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FOOTBALL PREVIEW '24

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Uncertain 2024 makes predictions a challenge

It's always a challenge to predict what might happen in a particular high school football season. There are just too many uncertainties.

With openers looming for the four parish teams, the 2024 season in Webster Parish is no exception.

Will we see a turnaround like the one North Webster produced last season, going from 2-8 in 2022 to 7-5?

The Minden Crimson Tide will be looking to bounce back from a 3-8 season. Last year, the Tide lost some close games early then finished the season strong.

They will be looking to build off that momentum. Hudson Brown returns after a solid junior season. Senior running back Dunovan

Robinson played well down the stretch.

Four out of five starters on the offensive line return. The defense should be improved with the return of seven starters, including first-team All-District 1-4A selection Deme-trius Robinson.

Speaking of 1-4A, the district has a new look with the departures of Evangel Christian and Huntington to 1-5A and the addition of Southwood, a program that has been down for several years.

But stalwarts North DeSoto, the defending champion, and Northwood remain. Does Minden have what it takes to break their stranglehold on the district? Three developments in the offseason loom large.

Michael Santelices stepped down as head

coach at Lakeside. John Ware stepped down as head coach at North Webster after 12 seasons and promptly replaced Santelices, who remains as an assistant.

Then Christopher Wilson was hired to replace Ware. Wilson knows what it takes to win championships. He was an assistant at North DeSoto the last two seasons, helping the Griffins achieve unprecedented success. He takes over a North Webster team that should contend for the District 1-3A championship with 15 returning starters. Among those is running back Braedon Robertson, who will be looking for another big season. Ware is taking over a Lakeside team that has moved from District 1-2A to 3-2A. The Warriors got off to a 3-1 start last season

before losing six straight as injuries piled up. Glenbrook is coming off an 8-3 season in Reagan Smith's first season as head coach. The Apaches reached the second round of the select Division IV playoffs. Glenbrook lost most of the key players who contributed to that success to graduation. But senior Easton Sanders, one of the area's best athletes, returns at quarterback. Defending champion Haynesville, the runner-up in non-select Division IV last season, is a big favorite to repeat. But Glenbrook has the potential to be the Tors' main challenger.

By Russell Hedges
Sports Editor, Minden Press-Herald



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GLENBROOK APACHES

Head Coach

Reagan Smith (8-3, 2nd year)

Stadium

Apaches Field

Scouting report

Offense: The Apaches will be inexperienced after losing several key members off last season's team, including leading rusher Chase Sentell and receiver Landry Powell. But Senior QB Easton Sanders returns after a solid 2023 season. He'll have a big target in 6-foot-5 senior TE Brayson Cummings. Senior RB Jackson Waller figures to have a big year. The offensive line, anchored by sophomore G Nolan Still (6-1, 327), will be a strength. Senior G Daivari Jackson and sophomore Franklin Bridwell also give the Apaches strength and size up front.

Defense: The line will be a strength. Senior Daivari Jackson will be looking for a breakout season. Senior Jonathan Bryant (5-9, 250) will be a disruptive force with his strength. Nolan Still will be a factor on both sides of the ball. DE Brayson Cummings is expected to contribute. Senior Cade Vining is a returning starter at MLB. Senior Seth Mangrum and Jackson Waller are veteran DBs.

Overall: The Apaches lost several key leaders to graduation, but they have the potential to have another very good season. Easton Sanders can make big plays passing and running. Jackson Waller will have an impact on both sides of the ball. The defense is big and strong. There is a good mixture of players from sophomores to seniors. If things fall into place, Glenbrook will be in the thick of the chase for the district championship.



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD

Glenbrook senior quarterback Easton Sanders returns after helping the Apaches reach the playoffs last season.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6 @ Magnolia School
Sept. 13 @ Bossier
Sept. 20 @ Acadiana Charter
Sept. 27 Cedar Creek
Oct. 4 @ Plain Dealing
Oct. 11 Arcadia
Oct. 18 @ Lincoln Prep
Nov. 1 @ Jonesboro-Hodge
Nov. 8 Haynesville

2023 RESULTS: 8-3

Cedar Creek W 22-18
Bossier W 28-6
Delta Charter W 55-32
Haynesville L 34-14
Arcadia W 29-6
Magnolia School W 55-0
Ringgold W 61-6
Plain Dealing W 70-20
Homer L 38-28
Sacred Heart W 49-12 (playoffs)
St. Mary's L 30-27 (playoffs)

PLAYERS TO WATCH IN 2024

► Easton Sanders QB/PK, Sr.

