

2019 NEC FOOTBALL



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SCHEDULE/RESULTS

WEEK SEVEN

Saturday, October 12

ROBERT MORRIS 20, SAINT FRANCIS 17 (2OT)

Pennsylvania 38, SACRED HEART 24

BRYANT 27, LONG ISLAND 22

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 24, Columbia 14

Open Date: DUQUESNE, WAGNER, Merrimack

WEEK EIGHT

Saturday, October 19

DUQUESNE 20, SACRED HEART 6

ROBERT MORRIS 21, WAGNER 13

#25 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 52, BRYANT 14

SAINT FRANCIS 30, LONG ISLAND 0

Merrimack 30, Delaware State 21

WEEK NINE

Saturday, October 26

ROBERT MORRIS 24, BRYANT 20

SACRED HEART 36, SAINT FRANCIS 33 (OT)

#23 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 28, LONG ISLAND 0

DUQUESNE 28, WAGNER 24

Merrimack 24, Presbyterian 21

WEEK TEN

Saturday, November 2

SAINT FRANCIS at DUQUESNE (ESPN3) 12:00 pm

LONG ISLAND at ROBERT MORRIS 12:00 pm

#19 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT at WAGNER 12:00 pm

SACRED HEART at BRYANT 1:00 pm

Merrimack at Rhode Island 1:00 pm

WEEK ELEVEN

Saturday, November 9

WAGNER at SACRED HEART 12:00 pm

SAINT FRANCIS at CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 12:00 pm

DUQUESNE at ROBERT MORRIS 1:00 pm

Open Date: BRYANT, LONG ISLAND, Merrimack

2019 NEC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

THRU WEEK 9 (October 28, 2019)

SCHOOL	NEC	PCT.	OVERALL	PCT.	STREAK	HOME	AWAY	NEU.
Central Connecticut	3-0	1.000	7-1	0.875	W4	3-0	4-1	0-0
Duquesne	3-0	1.000	5-2	0.714	W3	3-0	2-2	0-0
Robert Morris	3-0	1.000	4-4	0.500	W3	1-2	3-2	0-0
Sacred Heart	2-2	0.500	4-4	0.500	W1	1-2	3-2	0-0
Saint Francis U	2-2	0.500	4-4	0.500	L1	1-3	3-1	0-0
Wagner	1-2	0.333	1-7	0.125	L3	1-3	0-4	0-0
Bryant	1-3	0.250	2-7	0.222	L2	1-3	1-4	0-0
LIU	0-6	0.000	0-7	0.000	L7	0-2	0-5	0-0

NEC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

CHRISTIAN CARTER, MERRIMACK

QB, So., 6-1, 205 lbs., Baltimore, MD/Mount Saint Joseph



WEEK 9 STATS: 344 yards total offense, 287 pass yards, 64.7 completion pct., 2 TD passes, 57 rush yards, TD rush Carter carried Merrimack to its second straight victory over a FCS program. The dual-threat eclipsed his season-high passing total while accounting for all three of the Warriors' touchdowns in the 24-21 triumph over Presbyterian. Carter finished the win with 344 yards of total offense, including a season-best 287 yards through the air.

NEC DEFENSIVE CO-PLAYER OF THE WEEK

TRE JONES, CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

LB, Jr., 6-3, 255 lbs., Providence, RI/St. Raphael Academy



WEEK 9 STATS: : 7 total tackles, 2.0 TFL, 1.5 sacks, Forced Fumble, PBU Jones was a driving force behind a defensive effort that limited LIU to 84 total yards, including 0.3 yard per rush. Tying for team-high honors, he logged seven tackles in the 28-0 shutout victory. He made 2.0 tackles-for-loss highlighted by 1.5 sacks. Jones, who was also credited with a forced fumble and one pass break-up, started strong by teaming up with Justin Kennedy to sack the quarterback for a 9-yard loss that ended LIU's opening possession.

NEC DEFENSIVE CO-PLAYER OF THE WEEK

ANIELLO BUZZACCO, ROBERT MORRIS

LB, So., 6-1, 190 lbs., North Lima, OH/South Range



WEEK 9 STATS: : 18 total tackles (7 solo), QB hurry Buzzacco recorded a NEC single-game season-high 18 tackles during RMU's third straight league win. The sophomore, who had seven solo stops, spearheaded a defense that limited Bryant to 3.4 yards per play in a 24-20 victory. He made eight tackles in the fourth quarter, including two important hits on back-to-back plays in RMU territory.

