

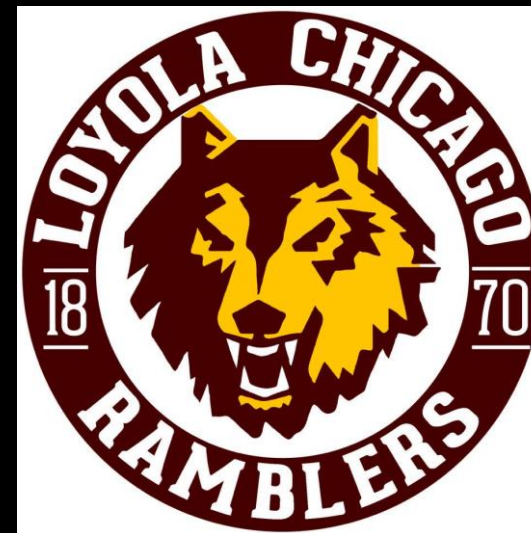


# GREAT LAKES

**2022 Conference  
Preview**



After securing their first division title in 2019, Loyola fell off to a 1-4, last place finish in 2021. To help get the program back on track they are turning to former player James Rodriguez, who takes over as the Head Coach. Coach Rodriguez is optimistic about the 2022 season, saying “I’m excited to be here where I feel that I have truly made an impact over the past 6 years. I am continually surrounded by coaches and players who have a passion for the game of football, especially Rambler football. There is not another organization that finds a way to make things happen quite like this one. I believe that our coaches and players share one mindset in that we will continue to leave our heart, sweat, and blood out on the field.” Loyola returns two 2021 All-Americans in WR/DB Ryan Luft and LB Jack Newell. They are also very high on their newcomers which include both a strong incoming freshman class, as well as a strong transfer class. Loyola expect to contend with everyone they play as they trek to get back to the top of the Great Lakes.



**Loyola University - Chicago  
Chicago, IL**

**Head Coach – James Rodriguez**

**Assistants – Sawyer Knibee, Jonathan Khosa, Riley Halligan, Cole Pfeifer, Stefan Milošević**

**Returning Players – 18**

**Team Captains – Austin Choi, Jacob Tauber, Ryan Luft, Jack Ryan**

**Players to Watch – Jacob Tauber DE/TE, Ryan Luft WR/DB, Austin Choi LB/OL, Jack Newell LB, Devin Pettus WR, Jack Ryan WR/LB**

After a rough 2021 season due to a big lack of numbers, Miami hopes its recruiting efforts will lead it back to its previous levels of success. Miami is one of few teams that has played in multiple NCFA Championship games, making it in 2012 and 2015.

Longtime Coach and Miami Alum Joe Jackson returns as the Head Coach. The team will once again be led by do everything player Matthew Hodge, who in 2021 led the Redhawk's in rushing and was their second leading receiver. Defensively Buike Ndauguba returns along the defensive line.

He was the leading tackler and sacker for Miami in 2021. Miami looks to continue to work on their rebuild with a solid season in 2022



**Miami University  
Oxford, OH**

**Head Coach – Joe Jackson  
Assistants – Hooper Hurst  
Returning Players – 15**

**Team Captains – Matthew Hodge, Jack Craddock  
Players to Watch – Matthew Hodge Buike Nduaguba**

Only a team with a pedigree of the Oakland University Grizzlies could look at a 4-4 Conference Championship Season as a down year. With 6 conference championships and 2 National Championships since their inception in 2013, Oakland is without a doubt the king of the Great Lakes Conference. They realize how strong the Great Lakes will be this season and will look to over 20 returning players for leadership, including team captains Evan Plets, Devon Banks and Tyrese Johnson. Plets returns after starting 4 games in 2021, Oakland will be looking at him to be among the best QB in the country this season. In addition, they are expecting big plays from 2-way athletes George and Joseph Dinaj. Rest assured that the Great Lakes Champions will have to get thru Oakland, they should be among the leagues best again this fall



