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September 2020 Edition



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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GET TO KNOW THE WRITERS



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JJ Lanier is a native of North Carolina and studied communications at Appalachian State University. JJ currently resides in Asheville, North Carolina. JJ is an expert on the NFL and college basketball. JJ is also an insider on all things ACC.



KIPP BRANCH

Kipp Branch has been inside the Brunswick High Pirate Program for over a decade and is affectionately called Mr. Brunswick High. Kipp serves as one of the voices on the Pirates Radio Broadcast and pitched at Valdosta State University. Kipp is knowledgeable about all things 'Southern Sports'.



TJ HARTNETT

TJ Hartnett currently resides in Atlanta and graduated from Kennesaw State University. TJ has been an Atlanta sports fan his whole life and has an inside beat on all Atlanta sports teams.



KENNETH HARRISON, JR.

Kenneth Harison Jr is a long time Atlanta native and graduated from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. Kenneth has a pulse on not only the Atlanta sports scene but the entire southern sports scene as well.



MIKE ANTHONY

Mike Anthony is a Georgia Southern grad and currently still lives in Statesboro. Mike covers the Eagles on regular basis in all sports as a beat writer. Mike also has vast expertise on MLB.



TEDDY BISHOP

Teddy Bishop is from south Georgia and graduated from Armstrong Atlantic University. Teddy has been the voice of the Brunswick High Pirates for almost 20 years and is an expert on Tennis, High School Football and MLB.



ROBERT CRAFT

Robert is an expert on the Florida sports scene. From the Florida Gators to the Orlando Magic, Robert has you covered.



JASON BISHOP

Jason Bishop has spent time at CNN Sports and CSS Sports in Atlanta and is currently host of The Jason Bishop Show with Kipp Branch, southeast Georgia's most listened to sports talk show. Jason is from the Golden Isles and no one knows more about area high school football.

The Southern Sports Edition was created to offer sports opinions from a southern perspective. The Southern Sports Edition offers some of the top sports minds and opinions from around the South. From coverage on High School Football to a beat on the Atlanta Braves, the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, SEC, ACC and all southern sports with actual southern opinions. The Southern Sports Edition is currently distributed in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida and growing everyday.

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FULL OF BITE

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FOOTBALL
PREVIEW**

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IS PLAYING
ARE YOU?



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2020

GEORGIA PREVIEW

Full Of Bite By Kipp Branch





The University of Georgia football team going into the 2020 season is favored once again to win the SEC East for the 4th year in a row and coming off a third straight 11-win regular season.

Kirby Smart has made UGA into an elite college football program with his 44-12 record in his 4 seasons in Athens.

Smart has developed one of the top rosters in the country. You have to figure that as long as Kirby is in Athens UGA is going to be one of the favorites annually in the SEC.

Smart hired offensive coordinator Todd Monken in January to fix an offense that had become boringly predictable.

Monken has had dynamic offenses at Oklahoma State and Southern Mississippi and now has the most talent he has ever worked with in the college game at his disposal.

Graduate transfer Jamie Newman looks to have the inside track at QB. JT Daniels came in from USC and was granted a waiver to play immediately by the NCAA to give UGA great QB depth.

The offensive line lost two starters to the NFL, but name me another program that has recruited better at the

OL position that UGA?

George Pickens leads a talented wide receiver room. Zamir White and James Cook lead a stocked running back group.

On defense, safety Richard LeCounte III is one to watch after leading the Bulldogs in interceptions as a junior.

The defensive backfield is stacked. Nolan Smith and Azeez Ojulari have the talent to push UGA near the top of the SEC in sacks this fall.

Jordan Davis at 330 pounds will be a beast on the defensive line.

Monty Rice and Nakobe Dean will handle the inside linebacker spots.

This could be the best defense UGA has ever put in the field in 2020 from a talent perspective.

Defense will have to lead the way until the offense gets on track. If the offense bounces back then UGA will contend for a national championship.

