

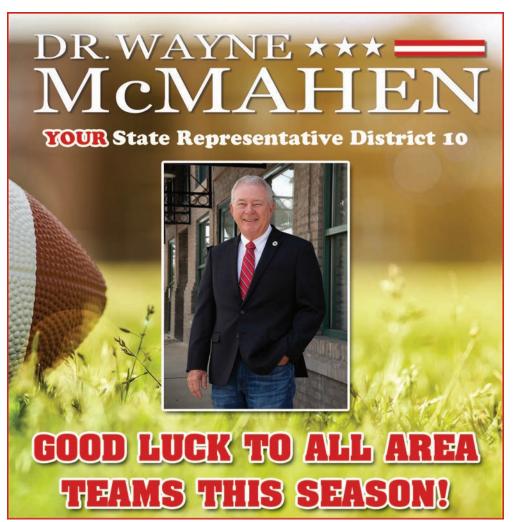
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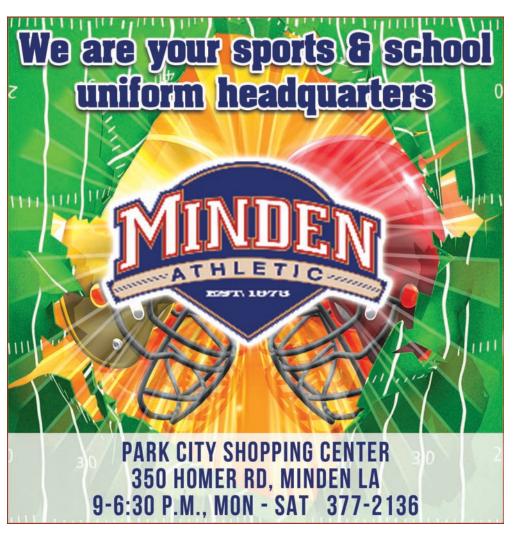












From the Sports Desk...

he 2020 high school football season in Webster Parish had its moments, but mostly it will be remembered for the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not least among those were the cancellation of games during an already abbreviated eight-game regular season.

Lakeside played only five games. Minden and North Webster got in seven. The Tide played three more in the 4A playoffs. Glenbrook played 10 total in its final season in the MAIS.

Things might not be completely back to normal — the pandemic could raise its ugly head again — but they are close to it.

Jamborees are back. The 10-game regular-season is back. There are no limits on how many fans can attend the games.

Last year everyone was just glad there was a season. Now the regular routine has returned, and that obviously is a relief to all who love high school football.

One of the biggest stories in high school football this year is Glenbrook's move to the LH-SAA. The Apaches are in tough District 1-1A with powerhouse Calvary Baptist, perennial power Haynesville and recently resurgent Homer.

Glenbrook Head Coach David

Feaster and Calvary's Rodney Guin will once again match wits just as they did when Feaster was at Parkway and Guin at Haughton.

Feaster was known for his prolific offenses at Parkway. Last year — Feaster's first as head coach— Glenbrook also put a lot of points on the board.

It will be interesting to see how the Apaches' fare against LHSAA competition.

Minden had an outstanding 2020 season. The second-round playoff victory over No. 5 Leesville won't soon be forgotten. The Crimson Tide looks primed for another solid season.

North Webster and Lakeside will look for improvement. The Knights were hit hard by injuries last season and the COVID-19 pandemic took a big toll on the Warriors.

At the next level, LSU and Arkansas will look to bounce back from lackluster seasons.

A year after winning the national title, the Tigers went 5-5, although they finished strong with an upset of Florida and a victory over Ole Miss.

Sophomore Max Johnson, who led The Tigers to victories over Florida and Ole Miss in the last two games last season, will likely start at quarterback after Myles Brennan suffered a left arm injury in August that required surgery.

As usual, LSU has plenty of talent on both sides of the ball. Another mediocre season could put Ed Orgeron on the hot seat if he isn't already.

Arkansas fans will also expect to see a lot of improvement in Sam Pittman's second season as head coach. The Razorbacks went 3-7 last season. If the defense isn't better, it will be another rough season.

Louisiana Tech will seek to continue its success under Skip Holtz. The Bulldogs' bowl winning streak ended last season, but the Bulldogs have the talent to start another one.

Grambling State lost all four of its games in the spring season. COVID-19-related issues played a big part in the lack of success. Head Coach Broderick Fobbs is a proven winner, though, so the Tigers could again contend in the SWAC.

In the NFL, one of the biggest storylines to watch will be how the New Orleans Saints will fare without future Hall of Famer Drew Brees at quarterback. Either Taysom Hill or Jameis Winston will take over.

The quarterback position in Dallas will also be under close scrutiny. Will former Haughton star Dak Prescott, who signed a huge contract in the offseason, be the same quarterback he was before suffering the devastating leg injury in Week 4 last season?

It won't be long until we start learning the answer to that question and the others at the high school and college levels. It should be a fun ride.

