



DUQUESNE FOOTBALL

HOMECOMING

BRACKET CHALLENGE

**VOTE NOW FOR YOUR FAVORITE DUKES FOOTBALL
PLAYER OF ALL TIME!**

ELMER LAYDEN REGION

MIKE BASRAK / 1935-36

- 1936 consensus All-American
- 1st Duke drafted (5th overall by Pittsburgh in 1937)
- 1 of 2 Duquesne first round NFL picks
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1964)

VS.

ANTHONY PAESANO / 1949-51

- Named First Team All-Big 4 as a senior (DU, Pitt, Penn State, WVU)
 - DU's Lineman of the Year
 - Duquesne Hall of Fame (1988)
-

JOHN ROKISKY / 1939-41

- Played end and placekicker for DU teams that went a combined 23-1-1
- Played 3 NFL seasons for Cleveland, Chicago and New York
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1973)

VS.

MAESCH SILVERSTEIN / 1928-30

- Led DU to a 24-4-1 record under head coach Elmer Layden
 - Duquesne Hall of Fame (1971)
-

RAY KEMP / 1928-30

- Honorable mention All-American
- 1 of the first 2 Dukes to play in the NFL (1933 season)
- First African-American to play for the Pittsburgh Steelers
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1966)

VS.

ROD HESS / 1970-73

- 3-time Club Football All-American
 - Captain of the 1973 National Champion Club Football team
 - Caught 5 passes for 104 yards in the '73 title game win over Mattatuck CC
 - Duquesne Hall of Fame (1988) – first Club player inducted
-

ARMAND NICCOLAI / 1931-33

- Led DU to a 10-1 record and No. 8 Massey Rating in 1993
- Had a 9-year NFL career, including seven years as a starter at tackle and placekicker
- Led the NFL in scoring in 1935 and 1936
- His 7 field goals in 1936 stood as a Steelers record for 14 years
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1970)

VS.

TERRY RUSSELL / 1971-74

- Was an integral part of DU's 1973 Club Championship team
 - Played quarterback, halfback, receiver, tight end and defensive back at one time or another for DU
 - Named Duquesne's 1974 Athlete of the Year
 - Went on to serve as head coach and assistant coach for the Dukes
 - Duquesne Hall of Fame (1993)
-

GEORGE RADO / 1932-34

- Named to the 1933 All-Eastern Team
- DU went 25-5-1 in his three seasons on the Bluff
- Had a 4-year NFL career with the Steelers and Steagles
- 1st Team All-NFL pick in 1936
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1988)

VS.

ART ROONEY / 1920-24

- Played quarterback and kicked for the Dukes' burgeoning program
 - Went on to found the Pittsburgh Steelers
 - Duquesne Hall of Fame (1985)
-

KASS KOVALCHECK / 1927-30

- 2-way starter for Elmer Layden's great teams
- Went on the coach the Dukes for 2 seasons
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1969)

VS.

GEORGE MATSIK / 1935-37

- His 72-yard TD run was the lone score in a 7-0 win over 8-1-1 Pitt in 1936
 - Part of Orange Bowl championship team
 - Duquesne Hall of Fame (1980)
-

AL DELUCA / 1931-33

- 3-year letterman at running back
- Part of Festival of Palms Bowl winner
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1968)

VS.

JOSEPH MARAS / 1935-37

- Honorable mention All-American
 - Part of Orange Bowl championship team
 - Drafted by Cleveland in 1938
 - Had a 3-year NFL career in Pittsburgh
 - Duquesne Hall of Fame (1985)
-

CHARLES MEHELICH / 1942

- 2-way starter for DU prior to the team disbanding for WWII
- Played 6 seasons for the Pittsburgh Steelers
- Named 1st Team All-NFL in 1947
- Called by Art Rooney "the toughest football player I ever saw"

VS.