The ten game SEC schedule and my predictions:

Sept. 26: at Arkansas Razorbacks (Fayetteville, Ark.): SEC insiders say Arkansas has the worst roster in the conference. UGA rolls 42-13

Oct. 3: vs. Auburn Tigers (Athens, Ga.): "The Deep South's Oldest Rivalry" in October for the first time since the 1930's? Doesn't matter UGA is more talented and better coached. UGA wins 31-17

Oct. 10: vs. Tennessee Volunteers (Athens, Ga.): Tennessee is going to be good, but not great. Tough

stretch for UGA and this is an upset alert based on where it falls on the schedule. UGA gets it done 34-13.

Oct. 17: at Alabama Crimson Tide (Tuscaloosa, Ala.): Dawgs fall at Alabama 24-21, but will see them again on December 19th in Atlanta for the SEC title.

Oct. 24: at Kentucky Wildcats (Lexington, Ky.): This one has me worried, Dawgs win this one in the 4th quarter 28-21 to go into the bye week 4-1

Nov. 7: vs. Florida Gators (Jacksonville, Fla.): Florida is the trendy pick here. Big games are won on the line of scrimmage and do you really think UF is going to dominate UGA there? I don't and that will be the difference. UGA wins 27-20.

Nov. 14: at Missouri Tigers (Columbia, Mo.): UGA has never lost at Mizzou and won't in 2020. Dawgs 41-17.

Nov. 21: vs. Mississippi State Bulldogs (Athens, Ga.): Welcome to SEC Mike Leach where team defense is a focus. Dawgs roll 42-17

Nov. 28: at South Carolina Gamecocks (Columbia, S.C.): I'm worried folks. I have been at this place too many times in person and watched UGA struggle. Dawgs win a war 19-14.

Dec. 5: vs. Vanderbilt Commodores (Athens, Ga.): Just what the doctor ordered. Dawgs 48-7.

Georgia finishes the regular at 9-1 with a 4th straight SEC East title, and beats Alabama for the SEC title and gets into the College Football Playoff.





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FLORIDA PREVIEW

Gator Chomp By Robert Craft





Dan Mullen took over a Florida program that went 4 and 7 and many experts thought the program needed a major overhaul. The Gators responded with 21 wins along with two major bowl victories in Mullen's first two seasons.

This isn't a perfect team by any means. Florida needs several receivers to step up and the offensive line to run block better.

The linebackers are unproven as well, but as a team they are as rock solid as any competing team in the SEC.

The emergence of Kyle Trask and the efficiency of the passing game made it easy to air-raid on offense. The Gators threw for 300 yards or more eight times.

Leading receiver Van Jefferson is gone to the NFL, but Kyle Pitts will be one of the nation's best tight ends, he led the team last year with 54 receptions and 5 touchdowns.

Junior running back Dameon Pierce was second on the team in 2019 with 305 yards and 4 touchdowns, but he's got the impact and ability to

accomplish more.

A player who is ready to roll is former Miami five-star recruit Lorenzo Lingard, who was declared eligible by the NCAA for this season.

Up front is a line that struggled to open lanes in the running game. With Mississippi State transfer Stewart Reese, the unit looks more physical. True sophomore Ethan White will bring a nasty streak along with determination and work ethic (Ethan lost 75 pounds prior to the 2019 season).

The Gators Defense finished ninth in the nation overall and seventh in scoring defense helped by a fearsome pass rush.

The Gators need former five-star Georgia transfer Brenton Cox to provide on the pass rush on the outside. Junior Zachary Carter needs to be even more productive. Kyree Campbell and Tedarrell Slaton will anchor the middle.

Junior linebacker Ventrell Miller returns after finishing second on the team with 55 tackles. Look for James Houston, Amari Burney, Mohamoud Diabate and true freshman Derek Wingo to see significant playing time.

DBU will continue its legacy with Marco Wilson and Kair Elam locking down the corners with Jaydon Hill and Chester Kimbrough working with Amari Burney at the Star position.

At safety, the Gators have four

seniors in Shawn Davis, Brad Stewart, Donovan Stiner and Quincy Lenton. Watch for Trey Dean to move to safety and make an impact.

As expected, Florida will play five home games and just four road games thanks to Georgia being the designated home team for this year's game. That game is still going to be played in Jacksonville... the neutral site venue.