One of the area's best athletes, Sanders passed for more than 1,400 yards last season. He was also a second-team All-District selection at kicker.

► Jackson Waller RB/DB, Sr.

A second-team All-District selection at receiver and defensive back last year, Waller will be looking for a big year at running back.

► Daivari Jackson DL/OL, Sr.

A first-team All-District selection at DE last season. Jackson is among the team leaders. Smith said he had a great offseason.



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LAKESIDE WARRIORS

Head Coach
John Ware (1st year)

Stadium
Lakeside Stadium

Scouting report

Offense: Junior Brock Case returns at quarterback. James Maxie and Eli Santilices figure to be his main receivers. RB Taron Riley is a returning starter. Kentravion Miller should be a force at fullback. TE Trevor Tharpe is a strong blocker who will also be counted on as a receiver. Three senior starters return on the line — center Eli Campbell, guard Jamarion Evans and tackle Willie Jenkins.

Defense: James Maxie, Taron Riley and Eli Santalices lead what should be a strong secondary. Kentravion Miller is back at LB and should be a playmaker. DE Trevor Tharpe is expected to play a big role. Willie Jenkins and Jamarion Evans will anchor the line.

Overall: The Warriors got off to a strong start last season before injuries decimated the team in the second half of the season. Lakeside has moved from District 1-2A to 3-2A which includes perennial power Many. But the Warriors' schedule sets up well for them. One issue is the number of two-way players and depth, which is something 2A schools often face. Conditioning will be key. John Ware is a proven success as a head coach. He can turn things around but there will be challenges.



RUSSELL HEDGES/PRESS-HERALD

Brock Case sets up for a pass against Loyola last year.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6 @ Arcadia
Sept. 13 LaSalle
Sept. 20 Plain Dealing
Sept. 27 @ Northwood-Lena
Oct. 4 Montgomery
Oct. 11 Many
Oct. 18 @ Red River
Oct. 25 @ Ringgold
Nov. 1 @ Mansfield
Nov. 8 Winnfield

2023 RESULTS: 3-7

Arcadia L 26-14
Ringgold W 41-16
Plain Dealing W 51-20
Block W 41-34
Lincoln Prep L 6-0
D'Arbonne Woods Charter L 49-0
North Caddo L 42-24
Loyola L 52-0
Calvary Baptist L 52-0
Green Oaks L 48-30

PLAYERS TO WATCH IN 2024

► Eli Santilices WR/DB, Sr.

A second-team All-District 1-2A selection at linebacker last season, Santilices will play important roles in all three phases of the game.

► Brock Case QB, Jr.

An outstanding athlete with a strong arm, Case has the potential to be one of the district's top playmakers.

► Taron Riley RB/DB, Sr.

A returning starter, Riley showed a lot of potential last season. He is part of what should be a strong secondary.

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Head Coach

Spencer Heard (64-57, 12th season))

Stadium

W.W. Williams Stadium

Scouting report

Offense: Hudson Brown returns at QB after a solid sophomore season. RB Dunovan Robinson, who excelled down the stretch last season, is also back. They are among seven starters returning. Both will benefit from a line with four veterans led by 6-foot-4, 290-pound Jonathan Bradford. Heard is expecting big things from TE Mikey Shepherd and WR Jaxon Smith, an outstanding athlete. Porter Neal and Caylien Aubrey saw significant action at the wing/slot position last year. Neal is coming off an outstanding track season. Braxton Glover, a soccer player, is the new kicker.

Defense: Seven starters return led by three-year starter Demetrius Robinson up front and Brayden Britton in the secondary. Other returnees include DE Jarvis Davis, LB Jaylon McKinney and LB Landyn Huddleston. Heard expects 6-4 Kameron Harris to be a force in the middle of the secondary. S Treshun Young's speed will be an asset. Brody Glover, a soccer player, will handle punting

Overall: Minden was a better team last season than its record showed. With a lot of experience on both sides of the ball, the win count should go up significantly this season. The Tide had trouble staying with District 1-4A's top teams, North DeSoto and Northwood, last year. They will be in a better position to compete with them this season. If they can do that, the Tide will be in the thick of the title race.