NEC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

MARK ALLEN, DUQUESNE

RB, Sr., 5-7, 185 lbs., Hyattsville, MD/Penn State



WEEK 9 STATS: 2 punt returns, 75 PR yards, 65-yard PR TD Allen became the first NEC athlete to return a punt to paydirt this season. The running back, who scored on a two-yard rush early in the second half, found the end zone again in the opening minute of the fourth quarter. He fielded a 47-yard punt on the far hash mark at his own 35-yard line and worked his way to the near sideline before turning on the burners. Allen's 65-yard punt return gave the Dukes a 28-14 advantage with 14:36 remaining.

NEC ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

GARRETT HOUSER, ROBERT MORRIS

WR, R-Fr., 5-10, 190 lbs., Akron, OH/Archbishop Hoban



WEEK 9 STATS: 2 receptions, 100 rec yards, TD reception Houser had gone three games without making a reception, but the redshirt freshman made two uber important grabs during the Colonials 24-20 triumph over NEC rival Bryant. Houser, who finished with 100 yards on two receptions, accounted for the game's final touchdown. Fewer than 2:00 after Bryant took a 20-17 fourth-quarter lead, Houser snatched a slant pass and went streaking upfield for a 72-yard score.

2019 NEC PRESEASON POLL

1. Duquesne (7)
2. Sacred Heart (1)
3. Central Connecticut
4. Wagner
5. Bryant
6. Saint Francis
7. Robert Morris
8. Long Island

(First-place votes in parentheses)

DEFENDING CHAMP DUKES TOP COACHES' POLL

The all-league starting quarterback (Daniel Parr) and All-American running back (AJ Hines) are back in the fold, pushing Duquesne to the top of the Northeast Conference preseason coaches' poll.

Returning plenty of firepower from the group that delivered the program's first-ever FCS playoffs win last November, the Dukes unanimously captured the title of preseason favorite.

Defending NEC co-champion Sacred Heart, which shared the 2018 conference crown with Duquesne, finished as the runner-up in the annual survey of the league's head coaches.

Central Connecticut, which finished the 2018 season one win shy of a second straight NEC title, took third in the poll.

Wagner jumped into the No. 4 spot followed by Bryant in fifth place. Keystone State rivals Saint Francis and Robert Morris took sixth and seventh, respectively. Set for its first-ever season of Division I FCS competition, Long Island University rounded out the preseason poll results in eighth place.

The NEC unveiled the preseason predicted order-of-finish, along with a 27-member preseason all-conference team, during the fifth annual #NECFB Social Media Day at MetLife Stadium.

In addition to the eight teams that will vie for the 2019 NEC crown, Merrimack, the league's newest core member, was also present for the preseason event.

On July 1, Merrimack, which is moving up from Division II, began the NCAA-mandated, four-year DI reclassification process. The Warriors, who will be eligible for FCS postseason play beginning in 2023, will face four of their NEC peers on the field this fall.

Duquesne led the way by securing eight spots on the Preseason All-NEC Team, which was headlined by running back AJ Hines. Set for his senior season in the Steel City, Hines comes off a 2018 campaign during which he totaled 1,756 yards from scrimmage while playing his way to STATS FCS All-America First Team honors. The Dukes' continuity on offense extends to the quarterback position following a fruitful first year for former Florida Atlantic transfer Daniel Parr.

Of the seven returning starters on Duquesne's defense, three earned preseason all-NEC nods – one at each level of the unit. Lineman Kam Carter (Pittsburgh), linebacker Brett Zanutto (Maryland) and cornerback Reid Harrison-Ducros (Boise State) have produced plenty since transferring from FBS programs.



Duquesne Dukes
2018 NEC CHAMPIONS

PRESEASON SNAPSHOTS

1. DUQUESNE: Starting quarterback Daniel Parr and All-American running back AJ Hines return to a team that ended the 2018 campaign in the National Top 25. Jerry Schmitt's Dukes, who have finished no lower than second place in the NEC standings any of the past four seasons, also feature all-conference talent at each level of the defense.