Florida opens with Ole' Miss on the road, Florida will host South Carolina, travel to Texas A&M, and then host LSU in consecutive weeks.

The annual game against Georgia has been pushed back a week from Halloween to November 7th, with both teams getting a bye week prior to the cocktail party.

Florida will close the slate with games against Arkansas, at Vanderbilt, against Kentucky before traveling to Tennessee for the season finale.

Vegas had the over under at 7 for total wins this season. In my expert opinion, no one knows what's going to happen to or in the 2020 college football season.

Will there be fans in the stand? If so, how many? Can we throw home field advantage out the window?

The SEC East will still be decided in Jacksonville, that being said I believe the Florida Gators will go 9 and 1 and represent the SEC East in Atlanta.



INJURED? KNOW WHEN TO USE ICE OR HEAT



Whether you are a weekend warrior or an athlete playing competitive sports, ice and heat can be your best friends. Knowing when and how to use each therapy is important, says Becky Joyner, M.S., ATC, PES, ITAT. Ms. Joyner is a certified athletic trainer (ATC) with the Southeast Georgia Health System Sports Medicine department. She works with her fellow ATCs providing area athletes with the best care possible by preventing, recognizing and managing sports injuries, including concussions. Here are her top tips to ease the pain of an athletic injury.

1. **Ice Injuries Immediately.** “For the first 24 hours after an injury, apply ice for 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off, to bring down swelling and inflammation. Ice is a vasoconstrictor; it limits inflammation, unlike heat which brings fluid to the injured area” Ms. Joyner explains.
2. **Use Ice Correctly.** Since ice numbs the skin, you may not always know if you are overdoing it. “When using ice, especially if it’s wrapped tightly around an injury, watch for any signs of blistering, ice burn or frost bite,” Ms. Joyner cautions. Unless you are using an ice pack specially designed for first-aid, wrap the ice in a towel or T-shirt before applying to the injury.
3. **Know When to Stop.** When the bruising and inflammation decrease – typically around 48 hours after an injury – stop using ice therapy. If you still feel stiff and sore, switch to heat.
4. **Prevent Injuries with Heat.** Applying heat before exercise warms the muscles and increases your flexibility. This is especially helpful if you have low back pain or tight hamstrings. Ms. Joyner recommends using a heating pad for 10 to 20 minutes before playing sports or working out.
5. **Don’t Skip the Warm-up.** A few minutes of stretching can protect you from a lot of pain and injury. “A low intensity warm-up routine is a good way to get your body moving before participating in sports,” Ms. Joyner says.
6. **Cool Down.** You may be tempted to rush back to the locker room, work or home after exercising, but take a few minutes to cool down. “Help your muscles stretch and lengthen with slow, range of motion movements through the major muscle groups,” Ms. Joyner advises.
7. **Ask for Help.** Your pain tolerance may determine when to seek medical help. However, other factors also come into play. “If swelling and bruising lasts more than three days to a week or weight bearing activities cause pain, see a sports medicine specialist,” Ms. Joyner says.
8. **Know Your Body.** Everyone has a different pain tolerance. Some people ice their knees or heat their back before every workout. If an injury limits your daily activities or you find yourself relying on Ibuprofen or other pain relievers, see a doctor who specializes in sports medicine. They will diagnose the problem and guide you to solutions that get you back in the game.

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ALABAMA PREVIEW

Rolling Tide By Kipp Branch





Alabama has always been a football powerhouse.

After a few lean years Nick Saban was hired in 2007. He turned them into the most elite program for the last decade.

They recruit very well, so there is a lot of talent in Tuscaloosa. Every season they have to replace NFL talent and they have mastered doing that. The question going into 2020 will be who will step up.

Offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian lost four players – Tua Tagovailoa, Jedrick Wills, Henry Ruggs, Jerry Jeudy to the first 15 picks of the NFL Draft.

Tua completely changed the way Bama played football. Before him, they ran the football and played great defense. He transformed them into a prolific offense that scored at will.

Last year, the offense scored the second-most points in program history. They averaged 511 yards and 47 points per game.

There are some difference makers returning like RB Najee Harris, WR DeVonta Smith, and OT Alex Leatherwood.

