E S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Troy Williams	**QB**	**2757-15-8**	**235-5**	

One returning starting lineman plus three top reserves

All teams rely heavily on the lines but at Utah, the Utes level of success or failure is directly determined by their line play more then anything else. The Utes have some issues within their offensive line that must be taken care of. The Utes brought in new offensive coordinator Troy Taylor with the specific task of helping the quarterback situation but he also needs to solidify the line.

Troy Williams had a decent year at quarterback in 2016 with 2757 passing yards for 15 touchdowns but he also had 8 interceptions. He is the presumed starter but Alabama transfer Cooper Bateman will provide enough competition that Williams will need to be sharp.

Joe Williams was the primary running back last year and an acceptable replacement must be found to replace his production. Utah has several possibilities. All are capable but one needs to take command of the job. Zach Moss (382 yards rushing), Armand Shyne (373 yards), Troy McCormick (194 yards) and Jordan Howard will all be given shots at becoming the go-to back but the final decision will be

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

made in fall practices. Shyne was the leading rusher in 2016 until he has injured in game five. McCormick may be moved to wide receiver thereby thinning the options.

Raelon Singleton (464 receiving yards), Siaosi Wilson (183 yards) and Demari Simpkons (158 yarde) are the current starting three at wide receiver but they all need to be watchful for the arrival of freshman Bryan Thompson. Tight end Harrison Handley (168 yards) will complete a receiving group that lacks any play makers, at least until Thompson establishes himself.

Utah faces a complete rebuild of its offensive line. Right guard Salesi Uhatafe is the only retuning starter and his very liable to face a position change. As spring practice closed, left tackle Jackson Barton, left guard Darrin Paulo, center Lo Falemaka and right tackle Johnny Capra were slated to join Uhatafe in the starting unit. Depth will have to be determined in fall practices. With so many new faces within the line, continuity is always a potential problem. Expect the offensive line to take a step back.

The line will not be as good this year and that will cause the offense to not be as productive in 2017.

U T E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Filipo Mokofisi	**DT**	**45**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Lowell Lotulelei	**DT**	**28**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Chase Hansen	**SS**	**90**	**1**	**3**	**0**

The defense was required to carry more than their fair share of the load in 2016 and this year's unit may be required to do even more. The question is, do the Utes have the “horses” to handle even more responsibilities?

Utah has work to do along the defensive line where they lost both ends, Hunter Dimick and Pita Taumoepenu. One of the openings will be manned by freshly returned from injury exile, Kylie Fitts. An all out dog fight is in progress for the other starting end job and for membership in the end rotation. Bradlee Anae, Maxs Tupai, Chris Hart and Caleb Repp are all candidates. Lowell Lotuleleei will be the hub of the D-Line at his tackle spot. Keep an eye on sophomore John Penisini as he may sneak into the starting unit. His running mate will be either Filipo Mokofisi or Alani Havili-Katoa. Solidifying the defensive line during fall practices will be essential.

Sunia Yasutaoli is the only established linebacker at Utah. Cody Barton has a slight lead over Kavika Luafatasaga for the other starting job in Utah's two man linebacker unit. Marquise Blair is also in the hunt for playing time. Depth will not be a plus at linebacker and the rotation badly needs a play maker.

Safety Marcus Williams has departed for the NFL leaving a sizable hole at one safety slot. Chase Hansen looks like a capable replacement for Williams' job. Corrion Ballard will step up and handle the other safety job. Jaylon Johnson, Javelin Guidry and Tareke Lewis are fighting to fill the two cornerback vacancies. The secondary will be a raw, untested group with tons of potential. However, with a still unsettled situation along the defensive line, the secondary will not have as much assistance up front as last year's veteran secondary had.

We mentioned the defense would need to shoulder even more of the load than last year's unit, if the Utes are going to be able to contend for their divisional title. We have bad news for Utes fans. The defense will not be better than last year's group and will in fact take a step back in 2017.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Washington Huskies

PAC 12 Conference, North Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Husky Stadium

1400 NE Campus Parkway Seattle, WA 98195-4550

Phone: (206) 543-2100

Web: http://www.gohuskies.com

Capacity: 72,500

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 187 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*CHRIS PETERSEN*
O.C.:	*JONATHAN SMITH*
D.C.:	*PETE KWIATKOWSKI*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*BOB GREGORY*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Rutgers (123)	48 - 13
10-Sep	H	Idaho (57)	59 - 14
17-Sep	H	Portland St (Not D-1)	41 - 3
24-Sep	A	Arizona (103)	35 - 28
30-Sep	H	Stanford (17)	44 - 6
8-Oct	A	Oregon (87)	70 - 21
22-Oct	H	Oregon St (85)	41 - 17
29-Oct	A	Utah (24)	31 - 24
5-Nov	A	California (72)	66 - 27
12-Nov	H	USC (3)	13 – 26
19-Nov	H	Arizona St (84)	44 - 18
25-Nov	A	Washington St (29)	45 - 17
2-Dec	H	Colorado (13)	41 - 10
BOWL	N	Alabama (2)	7 – 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
1-Sep	A	Rutgers (123)
9-Sep	H	Montana (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Fresno State (128)
23-Sep	A	Colorado (13)
30-Sep	A	Oregon State (85)
7-Oct	H	California (72)
14-Oct	A	Arizona State (84)
28-Oct	H	UCLA (81)
4-Nov	H	Oregon (87)
10-Nov	A	Stanford (17)
18-Nov	H	Utah (24)
25-Nov	H	Washington State (29)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	12-2	7-1	5-1	7-7-0	4-4-0	3-3-0	8-5-0	4-4-0	4-1-0

Total Offense;	32	YPG	456.9	Total Defense;	12	YAPG	316.9
Passing Offense;	41	YPG	258.8	Passing Defense;	15	YAPG	182.9
Rushing Offense;	44	YPG	198.1	Rushing Defense;	28	YAPG	133.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

HUSKIES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jake Browning	**QB**	**3430-43-9**	**45-4**	
Myles Gaskin	**RB**		**1373-10**	**137-1**
Lavon Coleman	**RB**		**852-7**	**31-1**
Dante Pettis	**WR**	**89-1-0**		**824-15**
Chico McClatcher	**WR**		**131-1**	**574-5**
Drew Sample	**TE**			**106-0**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Washington returns a group of players on offense that would be the envy of most of the other D-1 football programs in the country. The unit offers several problems for any opposing defensive coordinator.

Jack Browning had a breakout season last year. Even though he threw for 3430 yards for 45 touchdowns and only 4 interceptions, he does have areas he needs to improve. He had a decrease in accuracy last year over his freshman season. He needs to get back to his prior level. The area needing the most attection is how he performs under extreme pressure. He showed decreased production whenever he was under extreme pressure. K.J. Carta-Samuels is back and will function as the primary backup.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Washington Huskies

Myles Gaskin (1373 rushing yards) and Lavon Coleman (852 rushing yards) give Washington one of the most productive pair of running backs returning for 2017. Jomon Dotson (260 yards) gives even more depth at running back. The running back unit gives Washington two excellent ways to confuse defenses.

Super human speedster John Ross is a big loss for the Washington receiving corps. He was able to stretch the field even on plays when he wasn't the designated target. His 2016 running mate, Dante Pettis (822 receiving yards for 15 touchdowns) was no slouch last year and we expect he will add to his already impressive numbers as he will become this year's go-to guy. Chico McClatcher (574 yards for 5 touchdowns) will be a much more important target in 2017. Jomon Dotson got plenty of snaps at slot back in spring drills and may slide over to the slot. Some quality freshmen will get serious looks in the fall. This will be another excellent group of wide receivers complimented by tight end Drew Sample.

All-Pac-12 left tackle Trey Adams will be the core of the 2017 offensive line. He will be joined by center Coleman Shelton and right tackle Kaleb McGary, two returning starters. Left guard Jesse Sosebee and right guard Nick Harris were key reserves in 2016 and are ready to join the starting D-Line. The line will be a solid unit and trigger another explosive Washington offense.

H U S K I E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Connor O'Brien	**DE**	**35**	**3**	**1**	**0**
Vita Vea	**DE**	**39**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Greg Gaines	**DT**	**35**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Jojo McIntosh	**SS**	**66**	**0**	**0**	**0**

The Washington defensive unit took some big hits from early NFL draft entry by some key performers.

No area of the defense was hit harder than the line. Pass rushers Psalm Wooching and Joe Mathis and tackle Elijah Qualls all must be replaced. Fortunately for the 2017 defense, Washington has recruited well and have reliable options to plug in. Ends Connor O'Brien and Vita Vea were highly productive in limited action last year and look ready and able to man their slots. Tackle Greg Gaines is also back and will man his inside duties well. The only newcomer will be Shane Bowman. He completes what appears to be a very solid starting front four. There is also depth backing up this group.

Washington is set at two linebacker spots with the return of Keishawn Bierria and All Pac-12 Azeem Victor. The final starting job is a continuing dog fight among Ben Burr-Kirven, D. J. Beavers and Tevis Bartlett. Regardless of who wins the third job, this will be a talented, play making rotation with quality depth right behind a fine starting line. The front seven will be a good group and capable of making life miserable for opposing quarterbacks and running backs.

The secondary needs a lot of work. Safety Buddha Baker was everywhere last year. He stopped running plays, broke up passes and applied pressure on quarterbacks. Replacing him would be extremely difficult if he was the only loss. Also gone is graduated cornerback Kevin King. Sidney Jones entered the draft early and Darren Gardenhire transferred. Even with such significant loses, the secondary has possibilities. The safeties are set with the return of Jojo McIntosh and Taylor Rapp. Ezekiel Turner also is back and will be a key reserve at safety, Cornerback is where things get a little sketchy. Austin Joiner and Jordan Taylor are the leading candidates but they have little game experience. They will have to beat out redshirt freshmen Byron Murphy and Isaiah Gilchrist. The two youngsters are the most talented and we expect them to capture the cornerback spots. If we are correct and the two redshirt freshmen are awarded the cornerback jobs, expect some early season growing pains within the secondary. They will be helped by the strong seven in front of them.

By the time conference games roll around, this will be a very nice Washington defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Washington State Cougars

PAC 12 Conference, North Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Martin Stadium

French Administration Building Pullman, WA 99164-1009

Phone: (509) 335-3564

Web: http://wsucougars.collegesports.com

Capacity: 33,522

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 2353 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MIKE LEACH*
O.C.:	*MIKE LEACH*
D.C.:	*ALEX GRINCH*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*ERIC MELE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	E Washington (Not D-1)	42 – 45
10-Sep	A	Boise St (26)	28 – 31
17-Sep	H	Idaho (57)	56 - 6
1-Oct	H	Oregon (87)	51 - 33
8-Oct	A	Stanford (17)	42 - 16
15-Oct	H	UCLA (81)	27 - 21
22-Oct	A	Arizona St (84)	37 - 32
29-Oct	A	Oregon St (85)	35 - 31
5-Nov	H	Arizona (103)	69 - 7
12-Nov	H	California (72)	56 - 21
19-Nov	A	Colorado (13)	24 – 38
25-Nov	H	Washington (5)	17 – 45
BOWL	N	Minnesota (38)	12 – 17

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Montana State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	Boise State (26)
16-Sep	H	Oregon State (85)
23-Sep	H	Nevada (102)
29-Sep	H	USC (3)
7-Oct	A	Oregon (87)
13-Oct	A	California (72)
21-Oct	H	Colorado (13)
28-Oct	A	Arizona (103)
4-Nov	H	Stanford (17)
11-Nov	A	Utah (24)
25-Nov	A	Washington (5)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	5-3	3-2	6-7-0	4-3-0	2-4-0	7-5-0	3-4-0	4-1-0

Total Offense;	18	YPG	482.5	Total Defense;	62	YAPG	405.9
Passing Offense;	3	YPG	362.5	Passing Defense;	112	YAPG	271.7
Rushing Offense;	114	YPG	120	Rushing Defense;	29	YAPG	134.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

COUGARS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Luke Falk	**QB**	**4468-38-11**	**-68-0**	
James Williams	**RB**		**584-6**	**342-1**
Jamal Marrow	**RB**		**575-5**	**488-5**
Gerard Wicks	**RB**		**475-11**	**184-1**
Tavares Martin	**WR**			**728-7**

Three returning starting linemen plus five top reserves

There are never any questions about the offensive success of Washington State. Expect the 2017 unit to be prolific and try to win games in shootouts.

Luke Falk returned to Washington State instead of entering the NFL draft. Many people were shocked by that decision after Falk threw for 4469 passing yards for 38 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. The only question at quarterback is who will be the backup. Last year's top reserve was Tyler Hilinski but Anthony Gordon is making a pitch for the duties.

For years, Washington State had zero running game. Three productive backs, James Williams (584 rushing yards, 342 receiving yards), Jamal Marrow (575 rushing yards, 488 receiving yards) and

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Gerard Wicks (475 yards rushing, 184 receiving yards) all return for 2017. None of the three fits the definition of featured back but the trio also insures State will have a capable running back on the field every down.

Gabe Marks and River Cracraft combined for 1,595 receiving yards and 18 touchdowns a season ago. They both must be replaced. Tavares Martin (728 receiving yards, 7 touchdowns) will become this year's top receiver and we should expect a huge jump in his yardage as he will be targeted much more. Isaiah Johnson-Mack (246 receiving yards), Kyle Sweet (357 yards) and Robert Lewis (394 yards) have early leads for the three remaining wide receiver jobs but they are being pursued by junior college transfer Easop Winston and redshirt freshmen Renard Bell and Grant Porter. This will be a plus unit and keep Washington State as an offensive power house.

Left tackle Andre Dillard, left guard Cody O'Connell and right tackle Cole Madison all return and provide the 2017 offensive line a nice starting point. Fred Mauigoa will step into the center slot but he must hold off Noah Osur-Myers. Right guard has a heated battle between B. J. Salmonson and junior college transfer Robert Valencia. We feel Valencia is too good to make him a reserve. The line will be a solid group with nice depth in reserve. This group will key another high powered Washington State offense.

C O U G A R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Hercules Mata'afa	**DE**	**47**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Nnamdi Oguayo	**DE**	**39**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Daniel Ekuale	**NT**	**23**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Peyton Pelluer	**LB**	**93**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Darrien Molton	**CB**	**72**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Jalen Thompson	**SS**	**51**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Robert Taylor	**FS**	**61**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Washington State's 2016 defense was actually an improvement over previous years, especially defending against the run. That unit ranked 112th against the pass and and 29th versus the rush. Most of last year's starters are back and there have been some interesting additions and that tells us Washington State just might continue its defensive improvement.

Tackle Robert Barber is the only loss within the front three. Ends Hercules Mata'afa and Nnamdi Oguayo and top reserve nose tackle Daniel Ekuale all return. They need to get more pressure on quarterbacks. They combined for just 10 sacks last year and that led to the secondary getting torched while opposing quarterbacks took their time on most passes. Garett McGroom has a hold on the backup tackle job. Juco transfer end Preston Hendry is fighting for playing time and will get more and more if the starting ends do not up quarterback pressure.

The starting linebacker unit returns in tact. Payton Pueller will be the leader of the group and can be expected to be the defense's play maker. He has led the Cougars in tackles the past two years. Isaac Dotson and Frankie Luvu round out the starting trio. There is some experienced depth in reserve but there is also a huge redshirt freshman class led by Mason Vinyard impatiently awaiting their turn. If the youngsters step up and are productive reserves, this linebacker rotation has a chance to be very good.

Safety Shalom Luani and nickel back Parker Henry are gone and filling the holes their departures created will not be easy. Luani led the team in interceptions in 2016. Daniel Ekuale seems to have grabbed hold of the nickel back opening. Darrien Molton and Marcellus Pippins are back and have reclaimed their cornerback jobs. Jalen Thompson is a returning starter are strong safety and will pair up with free safety Robert Taylor. Josh Talbott is an incoming freshman we need to keep an eye on. He will pressure for early playing time.The secondary will be more productive in 2017 simply because the front six will be a much improved group.

Washington State will continue its recent history of having an improving defense. Do not get us wrong, this group will not dominate but they will be far better than average and will no longer be a team liability.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
2201 RICHARD ARRINGTON JR. BLVD. NORTH
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
205-458-3000
COMMISSIONER: GREG SANKEY

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

EAST DIVISION

Georgia
Florida
Kentucky
Tennessee
South Carolina
Missouri
Vanderbilt

WEST DIVISION

Alabama
LSU
Mississippi
Arkansas
Auburn
Texas A & M
Mississippi State

Rainman

EAST DIVISION

Florida
Georgia
South Carolina
Kentucky
Tennessee
Vanderbilt
Missouri

WEST DIVISION

Alabama
Auburn
Mississippi State
LSU
Mississippi
Arkansas
Texas A & M

East Division

Georgia has a potential problem with their special teams. They also have a full blown rebuild within their offensive line. The skill position players on the offense are all really good and we expect a big year from quarterback Jacob Eason and Georgia has the best running back duo in the country. The Georgia defense has no holes and contains great depth. Florida still hasn't solved its problems at quarterback. They also need for the line to get better. Florida's defense carried the team last year and this year's group will not be able to do the same. Kentucky has a chance to be the spoiler as their run dominated offense looks solid. The line is the strength of the unit. We expect the young Kentucky defense to improve after getting a year of forced service last year. Tennessee has several holes on both sides of the ball. The offensive line needs to get better and the Vols lost their quarterback and featured running back. The defense will have a slew of youngsters within the depth chart. South Carolina has several returning starters on offense but the defense will be a project in the works. Missouri and Vandy are both a couple of good recruiting classes away from contention.

West Division

Alabama will be better on offense in 2017 with the added maturity of their quarterback. The Tide will not be as good on defense as they had huge loses at linebacker. The net effect will be another dominating Alabama team. Auburn has a chance to win the whole thing this year. Their new quarterback is perfectly suited for the Auburn offense. Jarrett Stidham will have an excellent group surrounding him. The Auburn defense lost some key payers but they will still have one of the better defenses in the country. LSU will have the same problem it has had for years. They are terribly weak at quarterback. That hole will negate some of an otherwise excellent offense. LSU will have an excellent defense that will be able to had the offense some nice field position. Texas A & M enters 2017 with questions at quarterback and along the line. The defense will contain several untested but talented players. We feel Texas A & M will make a step back in 2017. Arkansas, Mississippi and Mississippi State will be playing for the scraps. Each team has big problems to solve. Arkansas lacks depth on defense and need to find play makers. Mississippi has no running game and Mississippi State has problems brewing in its offensive line.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

Alabama Crimson Tide

Southeastern Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Bryant-Denny Stadium

920 Paul W Bryant Drive Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Phone: (205) 348-3600

Web: http://www.rolltide.com

Capacity: 101,821

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 477 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*NICK SABAN*
O.C.:	*BRIAN DABOLL*
D.C.:	*JEREMY PRUITT*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*BURTON BURNS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	USC (3)	52 - 6
10-Sep	H	Western Kentucky (23)	38 - 10
17-Sep	A	Mississippi (68)	48 - 43
24-Sep	H	Kent St (119)	48 - 0
1-Oct	H	Kentucky (63)	34 - 6
8-Oct	A	Arkansas (49)	49 - 30
15-Oct	A	Tennessee (25)	49 - 10
22-Oct	H	Texas A & M (42)	33 - 14
5-Nov	A	LSU (15)	10 – 0
12-Nov	H	Mississippi St (70)	51 - 3
19-Nov	H	UT Chattanooga (Not D-1)	31 - 3
26-Nov	H	Auburn (22)	30 - 12
3-Dec	A	Florida (14)	54 - 16
Semi	N	Washington (5)	24 - 7
Champ	N	Clemson (1)	31 – 35

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Florida State (8)
9-Sep	H	Fresno State (128)
16-Sep	H	Colorado State (53)
23-Sep	A	Vanderbilt (62)
30-Sep	H	Mississippi (68)
7-Oct	A	Texas A & M (42)
14-Oct	H	Arkansas (49)
21-Oct	H	Tennessee (25)
4-Nov	H	LSU (15)
11-Nov	A	Mississippi State (70)
18-Nov	H	Mercer (Not D-1)
25-Nov	A	Auburn (22)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	14-1	9-1	5-0	10-4-0	7-3-0	3-1-0	6-6-0	3-5-0	3-1-0

Total Offense;	34	YPG	455.3	Total Defense;	2	YAPG	261.8
Passing Offense;	87	YPG	210.3	Passing Defense;	24	YAPG	197.9
Rushing Offense;	12	YPG	245	Rushing Defense;	1	YAPG	63.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TIDE OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jalen Hurts	**QB**	**2,780-23-9**	**954-13**	
Damien Harris	**RB**		**1040-2**	**99-2**
Bo Scarbrough	**RB**		**812-11**	**22-2**
Calvin Ridley	**WR**		**21-1**	**769-7**

Three returning starting linemen plus five top reserves

Alabama DID NOT win the 2016 national championship so in the eyes of the Bama coaches and fans, the year was a failure. You can be certain head coach Nick Saban will use the Alabama loss in the championship game as a key motivational factor for his 2017 team.

The 2016 offense averaged 38.8 points and 455.3 yards per game. Six starters and the normal truck-load of quality prospects return for the Crimson Tide in 2017.

It all starts with returning starting quarterback Jalen Hurts. He set a school record by accounting for 36 touchdowns last year (23 by passing and 13 by running). He was a freshman as he led his team to a 13-1 record. Expect bigger and better things from him as he will be under the guidance of new coordinator Brian Daboll.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Alabama Crimson Tide

The Tide returns starters Damien Harris and Bo Scarbrough at running back. Waiting in the wings are B.J. Emmons, Ronnie Clark and Joshua Jacobs, three players who would be featured backs at 90% of the other colleges. With such a glut of top notch running backs, what does a team do? They go out and successfully recruit most coveted running back in the class of 2017, running back Najee Harris. Harris is simply too good to redshirt and you should fully expect to see him of the field in 2017.

Alabama must replace ArDarius Stewart, Gehrig Dieter and O.J. Howard, three of Bama's top pass receivers from a year ago. Calvin Ridley is back and so are Cam Sims and Trevon Diggs. Ridley will be the go-to guy and Sims seems to have nailed down one of the wide receiver openings. Diggs is battling Xavian Marks for the other job. Hale Hentges will replace Howard at tight end completing another solid Alabama receiving unit.

