

# DELAWARE STATE 2021 FOOTBALL OUTLOOK

Delaware State is hoping its decision to play a limited spring 2021 schedule after the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference cancelled the 2020 campaign due to the Covid-19 pandemic will pay dividends this fall.

The Hornets posted a 2-3 record in the spring, matching the win total for their last full season in 2019 (2-9 overall; 1-7 MEAC).

Delaware State's spring 2021 slate featured home and away wins against MEAC rival Howard, two final possession losses to fall 2021 MEAC preseason favorite South Carolina State and a competitive defeat against nationally-ranked and FCS championship semi-finalist Delaware in the first meeting between the state's two Division I programs to be played on the DSU campus.

"I believe the 2021 spring games were very beneficial for the program because we were able to get a higher level of competition for our guys, especially the younger players," said DSU head coach Rod Milstead. "The spring also brought us closer together as a team and gave us a measuring stick of where we are and need to go as a program."

The fall 2021 Hornets expect to feature 31 returning letterwinners, 16 on offense and 15 on the defense. DSU also returns a number of 2020 freshman and other newcomers/transfers who gained valuable experience during the spring season.

Despite the spring boost, Delaware State will have plenty to prove in the 2021 Mid-Eastern Athletic football race.

The Hornets have been picked to finish fourth in the six-team 2021 conference standings in the annual MEAC preseason grid poll.

## OFFENSE

### Quarterbacks

Jared Lewis (r-so.) started the last four spring 2021 games after appearing off the bench to lead the Hornets to a come-from-behind victory over Howard in the opener. His spring numbers included 43 completions in 84 attempts (51.2%) for 510 yards with seven touchdowns and five interceptions. In addition, he was second on the team with 233 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 83 attempts, including sacks (2.8 yards per attempt).

Lewis completed 10-of-19 passes for a career-best 173 yards and three touchdowns, and also rushed for 52 yards in the Hornets' 37-28 victory at Howard on Apr. 3.

In the spring finale against South Carolina State, he connected on 10-of-15 throws for 112 yards and three touchdowns, and rushed for 74 yards in the 31-28 loss.

Tylik Bethea (so.) started the spring opener against Howard on Feb. 27, but left the game in the second quarter due to a knee injury and did not appear in any other games.

As a true freshman in 2019, Bethea competed in all 12 games, starting 11. He completed 134-of-288 passes for 1478 yards (long 36) with five touchdowns and 11 interceptions in his rookie season. He ranked eighth in the MEAC in passing at 123.2 yards per game that season. His 2019 yardage total and completions were the most for a true freshman in team history and season completion total ranks 11th all-time at the school.

### 2021 Quarterbacks

No.	Name	HT/WT	CL	Hometown/Previous School
7	Jared Lewis	6-3/210	r-So.	Baltimore, Md./Fort Scott CC
9	Lucas Loffredo	6-0/185	Fr.	Milltown, N.J./ Piscataway HS
10	Jabari Blake	6-4/195	r-Fr.	Lynchburg, Va./Heritage HS
13	Tylik Bethea	6-5/200	So.	Staten Island, N.Y./Lincoln HS
14	Andre Parker	6-2/220	Fr.	Woodbury, N.J. / Jireh Prep

### **Running Backs**

The Hornets may be as deep at the running back position this year than any time since its days as a rushing powerhouse in the 1980s & 90s. Three returning runners have at least one 100-yard game at DSU. **Sy'Veon Wilkerson** (fr.) emerged as the Hornets' top rusher in the spring, tallying 262 yards and two touchdowns on 52 attempts (5.0 ypc) in four games. Wilkerson rushed for 112 yards (long 19) and a touchdown on 22 carries (5.1 ypc) in the Hornets' 37-28 victory at Howard on Apr. 3. He tallied 95 yards on 17 attempts (5.6 ypc), including a season-best 21 yard run, in loss to South Carolina State on Apr. 17.