GEORGE PLATUKIS / 1936-39

- 2-way player for DU's Orange Bowl Championship team
- Had a 5-year NFL career with Pittsburgh and Cleveland
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1988)

DAN MCCANN REGION

AL DEMAO / 1939-41

- Tied with Leigh Bodden and Armand Niccolai for longest NFL career (9 years)
- Played in the 1941 Blue-Gray and College All-Star games
- Voted one of 70 greatest members of Washington Football Team of all-time
- Made the Pro Bowl in 1950 and 1952
- Commanded nine transport boat landings as a U.S. Navy lieutenant during the invasion at Normandy
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1972)

VS.

STEVE SHERER / 1971-74

- Running back during DU's Club Football glory years
- Was DU's all-time leading rusher upon completion of his playing career
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2016)

JOE CIBULAS / 1948-42

- Starting right tackle for teams that went a combined 21-4-1
- Originally went to LSU, but returned to Pittsburgh after 3 weeks
- Was drafted by the Steelers and played for them for a season
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1974)

VS.

CARL NERY / 1937-39

- All-American punter, also played tackle and fullback
- Helped 8-0-1 Duquesne to a No. 10 rank in the 1939 AP poll
- Drafted by the Steelers where he played for 2 seasons
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1977)

ERNE HEFFERLE / 1935-36

- Played for DU teams that went a combined 14-5-0
- Caught the game-winning TD in the 1937 Orange Bowl win over Mississippi State
- Went on to coach in college and the NFL
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1982)

VS.

PEDRO BOWMAN / 1981-84

- Finished his career as DU's all-time leading rusher (currently fourth)
- Still 2nd in career rushing touchdowns and total TDs
- 4-year starter
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1990)

PHILLIP AWESH / 1939-41

- Triple-threat halfback led DU to a 23-1-1 3-year record
- Known as the "Canonsburg Cannonball" he was drafted by Washington in 1942
- Served as head coach of the Dukes in 1949 & 1950 before being called to active duty in the Korean War during the 1950 season
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1972)

VS.

DAN DEFELICE / 1977-80

- Led team in tackles 4-straight years
- 1979 National Collegiate Football Association First Team All-American
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2003)

BOYD BRUMBAUGH / 1935-37

- Helped DU to a 7-0 win over previously undefeated Pitt in 1936
- Threw game-winning 72-yard TD pass to Ernie Hefferle to win 1937 Orange Bowl
- Highest drafted Duke ever (3rd overall by Brooklyn in 1938)
- Played 4 NFL seasons

VS.

JACK MCVAY / 1974-77

- Standout lineman for the D-III Iron Dukes teams
- NCFA All-American in 1977; honorable mention All-American in 1976
- 4-year starter on the offensive line
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2014)

ALDO MAZZONI / 1937-39

- Captain of 8-0-1 team that finished ranked No. 10 in the 1939 AP poll
- The 1939 Dukes turned down an invite to the Cotton Bowl
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1967)

VS.

MAX KIELBASA / 1948-42

- Honorable mention All-American
- Averaged over 100 yards rushing/g
- Drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers where he played one season
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1979)

RALPH LONGMORE / 1948-50

- Considered one of the top "triple-threat" backs in DU history
- Last Duke drafted (1951 by the New York Yanks)
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1976)

VS.

VINNIE VACCARELLO / 1985-88

- DU's career total and assisted tackles leader (records set in 1988)
- Also hold school records for total and assisted tackles in a season
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2000)

ALDO 'BUFF' DONELLI / 1926-29

- Offensive and defensive back and kicker for the Dukes
- Went on to a highly successful coaching career
- Only person to coach a college (Duquesne) and pro team (Steelers) simultaneously (1941)
- Was part of the US 1934 World Cup soccer team
- Member of the National Soccer Hall of Fame
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1963)

VS.

JAKE STRUTT / 1932-34

- Led DU to a 25-5-1 record as an undergrad
- Team co-captain as a senior
- Was the 2nd-leading college scorer as a senior running back
- Averaged 7 yards per carry as a junior
- Started for the Pittsburgh Steelers for 2 seasons
- Also played in the Pittsburgh Pirates minor league system
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (1981)

GREG GATTUSO REGION

LEIGH BODDEN / DB / 1999-02

- 9-year NFL career tied for longest by a Duke
- Consensus All-American (2001, 02)
- MAAC Defensive Player of the Year (2002)
- 28 career interceptions tied for 2nd-most in FCS history
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2009)

VS.