RUSSELL HEDGES/PRESS-HERALD

Minden's Hudson Brown fires a pass against North Webster last year.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6 @ Mansfield
Sept. 13 Homer
Sept. 20 @ North Webster
Sept. 27 Woodlawn
Oct. 4 Loyola
Oct. 11 @ North DeSoto
Oct. 18 @ BTW
Oct. 25 @ Bossier
Nov. 1 Northwood
Nov. 8 @ Southwood (IS)

2023 RESULTS: 3-8

Parkway L 43-41
Homer L 26-20
North Webster L 28-21
North DeSoto L 51-0
Huntington L 32-16
Bossier W 27-6
Northwood L 42-16
Evangel Christian L 56-0
BTW W 16-8
Woodlawn W 36-6
West Feliciana L 42-8 (playoffs)

PLAYERS TO WATCH IN 2024

► Demetrius Robinson LB, Sr.

A three-year starter and 2023 first-team All-District selection, Robinson is expected to be a leader on defense. Quickness is one of his greatest assets.

► Brayden Britton CB, Sr.

Heard says Britton is "a gifted athlete with exceptional speed and agility." He has the ability to be a gamechanger by forcing turnovers.

► Jonathan Bradford OT, Sr.

A first-team All-District selection last season, Bradford has received several college offers. Heard says he's a leader both on and off the field.

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NORTH WEBSTER KNIGHTS

Head Coach

Christopher Wilson (1st season)

Stadium

Baucum-Farrar Stadium

Scouting report

Offense: Junior Christian Whitlock, who was the starter most of last season, returns at QB in the Knights' new spread offense. Senior RB Braedon Robertson, coming off a big 2023 season, is also back along with speedy slotback J'Kobe Lawson. Other returning starters are senior WR Marvaion White, junior OL Hudson Smith, senior OL Sam Morgan and senior OL Hunter Evans.

Defense: The Knights will be strong at linebacker with the return of first-team All-District selections Ja'Myrian Jackson and Ke'Maurion Jefferson, both juniors, and second-team selection Jeremiah Washington, a sophomore. Senior S Cam Lewis, senior rover Jasavion Miller and senior DL Braylon Richardson we're all second-team All-District selections last season. CB J'Kobe Lawson also returns.

Overall: The Knights have the potential for another outstanding season. A lot will depend on how the offense adapts to Wilson's new system. Both J'Kobe Lawson and Braedon Robertson are capable of making big plays. The defense could be the team's strength with eight returning starters. The Knights have a strong non-district schedule that includes Haynesville, Minden and Homer. Defending champion Sterlington is the District 1-3A favorite, but North Webster will certainly be a contender.



RUSSELL HEDGES/PRESS-HERALD

North Webster quarterback Christian Whitlock fires a pass.

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 6 @ Haynesville
Sept. 13 @ North Caddo
Sept. 20 Minden
Sept. 27 @ Homer
Oct. 4, @ Garrison, Texas
Oct. 11 Carroll
Oct. 18 @ Sterlington
Oct. 25 Richwood
Nov. 1 Many
Nov. 8 @ Bastrop

2023 RESULTS: 7-5

Haynesville L 29-13
North Caddo W 49-16
Minden W 28-21
Richwood W 28-6
Wossman L 28-21
Union Parish L 43-14
Carroll W 21-13
Sterlington L 28-0
Bastrop W 32-12
Lafayette Renass. W 52-12
Patterson W 42-0 (playoffs)
St. James L 42-12 (playoffs)

PLAYERS TO WATCH IN 2024

► J'Kobe Lawson Slot/CB, Sr.

A first-team All-District selection last season, Lawson had 714 all-purpose yards and scored 14 touchdowns in the regular season.

► Braedon Robertson RB, Sr.

A first-team All-District selection last season, Robertson rushed for 1,216 yards on 149 carries and scored 11 TDs in the regular season.

► Ke'Maurion Jefferson LB, Jr.

A first-team All-District selection last season, Jefferson recorded 96 tackles, including six for loss, in the regular season.

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FOOTBALL PREVIEW '24

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TIGERS



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD

Sophomore RB Kaleb Jackson is looking for a breakout season.