Tackle Cam Robinson is gone. Jonah Williams will be the new star of the Bama line. He was the right tackle last year and could shift to fill Robinson's vacancy. Ross Pierschbacher is back at left guard as is center Bradley Bozeman. Josh Casher will slide into the right guard spot and either Matt Womack or Lester Cotton or juco transfer Elliot Baker will fill the open tackle spot. This will be another outstanding line that will trigger yet another pounding but explosive Alabama offense.

T I D E D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
De'Shawn Hand	**DE**	**22**	**2**	**2**	**0**
Da'Ron Payne	**NG**	**36**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Shaun Dion Hamilton	**LB**	**64**	**2**	**2**	**0**
Minkah Fitzpatrick	**SS**	**65**	**1**	**6**	**0**
Ronnie Harrison	**FS**	**83**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Alabama's 2016 defense was the best in college football in many years. In what has become an annual ritual, the Tide have to replace a horde of starters. Gone are linemen Jonathan Allen and Dalvin Tomlinson, linebackers Ryan Anderson, Tim Williams and Reuben Foster and cornerback Marlon Humphrey. At any other school, a complete rebuild would be called for with such significant loses. At Alabama, Nick Saban simply shouts, "NEXT".

The Tide will have two solid returning parts for their new front three. Nose guard Da'Ron Payne will be a rock in the middle. He is extremely good at stuffing the run and will occupy opposing linemen long enough for the linebackers to swoop in and make plays. He will be joined by up and comer De'Shawn Hand at one defensive end. The other end job is open but by opening kickoff we fully expect to see talented juco transfer Isaiah Buggs manning the other end.

The huge loses at linebacker will be partially offset by the return from injury exile of Shaun Dion Hamilton. Joining Hamilton will be Rashaan Evans, a key 2016 reserve. Redshirt sophomore Anfernee Jennings, former five star recruit Mack Wilson and converted defensive end Terrell Hall are leading candidates for the other two linebacker jobs but do not overlook highly prized recruit Dylan Moses. While things are more unsettled at linebacker this year than they have been in the recent past, the talent and depth is there to form another excellent rotation. It will only be a short time before this unit becomes dominant.

The strength of the defense will be the secondary. Three starters return and the cupboard overflows with capable candidates to fill the one opening. Minkah Fitzpatrick made the shift from cornerback to safety last year and continued his excellent production. He will again main the strong safety slot. Ronnie Harris will also be back and has reclaimed his starting free safety assignment. Anthony Averett will start at one cornerback after having a very productive 2016 campaign. Shyheim Carter, Tony Brown and Levi Wallace are all battling for the final secondary job. This secondary will not only provide excellent pass coverage but they also are very willing to lower their heads and make tackles.

The 2017 defense will not be as good as the 2016 unit but they will also be one of the better units in the country.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Arkansas Razorbacks

Southeastern Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium
350 North Razorback Road Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: (479) 575-6533
Web: http://www.arkansasrazorbacks.com
Capacity: 72,000
Surface: PowerBlade **Altitude:** 1397 ft.

HEAD COACH: *BRET BIELEMA*
O.C.: *DAN ENOS*
D.C.: *PAUL RHOADS*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *RORY SEGREST*

2013 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Louisiana Tech (47)	21 - 20
10-Sep	A	TCU (60)	41 - 38
17-Sep	H	Texas St (127)	42 - 3
24-Sep	A	Texas A & M (42)	24 – 45
1-Oct	H	Alcorn St (Not D-1)	52 - 10
8-Oct	H	Alabama (2)	30 – 49
15-Oct	H	Mississippi (68)	34 - 30
22-Oct	A	Auburn (22)	3 – 56
5-Nov	H	Florida (14)	31 - 10
12-Nov	H	LSU (15)	10 – 38
19-Nov	A	Mississippi St (70)	58 - 42
25-Nov	A	Missouri (95)	24 – 28
BOWL	N	Virginia Tech (16)	24 – 35

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Florida A & M (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	TCU (60)
23-Sep	A	Texas A & M (42)
30-Sep	H	New Mexico State (115)
7-Oct	A	South Carolina (75)
14-Oct	A	Alabama (2)
21-Oct	H	Auburn (22)
28-Oct	A	Mississippi (68)
4-Nov	H	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
11-Nov	A	LSU (15)
18-Nov	H	Mississippi State (70)
25-Nov	H	Missouri (95)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	5-2	2-4	5-8-0	3-4-0	2-4-0	6-6-0	2-5-0	4-1-0

Total Offense;	54	YPG	428.4	Total Defense;	76	YAPG	426.6
Passing Offense;	32	YPG	264.2	Passing Defense;	58	YAPG	221.2
Rushing Offense;	78	YPG	164.2	Rushing Defense;	94	YAPG	205.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

RAZORBACK OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Austin Allen	**QB**	**3430-25-15**	**-126-2**	
Jared Cornelius	**WR**		**53-1**	**515-4**
Austin Cantrell	**TE**			**120-2**

Four returning starting linemen plus five top reserves

Opposing defensive coordinators need to get ready for the monster known as the Arkansas Razorback offense. Yes, they lost four of their top five receivers from last year but they also made a wholesale raid of the juco ranks and brought in some studs.

Arkansas will have the liberty most SEC teams will not have. They have an established, quality quarterback returning. Austin Allen posted excellent numbers in spite of being constantly harassed as the line took time to gel. Allen played through an October knee injury and still posted solid numbers. He needs to cut down on interceptions but as the line gives him more time, that will happen.

With the forced retirement of running back Rawleigh Williams, Devwah Whaley will become the primary back. The Hogs also have multi purpose back T. J. Hammonds returning. The running back rotation will be decent for the 2017 offense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Arkansas Razorbacks

Wide receivers Drew Morgan, Keon Hatcher and Dominique Reed and tight end Jeremy Sprinkle have to be replaced. Jared Cornelius is the most productive returning wide receiver and is joined by tight end Austin Cantrell. The Razorbacks added juco wide receivers Jonathan Nance and Brandon Martin and tight end Jeremy Patton. Add in freshman recruit Brandon Martin and redshirt freshman Jordan Jones and the receiver unit went from being a big question mark to a possible team plus.

Last year's O-Line allowed 34 sacks. A majority of those took place the first half of the season. Center Frank Ragnow is back and will be a team leader. Left guard Hjate Froholdt, right guard Johnny Gibson and right tackle Brian Wallace are all returning starters but Gibson was in the doghouse during spring drills and Jake Raulerson has taken his spot. Colton Jackson looks like he was won the left tackle assignment and completes a young but experienced line that will be substantially better in 2017.

Arkansas will have an excellent offense but they will need it if the defense doesn't get its act together.

R A Z O R B A C K S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Randy Ramsey	**DE**	**23**	**3**	**0**	**0**
McTelvin Agim	**DT**	**27**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Ryan Pulley	**CB**	**47**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Henre Tolliver	**CB**	**45**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Santos Ramirez	**SS**	**43**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Josh Liddell	**FS**	**63**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Arkansas will switch to a 3-4 defensive alignment. They are doing the move to better defend against duel threat quarterbacks that abound in the SEC. Paul Rhoads has stepped up to the defensive coordinator job and faces heavy loses from the 2016 defense that was far from special and allowed 31.1 points a game.

The Razorbacks must deal with the loses of defensive linemen Deatrich Wise, Jeremiah Ledbetter and Taiwan Johnson. If Rhoads is going to install a renewed dedication for stopping running teams, he will have to make sure he has a solid front three. Bijhon Jackson and McTelvin Agim are competing for the tackle starting job with junior college transfer Melvin Johnson a third possibility, if he isn't shifted to end. Randy Ramsey and Tevin Beanum have a slight edge over Karl Roesler for the end jobs. It is hard to get excited about the line. It will be undersized and lacks depth.

It might have been better to have waited a year or two to switch to the 3-4. The set puts a premium on linebacker play and Arkansas had a tough time fielding three linebackers last year and now they need four. Gone from the defense is multi year starter Brooks Ellis. Dre Greenlaw is going to be one starter inside, assuming he has fully recovered from foot surgery. Dwayne Eugene is set at one slot but the other two are a wide open affair with Josh Harris and De'Jon Harris and redshirt freshman Alexy-Jean Baptiste and Giovanni LaFrance all in the mix.

IF Arkansas has a defensive strength, it is in the secondary. Only cornerback Jared Collins needs to be replaced and the Hogs have a sizable group ready, willing and able to fill his slot. Ryan Pulley and Henre Tolliver provide experience at cornerback but Britto Tutt could provide competition. Four-star prospects Chevin Calloway and Montaric Brown could be too good to keep off the field. There will be season long competition for playing time at the corners. Strong safety Santos Ramirez and free safety Josh Liddell also return and complete an experienced back four. The problem is, as weak as the front seven appears to be, will the secondary spend most of their time making plays or covering up for the front seven?

Things do not look good for Arkansas' defense. Thankfully the offense will be solid but that will again force Arkansas to try to win every game in a shootout.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Auburn Tigers

Southeastern Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Jordan-Hare Stadium

392 South Donahue Dr Auburn University, AL 36849

Phone: (334) 844-4750

Web: http://www.auburntigers.com

Capacity: 87,451

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 707 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*GUS MALZAHN*
O.C.:	*CHIP LINDSEY*
D.C.:	*KEVIN STEELE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*SCOTT FOUNTAIN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Clemson (1)	13 – 19
10-Sep	H	Arkansas St (65)	51 - 14
17-Sep	H	Texas A & M (42)	16 – 28
24-Sep	H	LSU (15)	18 - 13
1-Oct	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	58 - 7
8-Oct	A	Mississippi St (70)	38 - 14
22-Oct	H	Arkansas (49)	56 - 3
29-Oct	A	Mississippi (68)	40 - 29
5-Nov	H	Vanderbilt (62)	23 - 16
12-Nov	A	Georgia (50)	7 – 13
19-Nov	H	Alabama A & M (Not D-1)	55 - 0
26-Nov	A	Alabama (2)	12 – 30
BOWL	N	Oklahoma (4)	19 – 35

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Georgia Southern (91)
9-Sep	A	Clemson (1)
16-Sep	H	Mercer (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Missouri (95)
30-Sep	H	Mississippi State (70)
7-Oct	H	Mississippi (68)
14-Oct	A	LSU (15)
21-Oct	A	Arkansas (49)
4-Nov	A	Texas A & M (42)
11-Nov	H	Georgia (50)
18-Nov	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
25-Nov	H	Alabama (2)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	6-2	2-3	9-4-0	6-2-0	3-2-0	4-8-0	3-5-0	1-3-0

Total Offense;	43	YPG	440.8	Total Defense;	28	YAPG	361.9
Passing Offense;	112	YPG	169.5	Passing Defense;	67	YAPG	229.2
Rushing Offense;	6	YPG	271.3	Rushing Defense;	27	YAPG	132.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TIGERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Sean White	**QB**	**1679-9-3**	**163-2**	
Kamryn Pettway	**RB**		**1224-7**	**14-0**
Kerryon Johnson	**RB**		**895-11**	**125-0**

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

The Auburn offense has been a disappointment the past couple of years. Some people blame it on the lack of a quality quarterback and that has definitely been a problem. However, head coach Gus Mahlzan and former offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee were too much alike. The two had been together for years and the offense became stale and predictable. Lashlee bolted to UConn and Chip Lindsey was brought in. Lindsey has a background with the Air Raid offense and it will be interesting to see how much of that system emerges at Auburn.

The second huge addition for Auburn's offense is juco transfer and former Baylor starting quarterback Jarrett Stidham. For the first time since Mahlzan became head coach, he now has a quarterback capable of big plays passing. There may be a lot of talk about the quarterback battle between Stidham and last year's starter, Sean White but there is no actual competition. Stidham will be the starter.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Stidham enters a perfect situation. Standing behind him will be either Kamryn Pettway or Kerryon Johnson. Pettway racked up 1200+ rushing yards in 2016 and Johnson has almost 900 yards. These two will guarantee opposing defenses will have to respect the run and not pass rush continually.

Auburn has four candidates for the three wide receiver jobs. They are Darius Slayton, Ryan Davius, Eli Stove and Kyle Davis. None of the four distinguished himself as a go-to guy but considering how ineffective Auburn's passing game was, the surface hasn't been scratched for these four. Juco transfer tight end Salvatore Cannella rounds out what shapes up as a solid sleeper receiving unit.

Auburn lost guard Alex Kozan tackle Robert Leff. The Tigers return three starting offensive linemen in left tackle Darius James, center Austin Golson and right guard Braden Smith. Price Michael Sammons, Mike Horton, Wanogho and Marquel Harrell are all in the hunt for the two openings but the most interesting candidate is graduate transfer FCS All-American Casey Dunn. Expect the Auburn line to be very good and key an Auburn offense that will be more diverse and explosive.

T I G E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Marlon Davidson	**DE**	**38**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Dontavius Russell	**DT**	**29**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Carlton Davis	**CB**	**46**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Javaris Davis	**CB**	**37**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Tray Matthews	**SS**	**76**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Stephen Roberts	**FS**	**57**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Auburn returns a majority of their 2016 defense that ended up being one of the better defenses in the SEC. Gone from that unit are early NFL draftee Carl Lawson, tackle Montravius Adams, cornerback Joshua Holsey and safety Rudy Ford. That is a lot of talent to lose but Auburn coaches have recruited nicely since Mahlzan became head coach in 2013. There are capable options eager to fill any defensive hole.

End Marlon Davidson and tackle Dontavius Russell will provide the front four with a nice foundation. Jeff Holland is making the shift from linebacker to defensive end and should provide a nice speed rush option. Derrick Brown got solid game experience last year and will move up to the starting unit this year and fill the tackle opening. End Paul James also returns after being out with injury last year. Depth will come from a group of promising but untested youngsters. Auburn will again field a solid defensive line.

Linebacker looks like a team strength in 2017 as the full starting unit is back. Tre Williams, Dashaun Davis and Darrell Williams experienced some youthful growing pains early last season but as the season progressed, this trio came together. You will see them making more plays in 2017. Montavious Atkinson will provide some solid, experienced depth to the rotation.

The secondary will be keyed by returning cornerback Carlton Davis, strong safety Tray Matthews and free safety Stephen Roberts. Matthews and Roberts are both returning starters. Javaris Davis looks ready to move up to the starting unit and fill the cornerback opening but we need to remember that Jamel Den was scheduled to start last year until he experienced a season ending injury in pre-season practices. This secondary when combined with the linebacker unit will form an awfully salty back seven.

While the 2017 Auburn defense may not be able to limit opponents to just 17.1 points a game like the 2016 defense did, opposing offenses will still find it tough going when they face this year's group.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Florida Gators

Southeastern Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium

303 W. University Ave Gainesville, FL 32611

Phone: (352) 392-3261

Web: http://www.gatorzone.com

Capacity: 88,548

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude: 177 ft.**

HEAD COACH:	*JIM MCELWAIN*
O.C.:	*DOUG NUSSMEIER*
D.C.:	*RANDY SHANNON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*GREG NORD*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Massachusetts (125)	24 - 7
10-Sep	H	Kentucky (63)	45 - 7
17-Sep	H	North Texas (99)	32 - 0
24-Sep	A	Tennessee (25)	28 – 38
1-Oct	A	Vanderbilt (62)	13 - 6
15-Oct	H	Missouri (95)	40 - 14
29-Oct	A	Georgia (50)	24 - 10
5-Nov	A	Arkansas (49)	10 – 31
12-Nov	H	South Carolina (75)	20 - 7
19-Nov	A	LSU (15)	16 - 10
26-Nov	A	Florida St (8)	13 – 31
3-Dec	H	Alabama (2)	16 – 54
BOWL	N	Iowa (34)	30 - 3

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Michigan (9)
9-Sep	H	Northern Colorado (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Tennessee (25)
23-Sep	A	Kentucky (63)
30-Sep	H	Vanderbilt (62)
7-Oct	H	LSU (15)
14-Oct	H	Texas A & M (42)
28-Oct	H	Georgia (50)
4-Nov	A	Missouri (95)
11-Nov	A	South Carolina (75)
18-Nov	H	UAB (No ranking)
25-Nov	H	Florida State (8)

SEASON BREAKDOWN	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
	9-4	5-1	4-3	6-7-0	5-2-0	1-5-0	4-8-0	2-4-0	2-4-0

Total Offense;	116	YPG	344	Total Defense;	5	YAPG	293
Passing Offense;	79	YPG	215.8	Passing Defense;	2	YAPG	148.5
Rushing Offense;	113	YPG	128.2	Rushing Defense;	38	YAPG	144.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GATORS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Luke Del Rio	**QB**	**1358-8-8**	**-43-0**	
Jordan Scarlett	**RB**		**889-6**	**23-0**
Antonio Callaway	**WR**		**32-1**	**721-3**
C'yontai Lewis	**TE**			**184-2**

Four returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

What do the Florida Gators and Texas Longhorns have in common? They are both located in extremely fertile recruiting territories. Both schools have not been able to recruit a decent quarterback in a long time and both schools were once national powers but are now after thoughts.

Texas may have actually found their quarterback and Florida is hoping they have as well. It has become very obvious that Luke Del Rio was not the answer and even though he is a returning starter, our money is on someone else taking the helm this season. Feleipe Franks, Kyle Trask and Kadarius Toney will all get a chance to capture the starting quarterback job but our prediction is Franks will be atop the depth chart come opening kickoff.

The emergence of running back Jordan Scarlett in the second half of last season cleared up one

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

offensive question. Considering how mediocre the O-Line was last year, Scarlett's yardage total was very impressive. Joining Scarlett will be Lamical Perine and Mark Thompson. Perine and Thompson are better pass receivers but are also capable backups running the ball. The running back rotation will be the strength of Florida's 2017 offense.

Florida returns several qualified receivers. The group is led by Antonio Callaway and Brandon Powell. The third receiver will be Tyrie Cleveland. Cleveland is a true deep threat while Powell is more of a bread and butter target. The tight end will be DeAndre Goolsby and you can expect him to be a more used target in 2017. Josh Hammond, Freddie Swain and C'yontai Lewis add depth to the rotation. The receiving unit will be a plus unit and a team asset.

The 2016 offensive line was a huge disappointment. They allowed 28 sacks and only opened enough holes for the running game to average 128.2 yards per game. Left tackle David Sharpe left early for the NFL but the other four starters are back. The line shapes up as Kavaris Harkless at left tackle, left guard Martez Ivey, center T. J. McCoy, right guard Fredrick Johnson and right tackle Jawaan Taylor. Freshman T. J. Moore will get a serious look. There is plenty of talent in this unit but it is time they started playing up to their abilities.

The Gators need to find a reliable quarterback and the line has to awaken.

G A T O R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jordan Sherit	**DE**	**38**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Cece Jefferson	**DE**	**30**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Marcell Harris	**S**	**73**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Nick Washington	**S**	**45**	**0**	**1**	**0**

The defense has been forced to carry the team the last two years as the offense has been generally dreadful. That defense now faces a year with a new coordinator, Randy Shannon and needing to fill holes created by the departure of both starting cornerbacks (Jalen Tabor and Quincy Wilson), linebackers Jarrad Davis and Alex Anzalone and standout tackle Caleb Brantley.

2016 starting defensive ends, Jordan Sherit and Cece Jefferson both are back and most people feel Jefferson will be the new star of the unit. Keivonnis Davis, Jabari Zuniga and freshman Zachary Carter will provide excellent depth at end. Khairi Clark and Taven Bryan are listed as the starting tackles. The tackle slots are not written in stone and Kyree Campbell and Elijah Conliffe, a pair of promising freshmen, will be given long looks in the fall.

Linebacker has to be a concern for the Gators entering 2017. David Reese, Kylan Johnson and Vosean Joseph are the leading candidates for the starting assignments but none of the three has shown he is a play maker. Like the D-Line, Florida will take long looks to evaluate their incoming freshmen linebackers.

Florida has plenty of talent returning for its 2017 secondary but expect to see some position changing. Nick Washington is set at one safety and either Chauncey Gardner or Marcell Harris will man the other safety slot. We feel Gardner will be shifted to cornerback where he will pair up with converted nickel back Duke Dawson. Freshman Brad Stewart may cause even more moving of players as he may be ready for duty at safety. He and fellow freshman cornerback Christopher Henderson may find immediate playing time either as starters or as key backups. As confusing as the situation looks for the Florida secondary, this unit will be a team strength after the players adjust to their roles.

It is hard to see the 2017 Florida defense being as stifling as the 2016 group was. Any step back by the defense must to overcome by improvement of the offense if the Gators want again to be a factor in the SEC East.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Georgia Bulldogs

American Athletic Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Sanford Stadium

210 Field Street Athens, GA 30602

Phone: (706) 542-3000

Web: http://www.georgiadogs.com

Capacity: 92,746

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 723 ft.

HEAD COACH: *KIRBY SMART*
O.C.: *JIM CHANEY*
D.C.: *MEL TUCKER*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *SHANE BEAMER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	North Carolina (43)	33 - 24
10-Sep	H	Nicholls St (Not D-1)	26 - 24
17-Sep	A	Missouri (95)	28 - 27
24-Sep	A	Mississippi (68)	14 – 45
1-Oct	H	Tennessee (25)	31 – 34
9-Oct	A	South Carolina (75)	28 - 14
15-Oct	H	Vanderbilt (62)	16 – 17
29-Oct	H	Florida (14)	10 – 24
5-Nov	A	Kentucky (63)	27 - 24
12-Nov	H	Auburn (22)	13 - 7
19-Nov	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	35 - 21
26-Nov	H	Georgia Tech (33)	27 – 28
BOWL	N	TCU (60)	31 - 23

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Appalachian State (37)
9-Sep	A	Notre Dame (82)
16-Sep	H	Samford (Not D-1)
23-Sep	H	Mississippi State (70)
30-Sep	A	Tennessee (25)
7-Oct	A	Vanderbilt (62)
14-Oct	H	Missouri (95)
28-Oct	A	Florida (14)
4-Nov	H	South Carolina (75)
11-Nov	A	Auburn (22)
18-Nov	H	Kentucky (63)
25-Nov	A	Georgia Tech (33)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	3-4	5-1	6-7-0	4-4-0	2-3-0	5-7-0	3-4-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	87	YPG	384.7	Total Defense;	16	YAPG	327.5
Passing Offense;	97	YPG	193.5	Passing Defense;	16	YAPG	183.8
Rushing Offense;	50	YPG	191.2	Rushing Defense;	36	YAPG	143.7

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BULLDOGS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jacob Eason	**QB**	**2430-16-8**	**-45-1**	
Nick Chubb	**RB**		**1130-8**	**86-1**
Sony Michel	**RB**		**840-4**	**149-1**
Isaac Nauta	**TE**			**361-3**

Two returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

It is always difficult for a new coach to put his “stamp” on any football program in his first year on the job. Kirby Smart did a good job in his first year giving an identity to his defense. It is now time for him to do the same with his offense as that unit ranked 97th in passing offense and 50th in rushing offense in 2016.