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Minden Press

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MPH PROJECTION 7-3

2021 SCHEDULE

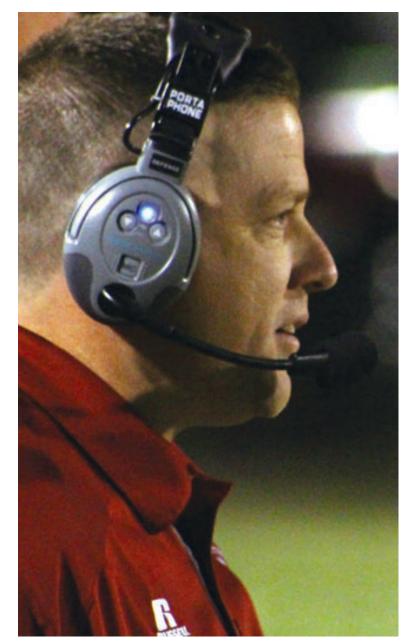
WEEK 1	Parkway
WEEK 2	Green Oaks
WEEK 3	North Webster
WEEK 4	@ Mansfield
WEEK 5	@ Leesville
WEEK 6	North DeSoto
WEEK 7	Neville
WEEK 8	@ Bastrop
WEEK 9	Huntington
WEEK 10	@ Franklin Parish

Head Coach: Spencer Heard (10th season)

2020: 7-3 (3-1)

Opponent Result Score

North Webster	W	18-0
Mansfield BTW	W	14-0 21-6
North DeSoto	W	34-27
Neville	L	41-7
Bastrop	W	27-26
Cedar Creek	L	50-28
JFK	W	28-6
Leesville	W	21-14
Neville	L	27-0







SCOUTING REPORT

The Crimson Tide made the most of last year's abbreviated season. The overtime victory over No. 5 seed Leesville in the second round of the 4A playoffs will be remembered for a long time.

Senior Andrew Cooper, a starting SS last season, takes over at QB. Playing behind him will be veteran RBs Kentravion Lister and Daylen Robinson. The line should be a strength with C Connor Heard, G Kielyn Combs and T Makhi Reed all returning. WR Jaylin Williams will again be a challenge for opposing DBs.

Reed also returns on the defensive line. The linebacker corps will be a strength with the return of De'Quontez Ridley, Tyrese Lane and Lister. SS/CB Jacolby Snell and Cooper return in the secondary. Head Coach Spencer Heard said how the newcomers in the defensive backfield develop will be key.

Minden has the potential to have a highscoring offense. The progression of the newcomers on the line will be a factor. The defense looks solid, especially on the line and behind it. Heard is excited about the team's chemistry, which has strengthened in the offseason. Another strong playoff run could be in the cards.

ONE TO WATCH

Andrew Cooper, QB, Sr.

A starter at SS last season, Cooper got some valuable experience at QB in the playoffs after Trent McLaughlin was injured against Leesville in the second round. He came off the bench in the second half and led the Tide to a memorable upset. "Andrew is a very football savvy player with a lot of confidence and will be a threat as a passer and runner," Head Coach Spencer Heard said. "He is a dynamic player who has a full understanding of our system."



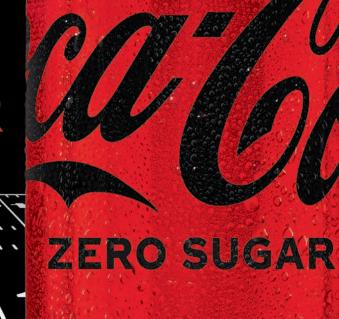


MINDEN CRIMSON TIDE 2021 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT. 3	PARKWAY
SEPT. 10	GREEN DAKS
SEPT. 17	NORTH WEBSTER
SEPT. 24	AT MANSFIELD
OCT. 1	AT LEESVILLE
OCT. 8	NORTH DESOTO *
OCT. 15	NEVILLE *
OCT. 22	AT BASTROP*
OCT. 29	HUNTINGTON *
NOV. 5	AT FRANKLIN PARISH*



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MPH PROJECTION 6 4

2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	River Oaks
WEEK 2	@ Calvary Baptis
WEEK 3	@ Lincoln Prep
WEEK 4	Homer
WEEK 5	@ Magnolia SofE
WEEK 6:	@ Haynesville
WEEK 7	Plain Dealing
WEEK 8	Ringgold
WEEK 9	@ Beekman Ch.
WEEK 10:	Arcadia

Head Coach: David Feaster (Second season)

2020: 5-5 (1-2)

Opponent	Result	Score
Hillcrest Ch. Parker's Ch. St. Joseph Cathedral Nike Dallas FC Amite School C Porter's Chapel Greenville Ch Centreville Aca Carrollton Aca	.W W L	48-0 48-29 40-7 62-37 21-20 56-18 48-19 66-42 55-26 42-16



Senior running back D.J. Carter will anchor the Apaches running game in 2021.

SCOUTING REPORT

With 14 returning starters, the Apaches are primed to make their debut in the LHSAA's District 1-1A. Six starters return off an offense that scored 40 points or more in five games. Sophomores Ty Feaster and Landry Powell will battle for the starting QB position in preseason practice.

RB DJ Carter and Rhett Johnson return in the backfield. WR Turner McLelland and TE Cale Hollis are also back. The line will be mostly new with two-way player Luke Vining the only returning starter there. Feaster will handle kicking duties again. LBs Hayden Harmon and Landry Powell lead nine starters back on defense. Other returning starters included Vining, DBs Collin Gregg, Maddox Mandino and Chase Sentell, DL Jonathan Bryant and LB Garrett Brown.

The defense will undoubtedly be the team's strength early. But Head Coach David Feaster's offenses are known for putting points on the board. With defending Division IV champion Calvary Baptist in the district, everyone else may be playing for second. But look for the

Apaches to have a successful LHSAA debut.

ONES TO WATCH

DJ Carter, RB, Sr.

Carter had some big games last season and is capable of changing games with big plays.

Maddox Mandino, DB, Sr.

Mandino has played several positions during his tenure and will be a force to be reckoned with in the defensive backfield.

Hayden Harmon, LB, Sr.

Harmon is an outstanding athlete who has committed to play baseball at Louisiana Tech.