Head Coach

Brian Kelly (20-7, 3rd season; career 283-103-2, 36th year)

Stadium

Tiger Stadium

Scouting report

Offense: Redshirt junior Garrett Nussmeier takes the reins at QB after the departure of Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels to the NFL. 2023 star WRs Malik Nabers and Brian Thomas Jr. are also in the NFL now, but the Tigers remain deep at the position with fifth-year senior Kyren Lacy and RS junior Chris Hilton Jr. leading the way. TE Mason Taylor also returns. Nussmeier will be protected by one of the best lines in the country with returning starters Will Campbell, Emery Jones, Garrett Dillinger and Miles Frazier. Sophomore RB Kaleb Jackson could have a breakout season. Graduate

students Josh Williams and John Emery Jr. will also be in the mix.

Defense: Blake Baker has taken over at coordinator after Matt House was let go following last season's struggles. Junior Harold Perkins Jr. returns to inside LB, the position he played as a star freshman. Senior Greg Penn III also returns at the position. Senior S Major Burns leads the secondary. The line is a big question mark. Fifth-year senior Jacobian Guillory and 6-6 senior DE Sai'vion Jones will be counted on to be impact players, per Athlon Sports.

Overall: If the Tigers are going to contend for an SEC championship much less a national one the defense must improve. Last year, the Tigers allowed 31.5 points per game in SEC play. New coordinator Blake Baker is charged with bringing that number down. The development of Garrett Nussmeier and his relatively inexperienced recei-

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 1 USC @ Las Vegas, 6:30

Sept. 7 Nicholls, 6:30

Sept. 14 @ South Carolina, 11

Sept. 21 UCLA, TBA

Sept. 28 South Alabama, 6:45

Oct. 12 Ole Miss, TBA

Oct. 19 @ Arkansas, TBA

Oct. 26 @ Texas A&M, TBA

Nov. 9 Alabama, TBA

Nov. 16 @ Florida, TBA

Nov. 23 Vanderbilt, TBA

Nov. 30 Oklahoma, TBA

OUR PREDICTION: 10-2

2023 RESULTS: 10-3

Florida State L 45-24

Grambling State W 72-10

Mississippi State W 41-14

Arkansas W 34-31

Ole Miss L 55-49

Missouri W 49-39

Auburn W 48-18

Army W 62-0

Alabama L 42-28

Florida W 52-35

Georgia State W 56-14

Texas A&M W 42-30

Wisconsin W 35-31

ving corps will also be key. Nussmeier was impressive in the Tigers' bowl victory over Wisconsin but SEC competition looms. With a 12-team playoff, LSU should certainly be a contender for one of the spots.

Players to Watch

► Garrett Nussmeier, QB, RS Jr. After years of patient waiting, Nussmeier finally gets a chance to show what he can do. He passed for 395 yards in the bowl victory over Wisconsin last season.

► Harold Perkins, LB, Jr. Perkins has moved back to inside linebacker where he had so much success as a freshman. He is likely bound for the NFL after this season.

► Kyren Lacy, WR, fifth-year Sr. After catching 30 passes for 558 yards and seven TDs as the No. 3 receiver last season, Lacy is expected to be Nussmeier's go-to receiver.

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FOOTBALL PREVIEW '24

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY TIGERS



CHAD KEITH/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD

Grambling State quarterback Myles Crawley against LSU.

Head Coach

Mickey Joseph (1st season)

Stadium

Eddie G. Robinson Memorial

Scouting report

Offense: Eric Dooley, a former GSU player and head coach at Southern and Prairie View A&M, is the new coordinator/QB coach. The Tigers will be looking for another big year from redshirt senior QB Myles Crawley, the SWAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year. He will again have sophomore Javon Robinson, the 2023 SWAC Freshman of the Year, at WR. With the top two rushers from last season gone, the Tigers expect transfers Jaden Handy (Ole Miss) and Ke'Travion Hargrove (Memphis) to fill the position. Junior OL Tahj Martin is one of the best in the conference at his position.

Defense: Jason Rollins is the new coordinator. He was the interim head coach at Southern in 2021 and served two seasons as DC at UTSA before that. Redshirt junior DE Isaac Washington and sophomore transfer DB Eric Randall (Louisiana Tech) had solid performances in the weather-shortened spring game. The Tigers lost their top two tacklers from last season. Junior DB Kevin Thomas, who ranked third with 29 tackles, is back. Also returning are RS senior DB Quintin Talley and senior LB Josh Darling.