Quarterback Jacob Eason returns at quarterback after having a freshmen season when he looked All World on one play and simply awful on the next. His play was so inconsistent that Eason now faces actual competition for the starting assignment. Fellow five star recruit Jake Fromm arrived on campus early and was able to get up to speed with the Bulldogs' offense. No final decision will be made until fall practices.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Georgia Bulldogs

Can you think of a better running back duo than Sony Michel and Nick Chubb? We can't and they both are back after combining for over 2000 rushing yards last season. Even with big questions about Georgia's offensive line, these two will carry the mail! 2016 starting fullback Christian Payne is also back and will operate as an additional blocking lineman for Michel and Chubb.

Isaiah McKenzie was the leading Georgia receiver last year but he bolted for the NFL. The top returning wide receiver is Terry Godwin but he had only 397 receiving yards. The only other proven receiver back for 2017 is tight end Isaac Nauta. Riley Ridley and Javon Wims are locked in a hard fought battle for the other receiving job but freshman Mark Webb can not be overlooked. While the receiver unit doesn't have a lot of experience or a defined go-to guy, the candidates are loaded with talent and will eventually become a quality rotation.

Offensive line is where the Georgia offense has the biggest questions to answer. Lamont Gaillard started at center last year but has been moved to right guard. He and Isaiah Wynn are the only returning starters and it is still up in the air weather he will play guard or tackle. We think he will man the left guard slot. A lot depends on tackle D'Marcus Hayes' ability to handle left tackle. We think he will start there. 2016 top reserves Dyson Sims and Kendall Baker have early edges for the center and right tackle assignments. However, Georgia had a fantastic recruiting class, especially for offensive linemen. Georgia will have an excellent line some time this year leading to a solid offense.

B U L L D O G S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Trenton Thompson	**DT**	**56**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Roquan Smith	**LB**	**95**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Malkom Parrish	**CB**	**49**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Aaron Davis	**S**	**55**	**2**	**2**	**0**
Dominick Sanders	**S**	**34**	**1**	**3**	**0**

Georgia's 2016 defense was excellent ranking 16th in passing defense and 36th for rushing defense. Most of that unit is back for 2017 and Georgia has added depth with some stud recruits. Opposing offensive coordinators will have their hands full when facing the Bulldogs.

The front three will be keyed by play making defensive tackle Trenton Thompson. He will respond well to the instruction from new line coach Tray Scott. Jonathan Ledbetter and John Atkins are returning starters at the ends but need to up their production. Ledbetter could have a breakout season after a solid but not spectacular 2016 campaign. Julian Rochester leads a large group fighting for playing time. The Georgia D-Line is stacked and will be a big positive.

Linebacker Roquan Smith is a monster in the making. He will be the anchor of the front seven and lead a linebacker unit that also includes another stud, Davin Bellamy. Bellamy won't rack up a ton of tackles but he will apply heat to opposing quarterbacks. The other two starters will be Natrez Patrick and Reggie Carter. Carter and Patrick aren't slouches and will make their fair share of plays. This starting group will be outstanding. The rotation will also include Lorenzo Carter and David Marshall, two more quality options.

Safety Dominick Sanders will be the leader of the secondary. He will be joined by fellow returning starter Aaron Davis forming a crafty safety duo that will both be play makers. With such a solid front seven, Sanders and Davis won't have to worry about covering up for missed tackles up front and will be allowed to roam the field harassing receivers. Malkom Parrish has reclaimed his starting duties at one cornerback. The other is a wide open battle among Tyrique McGhee, freshmen Deangelo Gibbs and Richard LeCounte III and senior Malkom Parrish. Our money is on LeCounte. Whomever fills that open cornerback slot will be the finishing touch on an excellent secondary.

The 2016 defense allowed about 24 points per game and this year's group WILL improve on that number. There are no real holes in the defense and depth abounds everywhere. The Bulldogs will have talented, fresh legs in for every play in 2017. It will be fun to watch and discover which of the abundant qualified freshman and redshirt freshmen make meaningful contributions.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Kentucky Wildcats

Southeastern Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Commonwealth Stadium

760 N. Limestone Street Lexington, KY 40506

Phone: (859) 257-9000

Web: http://www.ukathletics.com

Capacity: 67,942

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude:** 955 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MARK STOOPS*
O.C.:	*EDDIE GRAN*
D.C.:	*MATT HOUSE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MATT HOUSE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Southern Mississippi (74)	35 – 44
10-Sep	A	Florida (14)	7 – 45
17-Sep	H	New Mexico St (115)	62 - 42
24-Sep	H	South Carolina (75)	17 - 10
1-Oct	A	Alabama (2)	6 – 34
8-Oct	H	Vanderbilt (62)	20 - 13
22-Oct	H	Mississippi St (70)	40 - 38
29-Oct	A	Missouri (95)	35 - 21
5-Nov	H	Georgia (50)	24 – 27
12-Nov	A	Tennessee (25)	36 – 49
19-Nov	H	Austin Peay (Not D-1)	49 - 13
26-Nov	A	Louisville (18)	41 - 38
BOWL	N	Georgia Tech (33)	18 – 33

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Southern Mississippi (74)
9-Sep	H	Eastern Kentucky (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	South Carolina (75)
23-Sep	H	Florida (14)
30-Sep	H	Eastern Michigan (67)
7-Oct	H	Missouri (95)
21-Oct	A	Mississippi State (70)
28-Oct	H	Tennessee (25)
4-Nov	H	Mississippi (68)
11-Nov	A	Vanderbilt (62)
18-Nov	A	Georgia (50)
25-Nov	H	Louisville (18)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	7-6	5-3	2-3	7-6-0	3-4-0	4-2-0	7-5-0	4-3-0	3-2-0

Total Offense;	61	YPG	420.2	Total Defense;	85	YAPG	434.2
Passing Offense;	102	YPG	186.1	Passing Defense;	35	YAPG	206.1
Rushing Offense;	20	YPG	234.2	Rushing Defense;	110	YAPG	228.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

WILDCATS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Stephen Johnson	**QB**	**2037-13-6**	**327-3**	**-3-0**
Benny Snell	**RB**	**16-0-0**	**1091-13**	**39-0**
Garrett Johnson	**WR**			**585-5**
C. J. Conrad	**TE**			**262-4**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

For the first time in years, Kentucky fans will not be starting football season by counting down the number of days until basketball season begins. Head coach Mark Stoops and his staff have done a very good job of recruiting better talent. A lot of that young talent made meaningful contributions in 2016 and they will form excellent foundations in 2017 on both sides of the ball.

The passing offense wasn't good last year and ranked 102nd nationally. The heart of the offense was a running game which was 20th best in the country. Drew Barker was the starter as 2016 began but he was injured early. He was replaced by Stephen Johnson and he did an okay job. Both return for 2017 but we feel the job is Barker's.

The featured running back will again be Benny Snell and we look for him to add on to his 1091 yards

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

rushing he recorded in 2016. Depth is a bit of a question but redshirt freshman Asim Rose looks ready and will provide Snell with the necessary breathers.

The biggest problem with Kentucky's weak passing offense was the group of receivers. Garrett Johnson is the most productive returning receiver but he must establish himself as this year's go-to guy. Dorian Baker and Tavin Richardson are slated to man the other two wide receiver slots while very productive returning tight end C. J. Conrad may be the best receiver of the group. Little established depth exists and there are no stick out recruits to help the rotation. Receiver will be a problem area all year but not as much of a problem as last year.

Kentucky returns four starters for the offensive line. Left tackle Cole Mosier, left guard Nick Hayes, center Jarvontius Stallings and right tackle Kyle Meadows all are back after proving they could open holes and protect the quarterback in 2016. Top reserve right guard Logan Stenberg will step up to the starting unit and complete a fine offensive line. There are also nice established backups and very talented redshirt freshman center Drake Jackson all waiting for their chance. The offensive line will be a huge team plus for Kentucky.

If Kentucky can find a serviceable receiving rotation, the Wildcats are poised to become a thorn in the sides of their SEC East opponents.

W I L D C A T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Denzil Ware	**DE**	**69**	**6**	**0**	**0**
Naquez Pringle	**DT**	**38**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jordan Jones	**LB**	**109**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Courtney Love	**LB**	**74**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Josh Allen	**LB**	**62**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Derrick Baity	**CB**	**42**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Mike Edwards	**SS**	**100**	**1**	**3**	**0**

Kentucky's defense was very young last year and that youth was reflected especially when defending against the run where the Wildcats ranked a paltry 110th in the country. That youthful group was far better against passing teams as the were ranked 35th best in the country. With nine 2016 starters retuning this year and with the addition of a couple of stout juco transfers, Kentucky's overall defense is going to be better.

Denzil Ware was a very productive end last year and is back to form the foundation of the line. He will be joined by fellow returning starters Naquez Pringle and Adrian Middleton at the tackle slots. 2016 top reserve Alvonte Bell looks to graduate up to the starting unit but juco transfer Phil Hoskins may have something to say about that after he arrives on campus in the fall. Several 2016 freshman got playing time and will form a decent backup line unit.

We really like the starting linebackers for Kentucky. Jordan Jones is a potential star and he will be paired with fellow returning starters Courtney Love and Josh Allen. This trio will pop any runner making it past the front four and they proved last year they can really apply pressure on opposing quarterbacks. Eli Brown is also back and will be the leader of the second unit which will include returning from injury exile Kobie Walker. If the line improves in stopping running plays, this linebacker group will be freed up to make even more plays. It that happens, they can become one of the better linebacker trios in the conference.

Both starting cornerbacks, Derrick Baity and Chris Westry return. Safety Mike Edwards is also back giving Kentucky three quality parts for their four man secondary. Stepping in to fill out the starting group will be juco transfer, ball hawking Lonnie Johnson. This will be a very good starting foursome but depth will have to come from some untested candidates. As long as the starters stay healthy, Kentucky will have a very nice secondary.

The year of experience they gained last year will have a definite impact on the 2017 Kentucky defense. The unit will have playmakers and will operate better when its is necessary to cover up any mistakes. The ability of the front four to improve in stopping running teams will determine just how good this defense can be.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Louisiana State Tigers

Southeastern Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Tiger Stadium

3800 Highland Rd Baton Rouge, LA 70803-2750

Phone: (225) 578-3202

Web: http://www.lsusports.net

Capacity: 102,321

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude: 50 ft.**

HEAD COACH:	*LES MILES*
O.C.:	*MATT CANADA*
D.C.:	*DAVE ARANDA*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Wisconsin (10)	14 – 16
10-Sep	H	Jacksonville St (Not D-1)	34 - 13
17-Sep	H	Mississippi St (70)	23 - 20
24-Sep	A	Auburn (22)	13 – 18
1-Oct	H	Missouri (95)	42 - 7
15-Oct	H	Southern Mississippi (74)	45 - 10
22-Oct	H	Mississippi (68)	38 - 21
5-Nov	H	Alabama (2)	0 – 10
12-Nov	A	Arkansas (49)	38 - 10
19-Nov	H	Florida (14)	10 – 16
24-Nov	A	Texas A & M (42)	54 - 39
BOWL	N	Louisville (18)	29 - 9

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	BYU (44)
9-Sep	H	UT Chattanooga (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Mississippi State (70)
23-Sep	H	Syracuse (79)
30-Sep	H	Troy (41)
7-Oct	A	Florida (14)
14-Oct	H	Auburn (22)
21-Oct	A	Mississippi (68)
4-Nov	A	Alabama (2)
11-Nov	H	Arkansas (49)
18-Nov	A	Tennessee (25)
25-Nov	H	Texas A & M (42)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-4	5-2	3-2	6-6-0	3-4-0	3-2-0	2-9-0	0-7-0	2-2-0

Total Offense;	108	YPG	357.2	Total Defense;	43	YAPG	379.1
Passing Offense;	106	YPG	178.2	Passing Defense;	90	YAPG	249.9
Rushing Offense;	59	YPG	178.9	Rushing Defense;	23	YAPG	129.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TIGERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Danny Etling	**QB**	**2123-11-5**		**46-1**
Derrius Guice	**RB**		**1387-15**	**106-1**

Three returning starting linemen plus one top reserves

I have a crazy thought I would like to share with the LSU coaching staff. For years the LSU fans have been promised the passing game will be opened up. Bringing in offensive coordinator Matt Canada is a nice start but there is no offensive coordinator on earth who can drastically improve any passing offense without a competent quarterback, something LSU has not had for years!

The returning starting quarterback is Danny Etling. He is more of a manager of the offense as he seldom makes mistakes but also seldom makes plays. He threw a paltry 11 touchdown passes last year but was only intercepted five times. His only competition for the job will be Lindsey Scott and true freshman Lowell Narcisse. Scott is a drop back quarterback but he only stands 5-11 and that height won't cut it in the SEC. Narcisse is a duel threat but he is also very raw. It looks like Canada is stuck with trying to shape Etling. Good luck, Matt.

LSU has one of the best running backs in the country in Derrius Guice. He will probably increase his 1387 yards rushing in 2016. He will get a ton of snaps as the Bayou Bengals discover who his backup

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

will be. Darrel Williams and Nick Brossette are in a battle for the backup job. John David Moore and Bry'Keithon Mouton provide nice depth at fullback.

LSU most rebuild its receiver unit after losing wide receivers Malachi Dupre and Travin Dural and tight end Colin Jeter. D. J. Chark is the only established wide receiver and exiting spring drills, he and Russell Gage sat atop the depth chart long with tight end Foster Moreau. That starting trio is hardly written in stone with Dee Anderson and Drake Davis in the picture. Add freshman Mannie Neatherly when he arrives this fall and you have an all out battle for assignments.

K. J. Maone, William Clapp, Maea Teuhema and Toby Weathersby are all returning starting linemen. However, with the loss of center Ethan Pocic, there will be a lot of position shifting and in the end the opening in the line will be at right guard where Garrett Brumfield and Adrian Magee are fighting for the job. Keep an eye on redshirt freshmen Jakori Savage and Willie Allen and true freshman Austin Deculus. They will press the starters for playing time all season and form an excellent backup unit. This will be another excellent LSU line capable of opening holes for the running backs. At LSU, that is all they need to do because the Tigers can't throw the ball without a decent quarterback.

T I G E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Greg Gilmore	**DT**	**34**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Donte Jackson	**CB**	**39**	**0**	**2**	**0**
John Barrle	**S**	**39**	**0**	**0**	**0**

LSU's defense took some big hits from early departure for the NFL and graduation. Nose guard Davon Godchaux, defensive end Lewis Neal, linebackers Kendell Beckwith and Duke Riley and safety Jamal Adams are all gone. Finding qualified replacements, especially in the front seven, is essential.

Greg Gilmore is the most productive returning option for the nose tackle slot but he must withstand the challenge of Freshmen All SEC winner Ed Alexander. Freshmen Tyler Shelvin will get a chance to crack the two deep rotation at nose tackle. Christian LaCouture missed the 2016 season but returns this year. Ray Thornton, K'Lavon Chaisson and Sci Martin are all in the mix for an end starting assignment. We know the cast of characters for the new LSU line but we do not know their roles.

Arden Key is half linebacker and half rush defensive end. He is back and will be a huge part of the pressure to be applied to opposing quarterbacks. Devin White was an SEC All-Freshman winner and will take over the slot vacated by Beckwith. Donnie Alexander looks to have nailed down the job previously held by Riley. Devin Voohees, Michael Divinity and true freshman Jacob Phillips are slugging it out for the fourth and final spot. The linebacker unit is more identified than the line and has the makings of a solid rotation.

The hole created by the departure of Jamal Adams has a tough true freshman, JaCoby Stevens, getting the first chance to fill it. The other three secondary positions will be manned by cornerbacks Donte Jackson and Kevin Toliver. The other safety spot will be handled by John Battle. Corey Thompson is back from injury and he, Ed Paris and Xavier Lewis will supply very solid reserve play. The secondary will be a good, functional unit that will benefit by the defensive line coming together.

There has never been a defense that looks as good as the 2017 LSU unit without being able to identify exactly who is going to play where! That is what years of good recruiting can do for you. It's just a shame that good recruiting has never applied to the quarterback situation.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Ole Miss Rebels

Southeastern Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium
401 Airport Rd Oxford, MS 38677-1848
Phone: (662) 915-7211
Web: http://www.olemisssports.com
Capacity: 60,580
Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 516 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MATT LUKE*
O.C.:	*PHIL LONGO*
D.C.:	*WESLEY McGRIFF*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*BRADLEY DALE PEVETO*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS				2017 SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent (Final Rank)		Score	Date	Opponent	
5-Sep	A	Florida St (8)	34 – 45	2-Sep	H	South Alabama (88)
10-Sep	H	Wofford (Not D-1)	38 - 13	9-Sep	H	Tennessee-Martin (Not D-1)
17-Sep	H	Alabama (2)	34 – 48	16-Sep	A	California (72)
24-Sep	H	Georgia (50)	45 - 14	30-Sep	A	Alabama (2)
1-Oct	H	Memphis (45)	48 - 28	7-Oct	A	Auburn (22)
15-Oct	A	Arkansas (49)	30 34	14-Oct	H	Vanderbilt (62)
22-Oct	A	LSU (15)	21 – 38	21-Oct	H	LSU (15)
29-Oct	H	Auburn (22)	29 – 40	28-Oct	H	Arkansas (49)
5-Nov	H	Georgia Southern (91)	37 - 27	4-Nov	A	Kentucky (63)
12-Nov	A	Texas A & M (42)	29 - 28	11-Nov	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
19-Nov	A	Vanderbilt (62)	17 – 38	18-Nov	H	Texas A & M (42)
26-Nov	H	Mississippi St (70)	20 – 55	23-Nov	A	Mississippi State (70)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	4-3	1-4	4-8-0	3-4-0	1-4-0	7-5-0	5-2-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	26	YPG	464.3	Total Defense;	111	YAPG	461.3
Passing Offense;	13	YPG	314.9	Passing Defense;	48	YAPG	214.9
Rushing Offense;	95	YPG	149.4	Rushing Defense;	120	YAPG	246.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

REBELS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Shea Patterson	**QB**	**800-6-3**	**169-0**	
Van Jefferson	**WR**		**40-0**	**543-3**

Five returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

The soap opera known as Ole Miss football limps into this season with a huge NCAA thunderhead hanging over the program and an interim Head Coach running the team. The Rebels self imposed a bowl ban for this year but even with the departure of former head coach Hugh Freeze, it seems as though NCAA lightning is still poised to strike. It's not realistic- even for the staunchest Rebel fans, to think that the Rebels will escape with a one year bowl ban as their only major penalty.

The 2017 simply can't have as many injuries as last season. Those injuries badly effected both sides of the ball. Star quarterback Chad Kelly went down late in the season but that allowed five star reserve Shea Patterson to get his feet wet. He was solid in his limited exposure and looks to be the starting quarterback in 2017 and a year or two after. Depth was a concern so Ole Miss went out and recruited juco transfer Jordan Ta'amu. He will compete with Jason Pellerin for backup duties.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Ole Miss Rebels

A new offensive coordinator, Phil Longo, is on board and has been tasked with creating more balance within the offense. The Ole Miss running game has been nonexistent the past couple of years yet Freeze and Company didn't recruit a standout running back. Eugene Brazley and his whopping 261 yards rushing is the most productive returning running back. Another tepid option is back from injury exile Eric Swinney. Running back will be a huge problem again in 2017.

Ole Miss returns several game tested receivers. None have shown that break away ability but all seem to be chain movers. Van Jefferson, A. J. Brown and DaMarkus Lodge are currently atop the depth chart but expect fall challenges from Markell Park and injury survivor D. K. Metcalf. With tight end Evan Engram gone, tight end looks like a problem area. Youngsters will be given hard looks.

The strength of the 2017 Ole Miss offense will be the offensive line where all five starters and two top reserves return. Left tackle Gregory Little, left guard Jordan Sims, center Javon Patterson, right guard Daronte Bouldin and right tackle Alex Givens will give the “pretty boys” a chance to gel. Sean Rawlings and Rod Taylor give this excellent line added depth. It is hard to see measurable improvement in the Ole Miss offense since the coaches still have done nothing to improve an awful running game.

Tight end Evan Engram will be missed, but the Rebels have a wealth of promising talent and options at receiver as Ole Miss recruiting classes in 2014, 2015 and 2016 all ranked in ESPN’s top 20, including the No. 4 class last year, but if you can predict the Ole Miss season this year, our hats are off to you!

REBELS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Marquis Haynes	**DE**	**53**	**7**	**1**	**1**
Benito Jones	**DT**	**39**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Breeland Speaks	**DT**	**28**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Demarquis Gates	**LB**	**79**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Myles Hartsfield	**SS**	**43**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Zedrick Woods	**FS**	**63**	**0**	**3**	**0**
A. J. Moore	**NB**	**42**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Ole Miss also has a new coordinator on defense. Wesley McGriff needs to reestablish the swagger that was missing from last year's unit. McGriff has only five starters back but he also has a truck load of key 2016 reserves returning.

Three parts of the front four are set with Marquis Haynes a returning starter at one end, Bentito Jones a returning started at one tackle and top 2016 reserve Breeland Speaks at the other tackle. Garrald McDowell and juco transfer Markel Winters are fighting it out for the other end job. The front four will be a big team asset and will allow the back seven to do their own jobs.

Linebacker Demarquis Gates is a potential play maker and will be the soul of the linebacker unit. He will be joined by Detric Bing-Dukes, another of those key 2016 reserves. Tayler Polk, Ray Ray Smith and juco transfer Brenden Williams provide excellent depth to the two man unit. The front six for Ole Miss will free up the five man secondary to make plays all over the field.