MPH PROJECTION 5 4

2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1:	Magnolia Soft
WEEK 2:	Block
WEEK 3:	Bye
WEEK 4:	@ West Ouachita
WEEK 5:	@ Beekman Ch.
WEEK 6:	Lincoln Prep
WEEK 7:	@ North Webster
WEEK 8:	@ North Caddo
WEEK 9:	D'Arbonne Wds

@ Jonesboro-Hodge

Head Coach: Mark Santelices (Third season)

2020: 1-4 (1-1)

WEEK 10:

Opponent	Result	Score
West Ouachita Peabody North Webster North Caddo D'Arbonne W	L L L	47-0 53-14 33-7 42-0 28-12







Junior CJ Watts (light blue shirt at left) and senior Kris Redden (camouflage shirt at right) will anchor Lakeside's defensive line this season.

SCOUTING REPORT

The Warriors struggled against some tough competition last season but closed with a victory. COVID-19 related issues forced the cancellation of three games.

Six starters return on offense, including QB Jacob Whitehead. Head coach Michael Santelices has some promising new receivers in addition to returning starter Tarrio Grigsby. In addition, RB Ashton Stewart and three offensive linemen return. He says the offensive outlook is "much better" this season.

Five starters return on defense. Kris Redden

and Koby Mangum lead the way. Newcomer Jaden Miller, a DL/LB, has the potential to be an impact player. Santelices has made some adjustments to his defensive scheme and was pleased with the unit's progress in the spring.

The Warriors have a solid mixture of newcomers and experience. "I don't think inexperience is going to overwhelm the new guys," Santelices said. "I believe they will step right in and help us win."

X-FACTOR

Jacob Whitehead, QB, Jr.

Whitehead played quarterback for the first

time when the Warriors opened the 2020 season against West Ouachita. Head Coach Michael Santelices said he was "much better in the spring than last year when he first took snaps at QB where he never played." The Warriors scored only 33 points in five games last season. If Whitehead reaches his potential, Lakeside will have a chance to make some noise in District 1-2A.

ONES TO WATCH

Jacob Whitehead, QB, Jr.; Cade Boley, S, Jr.; Kris Redden, OL/ DE, Sr.; Koby Mangrum, OL/ DE, Sr.; Ashton Stewart, RB, Sr.; Tarrio Grigsby, WR, Sr.



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MPH PROJECTION 5 4

2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1:	Haynesville
WEEK 2:	North Caddo
WEEK 3:	@ Minden
WEEK 4:	Jena
WEEK 5:	Jonesboro-Hdg
WEEK 6:	Bossier
WEEK 7:	Lakeside
WEEK 8:	@ Loyola
WEEK 9:	@ Mansfield
WEEK 10:	Green Oaks

Head Coach: John Ware (Ninth season)

2020: 1-4 (1-1)

Opponent	Result	Score
Minden Sterlington Bossier Lakeside Loyola Mansfield Green Oaks	L W W W L	18-0 35-6 38-20 33-7 30-28 36-20 38-20
Union Parish	L	47-16



The North Webster Knights will begin the 2021 season against Haynesville in Springhill.

SCOUTING REPORT

The Knights go into the season with some experience on both sides of the ball. Six starters return on offense and defense.

Either junior Colin McKenzie or senior Hunter Price will start at QB. McKenzie, one of the fastest players on the team, is a dual threat. Price suffered a season-ending injury in the first game of last season. The player that doesn't win the position will likely see action at another position. The offensive line should be a strength with veteran tackles Drew Hutchinson (6-4, 310) and Tyee Modisette (6-1, 230) along with guard Jacob Carter (6-4, 340). WR Ja'marcus Stephen's and RB/WR Cooper Sanders are also back. Head Coach John Ware believes the running game will be a strength, but he's also been pleased with how the passing game has improved in the offseason.

Stephens, a three-year starter, will also play defense again as a rover. LB Jatereon Robinson, another three-year starter, and DT Mason Jackson lead the other veterans. A plus is size and depth on the line.

Injuries hit North Webster hard last year so keeping those to a minimum is obviously one key to a successful season. The development of the newcomers will also be key. With a District 1-3A race that looks wide open, expect the Knights to be in the thick of it down the stretch.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jatereon Robinson, Senior, Linebacker Ja'marcus Stephens, Senior, Wide receiver/ Rover

Drew Hutchinson, Senior, Tackle







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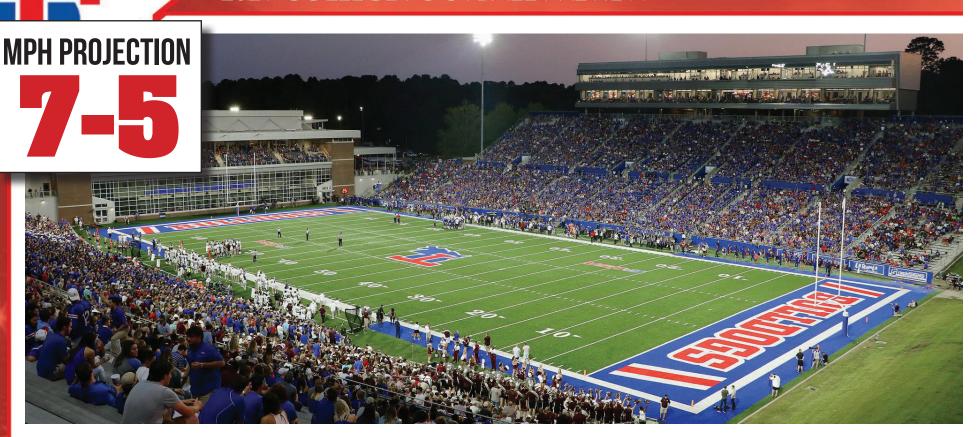
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2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ Mississippi State
WEEK 2	Southeastern Louisian
WEEK 3	SMU
WEEK 4	North Texas
WEEK 5	@ NC State
WEEK 6	Bye
WEEK 7	@ UTEP
WEEK 8	UTSA
WEEK 9	@ Old Dominion
WEEK 10	@ UAB
WEEK 11	Charlotte
WEEK 12	Southern Miss
WEEK 13	Bye
WEEK 14	@ Rice

Head Coach: Skip Holtz (Eighth season)

2020: 1-4 (1-1)

Opponent	Result	Score
Southern Miss Houston Baptist BYU UTEP Marshall UTSA UAB North Texas TCU	W W L W L L W W L L .	31-30 66-38 45-14 21-17 35-17 27-26 37-34 (2 OT) 42-31 52-10
Georgia Southern	L	38-3

SCOUTING REPORT

The Bulldogs are coming off a solid season that concluded with their six-game bowl winning coming to an end with a 38-3 loss to Georgia Southern in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl. COVID-19 related issues forced the Bulldog to go 33 days without a game after a 37-34 double-overtime victory over eventual C-USA champ UAB in Week 7.