2. SACRED HEART: The Pioneers' defense lost only one starter while the offensive backfield, which accounted for a league-high 241.1 rush yards per game last year, will again feature the two-headed beast of Jordan Meachum and Julius Chestnut.

3. CENTRAL CONNECTICUT: Previously the offensive coordinator for the NEC's top-ranked unit, Ryan McCarthy has taken the reins as head coach and will welcome back an experienced o-line that allowed the Blue Devils to gain 6.8 yards per play last season.

4. WAGNER: QB Christian Alexander-Stevens, the 2018 Bahamas Bowl Offensive MVP, has arrived on Grymes Hill as the new signal caller while All-American linebacker Cam Gill returns to a defense loaded with athleticism.

5. BRYANT: Coming off their first-ever losing NEC record, the Bulldogs have a new leader at the helm. Chris Merritt, who won 14 district titles in 18 years as a Florida high school coach, inherits a roster that features 19 returning starters.

6. SAINT FRANCIS: The Red Flash offense will feature a new coordinator and a first-year starting quarterback, but there is plenty of continuity (six returning starters) on a defense that led the NEC in both points and yards allowed last season.

7. ROBERT MORRIS: The Colonials more than doubled their scoring output under first-year head coach Bernard Clark, Jr. Next, the former Miami Hurricanes linebacker will look to solidify the defensive side of the ball.

8. LONG ISLAND: Set for their first season of FCS competition, Bryan Collins' team posted a 30-4 record over its final three years at the Division II level.

MERRIMACK (2023): Having been invited to join the FCS ranks as a NEC core member, Dan Curran's Warriors have moved up from Division II and will face four future conference foes this season as they kick off the NCAA-mandated reclassification process.

EXTRA POINTS...

- The additions of Long Island University and Merrimack College give the NEC nine football members. As a result of LIU's campus unification, the Sharks jump up from Division II to play a full NEC schedule and will be immediately eligible for FCS postseason play. Kicking off the NCAA-mandated four-year institutional reclassification process, Merrimack will face four NEC teams this season and will gain FCS postseason eligibility in 2023.

- Headlined by a trio of first teamers, six Northeast Conference athletes were named STATS Preseason FCS All-Americans – Duquesne RB AJ Hines (First Team), Central Connecticut OG J'Von Brown (First Team), Wagner LB Cam Gill (First Team), Saint Francis PR Nick Rinella (Second Team), Sacred Heart RB Jordan Meachum (Third Team) and Saint Francis LB Da'Jon Lee (Third Team).

- Accounting for the largest on-air package in the league's history, ESPN3 will be the exclusive carrier of nine featured NEC games.

2019 NEC FOOTBALL SCHEDULE/RESULTS

BRYANT (2-7, 1-3 NEC)

A 29 @ Stony Brook.....L, 35-10
S 07 @ Albany.....L, 45-3
S 14 Fordham.....L, 29-14
S 21 Brown.....L, 35-30
S 28 SAINT FRANCIS.....L, 16-6
O 05 @ Merrimack.....W, 24-17
O 12 LONG ISLAND.....W, 27-22
O 19 @ CENTRAL CONNECTICUT.....L, 52-14
O 26 @ ROBERT MORRIS.....L, 24-20
N 02 SACRED HEART.....1:00 pm
N 16 DUQUESNE.....1:00 pm
N 23 @ WAGNER.....12:00 pm

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT (7-1, 3-0 NEC)

A 31 @ Fordham.....W, 26-23
S 07 Merrimack.....W, 40-37
S 14 @ Valparaiso.....W, 42-13
S 21 @ Eastern Michigan.....L, 34-29
O 05 @ SACRED HEART.....W, 28-3
O 12 @ Columbia.....W, 24-14
O 19 BRYANT.....W, 52-14
O 26 LONG ISLAND.....W, 28-0
N 02 @ WAGNER.....12:00 pm
N 09 SAINT FRANCIS.....12:00 pm
N 16 ROBERT MORRIS.....12:00 pm
N 23 @ DUQUESNE.....12:00 pm

DUQUESNE (5-2, 3-0 NEC)

S 07 Walsh.....W, 44-3
S 14 @ Youngstown State.....L, 34-14
S 21 @ Dayton.....W, 35-31
S 28 @ New Hampshire.....L, 23-6
O 05 LONG ISLAND.....W, 21-14
O 19 @ SACRED HEART.....W, 20-6
O 26 WAGNER.....W, 28-24
N 02 SAINT FRANCIS U.....12:00 pm
N 09 @ ROBERT MORRIS.....1:00 pm
N 16 @ BRYANT.....1:00 pm
N 23 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT.....12:00 pm