Outlook: New Head Coach Mickey Joseph takes over a team that should contend not only for the SWAC West title but also for the overall crown. Last year, the Tigers lost three games by five points or less. QB Myles Crawley has already shown what he can do. Last year, the Tigers averaged 28.7 points per game and allowed 28.6. The former number

2024 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 @ UL-Lafayette, 7

Sept. 7 Tuskegee, 6

Sept. 14 @ Texas A&M-Commerce, 6

Sept. 21 Jackson State, 6

Sept. 28 Prairie View A&M @ Dallas, 6

Oct. 12 Alcorn State, 2

Oct. 19 Arkansas-Pine Bluff, 2

Oct. 26 @ Texas Southern, 6

Nov. 2 @ Bethune-Cookman, 2

Nov. 9 Alabama State, 2

Nov. 14 @ Alabama A&M, 7

Nov. 30 Southern @ New Orleans, TBA

OUR PREDICTION: 7-5

2023 RESULTS: 5-6

Hampton L 35-31

LSU L 72-10

Florida Memorial W 58-22

Texas Southern W 35-23

Prairie View A&M W 35-20

Alcorn State L 25-24

Alabama A&M L 45-24

Bethune-Cookman W 28-14

Alabama State L 17-6

Arkansas-Pine Bluff W 43-14

Southern L 27-22

should go up this season and the latter down. According to herosports.com, GSU has 23 transfers, including 17 from FBS schools. The new additions will at the very least add depth and could include some impact players. The Tigers were picked to finish third in the preseason poll in the SWAC West, but it won't be a big surprise if they finish at the top this season.

Players to Watch

► Myles Crawley, QB, RS Sr.
The SWAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, Crawley passed for 2,303 yards and 16 TDs last season.

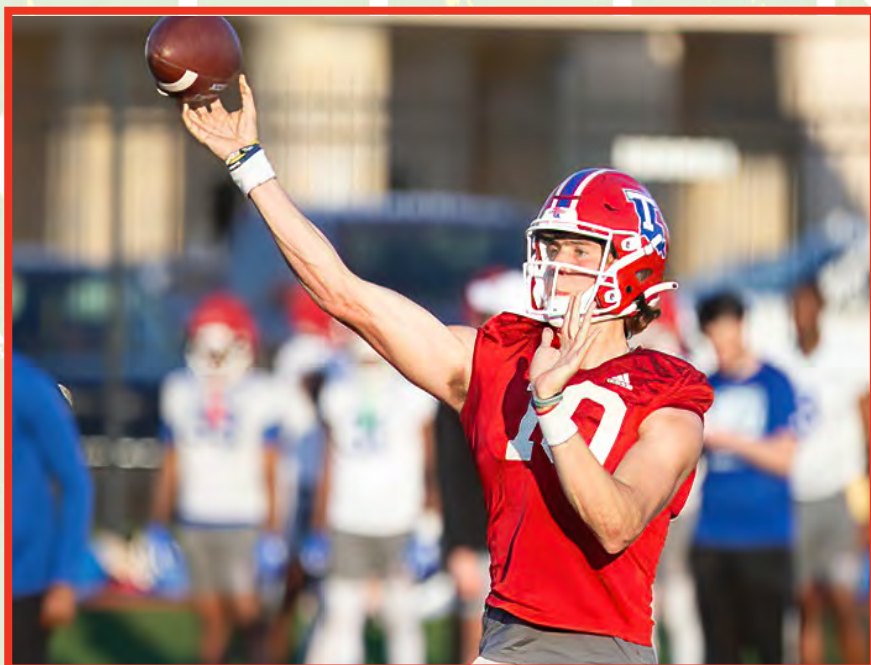
► Tahj Martin, OL, Jr.
A preseason All-SWAC selection, Martin led a line that was statistically the best in the conference last year.

► Javon Robinson, WR, So.
The SWAC Offensive Freshman of the Year last season, Robinson caught 30 passes for 368 yards and two TDs.



FOOTBALL PREVIEW '24

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD

Jack Turner takes over quarterback for the Bulldogs this season.