The Bulldogs return two experienced QBs in Luke Anthony, a graduate student, and sophomore Aaron Allen. Anthony suffered a leg injury late last season. After having surgery to repair the damage he had to have a followup procedure and probably won't be at full strength in fall camp.

Tech coach Skip Holtz worked the Transfer Portal this summer and added six players, including QB Austin Kendall, who played at Oklahoma for three seasons before transferring to West Virginia for the last two.

Two transfer RBs, Marcus Williams (Appalachian State) and Keyon Henry Brooks (Vander-

bilt), will help boost the running game, a weakness last season. Sophomore Smoke Harris, the Bulldogs' second-leading receiver last season, is also back along with Griffin Hebert and Isaiah Graham.

Defense was not Tech's strong suit last year. The Bulldogs allowed 34.9 points per game. But with10 starters back, that could change this season.

Head coach Skip Holtz has led the Bulldogs to seven straight bowl games. Tech will once again be a strong contender for both the C-USA West and overall titles. An eighth straight trip to a bowl game is certainly within reach.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Tyler Grubbs, LB

Grubbs was named to several freshman All-America teams last season. He led the team in tackles with 99 and was second in tackles for loss with 9.5. Grubbs ranked second in the conference and 25th in the FBS in tackles per game at 9.9 and was sixth in the conference in tackles for loss in 9.5. If Grubbs continues to improve, he could be one of the best at his position in the county.







2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

MEEK 2

VVEEN Z	@ Southern Miss
WEEK 3	@ Houston
WEEK 4	Prairie View A&M @ Dallas
WEEK 5	Alabama A&M
WEEK 6	@ Alcorn State
WEEK 7	Texas Southern
WEEK 8	Bye
WEEK 9	@ Florida A&M
WEEK 10	@ Arkansas-Pine Bluff
WEEK 11	Bethune-Cookman
WEEK 12	Bye
WEEK 13	Southern @ New Orleans

@ Couthorn Mico

Tennessee State @ Canton, OH

Head Coach: Broderick Fobbs (Eighth season)

2021 SPRING: 0-4

Opponent	Result	Score
Jackson State Prairie View A&M Arkansas-Pine Bluff Southern	L L L	33-28 17-10 48-21 49-7

SCOUTING REPORT

The Tigers' abbreviated four-game spring season was tough in more ways than one. First, GSU lost its first two games in the final seconds. Then, after a loss to Arkansas-Pine Bluff, the Tigers' next two games were postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A depleted Grambling State team was then routed by Southern in the Bayou Classic in Shreveport.

Things are almost back to normal now. The Bayou Classic will be back at the Caesars Superdome and the Tigers have an 11-game schedule. As far as the spring season, Head Coach Broderick Fobbs said at SWAC Media Day in July that the Tigers have to just forget about it. "We don't really talk about it because we've learned what we needed to learn from it. We've gotten out of it what we needed to get out of it."

Elijah Walker, who played in all four games last spring, is the likely starter at QB. The Tigers have a potential star at RB in CJ Russell. There is something new. The SWAC has added Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M. The Tigers play them both.

The defense had its moments in the spring

season but COVID-19 took its toll in the final two games, especially the Bayou Classic. The return of DB Danquarian Fields from a severe leg injury in 2019 will be a boost.

Fobbs is a proven winner. He led the Tigers to three straight SWAC championships from 2015-17 and the Black College national title in 2017. It won't be a surprise if GSU returns to form this season.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

DB Danguarian Fields

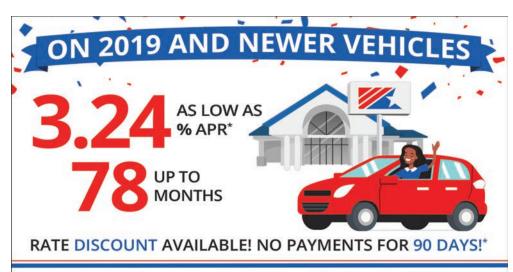
After suffering a gruesome leg injury early in the 2019 season, the former Arcadia star missed the 2021 spring season. But it looks like he'll be ready for his final year of eligibility.

Kenon Fontenot, DB, Jr.

A second-team Preseason All-SWAC selection, Fontenot ranked second on the team in tackles during the spring.

CJ Russell, RB, Fr.

The former Arcadia star rushed for 148 yards on 34 carries, an average of 4.4 yards per carry, in the spring.