LONG ISLAND (0-7, 0-6 NEC)

S 07 @ #3 South Dakota State.....L, 38-3
S 21 SACRED HEART.....L, 34-10
S 28 @ WAGNER.....L, 24-14
O 05 @ DUQUESNE.....L, 21-14
O 12 @ BRYANT.....L, 27-22
O 19 SAINT FRANCIS.....L, 30-0
O 26 @ CENTRAL CONNECTICUT.....L, 28-0
N 02 @ ROBERT MORRIS.....12:00 pm
N 15 @ Villanova.....7:00 pm
N 23 Merrimack.....12:00 pm

ROBERT MORRIS (4-4, 3-0 NEC)

A 29 @ Buffalo.....L, 38-10
S 07 Kentucky State.....L, 13-7
S 14 Dayton.....L, 34-31
S 21 @ Virginia Military Institute.....W, 31-21
S 28 @ #22 Youngstown State.....L, 45-10
O 12 @ SAINT FRANCIS.....W, 20-17 (20T)
O 19 @ WAGNER.....W, 21-13
O 26 BRYANT.....W, 24-20
N 02 LONG ISLAND.....12:00 pm
N 09 DUQUESNE.....1:00 pm
N 16 @ CENTRAL CONNECTICUT.....12:00 pm
N 23 SACRED HEART.....12:00 pm

SACRED HEART (4-4, 2-2 NEC)

A 30 @ #7 Maine.....L, 42-14
S 07 Bucknell.....W, 30-10
S 14 @ Lafayette.....W, 56-40
S 21 @ LONG ISLAND.....W, 34-10
O 05 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT.....L, 28-3
O 12 @ Pennsylvania.....L, 38-24
O 19 DUQUESNE.....L, 20-6
O 26 @ SAINT FRANCIS.....W, 36-33 (OT)
N 02 @ BRYANT.....1:00 pm
N 09 WAGNER.....12:00 pm
N 16 Lehigh.....12:00 pm
N 23 @ ROBERT MORRIS.....12:00 pm

SAINT FRANCIS U (4-4, 2-2 NEC)

A 31 @ Lehigh.....W, 14-13
S 07 @ #2 James Madison.....L, 44-7
S 14 Merrimack.....W, 42-14
S 21 Columbia.....L, 31-14
S 28 @ BRYANT.....W, 16-6
O 12 ROBERT MORRIS.....L, 20-17 (20T)
O 19 @ LONG ISLAND.....W, 30-0
O 26 SACRED HEART.....L, 36-33 (OT)
N 02 @ DUQUESNE.....12:00 pm
N 09 @ CENTRAL CONNECTICUT.....12:00 pm
N 16 WAGNER.....12:00 pm
N 23 @ Delaware State.....2:00 pm

WAGNER (1-7, 1-2 NEC)

A 29 @ Connecticut.....L, 24-21
S 07 East Stroudsburg.....L, 24-14
S 14 @ Stony Brook.....L, 26-10
S 21 @ Florida Atlantic.....L, 42-7
S 28 LONG ISLAND.....W, 24-14
O 05 Monmouth.....L, 16-14
O 19 ROBERT MORRIS.....L, 21-13
O 26 @ DUQUESNE.....L, 28-24
N 02 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT.....12:00 pm
N 09 @ SACRED HEART.....12:00 pm
N 16 @ SAINT FRANCIS.....12:00 pm
N 23 BRYANT.....12:00 pm

MERRIMACK (4-4)

A 31 Virginia Lynchburg.....W, 45-14
S 07 @ Central Connecticut.....L, 40-37
S 14 @ SAINT FRANCIS.....L, 42-14
S 21 Mayville State.....W, 76-7
S 28 @ Lehigh.....L, 10-3
O 05 Bryant.....L, 24-17
O 19 @ Delaware State.....W, 30-21
O 26 Presbyterian.....W, 24-21
N 02 @ Rhode Island.....1:00 pm
N 16 Franklin Pierce.....1:00 pm
N 23 @ Long Island.....12:00 pm