Head Coach

Sonny Cumbie (6-18, 3rd season)

Stadium

Joe Aillet Stadium

Scouting report

Offense: Redshirt junior Jack Turner takes the reins at QB. He saw plenty of playing time last season subbing for injured Hank Bachmeier. RB Marquis Crosby is back after missing all of last season except one play with an injury. As a redshirt freshman in 2022, he rushed for 918 yards. With All-CUSA WR and return specialist Smoke Harris gone, a bevy of receivers have the potential to see playing time including junior Solo Lewis, redshirt senior Demarcus Griffin-Taylor, sophomore Derrick Latulas, redshirt sophomore Marlion Jackson and Bowling Green transfer Abdul Fatai-Ibrahim, a redshirt senior. Griffin-Taylor takes over as return

specialist. 6-5, 348-pound Bert Hale is back on the line.

Defense: Jeremiah Johnson takes over as the coordinator, bringing an impressive resume with him. His defense is expected to allow players to have more freedom to make plays within multiple schemes. CB Michael Richard, the 2023 CUSA Freshman of the Year, is back along with senior DE Jessie Evans, redshirt junior Kolbe Fields and graduate student DL Mykol Clark. Transfer safeties Blake Thompson and Jordyn Morgan could also be impact players, per Athlon Sports. LB CJ Harris, a Kent State transfer, is another key addition.

Overall: The Bulldogs are coming off 3-9 seasons in Cumbie's first two seasons as head coach. Last season could have been much better as Tech lost four games by eight points or less. Five came down to the final possession. New coordinator Jeremiah Johnson will look to turn around a defense that

2024 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 Nicholls, 7

Sept. 14 @ N.C. State, 11

Sept. 21 Tulsa, 6

Sept. 28 @ FIU, 5

Oct. 10 Middle Tennessee, 7

Oct. 15 @ New Mexico State, 8

Oct. 22 UTEP, 7

Oct. 29 @ Sam Houston, 7

Nov. 9 Jacksonville State, 3:30

Nov. 16 @ WKU, 11

Nov. 23 @ Arkansas, TBA

Nov. 30 Kennesaw State, 2

OUR PREDICTION: 6-6

2023 RESULTS: 3-9

FIU W 22-17

SMU L 38-14

Northwestern State W 51-21

North Texas L 40-37

Nebraska L 28-14

UTEP W 24-10

WKU L 35-28

Middle Tennessee L 31-23

New Mexico State L 27-24

Liberty L 56-30

Sam Houston L 42-27

Jacksonville State L 56-17

allowed 33.4 points per game last season. How Jack Turner develops as a full-time starter will be key. Tech has the potential for a solid season but will have to make some big improvements to contend for the conference title.

Players to Watch

► Jack Turner, QB, RS Jr.

Turner appeared in eight games last season. He completed 84 of 148 passes for 1,017 yards and five touchdowns.

► Marquis Crosby, RB, RS Jr.

Crosby is back after missing all of last season because except one play because of a preseason injury.

► Michael Richard, CB, So.

The CUSA Freshman of the Year last season, Richard had 32 total tackles and seven pass breakups.

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FOOTBALL PREVIEW '24

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY DEMONS



CHRIS REICH/NSU PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

Junior tight end Travon Jones goes up for a catch during a preseason practice.

Head Coach

Blaine McCorkle (1st season)

Stadium

Harry "Rags" Turpin Stadium

Scouting report

Offense: The Demons will have a new look under McCorkle and new coordinator/QB coach Norman Joseph, who has developed a reputation as a play-calling innovator and developer of quarterbacks. Three QBs — senior Quaterius Hawkins, redshirt freshman JT Fayard and sophomore Kekahi Brown — spent time at QB in the spring. Senior Chance Newman could play a variety of positions, including QB. During the summer, NSU added two transfer WRs — 6-3 John Barr and 6-5 Billy Finley. RB Kenieth Lacy returns.

Defense: The defense turned in strong performances in spring scrimmages under new coordinator Matt Connor and could be the team's strength early in the season. Junior LB Cadillac Rhone leads the returning players. During the summer, NSU added three transfer linemen — Atravon Bossier, Cam George and Tyler Lewis — who will add depth. Former Parkway star LB Connor Norcross, a junior, had a solid spring. Redshirt freshman DE Chancellor Owens performed well in the spring. Junior CB Caesar Magee III and junior S Cam Hardy had interceptions in an early fall scrimmage.

Overall: After going 0-6 in last year's shortened season and a change at head coach, there are obviously more questions than answers going into the 2024 season. The Demons will have new looks on both sides of the ball. Depth could be an issue but offseason transfers will help. McCorkle had a lot of success at Belhaven and there's no reason to

believe he can't match that at NSU. But it will be an uphill climb.