Both of 2016's starting safeties are back. Strong safety Miles Hartsfield will team up with free safety Zedrick Woods to provide solid pass coverage and additional “hitters” when they are needed. Deontay Anderson and C. J. Hampton will be the second string safeties and they are almost as good as the starters. This will be a very good safety rotation. The cornerbacks are new but both Jaylon Jones and Jalen Julius racked up significant playing time in 2016. Also returning is Ken Webster. He was a starting cornererback last year but had a season ending injury in the opening game. Add in juco transfer Javien Hamilton and Ole Miss has loads of quality candidates.

Expect to see the return of the “land sharks” defense in 2017. Ole Miss will be talented and deep. All those injuries forced some not yet ready for prime time players into action. That forced experience will be a big asset this season. Surely Ole Miss will not have a run of injuries they had last year.

Will Ole Miss win six or more games in 2017. Based on their defense, the answer is yes. The defense will hand the offense the ball in good field position frequently. Even with no running game, the Ole Miss offense will be a better unit because of the defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Mississippi State Bulldogs

Southeastern Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Davis Wade Stadium

288 Lakeview Drive Starksville, MS 39762

Phone: (662) 325-2323

Web: http://www.mstateathletics.com

Capacity: 61,000

Surface: Prescription Turf **Altitude:** 336 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DAN MULLEN*
O.C.:	*BILLY GONZALES*
D.C.:	*TODD GRANTHAM*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*GREG KNOX*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	South Alabama (88)	20 – 21
10-Sep	H	South Carolina (75)	27 - 14
17-Sep	A	LSU (15)	20 – 23
24-Sep	A	Massachusetts (125)	47 - 35
8-Oct	H	Auburn (22)	14 – 38
14-Oct	A	BYU (44)	21 – 28
22-Oct	A	Kentucky (63)	38 – 40
29-Oct	H	Samford (Not D-1)	56 - 41
5-Nov	H	Texas A & M (42)	35 - 28
12-Nov	A	Alabama (2)	3 – 51
19-Nov	H	Arkansas (49)	42 – 58
26-Nov	A	Mississippi (68)	55 - 20
BOWL	N	Miami (OH) (83)	17 - 16

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Charleston Southern (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Louisiana Tech (47)
16-Sep	H	LSU (15)
23-Sep	A	Georgia (50)
30-Sep	A	Auburn (22)
14-Oct	H	BYU (44)
21-Oct	H	Kentucky (63)
28-Oct	A	Texas A & M (42)
4-Nov	H	Massachusetts (125)
11-Nov	H	Alabama (2)
18-Nov	A	Arkansas (49)
23-Nov	H	Mississippi (68)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	4-3	2-4	5-8-0	2-5-0	3-3-0	7-5-0	3-3-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	44	YPG	440.2	Total Defense;	110	YAPG	459.1
Passing Offense;	89	YPG	209.7	Passing Defense;	120	YAPG	281.5
Rushing Offense;	23	YPG	230.5	Rushing Defense;	70	YAPG	177.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

BULLDOGS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Nick Fitzgerald	**QB**	**2423-21-19**	**1375-16**	**9-0**
Aeris Williams	**RB**		**720-4**	**45-0**
Donald Gray	**WR**			**709-5**
Farrod Green	**TE**			**121-1**

Two returning starting linemen plus one top reserve

Mississippi State started last season with a very embarrassing loss to South Alabama. They ended the season with a bowl win. What happened in between can only be described as a miracle. That miracle is named Nick Fitzgerald.

When Mississippi State opened fall practices in 2016, Fitzgerald was way down the depth chart. From there he became the starter and racked up almost 4000 total yards. He accounted for 21 passing touchdowns and 16 rushing touchdowns. He was the team's leading rusher. He is back for 2017 and gives the offense a proven leader. Freshman Keytaon Thompson will be in the battle for backup duties.

Mississippi State coaches certainly will try to reduce the number of running plays for Fitzgerald. They have a perfect candidate for taking the load off of him. Aeris Williams ran for 720 yards. That number

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

will increase this year as Williams becomes a true featured back. Four star recruit Kylin Hill may be pressed into immediate action and function as Williams' backup. He may simply be too good to keep off the field.

The loss of receiver Fred Ross will be a big blow. Donald Gray is back and looks ready to assume the go-to guy mantle. Malik Dear, Gabe Myles and Keith Mixon are locked in a fierce battle for the other two wide receiver jobs. Fitzgerald has another qualified receiver in tight end Farrod Green. Green could find himself with an additional workload as Fitzgerald will be asked to locate more secondary receivers instead of tucking the ball and running.

The offensive line is a potential problem area. Left tackle Martinas Rankin and left guard Elgton Jenkins are the only returning starters. 2016 reserves Deion Calhoun and Harrison Moon look ready to move up and handle the right guard and right tackle duties. Redshirt freshman Stewart Reese and juco transfers Tommy Champion and Tyre Phillips join the line and they may cause some position shifting as the Bulldogs try to find a new starting center. The line needs to come together if State expects to take advantage of some nice skill position players.

B U L L D O G S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Cory Tyrone Thomas	**DT**	**25**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Jeffrey Simmons	**NT**	**39**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Leo Lewis	**LB**	**79**	**1**	**0**	**0**
J. T. Gray	**LB**	**71**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jamoral Graham	**CB**	**28**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Brandon Ladarius Bryant	**SS**	**62**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Mark McLaurin	**FS**	**51**	**1**	**2**	**0**

We must warn you that anything we are about to say about the 2017 Mississippi State defense will be only our opinion. State has brought in so many juco transfers that we have no idea which ones will be able to immediately make the transition to SEC play. Coach Mullen brought in Todd Grantham to improve a defense that allowed 31.8 per game in 2016.

Grantham's first task is to replace the complete starting front four as Johnathan Calvin, A.J. Jefferson, Nelson Adams, Nick James and Torrey Dale are all gone. He has returning tackle Cory Tyrone Thomas and returning nose tackle Jeffrey Simmons and end Fletcher Adams. All were on the second unit last season. Former Georgia commit Chauncey Rivers went the juco route after being kicked off the team. He is now likely to be a starting end for Mississippi State. Former Michigan State recruit and juco transfer Montez Sweat could easily capture the other end job. The same can be said about two juco transfer defensive tackle prospects Deion Pope and Lee Autry. Somewhere inside of this hodgepodge, Grantham has enough talent to form avery good, deep line rotation.

The massive influx along the D-Line will allow J. T. Gray to remain at linebacker where he will rejoin Leo Lewis. Those two slots seem set but the third starting linebacker will come from Dezmond Harris, Marquiss Spencer and Gerri Green. You can also add to the mix incoming freshman Willie Gay. We expect Lewis to become a real play maker and be the key to a solid linebacker rotation. If the new line gels, this group is capable of making tons of plays.

Cornerback will be a five way battle for the two starting assignments. Tolando Cleveland was supposed to start last season but missed the season with an injury. He is back and is battling Jamoral Graham, Lashard Dunn, Chris Rayford and Jamal Peters. Whomever earns the cornerback jobs will benefit from the return of safeties Brandon Bryant and Mark McLurin. The safety rotation got much deeper with the signing of juco transfers Johnathan Abram (a former Georgia commit), former Michigan commit Brian Cole and Jaquarius Landrews. Like the other two sections of the 2017 Mississippi State defense, Grantham has the pieces but he will have to put the puzzle together.

Few teams are able to blend in so many juco transfers. Grantham has his work cut out but if he can merge this diverse group, State might actually have a very good defense (the key word is might).

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Missouri Tigers

Southeastern Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Faurot Field

105 Jesse Hall Columbia, MO 65211

Phone: (573) 882-2121

Web: http://www.mutigers.com

Capacity: 77,004

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 706 ft.

HEAD COACH: *BARRY ODOM*
O.C.: *JOSH HEUPEL*
D.C.: *DEMONTIE CROSS*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	West Virginia (21)	11 – 26
10-Sep	H	Eastern Michigan (67)	61 - 21
17-Sep	H	Georgia (50)	27 – 28
24-Sep	H	Delaware St (Not D-1)	79 - 0
1-Oct	A	LSU (15)	7 – 42
15-Oct	A	Florida (14)	14 – 40
22-Oct	H	Middle Tennessee St (61)	45 – 51
29-Oct	H	Kentucky (63)	21 – 35
5-Nov	A	South Carolina (75)	21 – 31
12-Nov	H	Vanderbilt (62)	26 - 17
19-Nov	A	Tennessee (25)	37 – 63
25-Nov	H	Arkansas (49)	28 - 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Missouri State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	South Carolina (75)
16-Sep	H	Purdue (116)
23-Sep	H	Auburn (22)
7-Oct	A	Kentucky (63)
14-Oct	A	Georgia (50)
21-Oct	H	Idaho (57)
28-Oct	A	Connecticut (114)
4-Nov	H	Florida (14)
11-Nov	H	Tennessee (25)
18-Nov	A	Vanderbilt (62)
25-Nov	A	Arkansas (49)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	4-3	0-5	5-7-0	5-2-0	0-5-0	6-6-0	4-3-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	13	YPG	500.5	Total Defense;	118	YAPG	479.7
Passing Offense;	20	YPG	295.4	Passing Defense;	86	YAPG	246.8
Rushing Offense;	38	YPG	205.1	Rushing Defense;	112	YAPG	232.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TIGERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Drew Lock	**QB**	**3399-23-10**	**123-1**	**21-1**
Damarea Crockett	**RB**		**1061-10**	**14-0**
J'Mon Moore	**WR**			**1012-8**
Dimetrios	**WR**		**29-0**	**587-3**
Kendall Blanton	**TE**			**161-3**

Five returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

If you were to only look at Missouri's offensive production in 2016, you would assume the Tigers were right in the hunt for the conference title and invited to a pretty good bowl. Missouri's 2016 offense was way too good for the team to have finished in dead last in their division.

Quarterback Drew Lock is back and will reclaim his starting duties. He had solid numbers last year but a lot of his stats were padded by production against non conference teams. When it came time to play SEC opponents, Mizzou saw its scoring drop by almost 30%. Luck should take another step forward considering the supporting cast around him but he must show he is a “crunch time” player and produce against the tough SEC defenses.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Lock will benefit by the return of running back Damarea Crockett (1,061 yards). Further running back depth will be provided by Ish Witter and Nate Strong. The ability for this trio will insure Lock will not face an all out pass rush play after play.

The Tigers are loaded at wide receiver. J'Mon Moore had over 1000 yards in 2016. He will be joined by two other returning starters, Dimetrios Mason and Johnathon Johnson. This trio combined for over 2000 receiving yards last season. However, Emmanuel Hall and Ray Wingo also return and will fight for playing time. Opposing secondaries are in store for some long days facing this outstanding group.

As good as things have sounded so far, the strength of Missouri's 2017 offense will be its offensive line. All five starters are back with left tackle Tyler Howell, left guard Kevin Pendleton, center Jonah Dubinski, right guard Adam Ploudre and right tackle Paul Adams. This unit allowed only 14 sacks last season and opened huge holes for the running backs. As a cherry on the top, the Tigers have also brought in juco transfer guard Yasir Durant. To that, add the fact four top 2016 reserves are also on hand and that all adds up to one of the best offensive lines in the country.

The Tigers will field one of the most complete offenses in the country in 2017. The question this year will be the same as last season. Can the offense score more points than the defense will allow?

TIGERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Marcell Frazier	**DE**	**34**	**8.5**	**0**	**1**
Terry Beckner	**DT**	**24**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Anthony Sherrils	**SS**	**53**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Thomas Wilson	**FS**	**58**	**0**	**0**	**0**

How does a defense fritter away the production of such a fine offense as Mizzou had in 2016? They allow 512.4 yards per game against SEC teams, that's how! From that unit, end Charles Harris fled to the NFL, the linebacker unit was shrunk with the graduation of Michael Scherer and Donavin Newsom and cornerback Aarion Penton also must be replaced.

Defensive end Marcell Frazier is a keeper and returns for 2017. Often injured defensive tackle Terry Buckner is a potential monster IF he can stay on the field. The other two starting linemen are projected to be end Spencer Williams and tackle A. J. Logan. Neither has distinguished himself thereby opening the door for juco transfers Nate Anderson and Rashad Brandon. Anderson is an end while Brandon plays tackle. Another candidate who will get a long look will be redshirt freshman Tre Williams. The line will have a lot of questions but at least this year Missouri has some possible answers.

Brandon Lee and Eric Beisel are returning starting linebackers but you can throw their names into a hat with Terez Hall, Cale Garrett, Joey Burkett and T. J. Warren and pull out three names and probably get as close to picking a starting unit as we can. With so many candidates as close talent wise as this group, Missouri will have depth at linebacker but it remains to be seen if anyone can step up and become a play maker. Like the D-Line, the linebacker unit has many questions, the biggest of which is are there any SEC quality players in the unit?

Things get no better when trying to figure out who will play in the secondary this season. We do know the safeties will be Anthony Sherrils at strong safety and Cam Hilton at free safety. Hot on their heels will be Ronnell Perkins and Thomas Wilson. Safety actually looks like a defensive team strength but things are far different at cornerback. Can you play cornerback and do you have any eligibility left? If so, call Missouri! DeMarkus Acey, Christian Holmes and Logan Cheadle are all leading candidates for landing the cornerback assignments but none of the three is impressive. The problem is compounded by the fact that none of the newcomers look like they are ready for playing time. Cornerback will haunt Missouri all season long.

Will Missouri's defense be any better in 2017? Maybe, but it had no way to go but up!

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

South Carolina Gamecocks

Southeastern Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Williams-Brice Stadium

516 Main Street Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: (803) 777-7000

Web: http://gamecocksonline.cstv.com

Capacity: 80,250

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 296 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*WILL MUSCHAMP*
O.C.:	*BRYAN MCCLENDON*
D.C.:	*TRAVARIS ROBINSON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*COLEMAN HUTZLER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	A	Vanderbilt (62)	13 - 10
10-Sep	A	Mississippi St (70)	14 – 27
17-Sep	H	East Carolina (110)	20 - 15
24-Sep	A	Kentucky (63)	10 – 17
1-Oct	H	Texas A & M (42)	13 – 24
9-Oct	H	Georgia (50)	14 – 28
22-Oct	H	Massachusetts (125)	34 - 28
29-Oct	H	Tennessee (25)	24 - 21
5-Nov	H	Missouri (95)	31 - 21
12-Nov	A	Florida (14)	7 – 20
19-Nov	H	Western Carolina (Not D-1)	44 - 31
26-Nov	A	Clemson (1)	7 – 56
BOWL	N	South Florida (19)	39 – 46

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	North Carolina State (51)
9-Sep	A	Missouri (95)
16-Sep	H	Kentucky (63)
23-Sep	H	Louisiana Tech (47)
30-Sep	A	Texas A & M (42)
7-Oct	H	Arkansas (49)
14-Oct	A	Tennessee (25)
28-Oct	H	Vanderbilt (62)
4-Nov	A	Georgia (50)
11-Nov	H	Florida (14)
18-Nov	H	Wofford (Not D-1)
25-Nov	H	Clemson (1)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	5-3	1-4	6-7-0	5-3-0	1-4-0	4-8-0	3-4-0	1-4-0

Total Offense;	115	YPG	347.5	Total Defense;	66	YAPG	411.9
Passing Offense;	83	YPG	213.2	Passing Defense;	39	YAPG	208.7
Rushing Offense;	108	YPG	134.4	Rushing Defense;	90	YAPG	203.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

GAMECOCKS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Jake Bentley	**QB**	**1420-9-4**	**-15-0**	**12-0**
Rico Dowdle	**RB**		**764-6**	**55-1**
Deebo Samuel	**WR**		**98-6**	**783-1**
Bryan Edwards	**WR**			**590-4**
Hayden Hurst	**TE**	**21-0-0**	**9-0**	**616-1**

Four returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Going into the 2016 season, South Carolina's offense looked like a black hole! It was hard to find anything positive to say about the group. Little did we know that a group of freshmen would step up and make significant contributions.

Surprise number one was quarterback Jake Bentley. He was thrown into the deep end and was going to either learn how to swim or drown! He didn't become a starter until mid way through the season and experienced some of the troubles all freshman quarterbacks face but he was a quick study. If seven games he amassed 1420 yards passing for 9 touchdowns and just 4 interceptions. The Gamecocks are anticipating even better things for Bentley this year.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Bentley is just one of nine returning starters for the 2017 South Carolina offense. Another is running back Rico Dowdle who also had a fine freshman season. However, it is not guaranteed he will be the primary back. North Carolina transfer Ty'Son Williams will provide Dowdle a stiff challenge. A. J. Turner gives the rotation an experienced backup. South Carolina's running attack has three solid options.

Bryan Edwards, Deebo Samuel and tight end Hayden Hurts are three parts of a very talented receiving corpse. The trio combined for almost 2000 receiving yards. The third wide receiver assignment is still up for grabs but early-enrollee OrTre Smith and Chavis Dawkins look like strong possibilities. Regardless of who earns the open wide receiver assignment, South Carolina will have an excellent starting group of receivers.

New offensive line coach Eric Wolford will have four returning starting linemen and four top reserves. However, the 2016 unit did allow 41 sacks and that can not happen this year. To that group, add juco transfer Dennis Daley. You can't blame the inefficiency of the line in 2016 on youth so expect some position shuffling and the possibility of some new blood before the final starting five is announced. The progress of the line will be a big factor in how far the 2017 South Carolina offense advances.

G A M E C O C K S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
D. J. Wonnum	**DE**	**32**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Ulric Jones	**DT**	**42**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Taylor Stallworth	**DT**	**41**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Bryson Allen-Williams	**LB**	**74**	**2**	**2**	**0**
Jamarcus King	**CB**	**54**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Chris Lammons	**CB**	**53**	**1**	**3**	**0**
J. Smith	**S**	**79**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Several starters from 2016 are returning in 2017 but that does not mean South Carolina's defense will be set going into fall practices. After all, last year's defense recored just 21 sacks so improving that number has to be project number 1. Unless those returning starters can show they can increase pressure on opposing quarterbacks greatly, new faces will be thrown into the fire.

Adding to the lack of sacks problem, end Darius English had nine sacks and must be replaced. Dante Sawyer and D. J. Wonnum have been listed as the projected starting ends but the arrival of juco transfer Javon Kinlaw may change that. Ulric Jones and Taylor Stallworth have reclaimed their starting tackle assignments but they combined for just one sack last year. They did a good job against running plays but without better quarterback pressure, youngsters will be given a chance.

Linebacker looks like a big problem area for South Carolina even with the return from injury of f o r m e r All SEC Skai Moore. He will team up with returning starter Bryson Allen-Williams. The third starting assignment is a wide open affair. Juco transfer Eldridge Thompson will certainly get first crack at filling the opening. Depth at linebacker will exclusively come from untested newcomers. Four incoming freshmen and one redshirt freshmen had better be ready for playing time.

Jamarcus King and Chris Lammons are back to man the cornerback slots. They were quite productive last year considering how little the front seven pressured opposing quarterbacks. The two safety slots look set with the return of starter D. J. Smith and 2016 key reserve Steven Montac. Depth at the corners will be provided by juco transfers Kaleb Chambers and Kaisean Nixon. Nixon also is an accomplished kick returner and will serve double duty. The secondary is the most in place part of South Carolina's 2017 defense and will be a plus unit.

Depth will be a huge factor all across the front seven. Any injuries could cause disaster. No other SEC team will be forced to play as many untested freshmen and redshirt freshmen as the Gamecocks. That is never a good position for any team to be in.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Tennessee Volunteers

Southeastern Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Neyland Stadium

1115 Volunteer Boulevard Knoxville, TN 37996

Phone: (865) 974-1000

Web: http://www.utk.edu

Capacity: 102,455

Surface: Natural Grass **Altitude:** 904 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*BUTCH JONES*
O.C.:	*LARRY SCOTT*
D.C.:	*BOB SHOOP*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*CHARLTON WARREN*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Appalachian St (37)	20 - 13
10-Sep	H	Virginia Tech (16)	45 - 24
17-Sep	H	Ohio (58)	28 - 19
24-Sep	H	Florida (14)	38 - 28
1-Oct	A	Georgia (50)	34 - 31
8-Oct	A	Texas A & M (42)	38 – 45
15-Oct	H	Alabama (2)	10 – 49
29-Oct	A	South Carolina (75)	21 – 24
5-Nov	H	Tennessee Tech	55 - 0
12-Nov	H	Kentucky (63)	49 - 36
19-Nov	H	Missouri (95)	63 - 37
26-Nov	A	Vanderbilt (62)	34 – 45
BOWL	N	Nebraska (27)	38 - 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
4-Sep	A	Georgia Tech (33)
9-Sep	H	Indiana State (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Florida (14)
23-Sep	H	Massachusetts (125)
30-Sep	H	Georgia (50)
14-Oct	H	South Carolina (75)
21-Oct	A	Alabama (2)
28-Oct	A	Kentucky (63)
4-Nov	H	Southern Mississippi (74)
11-Nov	A	Missouri (95)
18-Nov	H	LSU (15)
25-Nov	H	Vanderbilt (62)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	8-1	1-3	6-7-0	5-4-0	1-3-0	8-3-0	5-2-0	3-1-0

Total Offense;	40	YPG	443.7	Total Defense;	95	YAPG	449.2
Passing Offense;	62	YPG	238.5	Passing Defense;	72	YAPG	230.7
Rushing Offense;	37	YPG	205.2	Rushing Defense;	104	YAPG	218.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

VOLUNTEERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
John Kelly	**RB**		**630-5**	**51-0**
Jauan Jennings	**WR**	**4-1-0**	**27-0**	**580-7**
Ethan Wolf	**TE**			**239-2**

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

This will be a season of change at Rocky Top. Don't confuse that with a rebuilding year because the Vols are rich in talent. The major changes will be at quarterback and with the coaching staff. Former tight ends coach Larry Scott is now the offensive coordinator but an even bigger change will be the entry of bringing in strength and conditioning coach Rock Gullickson. The Vols were decimated by injuries last year and showed signs many times of their lack of conditioning. Gullickson will be tasked with correcting both situations.