**Oakland University  
Rochester Hills, MI**

**Head Coach – TBD**

**Assistants – Brett Jacobs, Blake Fetterhoff, Billy Fetterhoff, Todd Winstead**

**Returning Players – 20**

**Team Captains – Evan Plets, Devon Banks, Tyrese Johnson**

**Players to Watch – George Dinaj(ATH), Joseph Dinaj(ATH), Evan Plets(QB)**



**The 2019 & 2021 NCFB National Champions The Ohio State Buckeyes look to cement their dynasty with a 3-Peat in 2022. They return 12 starters, 5 on defense and 7 on offense, including All-American QB Kelly Gerenstein. Gerenstein looks to once again lead an explosive offense and is the odds-on favorite to be named NCFB Offensive Player of the Year. Former NCFB Coach of Year James Grega returns to lead the team. Ohio State will most likely enter the season atop the top ten standings, the new look Great Lakes will be a tough conference, but OSU should be the last team standing in it, when the NCFB playoffs start**



**Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH**

**Head Coach – James Grega Jr.  
Assistants – Devin Stover, Matthew Thiede, Raheem  
Massenberg, Geoff Green, Owen Sabo  
Returning Players – 20  
Team Captains – Kellyn Gerenstein, Casey Scroggins,  
Jordan Griffith-Simmon  
Players to Watch – Kellyn Gerenstein, QB. Casey  
Scroggins, WR/DB. Jalen Haley, RB**

Michigan State enters the 2022 season looking to use a team built with over 25 returning players, to catapult to the top of the Great Lakes Conference. Coach Jon Beach returns along with a full assistant staff with hopes that the experience gained during last years 2-4 season will pay dividends this fall. Leading the charge will be the 1-2 punch of QB Jack Donovan and WR Sam Volk. Volk finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the NCFB last season in receiving yards with 501. If those two can generate big plays Michigan State could be a force in the Great Lakes. Defensively they will be led by a strong defensive line, the stalwarts being Andrew Campbell and Ahmad Kareem. Look for Michigan State to be a player in the newly designed Great Lakes Conference

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**Michigan State University  
Lansing, MI**

**Head Coach – Jon Beach**

**Assistants – Mark Beach, Jason Anglan, Nicholas Semke,  
Tyler Miller, Matt Niel, Josh Pranger, and Jose Garcia**

**Returning Players – 25**

**Team Captains – Sam Volk, Jack Donovan, Andrew  
Campbell, Ahmad Kareem, Josh Broaden**

**Players to Watch – Sam Volk - WR, Jack Donovan - QB,  
Collin O'Malley - WR, Caleb Cummings - OL, Jack Owen -  
OL, Andrew Campbell - DE, Ahmad Kareem - DE, Luckas  
Alvarez - OLB, Drew Rodriguez - CB, Josh Broaden - CB**

Toledo enters the 2022 NCFA season as a complete unknown.  
They finished a respectable 3-3 in the 2021 season and are looking to build upon that as they make the move to the Great Lakes Conference.



**University of Toledo  
Toledo, OH**

**Head Coach – Jamie Young  
Assistants – N/A**

**Returning Players – Unknown  
Team Captains – N/A**

Wright State enters a new era in 2022, with two former NCFA All-American alumni, taking over on the coaching staff. Markee Zrnich enters his first season as the Head Coach, and Nolin Jackson as defensive coordinator. They return 15 players from last years 5-4 squad including team captains Chase Mansell, Christian Garrison and Cody Smith. Wright State has developed a reputation of playing tough hard-nosed football, leading the way this year with that ground and pound style will be RB Cody Smith. As with past years, expect Wright State to put together tough games win or lose in 2022

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**Wright State University  
Fairborn, OH**

**Head Coach – Markee Zrnich  
Assistants – Nolin Jackson, Mark Cox I, Chris Mansell,  
Donnie Smith**

**Returning Players – 15  
Team Captains – Chase Mansell, Christian Garrison,  
Cody Smith  
Players to Watch – Cody Smith RB**