Players to Watch

► Cadillac Rhone, LB, Jr.
The Many product ranked third on the team last season with 35 tackles in six games. He is expected to be a playmaker.

► Blake Gotcher, LB, Jr.
A transfer from Lamar, Gotcher recorded 83 tackles in three seasons for the Cardinals.

► Chance Newman, Sr., TE/QB
Newman appeared in all six games last season and could be an impact player at several positions.

2024 SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 @ Tulsa, 7

Sept. 7 Prairie View A&M, 6

Sept. 12 @ South Alabama, 6:30

Sept. 21 Weber State, 6

Sept. 28 @ Southeast Missouri State, 3

Oct. 5 @ Stephen F. Austin, 7

Oct. 12 Texas A&M-Commerce, 2

Oct. 19 @ Nicholls, 11

Oct. 26 Lamar, 2

Nov. 9 @ Southeastern Louisiana, 6

Nov. 16 McNeese, 1

Nov. 23 @ Houston Christian, 2

OUR PREDICTION: 5-7

2023 RESULTS: 0-6

UL-Lafayette L 38-13

Louisiana Tech L 51-21

Stephen F. Austin L 41-7

Eastern Illinois L 19-10

Lamar L 27-13

Southeastern Louisiana

L 37-20

(Rest of season canceled)

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FOOTBALL PREVIEW '24

DALLAS COWBOYS



JEFFREY BEALL

Dak Prescott, quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys.

Head Coach

Mike McCarthy (Cowboys 42-25, 5th season; career 167-103-2, 18th season)

Stadium

AT&T Stadium

Scouting report

Offense: Former Houghton star Dak Prescott enters his ninth season as the starting quarterback needing just 541 yards to reach 30,000 career passing yards. Last season, he led a team that averaged almost 30 points per game. WR Cee Dee Lamb was holding out of camp at press time. WR Brandin Cooks is a new addition. TE Jake Ferguson is a key returnee. RB Tony Pollard is now with the Tennessee Titans. WR Michael Gallup has retired. Veteran RB Ezekiel Elliott is back after one year

with New England. Rico Dowdle, Deuce Vaughn, Royce Freeman and Malik Davis are also in the mix at RB.

Defense: Mike Zimmer, a former Vikings head coach, returns as coordinator, a position he held from 2000-2006. He replaces Dan Quinn, now the head coach of the Commanders. LB Micah Parsons leads a defense that allowed 18.9 points per game, fifth-best in the league, last season. LB Erik Kendricks is a key addition. DE Demarcus Lawrence enters his 11th season with the team. DB Trevon Diggs is back after missing most of last season.

Overall: In Mike McCarthy's fifth season it's pretty much Super Bowl or bust now for the Cowboys. Last year, after going 12-5 and winning the NFC East, Dallas was blown out by Green Bay in the divisional round of the playoffs after receiving a

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 8 @ Cleveland, 3:25 (FOX)
Sept. 15 New Orleans, noon (FOX)
Sept. 22 Baltimore, 3:25 (FOX)
Sept. 26 @ N.Y. Giants, 7:15 (Prime)
Oct. 6 @ Pittsburgh, 7:20 (NBC)
Oct. 13 Detroit, 3:25 (FOX)
Oct. 27 @ San Francisco, 7:20 (NBC)
Nov. 3 @ Atlanta, noon (FOX)
Nov. 10 Philadelphia, 3:25 (CBS)

Nov. 18 Houston, 7:15 (ESPN)
Nov. 24 @ Washington, noon (FOX)
Nov. 28 N.Y. Giants, 3:30 (FOX)
Dec. 9 Cincinnati, 7:15 (ESPN)
Dec. 15 @ Carolina, noon (FOX)
Dec. 22 Tampa Bay, 7:20 (NBC)
Dec. 29 @ Philadelphia, 3:25 (FOX)
Jan. 4/5 Washington, TBD (TBD)

OUR PREDICTION: 13-4

2023 RESULTS: 12-6

N.Y. Giants W 40-0
N.Y. Jets W 30-10
Arizona L 28-16
New England W 38-3
San Francisco L 42-10
San Diego W 20-17

L.A. Chargers W 43-20
Philadelphia L 28-23
N.Y. Giants W 49-17
Carolina W 33-10
Washington W 45-10
Seattle W 41-35
Philadelphia W 33-13
Buffalo L 31-10

Miami L 22-20
Detroit W 20-19
Washington W 38-10
Playoffs:
Green Bay L 48-32

first-round bye. Despite some personnel losses, especially in the offensive backfield and line, the Cowboys still have the talent to make another postseason run.