Quarterback Joshua Dobbs is gone. Depending on who you speak with, you may hear his loss is tragic or you may hear “good riddance!” Quinten Dormady and Jarrett Guarantano are the main candidates for replacing Cobbs. The are completely different quarterbacks. Dormandy is a classic drop back quarterback while Guarantano is a duel threat. Considering how much Tennessee uses the read option, Guarantano looks like the man.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Tennessee Volunteers

Tennessee must replace running back Alvin Kamara but they have John Kelly who was very impressive in limited action last year. Freshman Army All-American Ty Chandler will be part of the rotation and could be special.

Receiver Jauan Jennings is the top candidate for the go-to receiver in 2017. Wide receivers Tyler Byrd and Josh Smith and tight end Ethan Wolf are the projected remaining pieces of the receiving starting group. However, freshman Jordan Murphy and some other untested youngsters will get the attention of coaches in the fall.

The offensive line will be the major project for Tennessee even though four starters and three top reserves are back this season. The 2016 line gave up way too many sacks and with a new quarterback, the line has to give him a chance. Left tackle Drew Richmond, left guard Jashon Robertson, center Coleman Thomas, right guard Jack Jones and right tackle Brett Kendrick will be given every chance to prove they can protect the quarterback but if they can't expect a group led by freshman Trey Smith to enter consideration.

Tennessee's offense is a project in the works. It's too early to say how good the unit will be.

V O L U N T E E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Kendal Vickers	**DT**	**38**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Emmanuel Moseley	**CB**	**57**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Todd Kelly	**SS**	**71**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Micah Abernathy	**FS**	**59**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Rashaan Gaulden	**NB**	**68**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Tennessee has some big shoes to fill in their defense. How they are able to fill those holes will tell the tale of the 2017 Vols defense.

Defensive ends Derek Barnett and Corey Vereen are both gone after recording 20 of Tennessee's 31 sacks in 2016. Kahlil McKenzie and Sky Tuttle were both injured early in 2016 and are scheduled back this year. Kyle Phillips and Deandre Johnson will also be under heavy consideration. Regardless of who wins the two starting jobs, the end slot will be a basically untested position. Kendal Vickers returns to handle one of the tackle slots. Jonathan Kongbo and Darell Taylor will get first chances to capture the other tackle assignment. Parade All American Matthew Butler will also get a series look in the fall. The D-Line will be long on talent and very short on game experience.

Tennessee was hit by an unbelievable series of injuries at linebacker last year. Darrin Kirkland is set at one slot with Colton Jumper and Cortez McDowell listed as the other two starters post spring drills. Elliott Berry will lead a solid backup unit. Freshman Will Ignont could easily become part ot the rotation. While the linebacker unit lacks a true play maker, Kirkland may become that player and the balance of the linebacker rotation is a good “working man” crew.

Cornerback Caneron Sutton was a big loss for the Tennessee secondary, However, there is a load of experienced talent waiting for their chance to fill Sutton's hole. Emmanuel Moseley has one cornerback job nailed down but at the end of spring practices Justin Martin, Rashaan Gaulden, Baylen Buchanan and Marquill Osborne were all fighting for the assignment. Safety finds two solid starters returning. Todd Kelly and Micah Abernathy will handle the safety duties well and will be solidifying for the defense.

There are a lot of questions concerning the 2017 Tennessee defense. While there are plausible answers to every question, until those answers prove themselves on the field, we never know if they are the correct answers.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas A&M Aggies

Southeastern Conference, West Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Kyle Field

708 Cross Street College Station, TX 77843

Phone: (979) 845-3211

Web: http://www.aggieathletics.com

Capacity: 82,589

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude:** 333 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*KEVIN SUMLIN*
O.C.:	*NOEL MAZZONE*
D.C.:	*JOHN CHAVIS*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JEFF BANKS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	UCLA (81)	31 - 24
10-Sep	H	Prairie View A&M (Not D-1)	67 - 0
17-Sep	A	Auburn (22)	29 - 16
24-Sep	H	Arkansas (49)	45 - 24
1-Oct	A	South Carolina (75)	24 - 13
8-Oct	H	Tennessee (25)	45 - 38
22-Oct	A	Alabama (2)	14 -33
29-Oct	H	New Mexico St (115)	52 - 10
5-Nov	A	Mississippi St (70)	28 – 35
12-Nov	H	Mississippi (68)	28 – 29
19-Nov	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)	23 - 10
24-Nov	H	LSU (15)	39 – 54
BOWL	N	Kansas St (32)	28 – 33

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	UCLA (81)
9-Sep	H	Nicholls (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
23-Sep	H	Arkansas (49)
30-Sep	H	South Carolina (75)
7-Oct	H	Alabama (2)
14-Oct	A	Florida (14)
28-Oct	H	Mississippi State (70)
4-Nov	H	Auburn (22)
11-Nov	H	New Mexico (54)
18-Nov	A	Mississippi (68)
25-Nov	A	LSU (15)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	6-2	2-3	4-9-0	3-6-0	1-3-0	4-7-1	3-4-1	1-3-0

Total Offense;	24	YPG	467	Total Defense;	90	YAPG	441.8
Passing Offense;	46	YPG	255.2	Passing Defense;	91	YAPG	250
Rushing Offense;	34	YPG	211.8	Rushing Defense;	80	YAPG	191.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

AGGIES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Trayveon Williams	**RB**		**1057-8**	**91-0**
Christian Kirk	**WR**		**35-0**	**928-9**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

This is going to be a pivotal year for head coach Kevin Sumlin. Once again, his 2016 started out like gang busters only to falter in November. Aggies fans are tired of the same thing happening year after year and Sumlin must break the trend and do it with 2017 being a rebuilding year.

A & M will have to find a new starting quarterback. Sumlin has recruited a ton of starting quarterbacks but they have all transferred and are now starting elsewhere. Senior Jake Hubenak, redshirt freshman Nick Starkel and true freshman Kellen Mond are all getting heavy consideration for the job. Were Sumlin not feeling heat, he would probably like to insert one of the two talented youngsters but he knows the fans won't stand for a really bad year. That makes us believe the job is Hubenak's.

The Aggies are set at running back after Trayveon Williams had a breakout freshman season. Expect him to improve on his 1057 yards rushing in 2016. Making the backfield even deeper is former Oklahoma commit Keith Ford. He racked up 669 rushing yards in 2016 and gives the Aggies a nice

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

one/two punch. Josh Reynolds, Ricky Seals-Jones and Speedy Noil all must be replaced after they combined for 1697 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns. Christian Kirk returns and will rapidly become the featured receiver. Beyond Kirk, A & M has zero proven producers. However, they do have a bus load of very talented but unproven youngsters. Camron Buckley, Hezekiah Jones, Jhamon Ausbon, Quartney Davis and Clyde Leflore-Chriss are all in that category and will battle for rotation slots through this fall.

Left guard Colton Prater, center Erik McCoy and right guard Keaton Sutherland are all retuning line starters and will give the unit a solid foundation. Koda Martin seems to have captured one tackle job but the other is still wide open. Austin Anderson and early enrollee Jared Hocker are two possibilities as is Connor Lanfear. Lanfear was supposed to start at guard last year but was felled by injury. He may be forced to switch to tackle in 2017.

There are several questions regarding the 2017 A & M defense but the Aggies have plausible answers to every question. Can 100% of abundant talent be converted into production?

AGGIES DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Zaycoven Henderson	**DT**	**40**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Kingsley Keke	**DT**	**37**	**4**	**0**	**0**
Otaro Alaka	**LB**	**73**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Nick Harvey	**CB**	**66**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Donovan Wilson	**CB**	**59**	**1**	**1**	**0**
Amari Watts	**FS**	**56**	**1**	**2**	**0**

2016 was the second year for defensive coordinator John Chavis. He was expected to perform miracles with the A & M defense but to date no miracle has taken place. Last year the pass defense let down Chavis and led to the defense allowing 442 yards per game.

Chavis has the unenviable task of replacing All American defensive end Myles Garrett and his solid running mate Daeshon Hall. They combined for 83 tackles, 28 tackles for a loss and 13 sacks last year. Reserve end James Lockhart also will not be back after transferring. The tackle slots will again be manned by returning starters Zaycoven Henderson and Kingsley Keke. They will be a fine pair and will stuff the run and pressure quarterbacks. Jarrett Johnson and Qualen Cunningham left spring drills as the starting ends but that could easily change. Redshirt freshman Justin Madubuike and true freshmen Michael Clemmons, Jayden Peevy and Tyree Johnson will all get very strong consideration with Clemmons ending up as one starting end.

Shaan Washington and Claude George do not return for 2017. Washington was the team's leading tackler last year. Otaro Alaka, Richard Moore, Tyrel Dodson and Cullen Gillaspia are all in the mix for starting assignments at linebacker but they will need to step aside for true freshman Anthony Hines. He is a definite monster in the making and one of the truly rare “can't miss” freshmen.

The secondary definitely took their lumps in 2016. That year under fire experience will make it a much improved unit. Cornerbacks Nick Harvey and Priest Willis and safety Armani Watts are retuning starters and are scheduled to be joined by converted cornerback Donovan Wilson. Cornerback DeShawn Capers-Smith and safety Larry Pryor give the secondary some game tested, proven depth. As bad as the secondary was last year, we are hesitant to classify this edition as the strength of the defense so we will simply say it will not be a liability like it was a year ago.

There are a lot of potential newcomers for the 2017 A & M defense. If they all play up to their potential, Texas A & M might actually have a plus defense. However, how often do ALL the untested players pan out and immediately become key contributors?

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Vanderbilt Commodores

Southeastern Conference, East Division

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Vanderbilt Stadium

2201 West End Ave. Nashville, TN 37235

Phone: (615) 322-7311

Web: http://www.vucommodores.com

Capacity: 40,350

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 504 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*DEREK MASON*
O.C.:	*ANDY LUDWIG*
D.C.:	*DEREK MASON*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	South Carolina (75)	10 – 13
10-Sep	H	Middle Tennessee St (61)	47 - 24
17-Sep	A	Georgia Tech (33)	7 – 38
24-Sep	A	Western Kentucky (23)	31 - 30
1-Oct	H	Florida (14)	6 – 13
8-Oct	A	Kentucky (63)	13 – 20
15-Oct	A	Georgia (50)	17 - 16
22-Oct	H	Tennessee St (Not D-1)	35 - 17
5-Nov	A	Auburn (22)	16 – 23
12-Nov	A	Missouri (95)	17 – 26
19-Nov	H	Mississippi (68)	38 - 17
26-Nov	H	Tennessee (25)	45 - 34
BOWL	N	North Carolina St (51)	17 – 41

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Middle Tennessee State (61)
9-Sep	H	Alabama A & M (Not D-1)
16-Sep	H	Kansas State (32)
23-Sep	H	Alabama (2)
30-Sep	A	Florida (14)
7-Oct	H	Georgia (50)
14-Oct	A	Mississippi (68)
28-Oct	A	South Carolina (75)
4-Nov	H	Western Kentucky (23)
11-Nov	H	Kentucky (63)
18-Nov	H	Missouri (95)
25-Nov	A	Tennessee (25)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	4-3	2-4	7-6-0	4-2-0	3-4-0	5-6-1	4-2-0	1-4-1

Total Offense;	110	YPG	355.7	Total Defense;	64	YAPG	408.2
Passing Offense;	100	YPG	191.2	Passing Defense;	83	YAPG	244.6
Rushing Offense;	77	YPG	164.5	Rushing Defense;	57	YAPG	163.5

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

COMMODORES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Kyle Shurmur	**QB**	**2409-9-10**	**-129-0**	
Ralph Webb	**RB**		**1283-13**	**166-0**
Jared Pinkney	**TE**			**274-2**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Could this year be the year when Vanderbilt finally contends for the SEC East division crown? That may not be as crazy as it sounds as there is no dominant team it that division. Vanderbilt has a defense that will make the Commodores a contender but can their offense improve enough to carry their part of the load?

Quarterback Kyle Shurmur returns and is the unquestioned starter for 2017. He had a respectable 2016 but when a quarterback has 9 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, he needs to improve greatly in his decision making. With a better understanding what Vanderbilt is trying to do offensively, Shurmur should make progress.

Shurmur knows with all time leading Vanderbilt rusher, Ralph Webb back, the Dores will have a heavy taint of rushing in their offense. Webb is a very explosive runner who is capable of finding the end zone anytime he touches the ball. Shurmur should find ways to throw him the ball more often this year

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

and see if Webb can rack up the yards after catch. Khari Blasingame also returns and will provide experienced, proven backup whenever Webb needs to catch his breath. Expect Webb to match or surpass his 1283 yards rushing last season. The fullback will be Bailey McElwain.

Vanderbilt's receiving starting unit looks set with the return of C. J. Duncan and Trent Sherfield. They will man the wide receiver slots and be joined by tight end Jared Pinkney. Caleb Scott and the two starters all had just under 500 receiving yards in 2016 and one of them needs to step forward and become the go-to guy. Pickney should do well as Shurmur learns he has an excellent outlet when the wide receivers are covered. Kalija Lipscomb will give Vandy another qualified target in reserve.

The line has a nice returning foundation of left guard Ean Pfeifer, right guard Bruno Reagan and right tackle Justin Skule. Cole Harden will move up from the reserve unit to take over the center spot. Devin Cochran is likely to capture the open left tackle slot. The line will also have some decent depth. The line will be a solid, functional unit.

The offense will be better and how much Shurmur improves will be the key to that improvement.

C O M M O D O R E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jonathan Wynn	**DE**	**28**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Nifae Leaiao	**DT**	**21**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Taurean Ferguson	**CB**	**52**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Tre Herndon	**CB**	**41**	**0**	**2**	**0**
LaDarius Wiley	**S**	**76**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Ryan White	**S**	**75**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Defense is what carried Vanderbilt last year. This year's unit will have three holes to fill. The hardest to replace player will be SEC leading tackler, linebacker Zach Cunningham. Fortunately for Vandy the coaching staff has recruited well and there are replacement players ready to step up.

The defensive line loses Adam Butler. He was the nose tackle but with some shuffling, this year's defense will be a functional front three. Jonathan Wynn and Nifae Leralao will be the ends while Dare Odeyingbo will be the new nose tackle. Line depth could be a problem if some of the incoming freshmen are not ready for prime time. The line rotation will not be exceptional but they will get their jobs done well enough to not be a burden to the back eight.

The linebacker group will have to be resorted in an attempt to get some of Cunningham's lost production back. Oren Burks will make the move inside where he will team with Jordan Griffin. Up and coming Josh Smith and Landon Stokes seem to have the inside track for the outside assignments. Youngster Demetri Moore and Charles Wright will be part of the rotation and provide depth. This year's linebacker unit will not have a standout star but will be more of a team effort. In the end, the group will be a team asset.

The secondary will be the team strength of the defense. Cornerback Torren McGaster is the only loss from last year's rotation. Returning starter Tre Herndon will pair up with 2016 super sub Taurean Ferguson to fill the starting cornerback slots. Donovan Sheffield and Bryce Lewis will provide backup as will Joejuan Williams. Vandy has three safeties capable of starting. Ryan White, Arnold Tarpley and Ladarius Wiley will all get plenty of playing time and Vandy will get solid production regardless of which two of the three are on the field.

Vandy's 2017 defense will again be a solid group. The unit needs a linebacker to step forward and become a play maker and the secondary needs to do a better job of ball hawking. This unit could be called the “no name” defense as there are no stars but the members feed of each other making the total of the parts much better.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

THE SUN BELT CONFERENCE
1500 SUGAR BOWL DRIVE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
504-299-9066
COMMISSIONER: KARL BENSON

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Whitey Mills

Appalachian State
Arkansas State
Troy State
Georgia Southern
Louisiana-Lafayette
South Alabama
New Mexico State
Idaho
Louisiana-Monroe
Georgia State
Texas State
Coastal Carolina

Rainman

Troy State
Appalachian State
Arkansas State
Georgia Southern
Idaho
Louisiana-Lafayette
Coastal Carolina
South Alabama
New Mexico State
Louisiana-Monroe
Georgia State
Texas State

Appalachian State has almost everyone back on offense for 2017. They have a good quarterback, a nice line and some talent in the skill position. The defense lost several key members but they have enough potential replacements to fill the holes and have one of the better defenses in the defensive wasteland known as the Sun Belt Conference. Arkansas State has to develop something resembling a running game but the rest of the offense will be fine. There are the usual sack full of questions about their defense but the coaches have a history of creating decent defenses. Troy has big problems with their offensive line. Solve those and the Trojans will have a fine offense. Troy also has work to do with its linebacker rotation. Georgia Southern will use the fall to select their new quarterback. The new man will benefit from a solid line but Southern also needs to replenish their running back rotation. Too many key player have departed from the offense. Do not expect much from Georgia Southern's defense. Louisiana-Lafayette has huge problems at quarterback and not much better at running back. The receivers are decent and the line will be good. The defense has a chance to be decent but that depends on some capable linebackers and cornerbacks stepping up. Idaho has a solid quarterback returning and a decent running back. The defense will be hamstrung all year by an awful secondary. Louisiana-Monroe has potential at running back and will field a nice receiving unit. The rest of the offense will not be good. Their problems are at quarterback and the offensive line. Monroe's defense will be a touch better. South Alabama needs a better running game and more production out of their receivers. If that happens, the offense will be productive as the defense is good enough to hand the offense the ball with excellent field position time after time. Georgia State will go as far as its nice line takes them. We feel the line will open enough holes for the running game to actually become a factor in State's offense this year. Georgia State's defense was an above average group in 2016 and we expect about the same this year. We expect New Mexico State to be better on both sides of the ball in 2017. State will need to pick a new quarterback but they have some nice possibilities. The defense returns most everyone and has some depth too. The only reason we do not have Texas State finishing in last is this is the first year of D-1 football for Coastal Carolina. Both teams need a couple of years of solid recruiting to strengthen their rosters.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Appalachian State Mountaineers

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Kidd Brewer Stadium

Appalachian State University Boone, NC 28808

Phone: (828) 262-2000

Web: http://www.appstatesports.com/

Capacity: 24,050

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 3230 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*SCOTT SATTERFIELD*
O.C.:	*FRANK PONCE*
D.C.:	*NATE WOODY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*STU HOLT*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	A	Tennessee (25)	13 – 20
10-Sep	H	Old Dominion (48)	31 - 7
17-Sep	H	Miami (FL) (20)	10 – 45
24-Sep	A	Akron (89)	45 - 38
1-Oct	H	Georgia St (112)	17 - 3
12-Oct	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	24 - 0
22-Oct	H	Idaho (57)	37 - 19
27-Oct	A	Georgia Southern (91)	34 - 10
5-Nov	H	Texas St (127)	35 - 10
12-Nov	A	Troy (41)	24 – 28
19-Nov	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	42 - 17
26-Nov	A	New Mexico St (115)	37 - 7
BOWL	N	Toledo (46)	31 - 28

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Georgia (50)
9-Sep	H	Savannah State (Non D-1)
16-Sep	A	Texas State (127)
23-Sep	H	Wake Forest (59)
7-Oct	H	New Mexico State (115)
14-Oct	A	Idaho (57)
21-Oct	H	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
28-Oct	A	Massachusetts (125)
4-Nov	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
9-Nov	H	Georgia Southern (91)
25-Nov	A	Georgia State (112)
2-Dec	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	5-1	5-2	7-6-0	1-5-0	6-1-0	5-6-0	3-3-0	2-3-0

Total Offense;	52	YPG	429.9	Total Defense;	17	YAPG	329.7
Passing Offense;	105	YPG	179	Passing Defense;	31	YAPG	203.8
Rushing Offense;	10	YPG	250.9	Rushing Defense;	20	YAPG	125.9

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

MOUNTAINEERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Taylor Lamb	**QB**	**2281-15-8**	**506-9**	
Jalin Moore	**RB**		**1402-10**	**32-0**
Shaedon Meadors	**WR**			**716-2**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Appalachian State rode a very effective and productive rushing attack to a 10-3 record in 2016. They threw the ball just enough to keep opposing defenses from using eight man fronts to stuff the running attack. While a 105th national ranking for passing offense doesn't look at all good, at Appalachian State that is pretty effective. Whenever you have the 10th ranked rushing offense, it isn't necessary for you to throw the ball too often.

Taylor Lamb (2281 passing yards for 15 touchdowns and 8 interceptions and 506 yards rushing for 9 touchdowns) returns and is again surrounded by quality skill position players. J. P. Caruso also returns and will be the primary backup quarterback. While the Mountaineers averaged only 179 yards per game passing, duplication of that number this year will be sufficient.

Marcus Cox ran for 1015 yards last season and has departed. There is no need to panic because

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Appalachian State Mountaineers

Jalin Moore returns after leading the team in rushing last year with 1402 rushing yards for 10 touchdowns. The Mountaineers got a welcome surprise as Terrence Upshaw returned to the squad after sitting out in 2016. He racked up 442 yards rushing in 2015. He is the perfect alternative to Moore. He is big and bruising and will be heavily used in the short yardage situations. Combining these two with Lamb's running ability and that equals another excellent running game.

Shaedon Meadors is back and will be the featured pass receiver. His 716 yards receiving were outstanding considering the low number of times he was targeted. Ike Lewis (236 yards) will man one other wide receiver job. Zy Letman is a top candidate for the third wide receiver job but Darrynton Evans is an interesting option. He had 217 RUSHING yards in 2016. The tight end will be Levi Duffield completing a capable receiving rotation.

Left tackle Victor Johnson, right guard Colby Gossett and right tackle Beau Nunn are back and will provide a foundation for this year's O-Line. Left guard Chandler Greer and center Tobias Edge-Campbell were key reserves in 2016 and appear ready to assume starting duties.

M O U N T A I N E E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Antonious Sims	**DE**	**33**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Myquon Stout	**DT**	**20**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Caleb Fuller	**DE**	**21**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Eric Boggs	**LB**	**98**	**3**	**3**	**0**
Devan Stringer	**LB**	**71**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Clifton Duck	**CB**	**57**	**0**	**5**	**0**
A. J. Howard	**SS**	**54**	**0**	**3**	**0**

As good as the Mountaineers' offense was in 2016, their defense may have been better ranking 31st for passing defense and 20th for rushing defense.

This year's defense has some sizable holes to fill with the loses of five key players.

Appalachian State runs a 3-4 defensive set and ends Antonious Sims and Caleb Fuller and nose tackle Myquon Stout are all back after having solid play in 2016. The trio did a nice job of pressuring quarterbacks and keyed the excellent rushing defense. There is also some existing depth and some youngsters aching to get playing time.