Smith lead the team in receiving in 2019 with 1,256 yards, 14 touchdowns on 68 catches. Jaylen Waddle is a playmaker and he averaged 17 yards per catch.

Harris was unappreciated nationally after rushing for 1,224 yards and 13 scores.

Brian Robinson Jr. and star recruit Jace McClellan are the other backs that will get carries.

Junior quarterback, Mac Jones is the safe call to step in and lead the offense. He played after Tua got injured and missed the rest of the season.

He threw 14 TD's and 3 picks but two of them were taken to

the house by Auburn. He's shown that 'Chris Rix' like ability to make catastrophic plays in big games.

True freshman Bryce Young was one of the top recruits in the nation. He was the number one dual threat QB prospect and I expect to see special packages using his skill set.

The Tide finished 20th in the nation in total defense and 13th in scoring D. At most programs that would be good but that's a down year for this team. Five players were drafted but they might be better this season.

2018 leading tackler Dylan Moses is back after suffering a torn ACL and Joshua McMillon is also returning from a knee injury. Cornerback Patrick Surtain Jr. is one of the best in the country. Side note, I remember playing Madden 2004 with his dad on the Dolphins.

Sophomore nose tackle DJ Dale started the first 10 games last season before getting injured. Byron Young, Christian Barmore and LaBryan Ray will be great on the ends.

The updated 10 game SEC schedule will not be a problem for Alabama. The first three games are against Mizzou, Texas A & M and Ole Miss. Those are easy blow out victories.

Game 4 is home against Georgia. This is the toughest game of the season but I have no faith in UGA. They always fold in big games and the Crimson Tide have their number.

The next two contests are at Tennessee and home versus Mississippi State. The Vols could put up a fight but their no match. MSU doesn't stand a chance.

After a bye week they travel to Baton Rouge to face LSU. Bama will get revenge on the Tigers for beating them at home last year.

The final three games are Kentucky, Auburn and at Arkansas. Auburn will be the only challenge. It's a rivalry game so anything can happen.

I'm picking Alabama to go undefeated and be the top team going into the post season.



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LSU

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PREVIEW

Geaux Tigers By TJ Hartnett





It's so incredibly difficult for a college football program to follow up a national championship win with anything resembling a satisfying season that doesn't end in a repeat.

With that said, despite some very uncertain times, Louisiana State University is going to enter the shortened 2020 season with their eyes on a second consecutive championship win.

The biggest hurdle is the fact that their vaunted offense, which lost six players to the NFL Draft, is being rebuilt around a quarterback who has the unenviable task of trying to replace and replicate outgoing QB Joe Burrow's historic success.

Burrow was probably the most successful quarterback that the Tigers have ever seen, so junior Myles Brennan has impossibly large cleats to fill.

Mercifully, he isn't going in completely inexperienced, the way some quarterbacks do when they are replacing great ones. Brennan caught snaps in eight games in 2019 (all blowouts). In that limited playing time, he threw for 353 yards along with a touchdown and one interception.

That experience, despite not

coming in any high-pressure situations, is great. Especially when considering that LSU has no other quarterbacks with any experience on the roster.

That likely puts even more pressure on Brennan, who isn't going to stop getting compared to Burrow until he wins a national title.

In short, LSU is going to lean heavily on this kid, and the fact that there aren't any non-conference games on the schedule this year isn't going to alleviate that fact.

But Burrow isn't the only important player that LSU needs to replace. They also lost their leading rusher in running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire (the player with the next-highest yard total, 1,414 to 368, was Burrow). Edwards-Helaire's 16 touchdowns were matched only by, literally, the rest of the team combined.

There are some options, including Tyrion Davis-Price (maybe another hyphenated last name is a good sign?), who carried the ball in nearly every game as a freshman in 2019.

He had the second-most rushing touchdowns on the team, so he seems like the natural choice to step up and lead the team in that stat in 2020.

He'll have some solid backup in Chris Curry and John Emery, Jr., both of whom rushed for at least 188 yards last season.