AUSTIN CRIMMINS / K,P / 2013-16

- 3-time All-NEC selection (2013, 15, 16)
- Duquesne's all-time leader in points (305)
- Dukes' all-time leader in field goals (57)
- Duquesne's all-time leader in punt average (38.5)

CHRIS KING / WR / 2012-15

- STATS FCS All-American (2015)
- 2-time First Team All-NEC pick (2014, 15)
- Set school single-season receptions record (81) and record for most 100-yard receiving games (13)
- 4th in school history in career receiving yards (2,574)

VS.

SERGE KONA / DB / 2009-12

- AP, STATS FCS All-American (2011)
- NEC Defensive Player of the Year (2011)
- 2-time All-NEC First Team (2011, 12)
- Tallied 223 career tackles, six interceptions

JOE ROSATO / WR, RS / 1994-97

- DU's 1st FCS All-American (AP 1996, specialist)
- 1 of 6 in FCS history with over 1,000 career kickoff and punt return yards
- 3-time First Team All-MAAC selection (1995-97)
- Duquesne's all-time leader in kick return yards (1,661) and punt return yards (1,029)
- Ranks 4th in school history in career receptions (159)

VS.

MATT FITZPATRICK / OL / 2015-18

- 3-time All-NEC pick (2016-18)
- Paved the way for 26 individual 100-yard rushing games in his career
- 2-time CoSIDA Academic All-District honoree
- Invited to Seahawks' Rookie Minicamp

NEHARI CRAWFORD / WR / 2015-18

- Duquesne's all-time leader in receiving yards (2,719) and receptions (190)
- 2-time First Team All-NEC selection (2017, 18)
- Ranks 3rd in school history in receiving TDs (31)
- Currently member of the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats

VS.

ZACH ZIDIAN / DL / 2012-15

- 3-time All-NEC pick (2013-15)
- Finished with 200 career tackles with 22 TFL
- Started 45 of 46 career games with the Dukes
- Played professionally for the Philadelphia Soul, part of Arena Bowl Championship team (2017)

NIEL LOEBIG / QB / 2001-04

- Only 4-time All-MAAC player in school history
- 21st player in D-I history (all levels) to top 10,000 yards passing and 100 TDs
- Only player in school history to throw for over 2,000 yards and 20 TDs in four seasons
- Went 34-9 as a starter

VS.

DEVIN RAHMING / WR,RS / 2012-14

- STATS FCS All-American as a kick returner (2014)
- All-NEC selection as receiver & returner (2014)
- Set Duquesne's single season record in kick return yards (683)
- Top-5 single season receptions in school history (71)

JEREMY CONLEY / WR / 1999-02

- Consensus All-American and MAAC Offensive POY in 2002
- Part of 4 MAAC championship teams (went 27-1 in MAAC games)
- 2-time Sports Network All-American (2001, 02)
- MAAC record 245 yards receiving in win over Dayton; avg. 18.8 ypc. for career career

VS.

GERALD FOSTER / WR / 1996-99

- MAAC Offensive Player of the Year (1999)
- Set single-season school record for receiving yards (1,340)
- Ranks 6th in school history in career receiving yards (2,472)
- Recorded 11 career 100-yard receiving games

DONTE SMALL / RB / 1998-01

- MAAC Offensive Player of the Year (2001)
- 3-time First Team All-MAAC (1999-01)
- Duquesne's all-time leader in all-purpose yards (5,992)
- Ranks 3rd in program history in career rushing yards (4,260), finished career as all-time leader

VS.

NATHAN STONE / LB / 2014-17

- 4-time All-NEC selection (2014-17)
- Started all 46 games of collegiate career
- NEC Defensive Rookie of the Year (2014)
- Ranks 6th in program history in career sacks (18.0) and ninth in school history in total tackles (289)

TONY ZIMMERMAN / QB / 1998-00

- Pitt transfer finished his 3-year career as the holder of 14 school records; MAAC Off. Player of the Year (2000)
- DU scored 20 or more points 30 times in his 33 career starts (26-7 as a starter)
- Threw for 7,313 yards and 73 TDs
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2011)

VS.