Linebackers John Law and Kennan Gilchrist are the biggest loses in the defense. Eric Boggs is back and will be one of the best defensive players in the Sun Belt. He is a tackling machine and is very opportunistic. He will always be around the ball. Devan Stringer is also back and has reclaimed his starting assignment. The other two jobs are up for grabs with Anthony Flory, Akeem Davis and Rashaad Townes the main candidates. How successfully the Appalachian State coaches fill these two openings will be the key to exactly how good this defense can be.

Cornerback Clifton Duck and strong safety A. J. Howard provide two solid returning pieces for the 2017 secondary. They combined for 111 tackles and eight interceptions last season. Brandon Pinckney, Austin Exford and redshirt freshmen Aris Duffey and Shemar Jean-Charles are all battling for the vacant cornerback job. We fully expect 2016 backup strong safety Josh Thomas to slide over and man the free safety job this year. Depth will not be as abundant as last year but there is a load of potential awaiting their turns to contribute. The secondary will be okay as long as Duck is on the field. He is the play maker for the defense and will make others around him better.

There are some questions about the back eight but it looks like Appalachian State has enough potential solutions to still be one of the better defenses in the Sun Belt.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Arkansas State Red Wolves

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Sun Devil Stadium

Carson Center Tempe, AZ 85287

Phone: (480) 965-3482

Web: http://thesundevils.com

Capacity: 71,706

Surface: Bermuda Grass **Altitude:** 1163 ft.

HEAD COACH: *BLAKE ANDERSON*
O.C.: *BUSTER FAULKNER*
D.C.: *JOE CAUTHEN*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *LUKE PASCHALL*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Toledo (46)	10 – 31
10-Sep	A	Auburn (22)	14 – 51
16-Sep	A	Utah St (106)	20 – 34
24-Sep	H	Central Arkansas (Not D-1)	23 – 28
5-Oct	H	Georgia Southern (91)	27 - 26
15-Oct	H	South Alabama (88)	17 - 7
29-Oct	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	51 - 10
3-Nov	A	Georgia St (112)	31 - 16
12-Nov	H	New Mexico St (115)	41 - 22
17-Nov	A	Troy (41)	35 - 3
26-Nov	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	19 – 24
3-Dec	A	Texas St (127)	36 - 14
BOWL	N	Central Florida (71)	31 - 13

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Nebraska (27)
9-Sep	H	Miami (FL) (20)
16-Sep	H	Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Non D-1)
23-Sep	A	SMU (86)
4-Oct	A	Georgia Southern (91)
14-Oct	H	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
19-Oct	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
28-Oct	A	New Mexico State (115)
11-Nov	A	South Alabama (88)
18-Nov	H	Texas State (127)
25-Nov	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
2-Dec	H	Troy (41)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	8-5	4-2	4-3	7-6-0	4-2-0	3-4-0	2-8-1	1-3-1	1-5-0

Total Offense;	93	YPG	379.4	Total Defense;	29	YAPG	362.8
Passing Offense;	57	YPG	242.2	Passing Defense;	51	YAPG	219.5
Rushing Offense;	106	YPG	137.2	Rushing Defense;	34	YAPG	143.4

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

RED WOLVES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Justice Hansen	**QB**	**2719-19-8**	**131-1**	
Warren Wand	**RB**		**879-7**	**279-3**
Blake Mack	**TE**			**652-3**

One returning starting lineman plus three top reserves

Most Sun Belt Conference teams would be elated with an 8-5 season record like Arkansas State had last year. At Jonesboro, that doesn't cut it.

A good place to start in their quest for improvement might be the anemic running game that ranked 106th in 2016. Arkansas State wasn't bad throwing the ball and ended the season as the 57th best passing offense in the country.

The heart of the passing game, quarterback Justice Hansen is back after recording 2719 passing yards for 19 touchdowns and 8 interceptions. Considering how little help the running game gave him, Hansen had a pretty good year. Redshirt freshman Logan Bonner is making a case for being designated the primary backup quarterback.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

The featured running back this year will be Warren Wand (879 rushing yards for 7 touchdowns). Johnston White had 472 yards rushing for another 5 touchdowns and was a better receiving target in 2016. These two will need to make opposing defenses respect their ability to move the ball on the ground.

Cameron Echols-Luper is the most productive returning wise receiver. He had only 407 receiving yards and just 1 touchdown last year. Those stats are hardly those of a featured receiver. Chris Murray (327 receiving yards) and Christian Booker (194 yards receiving) are the leading candidates for the two open slots but Arkansas transfer Kendrick Edwards could easily muscle his way into the starting group. Tight end Blake Mack had 652 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns last year. He will become an even more important part of the receiving rotation.

Left guard Colton Jackson is the only returning starting lineman. Left tackle Jamal Fontenot and right guard Dalton Ford were primary reserves last year and will advance up to the starting unit. The openings at center and right tackle are wide open. Arkansas State brought in a group of eight transfers led by Iowa State transfer Jaypee Philbert. These newcomers will battle for the two open jobs and the second unit well into the fall.

R E D W O L V E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ja'Von Rolland-Jones	**DE**	**56**	**14**	**0**	**0**
Dee Liner	**DT**	**33**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Kyle Wilson	**LB**	**79**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Justin Clifton	**NB**	**88**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Blaise Taylor	**CB**	**35**	**0**	**3**	**0**

We noted the work to be done within the offensive line. That pales when compared to the rebuilding work to be done throughout the defense. For Arkansas State to be able to match their 51st national ranking defending against the pass and 34th ranked rushing defense, a whole lot of new faces are going to have to become heavy producers.

Arkansas State runs a 4-2-5 defensive set and from that group, three of the four D-Lineman have to be replaced. End Ja'Von Rolland-Jones is the sole returning starter and was a monster in 2016. His 14 sacks will definitely give the 2017 line a boost. His running mate will be picked from either Griffin Riggs or juco transfers Josh Curry or Ronhen Bingham. Dee Liner will give the line another solid player as he assumes the tackle spot. Donovan Ransom currently has the lead for the nose tackle assignment but he will need to hold off the challenge of Tony Adams. The line will be okay and will be effective as long as Rolland-Jones is on the field.

We actually like the linebacker duo. Kyle Wilson is back after an outstanding 2016 season. He will be all over the field and is a true play maker. His partner will be Khari Lain. He is steady and compliments Wilson well. Rahjea Chambers will provide backup after having his 2016 season shortened by injury.

The five man secondary has a very solid foundation provided by returning nickel back Justin Clifton. He is the leading returning tackler and is also capable when in pass coverage. Cornerback Blaise Taylor also returns and has reclaimed his starting job. Free safety B. J. Edmonds was a key reserve in 2016. He looks ready for full time duty. There is a bevy of junior college transfers and some quality freshmen and Nehemiah Wagner battling for the two secondary openings.

There are a load of questions, especially in the secondary but Arkansas State has a history of using the early part of the season to settle on the top two units and having that group gel by the time the conference schedule comes around.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Coastal Carolina Chanticleers

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Brooks Stadium

965 One Landon Loop Conway, SC 29526

Phone: (843) 347-3161

Web: http://goccusports.com

Capacity: 15,000

Surface: Field Turf **Altitude:** 33 ft.

HEAD COACH: *JOE MOGLIA*
O.C.: *JAMEY CHADWELL*
D.C.: *MICKEY MATTHEWS*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *CURT BALDUS*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Lamar	38-14
10-Sep	H	Forida A & M	49-10
17-Sep	A	Jacksonville State	26-27
24-Sep	H	Furman	41-21
1-Oct	H	Charleston Southern	58-59
15-Oct	A	Gardner-Webb	17-7
22-Oct	H	CCSU	33-25
29-Oct	A	Presbyterian	48-17
5-Nov	H	Monmouth	38-17
12-Nov	H	Bryant	32-21
17-Nov	H	Liberty	42-7
1-Nov	H	Hampton	26-17

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Massachusetts (125)
16-Sep	A	UAB (Not ranked)
23-Sep	H	Western Illinois (Not D-1)
30-Sep	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
7-Oct	H	Georgia State (112)
14-Oct	A	Arkansas State (65)
21-Oct	A	Appalachian State (37)
28-Oct	H	Texas State (127)
4-Nov	A	Arkansas (49)
11-Nov	H	Troy (41)
18-Nov	A	Idaho (57)
2-Dec	H	Georgia Southern (91)

SEASON BREAKDOWN	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
	10-2	7-1	3-1						

Total Offense;
Passing Offense;
Rushing Offense;

Total Defense;
Passing Defense;
Rushing Defense;

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

CHANTICLEERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Kenneth Daniels	RB		525-4	61-0

One returning starting lineman plus four top reserves

Coastal Carolina makes its initial appearance in D-1 football this year and like every team making the big step up, they are expected to struggle. The Chanticleers may find it even tougher to make the transition as they did not face a single D-1 team last season.

Coastal Carolina's first task is to name a starting quarterback. Spring drills saw a heated battle between Tyler Keane and Josh Stilley. Keane was listed as the projected starter but that was not written in stone. Syracuse graduate transfer Austin Wilson further clouds the picture. Wilson has the most upside but does Coastal Carolina want a short tern solution at quarterback. Stay tuned for fall practices.

Coastal Carolina lost its featured running back, DeAngelo Henderson. His 1156 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns will be impossible to replace. Also gone is top reserve Kenneth Daniels. Osharmar Abercrombie and substitute quarterback Ryan Lee are the most productive runners back for 2017. They both had 396 rushing yards in 2016. Another transfer looms in the picture. Boston College transfer Marcus Outlaw looks like the running back with the most potential.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Coastal Carolina Chanticleers

The receiving unit lacks any play makers and very little game experience. Chris Jones and Ky'Jon Tyler sit atop the two man wide receiver depth chart and Laquay Brown is listed as the starting tight end. That trio combined for a little over 400 receiving yards. Obviously, their holds on their starting positions are not strong. Expect redshirt freshmen Larry Collins and Jay King to challenge for starting duties at wide receiver.

The offensive line looks to be under talented, untested and unstable. Yes, there are a ton of candidates but the only established lineman is center Jamarion McBride. The rest of the line will be sorted out in fall practices but the final product is highly likely to be an inferior unit.

The Coastal Carolina 2017 will be a mess. Even if the high profiled transfers pan out, the Chanticleers have very little D-1 level talent.

C H A N T I C L E E R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Marcus Williamson	**DE**	**48**	**3.5**	**0**	**1**
Myles White	**DE**	**38**	**3.5**	**0**	**1**
Dwayne Price	**DT**	**25**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Jaree Tolbert	**DT**	**22**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Anthony Chesley	**CB**	**44**	**.5**	**2**	**0**

Trying to figure out how statistics earned against non D-1 opposition converts into performance against D-1 teams is an impossibility. It can only be correctly assumed the stats amassed by last year's Coastal Carolina players will not be as good this year.

Coastal Carolina returns a ton of experienced players to man their front four. The only problem is they are 235 to 250 pound ends and 260 to 280 pound tackles. Can these “light weights” stand up against the monsters now found in most D-1 offensive lines? Marcus Williamson, Myles White and Tarrol Stafford are all back and will offer Coastal Carolina three solid players to rotate at the defensive end slots. Dwayne Price was a starting tackle last year and is back for 2017. He will be paired with 2016 top reserve Jarse Tolbert to complete a front four that will be the strength of the defense.

Linebacker will be a year long problem. The three men shown as the starters at the end of spring practices combined for 108 tackles, 1.5 sacks and 2 interceptions last year. Those stats are similar to ONE play making linebacker. The loss of Alex Scearce is huge as he was the team's play maker last year. Right now, Shane Johnson, Kerron Johnson and Laqavious Paul are the starting linebackers but redshirt freshman Silas Kelly and freshman Michael Makins will be right in the mix for starting assignments during the fall.

The secondary shapes up as a disaster. The only 2016 starter back for this year is cornerback Anthony Chesley. Dontay Hears is listed as the other cornerback but we fully expect redshirt freshman Darrell Malone to over take Hears. Safety remained a mystery after spring drills. Nicholas Clark and junior college transfer Alan Hall were listed as first string but Eric Church was injured and did not participate. He and Fitz Wattley will both get heavy consideration. Those upper class men need to be aware that redshirt freshmen Calvin Smith, Amir Howard and Jordan McRae are also trying to earn playing time.

The picture is not pretty for the Coastal Carolina 2017 defense. Even in the weak Sun Belt Conference, the Chanticleers will have a tough time stopping anyone. If the coaches are smart, they will elevate all the youngsters to starting positions and let them take their lumps while getting valuable game experience.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Georgia Southern Eagles

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Paulson Stadium

1332 Southern Drive Statesboro, GA 30458

Phone: (912) 478-4636

Web: http://www.georgiasouthern.edu

Capacity: 24,300

Surface: Prescription Turf **Altitude:** 255 ft.

HEAD COACH: *TYSON SUMMERS*
O.C.: *BRYAN COOK*
D.C.: *LORENZO COSTANTINI*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *CHAD LUNSFORD*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Savannah St (Not D-1)	54 - 0
10-Sep	A	South Alabama (88)	24 - 9
17-Sep	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	23 - 21
24-Sep	A	Western Michigan (12)	31 – 49
5-Oct	A	Arkansas St (65)	26 – 27
15-Oct	A	Georgia Tech (33)	24 – 35
22-Oct	A	New Mexico St (115)	22 - 19
27-Oct	H	Appalachian St (37)	10 – 34
5-Nov	A	Mississippi (68)	27 – 37
10-Nov	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	26 – 33
19-Nov	A	Georgia St (112)	24 – 30
3-Dec	H	Troy (41)	28 - 24

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Auburn (22)
9-Sep	H	New Hampshire (Not D-1)
23-Sep	A	Indiana (64)
4-Oct	H	Arkansas State (65)
14-Oct	H	New Mexico State (115)
21-Oct	A	Massachusetts (125)
28-Oct	A	Troy (41)
4-Nov	H	Georgia State (112)
9-Nov	A	Appalachian State (37)
18-Nov	H	South Alabama (88)
25-Nov	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
2-Dec	A	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	5-7	3-2	2-5	3-9-0	1-4-0	2-5-0	5-7-0	1-4-0	4-3-0

Total Offense;	91	YPG	379.8	Total Defense;	58	YAPG	396.6
Passing Offense;	117	YPG	155.7	Passing Defense;	69	YAPG	229.5
Rushing Offense;	29	YPG	224.2	Rushing Defense;	58	YAPG	167.1

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

EAGLES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs

Three returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

What happens to one dimensional offenses when their bread and butter takes a step back? They end up with a 5-7 record like Georgia Southern had in 2016 when their vaunted running game sputtered. Georgia Southern had a rather typical bad year throwing the ball ending the season ranked 117th for passing offense. However, after leading the nation in rushing offense in 2015, the Eagles feel to 29th in the country last year. New offensive coordinator Bryon Cook will try to take the running game back to its prior heights.

The Eagles must find a solid replacement at quarterback. There are three capable options in Seth Shuman, LaBaron Anthony and Shai Wertz. Wertz took advantage of the opportunity and dominated during spring practices. For the time being he is the leader for getting the job. Shuman has the most game experience and that will keep him in the battle.

Matt Breida is gone and replacing his lost production is essential. Weslet Fields (492 yards rushing for 3 touchdowns and 17 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns) and L. A. Ramsey (343 yards rushing for 8 touchdowns) are both back and provide the running back stable a solid starting point.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Myles Campbell (384 receiving yards for 4 touchdowns) is the only returning receiver with more than 2 catches in 2016. Malik Henry is a possibility for the other wide receiver spot but the Eagles invaded the transfer market heavily and came out with Georgia Tech transfer Mike Summers and juco transfer Mark Michaud to help fill their wide receiver needs. They also landed two solid tight end options with Arkansas transfer Malik Broughton and juco transfer Shelby Townsend. The receiving rotation will not be a world beater but it will be good enough to keep opposing defenses honest.

As the line goes, so goes the Georgia Southern offense. Left tackle Jeremiah Culberth, left guard Ryan Northrup and right guard Curtis Rainey give the Eagles three solid, returning starting linemen. Drew Wilson will move up to the starting unit at the right tackle spot. Georgia transfer Jake Edwards will find a way to crack the starting unit so expect some position shuffling in the fall practices. The line will be a good one and help the rushing offense to get back to where it should be.

E A G L E S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Logan Hunt	**DE**	**34**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Jessie Liptrot	**CB**	**35**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Joshua Moon	**FS**	**71**	**0**	**2**	**1**

Georgia Southern's defense was so-so in 2016. They were the 69th ranked passing defense and ranked 58th versus rushing teams. That unit allowed 27 points per game. Again, there was nothing especially good or bad about the 2016 defense.

Ukeme Eligwe was the play maker last year and he is gone. He was the best pass rusher and an inspirational leader. End Logan Hunt and tackle Darrius Sapp are the only returning starters in the front seven. They are both far better defending against running plays and the pass rush has been their downfall. Not only were a lot of starters lost in the front seven but the D-Line also lost several backups. The two open slots need to be filled by junior college transfers Deshon Cooper and Tim Wilkerson. If they can't get the job done, we have no idea who will.

The complete starting linebacker group has to be replaced. Fortunately, the linebacker depth wasn't hit as hard as the line. Chris Delarosa was a key reserve last year and will make the move to the starting threesome. Todd Bradley and Ike Ukwu both recorded playing time last year and are contenders for the two linebacker opening. Juco transfer Alvin Ward and redshirt freshmen Tori Delesline, Randy Wase and Rashad Byrd all are getting solid looks and will either capture starting jobs or man the second string. Linebacker will not be a team strength but it will also not be a big team liability.

It is really unfortunate the front seven will have some many problems this year. The secondary has talent and experience and if they are given a chance to do their own jobs, they could be an excellent group. The problem is cornerbacks Jessie Liptrot and Monquavion Brinson and safeties Joshua Moon and Jay Bowdry will spend a very large part of their time making up for errors made by the front seven. Moon will be a play maker and will be found all over the field close to the ball.

Do not expect much from the 2017 Georgia Southern defense. All Eagles fans can hope for is the defense doesn't take TOO BIG a step back.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Georgia State Panthers

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Georgia Dome

125 Decatur Street Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: (404) 413-2000

Web: http://www.georgiastatesports.com

Capacity: 28,155

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 1049 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*SHAWN ELLIOTT*
O.C.:	*TRAVIS TRICKETT*
D.C.:	*NICK FUQUA*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
2-Sep	H	Ball St (98)	21 – 31
10-Sep	A	Air Force (40)	14 – 48
17-Sep	A	Wisconsin (10)	17 – 23
1-Oct	A	Appalachian St (37)	3 – 17
8-Oct	H	Texas St (127)	41 - 21
15-Oct	A	Troy (41)	21 – 31
22-Oct	H	Tennessee-Martin (Not D-1)	31 - 6
29-Oct	A	South Alabama (88)	10 – 13
3-Nov	H	Arkansas St (65)	16 – 31
12-Nov	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	23 - 37
19-Nov	H	Georgia Southern (91)	30 - 24
3-Dec	A	Idaho (57)	12 – 37

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Tennessee State (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	Penn State (7)
23-Sep	A	Charlotte (109)
30-Sep	H	Memphis (45)
7-Oct	A	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
14-Oct	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
21-Oct	H	Troy (41)
26-Oct	H	South Alabama (88)
4-Nov	A	Georgia Southern (91)
11-Nov	A	Texas State (127)
25-Nov	H	Appalachian State (37)
2-Dec	H	Idaho (57)

SEASON BREAKDOWN	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
	3-9	3-3	0-6	7-5-0	3-3-0	4-2-0	4-8-0	3-3-0	1-5-0

Total Offense;	119	YPG	333.9	Total Defense;	46	YAPG	380.7
Passing Offense;	52	YPG	246.3	Passing Defense;	8	YAPG	173.9
Rushing Offense;	126	YPG	87.7	Rushing Defense;	95	YAPG	206.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

PANTHERS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Conner Manning	**QB**	**2684-16-13**	**-3-2**	
Ari Weeks	**TE**			**329-3**

Four returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Somehow Georgia State should have done better than the 3-9 record they recorded in 2016. They had enough tools but those tools didn't produce up to their expected levels. It is now the job of head coach Shawn Elliott to get the running game awakened after its 126th national ranking in 2016. He also has to get more out of the passing game, especially elimination of turnovers.

Quarterback Conner Manning returns. His 2684 passing yards for 16 touchdowns were okay but his downfall was the 13 interceptions he threw. If he doesn't take better care of the ball Aaron Winchester, juco transfer Juarez Parks or freshman Jack Walker will be happy to take over.

Terrible, awful, abysmal, stinking! Pick any word but all describe the running game at Georgia State in 2016. Kyler Neal was the top running back last year but he was able to amass a paltry 314 rushing yards for just 2 touchdowns. He is back along with an additional five running backs who ran for between 104 and 150 yards last season. Glenn Smith is one of those five but his value may be more in

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

the area of giving the quarterback a solid receiving option out of the backfield. He racked up 547 receiving yards in 2016 and that generated 3 touchdowns.

Todd Boyd is back and has reestablished himself as a starting wide receiver. After Boyd, the balance of the receiving rotation, with the exception of tight end Ari Werts (329 receiving yards), is a virtual mystery. Jewan Nobles (179 yards receiving) and Penny Hart are two possibilities but redshirt freshman Eric Elder is also a candidate. The receiving unit will need to pick it up if they are going to survive in the new spread offense.

The offensive line will be the strength of this year's offense. Left tackle Hunter Atkinson, center Gabe Mobley, right guard Alex Stoehr and right tackle Sebastian Willer are all back and the additional year of experience they earned last year will make a huge difference in the 2017 performances. The line also has some experienced depth and there are several youngsters who have tons of potential.

With a better line opening the holes, the Georgia State running game has to be better. Any improvement in the running game will benefit the rest of the team.

PANTHERS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Mackendy Cheridor	**DE**	**31**	**2.5**	**0**	**0**
Julien Laurent	**NT**	**28**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Michael Shaw	**LB**	**76**	**3**	**1**	**0**
Jerome Smith	**CB**	**40**	**2**	**3**	**0**
Chandon Sullivan	**CB**	**43**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Bryan Williams	**S**	**61**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Georgia State's defense carried the team last year. That unit ended the season ranked 8th nationally against the pass and 95th versus the run. Was the very good ranking in passing defense the result of opposing teams having such success running the ball or was the pass protection that good? It was a bit of both.