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MPH PROJECTION



2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ UCLA
WEEK 2	McNeese State
WEEK 3	Central Michigan
WEEK 4	@ Mississippi State
WEEK 5	Auburn
WEEK 6	@ Kentucky
WEEK 7	Florida
WEEK 8	@ Ole Miss
WEEK 9	Bye
WEEK 10	@ Alabama
WEEK 11	Arkansas
WEEK 12	ULM
WEEK 13	Texas A&M

Head Coach: Ed Orgeron (Sixth season)

2020: 5-5 (5-5 SEC)

Opponent	Result	Score
Mississippi State Vanderbilt Missouri South Carolina Auburn Arkansas Texas A&M Alabama	L W L W L L	44-34 41-7 45-41 52-24 48-11 27-24 21-7 55-17
Florida Ole Miss	W	37-34 53-48

SCOUTING REPORT

Is it possible for a head coach just two years removed from a 15-0 season and national championship to be on the hot seat? In this whathave-you-done-for-me-lately world, it very well could be. After last season's 5-5 season, Ed Orgeron probably will keep his job unless this season is an unmitigated disaster, but it's something worth watching.

There were, of course, extenuating circumstances last season related to the CO-VID-19 pandemic. Key players, including 2019 Biletnikoff Award winner Ja'Marr Chase, opted out before and during the season. Orgeron had to replace 16 starters. Injuries also were a factor with starting QB Myles Brennan suffering a season-ending one in the third game of the season.

Brennan's tough luck is continuing. He suffered a left arm injury in August that required surgery. That leaves Max Johnson, who was

20

impressive late in the season, as the likely starter. New offensive coordinator Jake Peetz will try to return the Tigers to their 2019 form, or at least as close to it as possible. WR Kayshon Boutte should have a big year, but the Tigers need someone to step up and complement him.

By any measure, the defense was a mess last season. LSU ranked No. 11 in the SEC in points allowed at 34.9 points per game and secondto-last in total yards allowed. Defensive coordinator Bo Pelini was shown the door and replaced by Minnesota Vikings defensive backs coach Daronte Jones.

All-America DB Derek Stingley Jr. returns for what surely will be his final season. While the Tigers defense against the pass last season was abysmal, he and Eli Ricks have the opportunity to change that. Four senior starters return on the line but the linebacker position is a question mark.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Max Johnson, QB, So.

With a preseason injury to Myles Brennan, it looks like Johnson will be the starter. He was impressive late last season, leading the Tigers to back-to-back wins over Florida and Ole Miss. Appearing in six games, he passed for 1,069 yards and eight TDs with just one interception.

Derek Stingley Jr. CB, Jr.

Expectations have been skyhigh for Stingley since he first stepped on the field as a freshman and he has met them. He has been named first-team All-America his first two seasons. After playing all 15 games in 2019, he appeared in seven last season, missing one with an illness and the last two with an injury.

Kayshon Boutte

WR, So.

A first-team All-SEC Freshman Team selection, Boutte set an SEC record for receiving yards in a game with 308 in a win over Ole Miss in the season finale. He closed the season with three straight games of 100-plus yards receiving. He may not quite be on Ja'Marr Chase's level, but the potential is there.

Ali Gaye

DE. Sr.

A second-team All-SEC selection, Gaye had 32 tackles and two sacks last season. His play was a bright spot on a defense that struggled. He leads four senior starters returning on the













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LSU, Orgeron, have sights set on redemption in 2021

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — After a turbulent 2020 that saw LSU narrowly avoid its first losing record since 1999, the Tigers are garnering considerable preseason respect with a No. 16 national ranking in the AP Top 25 Poll.

The reasons stem from the number of experienced regulars returning, sophomore quarterback Max Johnson's continued progress and coach Ed Orgeron's decision to hire new offensive and defensive coordinators.

"We know that we have to be lot better than we were last year," Orgeron said, adding that "there's a little chip on my shoulder," and those of his players.

"Last year was not who we are," added Johnson, son of former NFL QB Brad Johnson. "We're excited about this year."

After a competitive loss at Texas A&M last November dropped LSU to 3-5 and one loss from a losing season, the Tigers finished with victories over Florida and Mississippi in Johnson's first career starts to go 5-5.

Returning All-America cornerback Derek Stingley Jr. said those victories sent LSU into spring practice with momentum, confidence and greater team chemistry.

"We're going to keep on building on what we got going," Stingley said. "When we're the best version of ourselves, we're one of the best in the country."

LSU has 18 players who started games last season returning, some taking advantage of an extra year of eligibility provided by the NCAA in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They include QB Myles Bren-



Tammy Anthony Baker, Photographer Head Coach Ed Orgeron, SELU vs LSU at Tiger Stadium, September 8th 2018,

nan, who was set to compete with Johnson for a starting job before breaking his left (non-throwing) arm while falling during a fishing trip. If he returns during the season, it'll give LSU enviable depth behind center.

A year ago, the Tigers were hurt because of pandemic-related optouts by key players just before and during the season, most notably that of star receiver Ja'Marr Chase.

This year, Orgeron stressed, has been "totally different" and that a "sense of normalcy" has returned. Numerous veterans "made a decision to come back. We've got a great freshmen class," Orgeron said. "There was a lot of outside influences that caused negativity (in 2020), some stuff we couldn't control. I think none of that stuff has happened" in 2021.

CONFIDENT CORNERBACKS

LSU has one of the top projected cornerback tandems in the nation. This is likely Stingley's final audition for the NFL, and at the other cornerback spot is Eli Ricks, who had four interceptions as a freshman last season.

Stingley has six career interceptions but is looking to bounce back after having none in seven games last season.

CATCHING ON

Receiver Kayshon Boutte is primed for a big sophomore season after emerging as a top target late in 2020, highlighted by his SEC-record 308 yards and 3 TDs on 14 receptions in the season finale against Ole Miss.

Boutte said he never expected such a breakout performance and isn't about to rest on it.

"To this day, I still don't really talk about it because it's still much to improve on," Boutte said. "I was just a freshman. I learned more, got experience. I just got to come back harder."

Boutte leads a receiver corps that Orgeron has raved about and which includes upperclassmen Jeray Jenkins and Jontre Kirklin, and a few freshmen who were coveted recruits, such as 6-foot-4 Brian Thomas.

