



MID ATLANTIC

*NCFA Conference
Preview*



The Apprentice School enters their 1st year in the NCFA and is expecting to start with a bang. They are new to the league but not to the competition, having played numerous NCFA teams over the last couple years including MAC foes, Coppin State and George Mason, with whom they own a 4-1 record. The builders expect to boast a strong ground game, and head coach John Davies believes he has seen a very focused team during initial practices. If they can gel early they could be a surprise pick to come out of the MAC and into the NCFA Playoffs.



**The Apprentice School
Newport News, VA**

Head Coach – John H. Davis

**Assistants – Vincent Brown, Charlie Skalaski, Tracy
Harrod, Melvin Dillard, David Porter, Derek Banks, Elton
Brown, Demetri Washington, Herb Fields, Kelly
Lawrence, Shamone Williams**

2017 record – 2-8

Returning Players – 23

Returning Starters – 7

**Players to Watch – Fred Henrieth, Brandon Jones,
Terrence Sudberry, Kekoa Haina-Scott, Malek Lyles, Kris
Smith, Chawn Way**

Community Christian College is another new entry into the NCFA this year. They however are not a new program, finishing 7-3 in their season last year, they expect to contend for a MAC East crown here in their first season. They expect their offensive and defensive line to be their major strengths, their 5 starters on the OL average 6'3" and 320 pounds. Not to be outdone by their offensive counterparts, the DL is led by two monsters at DT, Roger Chimmey and Detroit Yancey, both over 6'3" and 400 lbs. Also holding down things on D is safety Demate Taylor who should be among the leagues best defenders. Expect CCCA to turn some heads in the NCFA this fall



**Community Christian College
Hampton, VA**

2017 record – 7-3

**Returning Players – 6
Returning Starters – 6**

**Players to Watch – Demate Taylor, Roger Chimmey,
Detroit Yancey**

Coppin State continued their MAC dominance again in 2017, winning their 3rd straight MAC title, but bowing out to upstart Fort Lauderdale in the NCFA playoffs. As with past years, they are a bit of an unknown entering the season but if history has proven anything the 2 time NCFA champs will yet again be the top pick to repeat as MAC champs and make their 3rd trip to the NCFA playoffs. Look for their time proven method of a hard nosed running game and fast physical defense to help construct their winning game plans this fall.



Coppin State University
Baltimore, MD

2017 Record – 6-2
Final Conference Ranking – 1st

George Mason had a disappointing 2017, after a promising rebuilding year in 2016, Mason expected big things last season but just couldn't put everything together at the right time. They boasted a very explosive offense, but struggled with consistency, the same could be said about their defense. The Patriots have over 25 players back on the roster this fall including 2017 NCFA All-Americans Willie Marrow, Justin Fenical, Anthony Bedward and Xavier Savannah, so they are hoping the experience gained in 2017 can be a springboard to 2018's success. Expect the Patriot offense to be one of the most explosive in the NCFA, returning is QB Justin Fenical, WR Willie Marrow and TE Anthony Bedward, all were 2017 NCFA 1st Team All-Americans. Marrow also earned the honor of NCFA Offensive Player of the Year after leading the league in receiving with a mind blowing 27 yards per catch. The is led by returning NCFA All-American DB Xavier Savannah, the D won't get as much hype as the offense but they have a lot of talent on that side of the ball as well. The MAC East will be a very tough division this season but expect George Mason to have a bounce back year behind that high powered offense and if the defense is able to get on board they could contend for a MAC title.



**George Mason University
Fairfax, VA**

Head Coach – Billy Ray Davis

**Assistants – Virgil Seay, Jack Dumas, Bob Smith, Tim
Spicer, Kenyon Spann**

2017 record – 2-5

Conference Finish – 2nd

Final National Ranking – 13th

Returning Players – 27

Returning Starters – 19

**Players to Watch – Willie Marrow, Justin Fenical,
Anthony Bedward, Xavier Savannah, DaQuan Henderson,
Alex Powell,**

Longwood University is coming off a 2017 campaign that saw them finish near the bottom of the conference standings. They are hoping a solid core led by Tyrieq' Wilson Jones can put a few more victories in the win column and surprise some folks in the MAC in 2018.