The Panthers run out of a 3-4-4 defensive set. Each layer has had loses from last years starting unit but no particular layer has had loses they can not fill capably.

End Mackendy Cheridor and nose tackle Julien Laurent will provide the front three with a nice starting point. Marterious Allen adds nice productive depth at tackle. The second end assignment has Terry Thomas as the leading candidate but we will not be shocked to see one of the linebackers make a shift to end. The line will be a decent unit but it would be nice if they found a way to increase the heat on opposing quarterbacks.

Michael Shaw and Trey Payne are returning starters at linebacker. Shaw is a play maker and will make the newcomers for the four man unit better. One of the two openings will be filled by 2016 key reserve Chase Middleton. James Traylor leads a group of five in the battle for the four job. The linebacker unit will be a team plus.

Three parts of an excellent 2016 secondary return for this season. Cornerbacks Jerome Smith and Chandon Sullivan are back and were both capable pass hawks last year. Their backups also return insuring an experienced, deep two deep rotation at the corners. Bryan Williams will again man one safety slot. Antreal Allen is a possibility for the other safety assignment but we feel redshirt freshman Kendrec Grady will win the job and complete another excellent secondary at Georgia State.

The 2017 Georgia State defense will compare favorably with last year's group. We expect the offense to assume a little larger role this year thereby taking a little pressure off the defense.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Idaho Vandals

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Kibbie Dome

875 Perimeter Drive Moscow, ID 83844-2282

Phone: (208) 885-6111

Web: http://www.govandals.com

Capacity: 16,000

Surface: RealGrass Pro **Altitude:** 2580 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*PAUL PETRINO*
O.C.:	*KRIS CINKOVICH*
D.C.:	*MIKE BRESKE*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JASON SHUMAKER*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
1-Sep	H	Montana St (Not D-1)	20 - 17
10-Sep	A	Washington (5)	14 – 59
17-Sep	A	Washington St (29)	6 – 56
24-Sep	A	UNLV (104)	33 - 30
1-Oct	H	Troy (41)	13 – 34
8-Oct	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	34 - 31
15-Oct	H	New Mexico St (115)	55 - 23
22-Oct	A	Appalachian St (37)	19 – 37
5-Nov	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	23 - 13
12-Nov	A	Texas St (127)	47 - 14
26-Nov	H	South Alabama (88)	38 - 31
3-Dec	H	Georgia St (112)	37 - 12
BOWL	N	Colorado St (53)	61 - 50

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	H	Sacramento State (Not D-1)
9-Sep	H	UNLV (104)
16-Sep	A	Western Michigan (12)
23-Sep	A	South Alabama (88)
7-Oct	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
14-Oct	H	Appalachian State (37)
21-Oct	A	Missouri (95)
28-Oct	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
2-Nov	A	Troy (41)
18-Nov	H	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
25-Nov	A	New Mexico State (115)
2-Dec	A	Georgia State (112)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	9-4	4-1	5-3	9-4-0	4-2-0	5-2-0	6-6-0	2-3-0	4-3-0

Total Offense;	74	YPG	397	Total Defense;	78	YAPG	428.3
Passing Offense;	51	YPG	249.2	Passing Defense;	121	YAPG	283.5
Rushing Offense;	98	YPG	147.8	Rushing Defense;	40	YAPG	144.8

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

VANDALS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Matt Linehan	**QB**	**3184-19-10**	**167-4**	
Aaron Duckworth	**RB**		**676-5**	**60-1**

Two returning starting linemen plus one top reserve

Originally, last season was supposed to be the last year Idaho played in D-1. However, due to scheduling problems, the Vandals decided to make 2017 its last year playing the “big boys”. While that did not have any effect on recruiting last year, it became a problem this year.

The Vandals surprised almost everyone racking up a nice 9-4 record in 2016. They were able to do that without an outstanding offense and a porous defense. It will be interesting to see if they can be as opportunistic this season.

The Vandals have the advantage of having a proven veteran quarterback. Matt Linehan returns after a 2016 season where he threw for 3184 yards and 19 touchdowns. The only rap against him is he continued a rather high interception rate, 10 last year, which has dogged him throughout his career.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Idaho Vandals

Isaiah Saunders (731 rushing yards for 9 touchdowns) and Aaron Duckworth (675 yards rushing for 5 touchdowns) both return and should provide a nice duo that will insure opposing defenses have to respect the possibility of a running play. Denzal Brantley (227 yards rushing for 3 touchdowns) adds further depth to the rotation. Of the three, Saunders is the better pass catcher.

Idaho needs to replace their top five receivers from 2016. Even with those big loses, the Vandals do have Alfonso Onunwot (403 receiving yards), Jacob Sannon (303 yards) and Reuben Mwehia (166 yards) giving the wide receiver group three proven wide receivers. One of the three needs to become the go-to guy and depth may be a problem this year. Redshirt freshman Brandon Luckett is making his case for playing time. Joseph Wysocki will step in at tight end.

The biggest challenge for Idaho's coaching staff is finding replacements for three departed offensive linemen. Left guard Noah Johnson and right tackle Jordan Rose will be the blocks around which Idaho must build the new line. The remaining two slots are wide open but we feel juco transfer Sean Tulette will be a part of the revamped line. After that, your guess is as good as ours. With so many questions about the offensive line, you have to expect some sort of an offensive step back in 2017.

VANDALS DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Aikeem Coleman	**DE**	**41**	**8**	**0**	**0**
Tony Lashlee	**LB**	**104**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Ed Hall	**LB**	**70**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Kaden Elliss	**LB**	**66**	**3**	**5**	**0**
Armond Hawkins	**FS**	**30**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Three starters from last year's defense that ranked 121st against the pass and 40th in rushing defense must be replaced.

Aikeem Coleman is back at end and will be the primary pass rusher. The balance of the three man front will be two lightly tested tackles. Zach Cable is a possibility at tackle and the nose tackle could be Arie Anderson. Juco transfer D. J. Henderson will be a part of the line rotation and several freshmen and redshirt freshmen need to be ready for serious playing time.

The linebacker unit looks like it will be the strength of the defense. Tony Lashley, Ed Hall and Kaden Elliss are all 2016 starters and return this year. The three combined for 240 tackles, 5 sacks and 5 interceptions last season. Ty Graham was very productive in a reserve role last year and is ready and able to assume the fourth spot. This will be a fine starting group but they need to remain healthy as depth is lacking at linebacker.

The secondary was a mess in 2016. There were too many big plays allowed and not enough stops made. Is it good or bad news that all four starters must be replaced? The only certainty in the secondary is Armond Hawkins. He will start somewhere but exactly where is not yet known. The balance of the starting secondary and the full backup unit will be decided well into fall practices. Undoubtably, the secondary is going to be a huge problem again this year. The Vandals will again be forced to try win every game in a shootout.

The defense will be a mess this year and the secondary will be a sore thumb game after game. The front seven will have to spend a vast majority of their time trying to bail out the back four. With the offense likely to take a step back because of offensive line problems, fans of Vandals football should not expect a repeat of last year. Be happy this year with six wins.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

UL Lafayette Ragin Cajuns

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Cajun Field

104 University Cir Lafayette, LA 70503

Phone: (377) 482-1000

Web: http://www.ragincajuns.com

Capacity: 31,000

Surface: Pro Grass **Altitude:** 37 ft.

HEAD COACH: *MARK HUDSPETH*
O.C.: *WILL HALL*
D.C.: *CHARLIE HARBISON*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Boise St (26)	10 – 45
10-Sep	H	McNeese St (Not D-1)	30 - 22
17-Sep	H	South Alabama (88)	28 - 23
24-Sep	A	Tulane (100)	39 – 41
1-Oct	A	New Mexico St (115)	31 – 37
12-Oct	H	Appalachian St (37)	0 – 24
22-Oct	A	Texas St (127)	27 - 3
5-Nov	H	Idaho (57)	13 – 23
10-Nov	A	Georgia Southern (91)	33 - 26
19-Nov	A	Georgia (50)	21 – 35
26-Nov	H	Arkansas St (65)	24 - 19
3-Dec	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	30 - 3
BOWL	N	Southern Mississippi (74)	21 – 28

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Southeastern Louisiana (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Tulsa (31)
16-Sep	A	Texas A & M (42)
23-Sep	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
7-Oct	A	Idaho (57)
12-Oct	H	Texas State (127)
19-Oct	A	Arkansas State (65)
4-Nov	A	South Alabama (88)
11-Nov	A	Mississippi (68)
18-Nov	H	New Mexico State (115)
25-Nov	H	Georgia Southern (91)
2-Dec	A	Appalachian State (37)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	3-4	3-3	8-5-0	3-4-0	5-1-0	5-7-0	1-5-0	4-2-0

Total Offense;	108	YPG	357.2	Total Defense;	43	YAPG	379.1
Passing Offense;	106	YPG	178.2	Passing Defense;	90	YAPG	249.9
Rushing Offense;	59	YPG	178.9	Rushing Defense;	23	YAPG	129.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

RAGIN CAJUN OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs

Four returning starting linemen plus three top reserves

When a team is coming off a 6-7 season and ranked only 106th for passing offense and 59th for rushing offense, there is obviously work to be done. Louisiana-Lafayette has brought in a new offensive coordinator, Will Hall to jump start the offense.

Task number one is to find a new quarterback. Anthony Jennings took a vast majority of the snaps in 2016 and he is no longer around. The top returning candidates are Jordan Davis and Dion Ray. The problem with these two is they COMBINED for 7 yards passing last season and threw for zero touchdowns. They were a bit better running the ball with 156 yards rushing. The job is very likely to be won by junior college transfer Andre Nunez. Regardless of which of the three earn the assignment, the Ragin' Cajuns will have a question mark at quarterback.

LAL would like to lean heavily on their running game, especially early in the year as the new quarterback settles in. The problem is they have no definite featured running back. The leading returning producers are Jordan Wright (281 rushing yards for 1 touchdown) and Darrius Hoggins (192 yards for 1 touchdown). Redshirt freshman Trey Ragas is trying to insert himself into the depth chart. Until one of the three steps up and becomes the “man”, the Louisiana-Lafayette running game will be yet another question mark.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

UL Lafayette Ragin Cajuns

Things look a bit more settled with the receiving unit. Keenan Barnes (418 receiving yards for 6 touchdowns) has the makings of a true number 1 target. He should be joined by Ja'Marcus Bradley (370 yards for 1 touchdown) and Michael Jacquet (206 yards for 1 touchdown). The tight end will be Matt Barnes if he can beat out true freshman Chase Rogers. All in all, the starting receiving group should be a team asset IF someone is found who can get them the ball.

The strength of the offense will be a line that returns four starters; left tackle D'Aquin Withrow, left guard Robin Hunt, right guard Kevin Dotson and right tackle Grant Horst. Cole Prudhomme will take over at center. There is also some experienced depth back and the incoming recruiting class contains some quality options. The line will be a huge asset for the new quarterback and whomever earns the running back assignment.

R A G I N C A J U N D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Joe Dillon	**DE**	**51**	**7**	**0**	**0**
Taboris Lee	**DT**	**39**	**2**	**1**	**0**
Kevon Perry	**NT**	**27**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Simeon Thomas	**CB**	**40**	**0**	**2**	**0**
Tracy Walker	**SS**	**61**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Travis Crawford	**FS**	**71**	**0**	**1**	**0**

The Ragin' Cajuns had a very good defense when they faced the run in 2016. The same can't be said about their passing defense that ranked 90th in the country. Unless some competent cornerbacks can be found, they face the same situation in 2017.

The complete starting front four from 2016 is returning. End Joe Dillion will be an excellent pass rusher from one side but his running mate, Jarvis Jeffries need to increase his pressure on quarterbacks. Expect Dillion to be the play maker within the line. The tackle slot again rests in the hands of Taboris Lee. He was very good at stuffing the run and occasionally applied heavy pressure on quarterbacks. Kevon Perry is back to man the nose tackle slot. He completes an outstanding inside duo for LAL. The line will be one of the best in the Sun Belt and will allow the back seven to do their jobs better.

Loses were heavy at linebacker but LAL has some decent options appearing to be ready for full time duty. Damar'ren Mitchell is the lone returning starter. Terik Miller and T. J. Posey recorded game experience last year and are the leaders for the other two jobs but juco transfer Karson Block and redshirt freshman Tanner Holmes will be in the mix when fall practices begin. Depth will be a problem and the majority of the players making up the two deep depth chart will be inexperienced.

The secondary got torched all too often in 2016 and from that unit, both the cornerbacks have to be replaced. Simeon Thomas was a productive reserve last year and claimed one starting job in the spring. The second slot is a mess as Levarious Varnado, Troy McCollum, Artez Williams and a large group of youngsters all remained under consideration at the end of spring practices. Just as rough as things look at cornerback, things look that good at safety. Strong safety Tracy Walker and free safety Travis Crawford are both solid defending against the run and capable when in pass coverage. The secondary benefits from the solid front four and if that unit can apply adequate pressure on opposing quarterbacks, the secondary may be the surprise of this year's defense.

The 2017 Louisiana-Lafayette defense has a chance to be a bit better than the 2016 group. To improve, some new faces need to step forward at linebacker and cornerback.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

UL Monroe Warhawks

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Malone Stadium

700 University Avenue Monroe, LA 71209

Phone: (318) 342-1000

Web: http://www.ulmathletics.com

Capacity: 30,427

Surface: ProPlay **Altitude:** 76 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*MATT VIATOR*
O.C.:	*MATT KUBIK*
D.C.:	*MIKE COLLINS*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*MATT POWLEDGE*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Southern University (Not D-1)	38 - 21
10-Sep	A	Oklahoma (4)	17 – 59
17-Sep	A	Georgia Southern (91)	21 – 23
1-Oct	A	Auburn (22)	7 – 58
8-Oct	H	Idaho (57)	31 – 34
15-Oct	H	Texas St (127)	40 - 34
22-Oct	A	New Mexico (54)	17 – 59
29-Oct	A	Arkansas St (65)	10 – 51
5-Nov	H	South Alabama (88)	42 - 35
12-Nov	A	Georgia St (112)	37 - 23
19-Nov	A	Appalachian St (37)	17 – 42
3-Dec	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	3 – 30

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	A	Memphis (45)
9-Sep	A	Florida State (8)
16-Sep	H	Southern Mississippi (74)
23-Sep	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
30-Sep	H	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
7-Oct	A	Texas State (127)
14-Oct	H	Georgia State (112)
21-Oct	A	South Alabama (88)
28-Oct	A	Idaho (57)
4-Nov	H	Appalachian State (37)
18-Nov	A	Auburn (22)
25-Nov	H	Arkansas State (65)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	4-8	3-2	1-6	6-6-0	2-3-0	4-3-0	9-3-0	3-2-0	6-1-0

Total Offense;	100	YPG	373.3	Total Defense;	119	YAPG	480.3
Passing Offense;	99	YPG	192	Passing Defense;	55	YAPG	220.1
Rushing Offense;	57	YPG	181.3	Rushing Defense;	125	YAPG	260.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

WARHAWKS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Garrett Smith	**QB**	**1237-9-7**	**308-3**	**-4-0**

Three returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Louisiana-Monroe returns most of their skill position players. The problem is, among those returning players is not a single difference maker. That may explain last year's 4-8 record and the 99th ranking for passing offense and a 57th ranking for rushing offense. The watch word at LAM will be COMPETITION as every starting job is up for grabs.

Monroe had two quarterbacks last year and neither was especially good. Garrett Smith (127 passing yards for 9 touchdowns and 7 interceptions) is still recovering from knee surgery but he will be a top candidate for the quarterback assignment. His main challenger will be Caleb Evans (834 yards passing for 4 touchdowns and 6 interceptions). The one earning the job will need a substantial increase in production and a drastic improvement in decision making.

Running the ball will be essential for Monroe to have any offensive success. Ben Luckett (450 rushing yards for 5 touchdowns), Thomas Koufie (430 yards for 9 touchdowns), Duke Carter (281 yards, 1

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

touchdown) and Austin Vaughn (268 yards, 2 touchdowns) are all back. Alabama transfer Derrick Gore will add additional depth to a very capable rotation. This nice group will take pressure off the quarterback and force opposing defenses to concentrate on stopping the run.

Wide receiver looks like a team asset with R. J. Turner (433 receiving yards, 3 touchdowns), Xavier Brown (425 yards, 4 touchdowns), Marcus Green (344 yards, 4 touchdowns) and D'Marius Gillespie all back and fighting for the three starting wide receiver assignments. Gillespie is the sleeper in the group and may surprise a lot of people. Tight end is wide open but many people believe newcomer Reagan Heddins will get the job. There is some depth within the receiving group.

The line has some big holes to fill. Left guard Frank Sutton, right guard Devin Jackson and right tackle Eastwood Thomas are all back and give the line some experience and a solid foundation. There is an all out free for all taking place for the other two starting jobs and inclusion in the two deep depth chart. Reese Beese, Brady Willcutt, juco transfer Joquarius Savage and redshirt freshmen T. J. Fiailoa and Samual Williams are under serious consideration. Until the line is selected and gels, we will have questions about the group.

W A R H A W K S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Caleb Tucker	**DE**	**50**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Shaquille Warren	**DE**	**29**	**1**	**0**	**0**
David Griffith	**LB**	**78**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Chase Day	**LB**	**70**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Marcus Hubbard	**CB**	**33**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Cortez Sisco	**SS**	**60**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Nick Ingram	**FS**	**55**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Roland Jenkins	**S**	**31**	**0**	**0**	**0**

The Louisiana-Monroe rushing defense was the team's achilles heal all season in 2016. They ranked 125th in the country when trying to stop the run. Putting it another way, the rushing defense was the fourth worst nationally. The passing defense was okay and ranked 55th in the country. The bad rushing defense was a major contributor in Louisiana-Monroe allowing 39 points per game.

The complete 2016 starting front four is back for 2017. Ends Caleb Tucker and Shaquille Warren both need to become better at getting after the quarterback and obviously they need to improve against running plays. Nose tackle Jaylen Veasley and tackle Tyler Johnson need to improve their production against running teams substantially. Juco transfer Howard Houston has been brought in the take over for anyone under producing.

The 2016 starting duo from the two man linebacker set are returning. David Griffith and Chase Day will be a plus for the defense and if the D-Line does a better job, these two are capable of even more production. Jared Dunn provides some depth and if Cortez Sisco is shifted from his strong safety slot to linebacker, he will provide additional depth.

The secondary will go through a lot of shuffling. Players will be moving in and out of the two deep depth chart and making position changes until late in fall practices. Whatever we write today is very likely to be inaccurate. With Sisco likely moving to linebacker, 2016 starting cornerback Marcus Hubbard will be moved to safety where he will team up with free safety Nick Ingram and safety Roland Jenkins. Arron Townsend, Juwan Offray and juco transfer Jarrell Brown and currently the contenders for the two cornerback jobs but Townsend may also shift safety. There is turmoil within the secondary but if the coaches can sort things out, this back five may actually be better than last year's group.

The 2017 Louisiana-Monroe defense will be somewhat better after all the sifting and sorting has taken place and the unit gels. Will it be a lot better? No, but any improvement will be welcome and help the offense get the ball in better field position.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

New Mexico State Aggies

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Aggie Memorial Stadium

2850 Weddell Street Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001

Phone: (505) 646-0111

Web: http://www.nmstatesports.com

Capacity: 30,343

Surface: Hybrid Bermuda **Altitude:** 3992 ft.

HEAD COACH: *DOUG MARTIN*
O.C.: *DOUG MILLER*
D.C.: *FRANK SPAZIANI*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	UTEP (117)	22 – 38
10-Sep	H	New Mexico (54)	32 - 31
17-Sep	A	Kentucky (63)	42 – 62
24-Sep	A	Troy (41)	6 – 52
1-Oct	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	37 - 31
15-Oct	A	Idaho (57)	23 – 55
22-Oct	H	Georgia Southern (91)	19 – 22
29-Oct	A	Texas A & M (42)	10 – 52
12-Nov	A	Arkansas St (65)	22 – 41
19-Nov	H	Texas St (127)	50 - 10
26-Nov	H	Appalachian St (37)	7 – 37
3-Dec	A	South Alabama (88)	28 – 35

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
31-Aug	A	Arizona State (84)
9-Sep	A	New Mexico (54)
16-Sep	H	Troy (41)
23-Sep	H	UTEP (117)
30-Sep	A	Arkansas (49)
7-Oct	A	Appalachian State (37)
14-Oct	A	Georgia Southern (91)
28-Oct	H	Arkansas State (65)
4-Nov	A	Texas State (127)
18-Nov	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
25-Nov	H	Idaho (57)
2-Dec	H	South Alabama (88)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	3-9	3-2	0-7	7-5-0	4-1-0	3-4-0	6-5-1	2-3-0	4-2-1

Total Offense;	64	YPG	414.7	Total Defense;	121	YAPG	496.7
Passing Offense;	54	YPG	244.9	Passing Defense;	97	YAPG	252.4
Rushing Offense;	70	YPG	169.8	Rushing Defense;	118	YAPG	244.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

AGGIES OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Larry Rose	**RB**		**865-4**	**180-0**

Three returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

The New Mexico State Aggies are coming off a 3-9 season. Their offense was decent and was ranked 54th for passing offense and 70th for rushing defense. With so many players returning on both sides of the ball, if a vacancy or two can be filled with productive replacements, an additional win or two is well within reason.

The biggest vacancy will be finding a new quarterback to replace Tyler Rodgers. Rodgers was a capable player and a good team leader. Connor Cramer is the most productive returning quarterback but he threw for 188 yards and ran for another 188 yards. Nick Gjeanty is also back but he only passed for 108 yards. Three additional candidates will be true freshmen Jeremy Hodge (a duel threat qb), Josh Adkins (pro style qb) and Jaylon Mascorro. Mascorro is a duel threat quarterback but was listed as an athlete by all the recruiting services. The coaches will sort through the various options and selected the starter some time in the fall. Regardless of who gets the job, quarterback will be a big question mark.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

New Mexico State Aggies

Larry Rose returns and will be the featured running back. He accounted for over 1000 yards of total offense and recorded 4 touchdowns. Xavier Hall (396 yards rushing) and Jason Huntley (167 yards) add experienced depth. This will be a good running back rotation that will be called upon to carry a big part of the load as the new quarterback settles in.

