



NORTH ATLANTIC

**2022 Conference
Preview**



Clarkson is looking to have a bounce back season in 2022 after a review and restructure this past off-season. Former Clarkson standout player Trevor Leinenbach takes over as Head Coach and will be looking to captains Matthew Eisenhut and RJ Doyle to help guide the rest of the team to success. The NAC North will most likely run through Sacred Heart but Clarkson has a talented core, if they are able to gel early, they could be a force to be reckoned with.

Offensively they will be led by QB Evan Brown. Brown should will lean on RB Thomas Santana and WR Christian McBride to provide the plays needed to put points on the board. Their defense will be lead up front by 2-way lineman Devin Mullen and Ian McBride.



Clarkson University
Potsdam, NY

Head Coach – Trevor Leinenbach
Assistants – Zachary Guest, Cory Sulca

Returning Players – 13
Team Captains – Matthew Eisenhut, RJ Doyle
Players to Watch – Evan Brown, Devin Mullen. Thomas Santana, Ian McBride, Christian McBride

Coppin State returns to NCFB play after missing the 2021 season due to Covid-19. Coppin has long been an NCFB stalwart, winning the first two NCFB Championship games in 2012 and 2013. Coppin however has a tumultuous summer, losing some longtime administrators and coaches of the program and will be looking to rebuild for their first post Covid season. Taking over as Head Coach is Frank Herrera, who had this to say about his new role “I am very excited for the opportunity to come to Coppin State. I feel that we should be excited about what this program will bring to the university this fall. To bring back football to CSU is important and special! I'm excited to be a part of the experience and expand the program.” With just 13 returning players coach Herrera will need some of the newcomers to catch on quickly, two returners who should make a big impact are defensive back Kaleb Byrd, and defensive lineman D'Angelo Thompson. If Coach Herrera can tap into the magic of Coppin past he should be able to make them a formidable foe within the NCFB once again



**Coppin State University
Baltimore, MD**

**Head Coach – Frank Herrera
Assistants – TBA**

**Returning Players – 13
Team Captains – Rashad Whitaker, Justin Evans and
D'Angelo Thompson
Players to Watch – Kaleb Byrd (CB), D'Angelo Thompson
(D-line)**

George Mason enters 2022 as a pre-season National Title favorite, as they return most of their core from the 2021 National runner up season. A strong coaching staff led by Mike Warden and 17 returning players with championship game experience will have expectations high from the beginning. The biggest question mark is who will take over for 2021 NCFA 1st Team All-American QB Chase Soper, who transferred to play QB at NCAA Division 1 Wofford. Mason will look to their defense to drive the bus led by DE Gabriel Gibson and MLB Nathan Williams. Offensively returners WR Basil Hasan and RB Alex Walker will look to make plays with help from offensive lineman Yadeil Yohannes and Abhinav Khatri. Mason is reporting to have a full roster so we should expect some new names to show up early as difference makers. With their success last season, 2022 will be defined as Championship for bust, however they will need to knock off longtime NAC powerhouse Sacred Heart if they are to ensure a return to the NCFA Playoffs.



**George Mason University
Fairfax, VA**

Head Coach – Mike Warden

**Assistants – Linwood Jones, James Sherrill, Kenyon
Spann, Orvin Weatherly**

Returning Players – 17

**Team Captains – Basil Hasan, James Jin, Nathan
Williams, De'elian Paul**

**Players to Watch – Gabriel Gibson (DE), Nathan Williams
(MLB), Alex Walker (RB), Aidan Hunyady (DE), Basil
Hasan (WR), Abhinav Khatri (OL), Yadeil Yohannes (OL),
James Jin (FS), Curtis Brooks (CB)**