But wait, there's more: three members of the 2019 Joe Moore Award-winning offensive line went pro. Outside

of senior Austin Deculus and junior Ed Ingram, the rest of the returning OL and the hopefuls for playing time are all underclassmen.

On the bright side, LSU returns with Ja'Marr Chase and Terrace Marshall, Jr. as wide receivers.

Chase, in fact, set SEC season records with 1,780 receiving yards and 20 touchdowns as a sophomore.

They'll be some of the few key pieces of 2019's offense that's back in purple and gold, but that consistency will certainly help the rest of the team find a groove sooner rather than later.

That is essentially the opposite situation at tight end, where only one of the 10 TEs on the roster hoping to replace Thaddeus Moss has even caught a pass in college.

That player is Jamal Pettigrew and that catch was last year for a one-yard loss.

Basically, what I'm getting at here is that the 2020 LSU Tigers are facing an uphill battle, not just because every single game they're going to play is going to be against an SEC team; not even because they aren't talented (they are); but because of the enormous success of the squad that wore their uniforms last season.

In a season where they'll exclusively play teams from what's generally the strongest conference in college football, the 2020 Tigers' hardest contest may very well be against the 2019 Tigers.

Will they be up to the task?



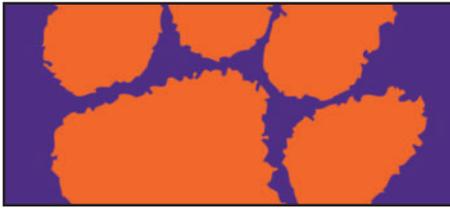


2020

CLEMSON PREVIEW

Tigers Roar By JJ Lanier





It shouldn't really surprise anyone that a college football coach who makes roughly \$9 million a year and has publicly stated he would quit coaching if college players were ever to be paid, (as well as other controversial comments and actions) has been vocal about how there should be a college football season.

Don't get me wrong, Dabo Swinney certainly isn't the only coach who has been vocal about there being

When you take into account the last time we saw Lawrence he was playing the worst game of his college career against LSU and combine it with everything else going on in the world, it's easy to almost dismiss how good the junior quarterback is.

As impressive as he was in leading Clemson to a national title two years ago, he actually improved on his stats last year.

If I'm Swinney and I know my best chance at winning is having a healthy Lawrence under center, I'm hiring four bodyguards to keep everyone at least six feet away from my quarterback and forcing him to wear a breathing apparatus, similar to Bane in "The Dark Knight Rises" while he's on the field.

Look, in all honesty I'm probably doing a disservice to the rest of Clemson's roster by not going more in depth about just how good they truly are. They may very well be the deepest, most talented team in the country. In fact, if I had to pick a favorite to win it all, all things being equal, I'd probably lean towards Clemson.

Like most seasons, being in the ACC will play to Clemson's advantage and Lawrence should be able to put up some pretty gaudy numbers.

However, there is a stretch in November where they play at South Bend, Tallahassee, and Blacksburg, which could be a struggle.

I still expect the Tigers to roll through the ACC unscathed, but



a season, and I'm not saying there should or shouldn't be, just that his comments about doing things because they're in the best interest of the kids ring a bit hollow when I hear them.

The reason why Swinney is so adamant about playing football, and I get it, is because Clemson is once again one of the favorites to win the championship.

Any conversation about the Tigers chance to win a third title in five years begins with quarterback, Trevor Lawrence.

Clemson has top level talent at nearly every position (the offensive line and backfield, in particular) and their backups, which may be more important this year than any in recent memory, are good enough to start on most other teams.

If Lawrence were to miss games due to injury or illness, Clemson could still weather that storm and contend for a playoff spot. But, when you're talking about the national title, having arguably the best player at the most vital position available to play every week, is kind of a necessity.

if they are to slip up, at this point it seems likely to happen against one of those teams.

We all know this upcoming season is going to be vastly different than any we've seen and even though there's a good chance the year will be cut short, Clemson will be a national title contender for however long it goes.

Even if Clemson struggles, I don't expect to hear Swinney complain about it too much, you know, since it's really for the kids.

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GEORGIA'S MOST LISTENED TO SPORTS SHOW



A Georgia Tech football player in a white helmet with 'GT' and 'ACC' logos, and a blue jersey with yellow stripes. He is smiling and pointing upwards with his right hand. The background is a blurred stadium.