New Mexico State has one of the strangest situations at wide receiver. They have five returning wide receivers with similar 2016 production numbers and almost identical skill sets. Gregory Hogan (363 receiving yards), O. J. Clark (338 yards), Johnathan Boone (323 yards), Jaleel Scott (283 yards) and Royce Caldwell (217 yards) are all fighting for the three starting jobs. One needs to step up and assume the go-to guy title. Add in H-Back Izajah Lottie (339 yards) and you have another capable pass catcher. This will be a decent rotation that will move the chains.

Three starters return up front. Left tackle Sage Doxtater, left guard Dezmand Candelarie and right tackle Sebastian Anderson give the line an excellent foundation. Brian Trujillo will shift from guard to center and Jefferson Hagan will move up to start at right guard completing what will be a solid line.

AGGIES DEFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Jassavia Reese	**DE**	**34**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Kourtland Busby	**DT**	**44**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Stody Bradley	**NT**	**36**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Dalton Herrington	**LB**	**113**	**1**	**1**	**2**
Terrill Hanks	**LB**	**103**	**2**	**2**	**1**
Shamad Lomax	**CB**	**66**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Jaden Wright	**SS**	**80**	**0**	**5**	**1**
Jacob Nwangwa	**FS**	**88**	**1**	**0**	**1**

The good news is eight starters return from the 2016 defense. The bad news is those same players were a big part of a group that ranked 97th in passing defense and 118th in rushing defense last year. That rushing defense ranking is especially concerning since the ultimate judgement of success or failure at New Mexico State is if they can defeat arch rival New Mexico, one of the best running teams in the country.

End Jassavia Reese, defensive tackle Kourtland Busby and nose tackle Stody Bradley are all back but they didn't do a good job of getting pressure on opposing quarterbacks and were only marginally better stopping running plays. Derek Watson is lightly tested and will fill the end opening. Nose tackle Roy Lopez is applying pressure on Bradley and may ultimately steal that job.

Dalton Harrrington and Terrill Hanks are back and are capable linebackers IF they do not have to cover up for the rest of the defense. They combined for 200+ tackles and 3 sacks last year. The third job currently has an even battle between Billy Nipp and Derek Ibekwe. There is limited depth at linebacker. If the third slot provides decent production, the linebacker corps will be a team asset.

The secondary was torched by too many big plays last year. Part of the blame for those big plays can be assigned to the lack of a pass rush. Cornerbacks Shamad Lomax and DeMarcus Owens spent far too much time chasing down running backs the front seven missed tackling. They are joined by an excellent pair of safeties, strong safety Jaden Wright and free safety Jacob Nwangwu. They are both excellent at tracking down runners and equally adept covering receivers. Wright pulled in five interceptions last season. There is also excellent, productive depth at safety provided by Tymon Locklin and Austin Perkins. The secondary will be improved, especially if the line ups quarterback pressure.

The defense will be better in 2017 and if the offense finds a capable quarterback, the Aggies could actually find themselves bowl eligible.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

South Alabama Jaguars

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Ladd Peebles Stadium

171 Jaguar Drive HPELS Room 1105
Mobile, AL 36688

Phone: (251) 460-7035

Web: http://www.usajaguars.com

Capacity: 33,471

Surface: FieldTurf **Altitude:** 5 ft.

HEAD COACH: *JOEY JONES*
O.C.: *BRYANT VINCENT*
D.C.: *KANE WOMMACK*
SPECIAL TEAMS: *???*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Mississippi St (70)	21 - 20
10-Sep	H	Georgia Southern (91)	9 – 24
17-Sep	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	23 – 28
24-Sep	H	Nicholls St (Not D-1)	41 - 40
1-Oct	H	San Diego St (28)	42 - 24
15-Oct	A	Arkansas St (65)	7 – 17
20-Oct	H	Troy (41)	21 – 28
29-Oct	H	Georgia St (112)	13 - 10
5-Nov	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	35 – 42
19-Nov	H	Presbyterian (Not D-1)	31 - 7
26-Nov	A	Idaho (57)	31 – 38
3-Dec	H	New Mexico St (115)	35 - 28
BOWL	N	Air Force (40)	21 – 45

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Mississippi (68)
9-Sep	H	Oklahoma State (11)
16-Sep	H	Alabama A & M (Not D-1)
23-Sep	H	Idaho (57)
30-Sep	A	Louisiana Tech (47)
11-Oct	A	Troy (41)
21-Oct	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
26-Oct	A	Georgia State (112)
4-Nov	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
11-Nov	H	Arkansas State (65)
18-Nov	A	Georgia Southern (91)
2-Dec	A	New Mexico State (115)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	6-7	5-2	1-5	3-10-0	2-5-0	1-5-0	5-6-1	3-3-1	2-3-0

Total Offense;	82	YPG	389.4	Total Defense;	53	YAPG	389.8
Passing Offense;	56	YPG	243.8	Passing Defense;	9	YAPG	174.6
Rushing Offense;	102	YPG	145.6	Rushing Defense;	100	YAPG	215.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

JAGUARS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Dallas Davis	**QB**	**2706-11-12**	**231-3**	
Xavier Johnson	**RB**		**831-10**	**86-0**

Five returning starting linemen plus one top reserve

South Alabama had limited success offensively last year as their running attack ranked 102nd in the country. Opponents did not respect the running game threat and pass rushed play after play. It was a bit of a miracle that their passing offense was able to rank 56th nationally.

Quarterback Dallas Davis returns but had to miss spring drills as he recovered from surgery. He could have used the practice as his touchdown to interception ratio was a very poor 11 to 12 while he threw the ball for 2706 yards. Cole Garvin, last year's backup quarterback also returns and will give capable minutes when he is called upon.

Xavier Johnson is back and has retained his starting running back assignment. Tywun Walters has been brought in from the juco ranks to add some needed depth. He and Deonta Moore will split snaps whenever Johnson needs a rest. The running back rotation should benefit from the more experienced line South Alabama will field this year.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

South Alabama Jaguars

Last years top four receivers all graduated. The situation at wide receiver is a mess. Currently Sa'Mory Collier, Quinton Lane and Jordan McCray are listed as the starting wide receivers and Maaseiah Francis is the starting tight end. Only Francis has a firm grip on his job. Redshirt freshman David Gardner, freshmen Davyn Flenord and Kawaan Baker, sophomore Sam Harris and junior Jahmmir Taylor are all under strong consideration. Regardless of who earns the three wide receiver jobs, the unit will be totally untested and a huge question mark.

The line will be the strength of the offense. Left tackle Noah Fisher, left guard Dominic Esposito and center Harrison Louden are all back and provide an excellent foundation . 2016 key subs, right guard Nelson Santiago and right tackle Ryan Alexander finish a nice starting unit, one that will buy time for the offense as the receiving rotation is sorted out.

If South Alabama wants to make sure their offense doesn't take a step back, either the running game must improve or the new receiving unit must prove they are capable. If neither happens, South Alabama's offense will be in trouble.

J A G U A R S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Finess Middleton	**DE**	**20**	**5**	**0**	**0**
Tyree Turner	**DT**	**48**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Darrell Songy	**LB**	**100**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Jalen Thompson	**CB**	**31**	**1**	**4**	**0**
Jeremy Reaves	**FS**	**84**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Nigel Lawrence	**SS**	**52**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Neiko Robinson	**FS**	**63**	**0**	**1**	**0**

Defense was the key to South Alabama getting six wins and a bowl invitation in 2016. The Jaguars were especially tough against running teams as they ranked 6th in the country. Their passing defense was also solid and earned a 42nd national ranking. With only a couple of exceptions, South Alabama returns their key defensive players.

End Chason Milner, tackle Tyree Turner and nose tackle Zach Befort all return. They are joined by key sub and sacks leader end Finess Middleton to complete the starting front four. There are no stars in this foursome but they are a solid, functional unit and must be considered a plus for the defense. Sean Grayer, Wade Forde and Sean Brown will provide good depth for the line rotation. Jimmy Gipson has missed the last two seasons but he could actually steal a starting end job.

Darrell Songy had to miss spring drills as he recovered from surgery but he will be back in the fall and will be the play maker for the defense. He will be joined at linebacker by Bull Barge, a very productive reserve in 2016. Depth could be a problem at linebacker but freshman Kendric Haynes looks like he is capable of stepping in.

The secondary will be a team asset as safeties Neiko Robinson, Jeremy Reaves and Nigel Lawrence all return. Lawrence was not listed on the spring depth chart but we feel by opening kickoff he will man one of the safety jobs. That trio is joined by returning starting cornerback Jalen Thompson. The only newcomer will be talented freshman cornerback Bobby Flott. This unit will be backed primarily by youngsters. However, if the starters can stay healthy, plays will be made by the secondary.

There are no big questions that do not have a solid answer for this defense. Expect the 2017 defense to again be stout and to hand the offense the ball in good field position more times than not.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas State Bobcats

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Bobcat Stadium

601 University Drive San Marcos, TX 78666

Phone: (512) 245-2114

Web: http://www.txstatebobcats.com/

Capacity: 30,000

Surface: DuraSprine Pro **Altitude:** 615 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*EVERETT WITHERS*
O.C.:	*BRETT ELLIOTT*
D.C.:	*RANDALL MCCRAY*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*PARKER FLEMING*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	A	Ohio (58)	56 - 54
17-Sep	A	Arkansas (49)	3 – 42
24-Sep	H	Houston (36)	3 – 64
1-Oct	H	Incarnate Word (Not D-1)	48 - 17
8-Oct	A	Georgia St (112)	21 – 41
15-Oct	A	Louisiana-Monroe (113)	34 – 40
22-Oct	H	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)	3 – 27
5-Nov	A	Appalachian St (37)	10 – 35
12-Nov	H	Idaho (57)	14 - 47
19-Nov	A	New Mexico St (115)	10 – 50
26-Nov	H	Troy (41)	7 – 40
3-Dec	H	Arkansas St (65)	14 – 36

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	H	Houston Baptist (Not D-1)
9-Sep	A	Colorado (13)
16-Sep	H	Appalachian State (37)
23-Sep	H	Texas-San Antonio (77)
30-Sep	A	Wyoming (52)
7-Oct	H	Louisiana-Monroe (113)
12-Oct	A	Louisiana-Lafayette (90)
28-Oct	A	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
4-Nov	H	New Mexico State (115)
11-Nov	H	Georgia State (112)
18-Nov	A	Arkansas State (65)
25-Nov	A	Troy (41)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	2-10	1-5	1-5	5-7-0	2-4-0	3-3-0	5-7-0	2-4-0	3-3-0

Total Offense;	126	YPG	302.3	Total Defense;	117	YAPG	471.1
Passing Offense;	77	YPG	219.9	Passing Defense;	87	YAPG	248.8
Rushing Offense;	128	YPG	82.4	Rushing Defense;	106	YAPG	222.3

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

B O B C A T S O F F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Stedman Mayberry	**RB**		**593-5**	**321-0**

Two returning starting linemen plus two top reserves

Supporters of Texas State football would probably like to forget 2016 ever happened. The Bobcats ended the season with a 2-10 record and were winless in the lowly Sun Belt Conference. There was plenty of blame to go around but the offense ranked 77th for passing offense and a nationally worst 128th in rushing offense.

Step number one in creating something resembling an offense will be finding a capable quarterback. There are several possibilities but it seems everyone is trying to earn backup duties as Mississippi State transfer Damiam Williams has the job locked down. He is a true duel threat and will give Texas State an upgrade.

Stedman Mayberry is the most productive returning running back after having 593 yards rushing for 5 touchdowns and an additional 321 receiving yards. Mayberry needs to be ready for a heavy work-load because the roster does not contain an obvious choice for the running back reserve duties. Williams' running ability at quarterback will be a big help for Mayberry.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Texas State Bobcats

Texas State is surprisingly deep at wide receiver. Elijah King (453 receiving yards), Thurman Morbley (400 yards) and Tyler Watts (364 yards) are the leaders for the three wide receiver slots. The tight end will be talented and productive Gabe Schrade (286 yards). Mason Hays (198 yards) and Eric Luna (174 yards) also return and will provide solid backup as will Kentucky transfer T. V. Williams and juco transfers Jordan Versey and Kelton Powell. While no featured receiver can be identified, this rotation certainly is capable of moving the chains.

The offensive line gave up 44 sacks last year. A lot of that was caused by opposing defenses having no respect whatsoever for the Texas State running game. That allowed opponents to be in an all out pass rush most plays. The line will be better this year as the season of experience they got in 2016 has to help. Left tackle Cedric Gambrell, left guard Charlie Vatterott, center Aaron Brewer, right guard Jacob Rowland and right tackle Nicholas Pletschette will be the starters but they need to remain healthy as depth could be a problem.

Like the O-Line, the 2017 offense will be better but by how much remains unknown.

B O B C A T S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Ashmael Davis	**DE**	**38**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Dean Taylor	**DE**	**23**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Jordan Mittie	**NT**	**31**	**.5**	**0**	**0**
Bryan London	**LB**	**142**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Gabe Loyd	**LB**	**102**	**2**	**0**	**2**

The Bobcats were forced to play a ton of young players in the 2016 defense who were simply not ready for action. The results were as should have been expected. That unit got almost no pressure on opposing quarterback and was repeatedly torched on running plays. A big majority of the 2016 starters return and they should benefit from last year's forced playing time. An attainable goal for the 2017 defense is to improve on the 87th ranking for passing defense and 106th ranking for rushing defense.

Ends Ashmael Davis and Dean Taylor and nose tackle Jordan Mittie are all returning starters and will man the first string three man front. The three combined for just 2 sacks so they must be aware they must increase that number substantially. Freshmen ends Jakharious Smith and Carveon Patton and freshman tackle Darren Thomas will need to arrive on campus ready to play and if the starters falter again, any of the three may take over.

Linebackers Bryan London and Gabe Loyd were monsters last year but the problem was they never found time to do their normal duties but covered up for the mistakes made by the front three. They combined for an amazing 244 tackles. They will be joined by another 2016 starter Frankie Griffen and productive 2016 top reserve Gavin Graham. This will be a very solid starting foursome. There is also established depth led by Hal Vinson. The linebacker rotation will definitely be the strength of the defense and we can only hope the front three improves enough to let the linebackers roam freely and make play.

Cornerback Anthony Taylor is the only returning starter in the secondary. However, the Bobcats rotated players at cornerback in 2016 so there are some experienced options waiting for the chance to join Taylor. Quinn Riggs and Jordan Eastling are the two most likely candidates. Strong safety Dila Rosemond and free safety Stephan Johnson were the second string in 2016 and both will step up to the first unit this year. The secondary will be okay but without much additional quarterback pressure up front, expect the secondary to not make many plays.

The fate of the 2017 Texas State defense rests squarely with the front three. The back eight has talent but it will be wasted if the front three does not improved greatly.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

Troy Trojans

Sun Belt Conference

STADIUM INFORMATION

Name: Veterans Memorial Stadium

University Avenue Troy, AL 36082-0001

Phone: (334) 670-3100

Web: http://www.troytrojans.com

Capacity: 33,000

Surface: ProGrass **Altitude:** 538 ft.

HEAD COACH:	*NEAL BROWN*
O.C.:	*KENNY EDENFIELD*
D.C.:	*VIC KOENNING*
SPECIAL TEAMS:	*JON SUMRALL*

2016 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date		Opponent (Final Rank)	Score
3-Sep	H	Austin Peay (Not D-1)	57 - 17
10-Sep	A	Clemson (1)	24 – 30
17-Sep	A	Southern Mississippi (74)	37 - 31
24-Sep	H	New Mexico St (115)	52 - 6
1-Oct	A	Idaho (57)	34 - 13
15-Oct	H	Georgia St (112)	31 - 21
20-Oct	A	South Alabama (88)	28 - 21
5-Nov	H	Massachusetts (125)	52 - 31
12-Nov	H	Appalachian St (37)	28 - 24
17-Nov	H	Arkansas St (65)	3 – 35
26-Nov	A	Texas St (127)	40 - 7
3-Dec	A	Georgia Southern (91)	24 – 28
BOWL	N	Ohio (58)	28 - 23

2017 SCHEDULE

Date		Opponent
2-Sep	A	Boise State (26)
9-Sep	H	Alabama State (Not D-1)
16-Sep	A	New Mexico State (115)
23-Sep	H	Akron (82)
30-Sep	A	LSU (15)
11-Oct	H	South Alabama (88)
21-Oct	A	Georgia State (112)
28-Oct	H	Georgia Southern (91)
2-Nov	H	Idaho (57)
11-Nov	A	Coastal Carolina (Not D-1)
25-Nov	H	Texas State (127)
2-Dec	A	Arkansas State (65)

	SU	HOME	AWAY	ATS	HOME	AWAY	O/U	HOME	AWAY
SEASON BREAKDOWN	10-3	6-1	4-2	6-7-0	2-5-0	4-2-0	4-7-1	3-3-0	1-4-1

Total Offense;	53	YPG	429.6	Total Defense;	35	YAPG	366.5
Passing Offense;	37	YPG	260.5	Passing Defense;	85	YAPG	246.4
Rushing Offense;	73	YPG	169.2	Rushing Defense;	17	YAPG	120.2

YPG = YARDS PER GAME

YAPG = YARDS ALLOWED PER GAME

TROJANS OFFENSE

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	PASSING YDS-TDs-INT	RUSHING YDS-TDs	RECEIVING YDS-TDs
Brandon Silvers	**QB**	**3180-23-12**	**128-4**	
Jordan Chunn	**RB**		**1288-16**	**228-0**
Emanuel Thompson	**WR**			**820-6**
Deondre Douglas	**WR**		**1-0**	**740-6**

Two returning starting linemen plus four top reserves

Troy ended their 2016 season with a very nice 10-3 record. Included in that record is a 6 point loss to Clemson and a 4 point loss at Georgia Southern. The passing game was exceptional and ended the season ranked 37th in the country. The running game was not as effective and was ranked 73th in the nation. From that group, every skill player is returning for 2017.

Quarterback Brandon Silvers was very effective last year. He threw for 3180 yards and 23 touchdowns. The only problem Silvers had was he threw 12 interceptions and needs to take better care of the ball. He was also good enough running the ball to add another 4 touchdowns. Two players, Sawyer Smith and Kaleb Barker are back and are in a heated battle for quarterback backup duties.

Jordan Chunn is back and will be the featured running back. He was impressive last year with 1228

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017

www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com

rushing yards for 16 touchdowns. He also found time to pull in 228 receiving yards. Josh Anderson (280 yards), B. J. Smith (161 yards) and Jabir Frye (139 yards) are also back and will stand ready to give Chunn a break when he needs it. This is a nice rotation and will do a better job of taking the heat off of Silvers this year.

18 players caught passes in 2016. ALL OF THEM are back. Emanuel Thompson (820 receiving yards), Deondre Douglas (740 yards) and Tevaris McCormick (456 yards) will form an excellent starting threesome as they combined for 17 touchdowns last year. Gabe Hill will man the tight end slot. John Johnson (305 yards) and Sidney Davis (168 yards) lead the “horde” of reserve wide receivers awaiting playing time. The receiving rotation will be one of the finest in the Sun Belt.

Okay, Troy has an established, productive quarterback, a solid featured running back and a wealth of game tested, competent receivers. Should we just hand them the Sun Belt title this year? Hold on just a second. Troy does have an area needing work and that is the critical offensive line. Without the “big uglies” up front, no offense operates at 100% and Troy must replace three starters. Left guard Steven Rowzee and center Doentae Crumitie are good building blocs for 2017. Tristan Crowder slides over from his left guard spot to handle the right side and J. L. Gaston moves from backup center to right tackle. Add in left tackle Kirk Kelley and you have a pretty solid line.

T R O J A N S D E F E N S E

MOST PRODUCTIVE RETURNING PLAYERS:

	POSITION	TACKLES	SACKS	INTs	RECOVERED FUMBLES
Sam Lebbie	**DE**	**20**	**3**	**0**	**0**
Jamal Stadom	**DT**	**36**	**2**	**0**	**0**
Seth Calloway	**DT**	**30**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Kamryn Melton	**CB**	**36**	**1**	**2**	**1**
Blace Brown	**CB**	**34**	**.5**	**6**	**0**
Cedarius Rookard	**S**	**52**	**0**	**3**	**1**
Kris Weatherspoon	**S**	**52**	**0**	**1**	**1**

Seven starters from the 2016 Troy defense that earned an 85th ranking in passing defense and 17th in rushing defense are back for 2017.

The Trojans operate our of a 3-4-4 defensive set. The front three will be well manned in 2017 as Seth Calloway will shift over from his tackle slot. Zo Bridges and juco transfer Rasool Clemons are in a hard battle for the other end job but regardless of who wins out, defensive end will be solid for Troy this year. Jamal Stadom will be the starter at tackle but Trevon Sanders will get plenty of playing time.

Linebackers William Lloyd, Terris Lewis and Justin Lucas all must be replaced. How well the new linebacker starting unit performs will largely determine how the 2017 defense functions. Tyquae Russell is the only returning starting linebacker. Sam Lebbie will move from his end position and will man one of the three openings. A. J. Smiley is back from his foot injury and will shift from his normal nickel position to handle the third job. Youngster Tron Folsom logged playing time last year and was productive. He will move up to the starting unit and complete the linebacker group. There is some depth but the linebacker group still needs to avoid injury.

Cornerback Kamryn Melton and safeties Cedarius Rookard and Kris Weatherspoon started in 2016 and return to man their positions in 2017. Blace Brown was productive as a reserve cornerback last year and will fill out this year's secondary. This will be a nice starting group and cornerback Jawon McDowell and safety Melvin Tyus provide top notch backup for the rotation. The 2017 Troy secondary will be a plus unit and has a chance of being very good if the linebacker group gels and does their job.

If Troy can get decent production out of their pieced together linebacker unit, the defense can be quite good. There is talent at linebacker but all the position shifting has us concerned, especially early in the year as that unit gels.

2017-2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW is a Copyrighted Publication of Stat Attack Sports in Springdale, AR and All-Star Sports in Memphis, TN. All Rights Reserved 2017
www.statattacksports.com www.therainman.com