UP FRONT

LSU has four starters returning on an offensive line that will be responsible for protecting Johnson and opening lanes for experienced running backs John Emery Jr. and Tyrion Davis-Price.

"We all have some playing time up under us, so we all know what to do," left guard Ed Ingram said. "We're going to be a dominant force."

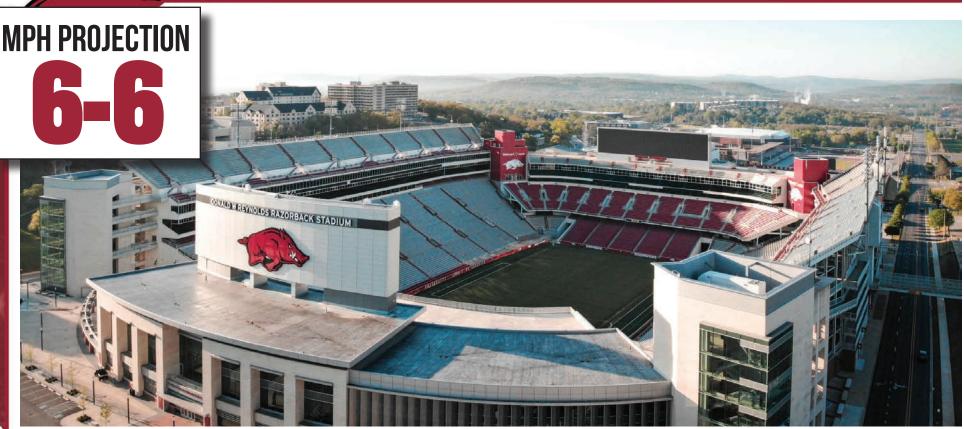
COORDINATOR TURNOVER

After winning the 2019 national championship, LSU lost passing game coordinator Joe Brady, who became and NFL offensive coordinator in Carolina, and defensive coordinator Joe Aranda, now head coach at Baylor. Their replacements - Scott Linehan on offense and Bo Pelini on defense — lasted one season, and offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger stepped down. Jake Peetz, who worked under Brady at Carolina in 2020, is the new offensive coordinator, while Daronte Jones has taken over as defensive coordinator after serving as an NFL defensive assistant at Minnesota last year.

"We have some young coordinators that have never called games before, so they're energetic," Orgeron said. "They want to prove themselves."

SCHEDULE

LSU opens at UCLA on Sept. 4. Other big games include a visit to Alabama on Nov. 6 and a regular season finale at home against Texas A&M on Nov. 27.



2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	Rice
WEEK 2	Texas
WEEK 3	Georgia Southern
WEEK 4	Texas A&M @ Arlington, Texas
WEEK 5	@ Georgia
WEEK 6	@ Ole Miss
WEEK 8	Auburn
WEEK 9	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
WEEK 10	Bye
WEEK 11	Mississippi State
WEEK 12	@ LSU ·
WEEK 13	@ Alabama
WEEK 14	Missouri

Head Coach: Sam Pittman (Second season)

2020: 3-7 (3-7 SEC)

Opponent	Result	Score
Georgia Mississippi State Auburn Ole Miss Texas A&M Tennessee Florida LSU Missouri	L W L W L L	37-10 21-14 30-28 33-21 42-31 24-13 63-35 27-24 50-48
Alabama	L	52-3

SCOUTING REPORT

After finishing 3-7 in Sam Pittman's first year as head coach, the Razorbacks will be looking for improvement in most areas of the game.

Defense was a major factor in Arkansas' lack of success. The Razorbacks gave up an average of 34.9 points (tied for 10th SEC) and 451.7 yards (11th) per game. The return of LB Grant Morgan, a first-team All-SEC selection, and DB Jalen Catalon, a first-team selection on the AP team, along with seven other starters gives Razorbacks fans reason for optimism.

Arkansas will have a new starter at QB. Redshirt sophomore KJ Jefferson is the heir apparent, but he could face some competition from redshirt freshman Malik Hornsby. The return of WR Treylon Burks, a second-team All-SEC selection last season, will obviously help. RB Trelon Smith, the team's leading rusher last season, is also back along with the entire offensive line.

With the huge amount of experience Arkansas has, the potential is there for improvement. If that doesn't occur, Pittman may find himself on the hot seat after just two seasons.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

WR Treylon Burks

Burks was named first-team preseason All-America by Phil Steele. He had a team-high 51 receptions for 820 yards and seven touchdowns last season.

DB Jalen Catalon

Catalon was named secondteam preseason All-America by Phil Steele. He had 99 tackles, three interceptions and two forced fumbles last season.

LB Grant Morgan

A second-team Phill Steele preseason All-American, Morgan led the team last season with 111 tackles, including 7.5 for loss, and two sacks.

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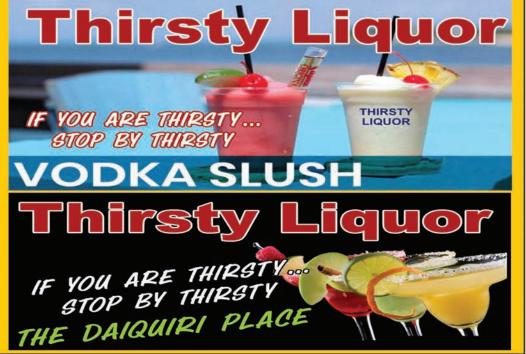
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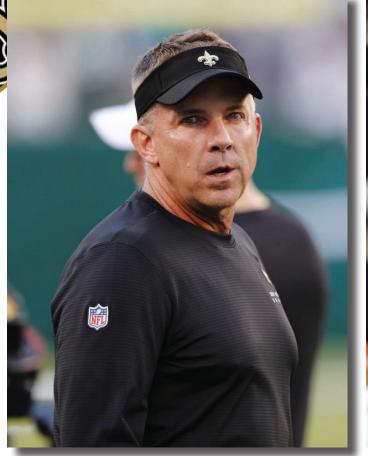
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2021 PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PREVIEW





Michael Thomas

MPH PROJECTION

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Michael Thomas, WR

A high ankle sprain and a disciplinary issue made 2020 a tough season. Ligament surgery in June will keep him on the sidelines early. The Saints' success could hinge on him returning to his 2019 form, when he was by far the league's best receiver.