**Longwood University
FarmVille, VA**

Head Coach – Coach Gene

2017 record – 1-3

**Returning Players – 18
Returning Starters – 18**

**Players to Watch – Tyrieq' Wilson Jones, Jacob Rockwell,
Tyler Jenkins, Zach Thompson, Matt Mccord, Ricardo
Pena**

Miami once again is coming off a great season, finishing 2017 with a 7-1 record as a sleeper in the MAC last year. With only 10 players returning, Miami once again will be looking to rebuild their program. With a strong coach intact including Hall-of-Famer Jay Fry Sr, expect the Redhawks to stay up their perch, contending for MAC glory.



**Miami University
Oxford, OH**

**Head Coach – Jay Fry Sr.
Assistants – Jay Fry Jr., Joe Jackson, Hooper Hurst, Todd
Tripplett**

**Returning Players – 10
Returning Starters – 6
2017 Record – 7-1**

Players to Watch – Seth Mayer, Jack Julian, Conor Milroy

The Buckeyes were one of the surprise teams of 2017. They graduated a lot of talent from the 2016 team but stormed out to a 6-0 start and nearly grabbing the MAC East crown with a team mostly comprised of new talent. Coming into 2018 with a whopping 35 returning players, OSU knows they won't be able to sneak up on anyone but should still be near the top of the MAC and MCFA standings. The Buckeye offensive will once again be led by hard nosed runner Madu Eneli, Eneli was near the NCFA leaders in rushing last fall. When they do need to air it out, look for the QB to find WR Adam Bardak down the field. Defensively look for pass rush havoc Connor Slade to once again put pressure on opposing QB's and LB Chase Gasser to hold up the middle. Getting out of the loaded Mid-Atlantic won't be easy for anyone this year but the Buckeyes have all the tools to grab a spot in the NCFA playoffs this year.



**Ohio State University
Columbus, OH**

**Head Coach – Darryl Payne
Assistants – Terrell Lewis, Cuz McCoy, Ira Trent, Matt
Thiede, Tyler Jackson, Craig Palm**

**2017 Record – 6-2
Returning Players – 35
Returning Starters – 18**

**Players to Watch – Adam Bardak, Hoku Kahapea, Madu
Eneli, Connor Slade, Chase Gasser**

After a winless first season of NCFA play in 2016, Pittsburgh took some major steps forward in 2017, which included their first ever victory.

Optimism is high in 2018 with a solid nucleus returning and a new head coach in Robert Yates. Senior QB Matthew Mutone returns to lead the offense with the help of RB Nick Yerger and TE Drake Toto. Hard Hitting LB Jake Blahut returns to anchor the D with playmaking safety Tony Scott-Naji patrolling the defensive backfield. Coach Yates is stressing a foundation of attitude and effort to help make 2018 a success.



**University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA**

**Head Coach – Robert Yates
2017 Record 2-5
Returning Players – 20
Returning Starters – 16**

Players to Watch – Matthew Mutone, Nick Yerger, Jake Blahut, Tony Scott-Naji

Wright State entered 2017 as favorite for the NCFA title, a string of close losses had them falling well below that standard, finishing with a losing record. New season brings refreshed outlook, the lose of a majority of the 2017 roster makes 2018 success dependent on a strong class of newcomers, Head Coach Ryan Tucker believes they have brought in all the talent they need to fill the holes left from last year and make a marked improvement this fall. Look for a small core of returning players to hold things together while the new players can get up to speed, history would show that 2017 is probably an anomaly, expect the Raiders to have a strong presence in the MAC race this fall.



**Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio**

**Head Coach – Ryan Tucker
Assistants – Derek Coney, Robert Jackson, Ryan Alig,
Angel Soto, Dan Fairchild**

**2017 Record – 2-4
2017 Conference Ranking – 3rd
Returning Players – 10
Returning Starters – 8**

**Players to Watch – Yousof Elhoussami, Nolin Jackson,
Peter Ngho, Korben Robertson**