GT

2020

**GEORGIA TECH
PREVIEW**

Tech To Sting In 2020 By Kenneth Harrison Jr



Georgia Tech struggled on the field last year.

Geoff Collins was 3 – 9 his first season in Atlanta. The team was transitioning from Paul Johnson and the triple-option era. The switch to a more modern offensive philosophy helped expose the roster for lacking ACC talent and being undersized.

Collins is a defensive coach and a very good recruiter. He's doing his best to reshape the roster with improved talent.

The 2020 recruiting class ranked 27th nationally and 5th in the ACC. They have four players that are four-star recruits.

Running back Jahmyr Gibbs headlines the class.

Quarterback Jeff Sims, corner back Miles Brooks and defensive end Jared Ivey also hope to contribute immediately. The offense ranked 120th in yards per play (4.79) and went three-and-out forty percent of the time.

Redshirt sophomore James Graham became the starter in October. He's a former four-star recruit and he completed 45% of his

passes. I expect Jordan Yates and Sims to compete for the starting job.

The offensive line should improve this season. They have grad transfer Ryan Johnson (Tennessee) and Devin Cochran (Vanderbilt).

The defense uses an unorthodox 4-2-5 scheme. Several players return so they have a foundation to improve. David Curry is a sixth-year senior and he led the team last year with 97 tackles.

The schedule has changed so there are 10 conference games.

Week 1 is at Florida State. The Seminoles are also transitioning and this is Mike Norvell's first season. They were good enough to win six regular season games. I think this will be a close game but FSU has the edge.

Central Florida travels to Atlanta the next week. The Knights are not a Power 5 team but they are a very good program. They should win by double digits.

The Yellow Jackets take the long trip to Syracuse. The Orange were 2 - 6 in the conference in 2019. This game should be close and I think Tech will win.

They return home to face Louisville. The Cardinals won eight games last season. They are led by star running back Javian Hawkins. As a freshman he rushed for over 1,500 yards and 9 touchdowns in 2019. The Cards have too much talent for GT.

Things don't get any better

when Clemson comes to town. Trevor Lawrence will be the first pick in the 2021 draft. He should throw five touchdowns and Travis Etienne will rush for over 100 yards. The Tigers will score 50+ points in this blowout.

Boston College was very inconsistent last season, winning half of their games. We don't know what to expect from the Eagles, so this game is winnable.

Notre Dame comes to town for a Halloween showdown. The Fighting Irish will win big.

After a bye week the Pitt Panthers are up next. Pitt is a decent team and they are better than Tech. They will get the W.

Miami also has a second-year coach, Manny Diaz. The Hurricanes finished 6 – 7 but they struggled against a bad Georgia Tech team. They won 28-21 in overtime last year. Miami is the favorite but I expect GT to win.

Duke is the final home game of the season. I pick the Yellow Jackets to win even though there won't be much of an advantage for home teams in 2020.

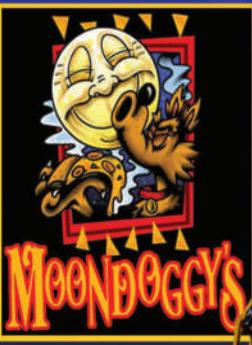
The season finale is at NC State. The Wolfpack are just what the doctor ordered. They were 1 – 7 in the conference in 2019. Tech gets the win.

Best case scenario is 4 wins for Georgia Tech in 2020.



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2020

FSU PREVIEW

War Chant By Kipp Branch





With the ACC releasing the revised 2020 football schedule this week the Mike Norvell era will begin on September 12th with an ACC contest against Georgia Tech.

With the ACC adopting the 10 + 1 schedule format with 10 conference games plus one out of conference game it was believed that FSU's non-conference game would be rival Florida, but the SEC did not follow suit and adopted a

talent wins out more often than not. FSU beats GT 28-17 to start 1-0

Sept. 19: vs. Samford: Shame on you SEC for ducking out of the big ACC/SEC rivalry games in 2020. Instead of FSU/UF we get FSU against Samford. FSU beats Samford 38-10 to go to 2-0 on the season.