Demario Davis, LB

Davis is back for his 10th season, the last three with the Saints. He showed no signs of slowing down last season with a team-high 73 solo tackles. But he only had four sacks, down from 15.5 in 2019.

2021 SCHEDULE

Sean Payton

Green Bay Packers
@ Carolina Panthers
@ New England Patriots
New York Giants
@ Washington Football Team
Bye
@ Seattle Seahawks
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Atlanta Falcons
@ Tennessee Titans
@ Philadelphia Eagles
Buffalo Bills
Dallas Cowboys
@ New York Jets
@ Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Miami Dolphins
Carolina Panthers
@ Atlanta Falcons

Head Coach: Sean Payton (16th season)

2020: 12-4 (1st in NFC East)

OFFENSE: #5 in Total Yards DEFENSE: #4 in Total Yards

SCOUTING REPORT

The Drew Brews era is over. What will be the next era for the New Orleans Saints be known

Brees retired after leading the Saints to a 12-4 record and the NFC South Division championship. He spent 20 years as a quarterback in the NFL, including the last 15 with the Saints, and led New Orleans to its only Super Bowl in the 2009-10 season. His career ended with a loss to eventual champion Tampa Bay in the Divisional Playoffs.

So naturally the focus of the 2021 season is on the quarterback position. Who will start — Taysom Hill or Jameis Winston? Hill has been with the Saints since 2017 and used in a variety of ways. Last season, he filled in for an injured Brees for four games and went 3-1. Winston joined the Saints in 2020 after starting for Tampa Bay from 2015-19. He saw limited action last season.

Unfortunately, whoever gets the starting job will likely not have WR Michael Thomas

for awhile. According to reports, Thomas had surgery on his ankle in June to repair ligament damage and will not be ready for the opener. Thomas missed eight games last season, seven of those because of a high ankle sprain.

RB Alvin Kamara, who signed a five-year, \$75 million contract before last season, finished the 2020 regular season with 932 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns in 15 games. He also had 756 yards receiving and five TD catches.

The losses of Sheldon Rankins, Janoris Jenkins and Trey Hendrickson will hurt, but the Saints have a chance to have another solid defense. LB Demario Davis, a second-team All-Pro selection last season who led the team in tackles, is back along with SS Malcolm Jenkins, S Chauncey Gardner-Johnson, CB Marshon Lattimore and DE Cameron Jordan among others.

However, Lattimore and DT David Onyemata are facing possible suspensions for violations of league policies. With a new starting quarterback learning the ropes, the defense may be under more pressure to perform well, especially early in the season.



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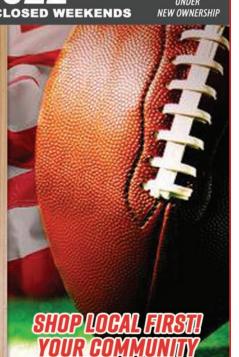


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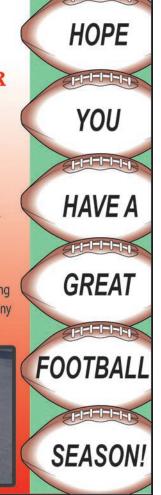
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Saints arms race: Winston vs Hill in bid to succeed Brees

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — Even as Jameis Winston insists he's going to make better decisions with the football, the potential successor to Drew Brees in New Orleans doesn't want to give the impression he's going to shy away from aggressive, downfield throws.

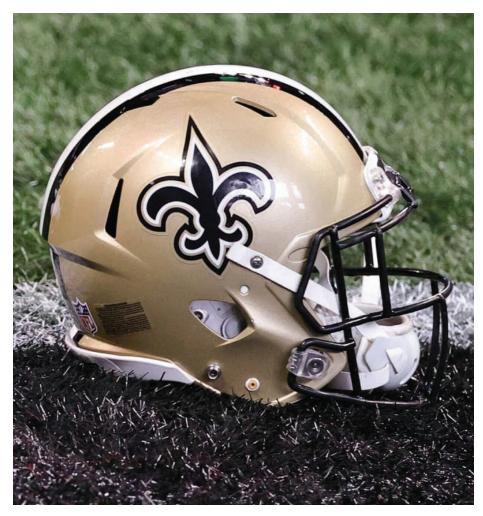
There's "no check-down mentality," Winston asserted after training camp practice at Saints headquarters on Saturday. "It's: Take what they give you. That's one thing our coaches preach. ... We want to be able to move through those progressions quickly and be able to get the ball completed."

Unlike the past 15 seasons, when Brees was shattering franchise and NFL passing records, the Saints do not have a clear-cut starting quarterback heading into the season. It will be either Taysom Hill, who went 3-1 as a fill-in starter when Brees was injured last season, or Winston, a 2015 top overall draft choice who passed for 5,109 yards and 33 touchdowns with Tampa Bay in 2019, but also was intercepted an NFL-high 30 times.

After being unceremoniously let go by the Bucs when they saw an opportunity to acquire Tom Brady, Winston approached his 2020 campaign as an apprenticeship under Brees and coach Sean Payton, who designs a Saints offense that has been among the most prolific in the NFL the past 15 years.