**Thomas Bertrand-Hudon** (r-so.) was third on the team with 198 rushing yards (long 20) on 46 carries in the spring (4.3 ypc), highlighted by an 84-yard performance vs. South Carolina State on Mar. 13. In 2019, Bertrand-Hudon was tops on the Hornets and sixth in the MEAC in rushing at 56.6 yards per game (509 total), including three consecutive 100-yard performances. He also rushed for a team-high five touchdowns that season.

**Michael Chris-Ike** (r-so.) is expected to return to the active roster this fall after sitting out the 2019 and spring 2021 seasons. Chris-Ike rushed for 238 yards and two touchdowns in just four games as a freshman in 2018. He was named MEAC Rookie-of-the-Week after rushing for 127 yards, including a 42-yard touchdown run, in the Hornets' 28-13 victory over North Carolina Central during the 2018 season.

**Wade Inge** (r-fr) was the starting back in the spring 2021 opener against Howard. He totaled 50 yards on 19 carries (long 14) during the spring session.

### 2021 Running Backs

No.	Name	HT/WT	CL	Hometown/Previous School
20	Tyshaun Capers	5-11/200	Fr.	Hollis, N.Y. / Campus Magnet HS
22	Michael Chris-Ike	6-2/215	r-So.	Hamilton, Ont. / St. Thomas More Secondary
23	Sy'Veon Wilkerson	5-8/205	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. / Our Lady of Good Counsel
24	Wade Inge	5-10/ 180	r-Fr.	Williamstown, N.J. / Williamstown HS
30	Caleb Robinson	5-11/ 210	Fr.	Laurel, Md. / Perryville HS
36	Thomas Bertand-Hudon	6-0/ 220	r-so.	Mont St.-Hillaire, Quebec / Champlain Lennoxville

### **Receivers / Tight End**

The wide receiver corps is led by veterans **Trey Gross** (sr.), **Bizzett Woodley** (so.) and **Kwannah Kollie** (sr.). Gross was DSU's leader with 17 receptions for 248 yards (14.6 ypr) and five touchdowns during five spring games. He had five receptions for 123 yards and career-high three touchdowns (42, 9, 56) in 37-28 win at Howard (Apr. 3) ... caught three passes for 52 yards, including two touchdowns (12, 34) vs. South Carolina State (Apr. 17). In addition, he was credited with two blocked kicks and recovered a blocked punt for touchdown vs. Delaware (Apr. 10).

Gross, a 2021 Preseason All-MEAC Second Team selection, has 1,495 receiving yards at DSU to rank 13<sup>th</sup> in team history. He's also 13th all-time with 98 catches and is seventh on the school's career list with 16 receiving touchdowns.

Woodley had six catches for 79 yards (13.2 ypr) and a touchdown in the spring. As a true freshman in 2019, he hauled in 28 passes for 421 yards and a team-high seven touchdown catches to rank fifth in the MEAC.

Kollie was limited to three games in the spring due to injury, recording three catches for 56 yards and a touchdown. In 2019, he was DSU's leader with 35 catches and 431 receiving yards (12.3 ypr). He was also second on the Hornets with four touchdown receptions in 2019.

Arizona transfer **Kevin Medy** (r-sr.) contributed five catches for 49 yards (9.8 ypc) during the five spring games.

Starting tight end **Myles Beverly** (sr.), a 2021 Preseason All-MEAC Second Team selection, also returns. Beverly was second on the Hornets with nine receptions for 77 yards (long 24) in the spring. He also hauled in a two-point pass in DSU's 17-10 victory over Howard in the spring opener.