Sept. 26: at Miami: Now we are talking schedule maker.

The Seminoles travel to play the Canes. FSU has won five of the last six times they have traveled to Miami to play this one.

Miami is currently riding a three game winning streak in the series. Talent is pretty much even between the two teams and it comes down to coaching.

I think Mike Norvell is a better head coach than Manny Diaz so give me

football stadium named after a corporate sponsor 38-20.

FSU is 4-2 on the season. If you want to be respected in college football never name your stadium after a corporate sponsor.

Nov. 7: vs. Pitt: FSU goes to 5-2 with a home win over Pitt 33-21

Nov. 14: at North Carolina State: NC State is a program that is perceived as spinning its wheels. FSU goes to Raleigh and gets it done 24-19 to go to 6-2.

Nov. 21: vs. Clemson: Clemson comes into Doak Campbell Stadium undefeated and leaves undefeated.

This game will show FSU how far they need to go to get back to being the FSU we know again. Clemson wins 41-20. FSU drops to 6-3 on the season.



ten-game conference only schedule.

Let's breakdown the FSU schedule and predict wins and losses.

Sept. 12: vs. Georgia Tech: Georgia Tech comes to Doak Campbell to open the season, and this could be an interesting game.

The Yellow Jackets are still rebuilding from the triple option days of Paul Johnson, and for FSU, it is the first game of a new system with a new head coach with no spring practice to evaluate from.

This could be a sloppy opener with both teams not looking so hot. We know that FSU has better talent than Georgia Tech and at the end of the day

FSU in a slight upset 24-20. The Noles start 3-0 and become nationally ranked.

Oct. 10: at Notre Dame: FSU gets a bye week before going to South Bend. Who would have thought the only thing that could make Notre Dame join a conference would be Coronavirus?

The Irish will be ranked in the top 10, and FSU is not quite ready in year one under Norvell and falls 27-20. FSU drops to 3-1 on the season.

Oct. 17: vs. North Carolina: UNC is looking good under Mack Brown and get a win in Tallahassee 31-24. FSU drops to 3-2

Oct. 24: at Louisville: FSU regroup and beats Louisville in a college

Nov. 28: vs. Virginia: Virginia is highly thought of in the ACC, but I'm not feeling it. I like FSU in this game after having almost a full season under Mike Norvell's leadership. FSU upsets Virginia 28-24 to go to 7-3 on the season.

Dec. 5: at Duke: Trap game after a big win. I'll give a shaky pick to FSU here 31-28. FSU finishes the regular season at 8-3 and gets a nice bowl bid.

Best case record is 8-3 as I predict, and worst case record is 5-6 with losses to Miami, NC State, and Virginia.

FSU getting back to full strength in the near future would be great for college football.



2020

MIAMI PREVIEW

The Hurricane King By JJ Lanier





When Manny Diaz reneged on his deal with Temple so he could stay in Coral Gables, similar to a high school recruit changing his decision on signing day, I'm sure he knew his inaugural season as head coach of the Miami Hurricanes would have its ups and downs.

However, even their highs-wins over Florida State and Virginia couldn't outweigh the lows as they lost their last three games to Florida International, Duke, and Louisiana Tech; the last one a shutout loss in the Independence Bowl.

Like most teams that finish a season with a record of 6-7, there was plenty of inconsistent play to go around, but none more so than on the offensive side of the ball. Enter D'Eriq King.

A number of quarterback transfers took place this off season, and while others may get more publicity because they're playing on teams with national title aspirations, you could argue that King may be the

most impactful.

There are quite a few aspects to like about the former Houston Cougar quarterback, and none may be more important to this Miami team than his mobility.

Throughout last season, the only consistent part of Miami's team was the inability of their offensive line to do almost anything. If college football handed out Razzie's, the Hurricanes O-Line would've been nominated in multiple categories.

Diaz has made some drastic personnel moves, both on the roster and on his coaching staff to address the situation, but you don't know how those changes will play out until the games begin. King's mobility should allow him to extend plays when the protection breaks down, especially early in the season.