When Brees retired, Winston signed for at least one more season with New Orleans, giving him an opportunity to compete with Hill.

"You can't put a price on having an opportunity to be an NFL (starting) quarterback," Winston said. "I think it's one of the most desired



positions in all of sports."

This is a nuanced competition in that Winston and Hill are different stylistically. Payton isn't necessarily judging how they execute the same plays. Rather, he's trying to discern whose style will give the club the best chance to win. Winston has well-documented arm talent. Hill is a dual-threat quarterback who — even when Brees was healthy — was regularly subbed in for designed option runs.

Payton said his offense will "evolve and take on a little bit of a new life of its own based on who's playing quarterback."

Hill rushed for 457 yards and eight TDs last season, when he

also completed 73% of his passes for 928 yards and four TDs vs. two interceptions.

While Payton won't rule out something akin to a platoon system, that's not his preference.

"Generally speaking, I think it's important to have a stable leader in there at that position," he said.

Payton has been alternating which quarterback takes first-team snaps in camp. Hill did the first two practices. Winston did during the third on Saturday. Both have had highlights in 11-on-11 drills: Winston found Deonte Harris with a deep, anticipatory pass that went for a touchdown during the first day; Hill connected with Marquez

Callaway on a back-shoulder throw down the right sideline Saturday.

"They've put a ton of time in, both of them," Payton said. "And they've been fantastic working together. So it will kind of take care of itself, I think."

Hill said he changed his offseason training routine — placing greater emphasis on some muscle groups, and less on others — in an effort to produce a more typical quarterback physique. The Saints previously sought to take advantage of Hill's combination of size, speed and strength by using him in physical roles such as on special teams or as a tight end.

But since last season ended, Hill said he wanted to "lean out" and come into camp lighter. He has worked harder on strengthening the back side of his shoulders, which he said helps with throwing, as opposed to the front of his shoulders, which he used to apply force on opponents.

"Throughout my career here, I was always trying to find that balance of being strong enough to do what I was going to be asked to do, but still be able to throw a ball," Hill said. "So there was definitely a transition."

But Hill said reshaping his body more like that of a prototypical quarterback doesn't mean he'll stop trying to make plays with his legs.

"It's a difficult balance sometimes as a dual-threat quarterback. ... But I try to stay true to my reads," he said. "And the great thing is, if there's nothing there, then I can make something happen" by running.



PLAYERS TO WATCH

WR CeeDee Lamb

Lamb caught 74 passes for 935 yards and five touchdowns in his rookie season last year. With Dak Prescott back, those numbers will likely go up. He has the potential to be one of the league's most exciting players.

S Donavan Wilson

The former Woodlawn Knight is entering his fourth season with the Cowboys. With Xavier Woods signing with Minnesota, his leadership in the defensive backfield will be counted

Dak Prescott

2021 SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers

WEEK 2 @ San Diego Chargers

WEEK 3 Philadelphia Eagles

WEEK 4 Carolina Panthers

WEEK 5 New York Giants

WEEK 6 @ New England Patriots

WEEK 7 Bye

WEEK 8 @ Minnesota Vikings

WEEK 9 Denver Broncos

WEEK 10 Atlanta Falcons

WEEK 11 @ Kansas City Chiefs

WEEK 12 Las Vegas Raiders

WEEK 13 @ New Orleans Saints

WEEK 14 @ Washington Football Team

WEEK 15 @ New York Giants

WEEK 16 Washington Football Team

WEEK 17 Arizona Cardinals

WEEK 18 @ Philadelphia Eagles

Head Coach: Mike McCarthy (Second season)

2020: 6-10* (Tied for 2nd in NFC East) *Missed playoffs

OFFENSE: #13 Total Yards DEFENSE: #23 Total Yards

SCOUTING REPORT

The big question entering the 2021 season is the health of QB Dak Prescott, a former Haughton star. After starting every game of his career beginning with his 2016 rookie season, Prescott suffered a compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle in Week 5 last year against the New York Giants causing him to miss the rest of the season. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones obviously believes Prescott will be ready to go when the season opens, signing him to a four-year contract worth \$160 million in March.

RB Ezekiel Elliot ranked 11th in the league in rushing last season with 979 yards on 244 carries. WR Amari Cooper ranked 14th with 92 receptions for 1,114 yards. WRs CeeDee Lamb and Michael Gallup give Dallas a formidable trio of receivers. The OL was decimated by injuries last season. The return of tackles La'el Col-

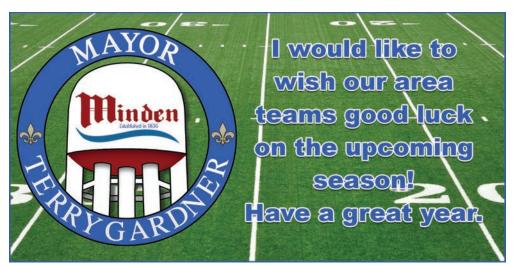
lins and Tyron Smith will be a boost. The return of TE Blake Jarwin from an ACL tear should also be helpful.

Edge rushers Randy Gregory and DeMarcus Lawrence are considered one on the top duos in the league. LB Jaylon Smith, who led the team in tackles, also returns. The DL struggled against the run and must improve. The Cowboys must find a replacement for S Xavier Woods, a former Louisiana Tech star who signed with Minnesota in March. Rookie LB Micah Parsons, the 12th pick in the draft, will be a welcome addition. Veteran LB Leighton Vander Esch is in the final year of a five-year contract and will be looking to impress. Another rookie LB, fourth-round pick Jabril Cox out of LSU, could also be a factor.

Regardless, it all goes back to Prescott. If he returns to his pre-injury form, it could make Mike McCarthy's season a successful one.

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