#### **2021 Receivers / Tight Ends**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>HT/WT</b>	<b>CL</b>	<b>Hometown/Previous School</b>
2	Konner Blount-Foster (WR)	5-9 / 170	Fr.	Waldorf, Md. / St. Charles HS
3	Nico Stout (WR)	5-5 / 165	Fr.	La Plata, Md. / La Plata HS
5	Cameron Sykes (WR)	5-11 / 190	Fr.	Bowie, Md. / National Christian Academy
8	E.J. Core (WR)	6-1 / 195	Fr.	Waldorf, Md. / National Christian Academy
12	Vince Vines (WR)	6-0 / 200	Fr.	Bowie, Md. / Bowie HS
18	Kevin Medy (WR)	5-7 / 160	r-Sr.	Brooklyn, N.Y. / Univ. of Arizona
19	Nyghee Lolley (WR)	6-0 / 190	Fr.	Newark, Del. / Hodgson Vo-Tech
21	Devin Curry (WR)	6-1 / 190	Jr.	Clinton, Md. / Wesley College
26	David Bowman (WR)	5-6 / 160	r-So.	Milford, Del. / Milford HS
33	Myles Beverly (TE)	6-4 / 245	Sr.	Ypsilanti, Mich. / Lincoln HS
35	Marin Nwanekwu (TE)	6-4 / 230	Fr.	Middletown, Del. / Newark Charter
38	Jerrish Halsey (WR)	5-10 / 160	Jr.	Rahway, N.J. / Wesley College
48	Leroy Pendleton (TE)	6-0 / 240	So.	Philadelphia, Pa. / Wesley College
80	Kwannah Kollie (WR)	6-0 / 200	Sr.	Staten Island, N.Y. / Curtis HS
81	Trey Gross (WR)	6-4 / 210	Sr.	Annapolis, Md. / Annapolis HS
83	Ethan Capone (TE)	6-3 / 230	Fr.	Toms River, N.J. / Donovan Catholic HS
84	Myles Morales (TE)	6-4 / 235	Fr.	Poughkeepsie, N.Y. / Paramus Catholic HS
85	Brandon Asare (WR)	5-9 / 170	r-So.	Somerset, N.J. / Franklin HS
86	Austin Gretencord (TE)	6-4 / 215	r-Fr.	Dover, Del. / Caesar Rodney HS
88	Bizzett Woodley (WR)	6-5 / 200	So.	Chantilly, Va. / Westfield HS
89	Roman Davis (TE)	6-3 / 195	r-Fr.	Clinton, Md. / Gwynn Park HS

#### **Offensive Line**

The interior line is led by senior guard **Matthew Derks** (sr.), a Preseason All-MEAC First Team selection. A starter in all five DSU spring 2021 games, Derks was drafted by the Ottawa RedBlacks in the sixth round of the latest Canadian Football League.

The Hornets' offensive front also features returning veterans **Dillon Marshall** (r-jr.) at center, along with tackles **James King** (sr.) and **Sam Pearson** (jr.). Marshall is a 2021 Preseason All-MEAC Second Team pick.

Guard **Rodrigo Escobar** (fr.) saw considerable action during the spring, while linemen **Denzel Bryant** (fr.), **Codie Hornsby** (fr.), **Charles Pierce** (fr.), **Enrique Torres** (fr.) and **Aman Orlena** (fr.) also gained valuable reps earlier this year.

## 2021 Offensive Line

No.	Name	HT/WT	CL	Hometown/Previous School
57	Alfred Darlington	6-3 / 290	Fr.	Chicago, Ill. / The Avalon School
60	Dillon Marshall	6-4 / 290	r-Jr.	Waldorf, Md. / Westlake HS
61	Rodrigo Escobar	6-3 / 300	Fr.	Elizabeth, N.J. / East Coast Prep HS
62	Denzel Bryant	6-1 / 290	Fr.	Floomoor, Ill. / Homewood-Flossmoor HS
64	Derrico Poston	6-4 / 290	So.	Oxon Hill, Md. / Wesley College
65	Charles Pierce	6-0 / 285	Fr.	Sicklerville, N.J. / Timber Creek HS
66	Isaiah Cook	6-3 / 290	Fr.	Willingboro, N.J. / BCIT West
68	Matthew Derks	6-3 / 315	Sr.	Brantford, Ont. / Salisbury School (Conn.)
69	Aman Orlena	6-4 / 260	Fr.	Fort Washington, Pa. / Upper Dublin HS
71	Codie Hornsby	6-3 / 280	Fr.	Dallas, Tex. / Skyline HS
72	Enrique Torres	6-3 / 280	Fr.	Elizabeth, N.J. / Elizabeth HS
73	Sam Pearson	6-5 / 285	Jr.	Washington, D.C. / ASA College Brooklyn
74	Brandon Joseph	6-1 / 285	So.	Lawrenceville, Ga. / ASA College Brooklyn
75	Diu Dau	6-4 / 295	Fr.	Rockville, Md. / Richard Montgomery HS
76	Joseph Maxwell III	6-5 / 360	Fr.	Savannah, Ga. / Windsor Forest HS
77	Zaire Falls	6-3 / 290	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. / Myers Park HS
78	Brandon Bradford	6-3 / 325	Jr.	New Castle, Del. / Wesley College
79	James King	6-4 / 315	Sr.	Wayne, Pa. / Valley Forge M.A.