Pittsburgh enters 2022 looking to build off a strong 2021 season where they finished 5-3. Pitt has secured a lot of new talent that will look to mesh with their 17 returning players in their attempt to make the NCFB playoffs for the 1st time. Offensively a three headed monster at wide receiver of Josiah Wiggins, Michael Marchese and Afam Onaga should cause headaches for opposing defenses, while linebackers Aiden Palmer and Will Baker will lead the defense. The North Atlantic will be a tough conference in 2022, if Pitt can make some noise there, they will be able to say they can compete with anyone



**University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA**

**Head Coach – Maryce 'Murda' Johnson
Assistants – Logan Blazeovich and Drew Hanson
Returning Players – 17
Team Captains – TBD
Players to Watch – Josiah Wiggins-WR, Michael
Marchese-WR, Afam Onaga-WR/DB, Aiden Palmer-LB,
Jeremy Fetterhoff-OL/DL, Michael Gregory-DB, Sean
'Skate' Martin-DB, Will Baker-LB?RB**

Sacred Heart has enjoyed an unprecedented run of success since they joined the NCFA with multiple North Atlantic Conference Titles, multiple NCFA Playoff Appearances and the 2017 NCFA National Championship under their belt. They however are coming off a disappointing 2021 season, stemming from things mostly out of their control. Sacred Heart finished the season 7-0, but only actually playing 2 games, receiving 5 of their wins via forfeit. Those forfeits came back to haunt them, with the 2021 post-covid season not having a National Playoff, Sacred Heart finished third in the Power Rankings, leaving them outside the National Championship Game. Coach Greg Jones Returns as does the majority of his coaching staff, this continuity of leadership, along with 25 returning players, should lay a foundation for success in 2022. The Pioneers are the clear cut North Atlantic North Division favorites, but with George Mason joining the North Atlantic this season, we could see Sacred Heart exact some revenge for being left out of the 2021 NCFA Championship should both of them meet in the NAC Conference Championship Game. Sacred Heart will lean on their ground game early in the season, as their return 6 players along the offensive line and their running back and team captain David DePalma. Defensively MLB Anthony Velasco will lead the defense with help from team captain and 2-way lineman Julian Percoco.



**Sacred Heart University
Fairfield, CT**

**Head Coach – Greg Jones
Assistants – Mike Statuti, Nick Bartoli, Delvon Artis,
Delvon Artis, Jimmy Burger**

**Returning Players – 25
Team Captains - David DePalma, Julian Percoco
Players to Watch – David DePalma RB, Julian Percoco
C/DL, Cam Wolanski T/DL, Kenley Pierre DB, Kyle Vega
DB, Teighan Jeremy OLB, Michael Paiva OL/DL, Gianni
Walsh TE/MLB, Marc-Andre Thermitus RB/DL, JC Marano
WR, Mason Mesbah WR/S, Thomas Pecora WR/S,
Thomas Giuliano DB, Liam Mussuhl OL/DL, Trevor
Annicharico RB, Rob Dacosta RB, Anthony Velasco
MLB/OL**

Vermont is looking to build on a 2nd place NAC finish last year and grab their first North Atlantic Conference Championship. Former NCFA All-American alumnus Pat Messenger takes over as Head Coach, with a strong coaching staff along with him. The Catamounts will have to replace some key positions from 2021, including the QB position, as they only return 11 players to 2022. One key newcomer will be QB Javen Sears, Vermont has a long history of outstanding QB play from the days of Jack LeClerc and Jason Paul. Sears will be looking to add his name to that list by running the wide-open Vermont offense effectively. He will have two returning receivers in Andrew Snell and Davis Lavoie to lean on. Defensively they are a bit of an unknown and will need some of the new talent to step and solidify that side of the ball. If Sears can catch onto the offense quickly, Vermont could be a dark horse contender for the North Atlantic title



University of Vermont
Burlington, VT

Head Coach – Pat Messenger
Assistants – Jack Leclair, Jason Paul, Chris Lampart

Team Captains - Jacob Mager, Andrew Snell, Javen Sears
Returning Players – 11

Players to Watch – Javen Sears, Qb, Andrew Snell Wr,
Davis Lavoie, Wr