Players to Watch

► Dak Prescott, QB
The former Houghton star is coming off a stellar season and was runner-up in MVP voting. But many are wondering if this will be his final year with the team.

► Micah Parsons, LB
Entering his fourth season, Parsons has established himself as one of the best in the league.

► CeeDee Lamb, WR
Enters his fifth season, Lamb is coming off his best year. Last season, he caught 135 passes for 1,749 yards and 12 TDs.



FOOTBALL PREVIEW '24

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS



ALL-PRO REELS PHOTOGRAPHY

New Orleans Saints at Washington Football Team from FedEx Field, Landover, MD October 10th, 2021.

Head Coach

Dennis Allen (16-18, 3rd season)

Stadium

Caesars Superdome

Scouting report

Offense: Klint Kubiak takes over after at coordinator after Pete Carmichael was fired following last season. QB Derek Carr finished strong last season and will be looking to build on that in his second year with the team. The WR position should be a strength. Chris Olave has had consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons. Rashid Shaheed is a playmaker. Second-year receiver A.T. Perry played well in the second half of last season. RB Alvin Kamara enters his eighth season after a tough 2023 season. The line was a big weakness last season and a huge question mark going into 2024.

Defense: The Saints had a solid season defensively in 2023, ranking in the top 10 in points allowed and fourth in forcing turnovers. Veterans DEs Cameron Jordan and Demario Davis return. Jordan is entering his 15th season and Davis his 14th. Tyrann Matthieu is back in the secondary, which should be a strength. DE Chase Young signed in the offseason and could be a force.

Outlook: The Saints improved in the win column in Dennis Allen's second season but not quite enough to make the playoffs. It was New Orleans' third straight year to miss the playoffs. Klint Kubiak has taken over at offensive coordinator. The question is if he can help QB Derek Carr and the offense play at a high level on a consistent basis. Carr will again be passing to some talented receivers. Success could depend on the OL's improvement. The running game also needs a boost. The defense will

2024 SCHEDULE

Sept. 8 Carolina, noon (FOX)
Sept. 15 @ Dallas, noon (FOX)
Sept. 22 Philadelphia, noon (FOX)
Sept. 29 @ Atlanta, noon (FOX)
Oct. 7 @ Kansas City, 7:15 (ESPN)
Oct. 13 Tampa Bay, noon (FOX)
Oct. 17 Denver, 7:15 (Prime Video)
Oct. 27 @ L.A. Chargers, 3:05 (FOX)
Nov. 3 @ Carolina, noon (CBS)

Nov. 10 Atlanta, noon (FOX)
Nov. 17 Cleveland, noon (FOX)
Dec. 1 L.A. Rams, 3:05 (FOX)
Dec. 8 @ N.Y. Giants, noon (FOX)
Dec. 15 Washington, noon (FOX)
Dec. 23 @ Green Bay, 7:15 (ESPN)
Dec. 29 Las Vegas, noon (FOX)
TBD @ Tampa Bay, TBD (TBD)

OUR PREDICTION: 10-7

2023 RESULTS: 9-8

Tennessee W 16-15
Carolina W 20-17
Green Bay L 18-17
Tampa Bay L 26-9
New England W 34-0

Houston L 20-13
Jacksonville L 31-24
Indianapolis W 38-27
Chicago W 24-17
Minnesota L 27-19
Atlanta L 24-15
Detroit L 33-28

Carolina W 28-6
N.Y. Giants W 24-6
L.A. Chargers L 30-22
Tampa Bay W 23-13
Atlanta W 48-17

likely be a strength, but how some aging veterans perform will tell the story. It could be another tough season, but there is a potential for making a playoff run.

Players to Watch

► Derek Carr, QB
Carr completed 375-of-548 passes for 3,878 yards and 25 TDs with eight interceptions last season. He had a QB rating of 97.8.

► Demario Davis, DE
Davis, a 14-year veteran, continued to play at a high level with last season 121 combined tackles and 6.5 sacks.

► Chris Olave, WR
Olave caught 87 passes for 1,123 yards (17th in the league) and five TDs last season in 16 games. It was his second straight season of more than 1,000 yards.



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