## **DEFENSE**

The unit features four Preseason All-MEAC First Team selections, lineman **Isaiah Williams** (r-jr.), linebackers **Brooks Parker** (jr.) and **Antquan Kinsey** (r-so.), along with defensive back **Jawain Granger** are defensive honorees.

Parker and Granger were 2020 Preseason All-MEAC Second Team picks before the conference scrapped the season due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Six other spring defensive starters are also expected to return for the fall season.

### **Defensive Line**

After sitting out the 2019 season, Williams was tops among Hornet defensive linemen with 17 total tackles and two sacks in five spring games. He also recorded 6.5 tackles for loss, two quarterback hurries and one forced fumble. Williams recorded five total tackles, three solo, including two backfield stops (-10) vs. Delaware on Apr. 10.

Spring front line starters **Carrington Jones** (r-jr.) and **Kevin Deshields** (jr.) also return. Jones recorded 12 tackles, four solo, including 1.5 tackles for loss and a sack in the spring.

Deshields recorded eight solo tackles, including five solo stops and an assist, at the nose tackle spot in the five spring games.

Linemen **Jermain Lugo** (fr.), **Mathias Peoples** (fr.) and **Terrance Bridgers** (r-fr.) also gained as reserves in the spring season.

DSU's front line will also be bolstered by the return of **Corey St. John** (jr.), who sat out the spring season due to injury. St. John recorded 12 tackles, including two for loss, in 2019.

**Marcus Winfield** (r-Fr.), also injured in the spring, could also contribute to the front line this fall.

## 2021 Defensive Line

No.	Name	HT/WT	CL	Hometown/Previous School
42	Kyle Williams	6-3 / 260	Fr.	Harrisburg, Pa. / Central Dauphin East
43	Caleb Young	6-3 / 280	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Palmer Trinity HS
67	David Pierre	6-2 / 285	Jr.	Carteret, N.J. / Wesley College
68	Josh Ramponeau	6-4 / 245	Jr.	Spring Valley, N.Y. / Hudson Valley CC
70	Carrington Jones	6-1 / 280	r-Jr.	Kinsale, Va. / Temple University
90	Isaiah Williams	6-2 / 295	r-Jr.	Brooklyn, N.Y. / Lafayette HS
91	Omakus Langley II	6-3 / 240	Fr.	Hillside, N.J. / Hillside HS
92	Marcus Winfield	6-3 / 250	r-Fr.	Abington, / Cheltenham HS
93	Terrance Bridgers	6-2 / 310	r-Fr.	Washington, D.C. / Landon HS
94	Darren Cook	6-3 / 315	Fr.	Washington, D.C. / Friendship Collegiate
95	Corey St. John	6-2 / 290	Jr.	Tampa, Fla. / Ellsworth CC
97	Jermaine Lugo	6-2 / 225	Fr.	Wilmington, Del. Howard HS
99	Eric Montes	6-1 / 240	Fr.	Berwick, Pa. / Berwick HS

## Linebackers

The linebacker corps is deep and talented with a solid mix of experience and youth. Parker recorded 15 tackles in the spring (10 solo), including 3.5 in the opponents' backfield and one sack. A 2019 All-MEAC Third Team honoree, he was tops on the Hornets and 24th in the MEAC in tackles at 4.8 per game (58 total) and 10th in the league with 10.5 tackles for loss (0.88 pg) that season.