Now, don't let the importance I put on his mobility take away from the fact King can flat out play.

The 5th year senior was 2nd team All-AAC his junior year, with a 6/1 touchdown to interception ratio, before getting injured. He was on all the preseason quarterback award lists before redshirting last year.

I know relying on a person's play from the AAC two years ago isn't the most effective example in trying to convince you I'm right, but King

has proven he can play at that level and I'd argue the ACC, as a whole, isn't that much of a step up.

We'll find out pretty quickly if King is ready for the challenge though; Miami's first four games are UAB (not a gimme by any stretch), Louisville (should be vastly improved from last year), Florida State, and Clemson.

Throw in the recent announcement that Miami's All-ACC defensive end, Greg Rousseau, just announced he will sit outside the season due to Covid-19 and the spotlight on King got even brighter.

That's not to say this entire season is riding on the transfers shoulders, but his talent and playmaking ability will enable him to hide some of the deficiencies on that side of the ball.

I had a little too much confidence in Miami when I predicted them to win 8 games last season. With a more difficult and slightly abbreviated schedule I think six wins this year is a realistic expectation to lay at their feet.

If they are to exceed six wins, it will have a lot to do with the play of D'Eriq King; the type of impact player Manny Diaz always thought he could get at Miami.





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GEORGIA SOUTHERN PREVIEW

Looking To Fly By Mike Anthony





Despite a second consecutive winning season and another trip to a bowl game, it would be tough to call 2019 a rousing success for the Georgia Southern Eagles.

While the Eagles and head coach Chad Lunsford - who is now entering his third full season at the helm - seem to have put the dark days of the Tyson Summers era well behind them, they are still looking to get to the top of the Sun Belt mountain.

Last season provided the Eagles with a chance, as they defeated No. 20 Appalachian State on national television to give them a clear path to a Sun Belt East title, but late hiccups sent Georgia Southern to a second straight third place finish.

Heading into 2020, hopes are once again high for the Eagles, as they will again feature enough talent to be in the discussion of potential conference champions.

Of course, the biggest hurdle is getting onto the field in the first place.

The Sun Belt has followed suit with the other major conferences throughout the southeast in pressing on with football season despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Georgia Southern has had players on campus since early July and has not had anyone opt out of the season due to virus concerns.

That leaves the Eagles with a returning cast that could create all kinds of problems for opponents.

Leading the way is quarterback Shai Werts, who will be the starter for a fourth consecutive season.

Werts will direct Georgia Southern's run-heavy attack and will have plenty of options in the backfield.

All-Sun Belt member Wesley Kennedy III returns for his senior season, alongside J.D. King.

Also joining in will be Logan Wright, who was having the best season of the three running backs in 2019 before a neck injury in October sidelined him for the season.

There is no denying the playmaking talent at the skill positions, but to reach their full potential, the Eagles will need more help from the guys making the running lanes.

Georgia Southern's offensive line was ravaged by injuries last fall, but the return of Aaron Dowdell and Brian Miller

should give the offense an immediate boost.

Defensively, the Eagles lose three of four starters in the secondary - including Chicago Bears fifth round pick Kindle Vildor - but have a deep pool of young corners ready to step up, while safeties Kenderick Duncan Jr. and Java'n Singletary look to be stars in the making.

The teeth of the Eagle defense lies in its front seven.

Georgia Southern adjusted rather seamlessly to defensive coordinator Scot Sloan's 3-4 scheme three years ago and now have the physicality to match the alignments.

Raymond Johnson III is an all-conference performer from his defensive end slot, while Rashad Byrd and Reynard Ellis could be the best 1-2 punch of linebackers in the Sun Belt in their dual ILB roles.

The Eagles are currently slated to play 11 games, missing out on a trip to Boise State and replacing a road date at Ole Miss with a trip to West Point to play Army and former Eagle coach Jeff Monken.

The Eagles are in search of their first Sun Belt Conference championship since winning the title in 2014 in their first season of FBS competition.



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McIntosh Family Medicine Center
1022 Miller Lane SW, Darien

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Southeast Georgia Health System
Outpatient Care Center
2500 Starling Street, Brunswick



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