Kinsey competed in all five spring games as a starting linebacker, recording nine tackles, including seven solo stops. He tallied a season-high five tackles, four unassisted, vs. South Carolina State (Mar. 13) and recovered a fourth quarter fumble in 17-10 victory over Howard in spring opener (Feb. 17).

**Kamari Jackson** (r-jr.) led the Hornets with 26 total tackles in the spring, including 20 unassisted. Jackson also recorded three tackles-for-loss and an interception. He had five tackles (each solo), a tackle-for-loss and an interception in the spring finale against South Carolina State (Apr. 17). Jackson collected two backfield tackles and six total tackles in the Hornets' first spring meeting against SC State (Mar. 13).

**Olivier Muembi** (jr.) was tied for second on the team with 24 total tackles and second on the squad with 5.5 tackles-for-loss in the spring. Muembi recorded at least one backfield tackle in each of DSU's five spring games. He also collected a sack and a pass break-up in the shortened season. Muembi tallied a spring-high six tackles in two games, Feb. 27 vs. Howard and Apr. 10 vs. Delaware.

Newcomers **Ronald Holmes** (fr.) and **Jesus Robinson** (fr.) gained valuable experience in the spring, collecting eight and five tackles, respectively. Former Hodgson Vo-Tech standout **Eric Shimko** (fr.) also saw action in the spring, recording two tackles.

## 2021 Linebackers

No.	Name	HT/WT	CL	Hometown/Previous School
34	Kamari Jackson	5-10 /190	r-Jr.	Newport News, Va. / Woodside HS
37	Muadh Abdus-Salaam	5-8 /185	Jr.	Newark, N.J. / Irvington HS
40	Antquan Kinsey	5-11/ 230	r-So.	Liberty City, Fla. / Miami HS
44	Aiden Weber	6-2/210	Fr.	Pottstown, Pa./St. Mary's Ryken HS
45	Maurio Goings	6-0/230	r-Fr.	New Market, Md./Oakdale HS
47	Omar Parker, Jr.	5-10/180	Fr.	Baltimore, Md./Eastern Vo-Tech HS
49	Dylan Gray	6-2/230	Fr.	Hyattsville, Md./C.H. Flowers HS
50	Traye Laster	5-11/220	So.	Brandywine, Md./North Carolina Wesleyan
51	Eric Shimko	6-1/230	Fr.	Bear, Del./Hodgson Vo-Tech HS
52	Ahmed Bailey	6-0/190	Fr.	Washington, D.C. / Friendship Collegiate Academy
54	Olivier Muembi	6-2/230	Jr.	Hamilton, Ont./Saltfleet District HS
55	Brooks Parker	6-1/210	Jr.	Laurel, Del./Delmar HS
56	Jemuel Cypress	5-11/190	So.	Capital Heights, Md./Wesley College
57	Dante Daniel	6-0/200	Sr.	Pleasantville, N.J./Wesley College
58	Ronald Holmes	6-1/210	Fr.	Darby, Pa./Neumann & Goretti HS
59	Jesus Robinson	5-10/205	Fr.	Washington, D.C./Roosevelt HS

## Defensive Backs

Granger heads up a promising young secondary whose ranks include 10 players competing in their first full season. The former Caravel Academy (Del.) star recorded five solo tackles and an interception despite being slowed by injury during the spring season. In 2019, Granger was tied for first in MEAC with 12 pass break-ups and tied for fifth in the MEAC in passes defended at 1.00 per game. In addition, he was eighth on the Hornets with 35 tackles, including 30 unassisted stops during the '19 season.

Another Delaware high school product, **Esaias Guthrie** (r-fr.; Middletown HS), was tied for second on the Hornets with 24 tackles, 19 unassisted, last spring. He returned a fourth quarter interception 41 yards for a touchdown in DSU's 17-10 victory over Howard in the spring opener.

**Charles Peeler** (r-jr.) and **Andrew Reese** (r-so.) are solid veterans in the secondary. Peeler had six totals and four pass break-ups in three 2021 spring games, while Reese had 27 tackles (23 solo), 4.5 stops behind the line of scrimmage and two break-ups in the Hornets' last full season in 2019.

Redshirt freshmen **Romell Harris-Freeman** and **Daniel Douglas** were impressive in their first taste of college action in the spring. Harris-Freeman was fourth on the club with 22 tackles (15 unassisted), while also recording an interception and three pass break-ups. Douglas had 10 tackles (eight solo), including an endzone sack for a safety vs. South Carolina State on Mar. 13. **Coleon Williams** (fr.) contributed eight tackles in four spring games.

Among the newcomers to the secondary is **C.J. Henry**, a two-way standout (quarterback/defensive back), who led Delaware's Hodgson Vo-Tech to back-to-back state championships in 2019 and '20.

## 2021 Defensive Backs

No.	Name	HT/WT	CL	Hometown/Previous School
0	Andrew Reese	5-7/160	r-So.	Miami, Fla. Miami Senior HS
1	Charles Peeler	5-8/175	r-Jr.	Washington, D.C. / Fort Scott CC
4	Romell Harris-Freeman	6-4/190	r-So.	Woodbridge, Va. / Livingstone College
6	Esaias Guthrie	6-2/175	r-Fr.	Wilmington, Del./Middletown HS
11	Daniel Douglas	6-2/205	r-Fr.	Wilmington, Del. Hodgson Vo-Tech
15	Mohamet Thiam	6-1/190	r-So.	Union City, N.J./Union City HS
16	C.J. Henry	5-10/180	Fr.	Newark, Del./Hodgson Vo-Tech HS
20	Kyndal Royal	5-9/170	Fr.	Miami, Fla. Palmer Trinity HS
21	Coleon Williams	5-10/185	Fr.	Trenton, N.J. / Notre Dame HS
25	Jawain Granger	5-9/165	r-Jr.	New Castle, Del. / Caravel Academy
26	Ryan Clemons	5-8/160	Jr.	Brandywine, Md./Wesley College
27	Isaiah Johnson	6-0/180	Fr.	Woodbridge, Va./Woodbridge HS
28	Jeffery Broughton	5-9/170	Fr.	Middletown, Del./ Appoquinimink HS
29	Marquis Gillis	6-0/200	Fr.	Milford, Del./Milford HS
31	Jasiyah Brooks	6-1/190	Fr.	Bowie, Md./Bowie HS
32	Isiah Mitchell	5-11/180	Sr.	Middletown, Del/Wesley College
33	Marcus Gaspard	6-0/185	Sr.	Hackensack, N.J./Wesley College
38	Da'Je Iannuzzio	5-11/180	So.	Galloway, N.J./Stevenson Univ.
39	Dominique Smith	6-0/180	Fr.	Georgetown, Del./Sussex Tech HS

## Special Teams

The Hornets need to replace All-MEAC punter and placekicker **Jose Romo-Martinez**, who averaged 38.7 yards on 24 points, nailed three field goals and was perfect on 11 extra-point kicks in the spring.

**Jake Bridel** (so.) is expected to handle place kicking chores this season after serving as kickoff specialist since joining the Hornets in 2019.

The Hornets were among the NCAA leaders with three punt blocks during the spring season, two by **Trey Gross** and the other by **Daniel Douglas**.

**Wade Ingle** was the Hornets' top kickoff returner in the spring, averaging 21.1 yards on 12 returns with a long of 36. **Charles Peeler** averaged 8.8 yards on five punt returns to lead the team in the spring games.

**Brandon Shimko** (so.) has performed has been near flawless as the team's long snapper since the 2019 season.

## The Schedule

Delaware State is scheduled to play a school record-tying number of home games, including six of the first eight contests, during the 2021 season.

The Hornets will play seven games at Alumni Stadium this fall, including three of their five Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference contests. The number of home games this coming season matches the modern-day school record set during the 2019 campaign.

In addition to the three MEAC contests, DSU's 2021 home schedule includes the renewal of an old rivalry and a first-time FCS opponent.

Delaware State will kick off its 11-game schedule at home on Sep. 4 against old rival Bowie State (Md.) for Hall-of-Fame / Champions Weekend. The Hornets and Bulldogs will be meeting for the first time since 1984, and the fifth time overall. Bowie State won the first meeting 26-18 in 1933. Delaware State has claimed the last three contests, winning 13-0 in 1934, 18-9 in 1936 and 70-8 in 1984 to hold a 3-1 series lead.

The Hornets are also home the following Saturday (Sep. 11) to face first-time opponent Georgetown of the FCS Patriot League. The Hoyas were 5-6 overall and 1-5 in the Patriot League in their last season of competition in 2019.

Delaware State hits the road for the first time with a visit to East Tennessee State, also a new opponent, on Sep. 18. The Buccaneers, members of the FCS Southern Conference, postponed their 2020 season to the 2021 spring, posting a 4-2 overall record, including a 2-1 mark in the conference. ETSU was 3-9 and 1-7 in 2019.

The Hornets return home on Sep. 25 to face Merrimack College in the second meeting between the teams. The Warriors won the first contest 30-21, also at Alumni Stadium, in 2019. Delaware State led on three occasions in the contest before Merrimack scored the last 16 points to earn the win.

Delaware State returns to the road the following Saturday (Oct. 2) to take on another first-time opponent, Wagner College of the FCS Northeast Conference. The Seahawks played two of four scheduled games in the spring (0-2) and posted a 1-11 mark during the 2019 season.

The Hornets will play their next three 2021 games at home, beginning with an Oct. 9 contest against Virginia University of Lynchburg. This will be the second meeting between the teams. Delaware State won the first meeting 41-7 at Alumni Stadium in 2018. Virginia Lynchburg did not compete in 2020 or this spring, and was 0-9 in 2019.

After an open week, DSU begins Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference play at home against South Carolina State on Oct. 23. The Bulldogs have won the last four meetings, including two this spring, and hold a 32-17 lead in the all-time series.

The Hornets will wrap up the three-game home stand with a meeting against Howard on Oct. 30. Delaware State swept two games against the Bison in the spring, winning 17-10 at home and 37-28 in Washington, D.C.

Delaware State plays two of its last three 2021 games on the road, beginning with a trip to Baltimore to face Morgan State on Nov. 6. The Hornets have lost two straight and six of their last seven games against the Bears. This will be the third consecutive meeting between the teams at MSU's Hughes Stadium.

The Hornets will wrap up their 2021 home schedule with a Nov. 13 contest against Norfolk State. The Spartans have won the last three meetings, although the Hornets hold a 16-9 lead in the series. Delaware State fell to NSU 33-14 the last time the teams met in 2019 at Alumni Stadium

DSU closes out the 2021 regular season on Nov. 20 at North Carolina Central. The Eagles have won 10 of the last 12 meetings to open up a 19-7 series lead. NCCU prevailed in the last meeting 30-23 on a kickoff return touchdown with 38 seconds left to play in Durham, N.C., in 2019.

#### **DSU 2021 Football Schedule**

9/4	BOWIE STATE	HOME	4:00 pm
9/11	GEORGETOWN	HOME	2:00 pm
9/18	at E. Tenn. State	Away	7:30 pm
9/25	MERRIMACK	HOME	2:00 pm
10/2	at Wagner	Away	5:00 pm
10/9	VA-LYNCHBURG	HOME	2:00 pm
10/23	SC STATE (HC)	HOME	2:00 pm
10/30	HOWARD	HOME	2:00 pm
11/4	at Morgan State	Away	7:30 pm
11/13	NORFOLK STATE	HOME	2:00 pm
11/20	at NC Central	Away	TBA