MIKE HILLIARD / RB / 1999-03

- Rushed for single-game school record 323 yards vs. La Salle (2003)
- Ranks 4th in school history with 32 career rushing TDs
- Sits 5th in program history with 3,188 career rushing yards
- DU's only 2-time Academic All-American (2002, 03)

JERRY SCHMITT REGION

CHRISTIAN KUNTZ / LB / 2012-16

- Part of 3 NEC Championship teams (2013, 15, 16)
- First DU FCS player to earn All-American honors 3 times
- Joined Leigh Bodden as the only 2-time AP FCS All-American in school history
- Ranks 6th on the FCS all-time list for career tackles for loss (71.5)
- First 3-time First Team All-NEC pick in school history
- Finished 12th in voting for 2016 Buck Buchanan Award (FCS Def. POY)

VS.

MICHAEL HILL / DB / 2003-06

- MAAC Defensive Player of the Year (2006)
- 2-time First Team All-MAAC (2005, 06)
- Helped Dukes rank 11th in country in scoring defense (2006)
- 4-time MAAC champion (2003-06)

MATT FISHER / LB / 1995-98

- 2nd player in school history to earn AP FCS All-American honors (1998)
- MAAC Defensive Player of the Year (1998)
- 3-time First Team All-MAAC selection (1996-98)
- Ranks 3rd in school history in total tackles (392) and 1st in solo tackles (258)

VS.

ANTOINE BULLOCK / DE / 2002-05

- Consensus All-American (2005)
- I-AA Mid-Major Defensive Lineman of the Year (2005)
- 2-time First Team All-MAAC pick (2004, 05)
- Ranks 2nd in program history in career sacks (27.5)

LARRY MCCOY / RB / 2009-12

- Ranks 2nd all-time in school history in career rushing yards (4,549), capped career as all-time leader
- 3-time All-NEC performer (2010-12)
- Sits 3rd in program history with 37 career rushing TDs
- Finished with 24 career 100-yard rushing games

VS.

LARSON GRAHAM / OL / 2013-16

- 3-time All-NEC selection (2014-16)
- Helped Dukes average 391 total yards and 22.7 points per game during his career
- Started all 46 games of Duquesne career
- Has appeared in NFL camp with Falcons, Steelers

BEN HUSS / OL / 2014-17

- 2-time All-American (AP, STATS FCS) (2016, 17)
- 4-time All-NEC selection (2014-17)
- Anchored o-line which helped Dukes lead NEC in total offense twice, pass offense twice and rush offense twice
- Participated in NFLPA Collegiate Bowl

VS.

HARRY CARTER / LB / 2002-05

- Duquesne's FCS-era leader with 394 career tackles
- MAAC Defensive Player of the Year (2005)
- 3-time First Team All-MAAC pick (2003-05)
- Finished with 114 tackles in 2003, good for 4th-most in a single season in program history

A.J. HINES / RB / 2016-19

- Duquesne's all-time leading rusher (4,629)
- STATS FCS Jerry Rice Award Winner (2016)
- Consensus All-American (2018)
- NEC Offensive Player of the Year (2018)
- 4-time All-NEC selection (2016-19)
- Duquesne's all-time leader in touchdowns (44)

VS.

DORIAN BELL / LB / 2011-13

- Ohio State transfer was fourth Duke named All-American by STATS FCS (2012)
- Part of 2 NEC Championship teams in 3 seasons at Duquesne
- 2-time All-NEC (2012, 13)
- Averaged 11.5 tackles per game (2012)

BRUCE HOCKER / WR / 2004-07

- Consensus All-American & MAAC Off. POY (2006)
- Led nation in receiving yards/g. (107.0) in 2006
- 2-time First Team All-MAAC selection (2006, 07)
- Ranks 2nd in program history in receiving TDs (33) as well as 3rd in yards (2,595) and receptions (162)

VS.

MIKE HAINES / RB / 1991-93

- Ranks 7th in school history in rushing yards (2,588)
- Rushed for 267 yards at St. John's (1992)
- Recorded 1,230 rushing yards (1992)
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2001)

DILLON BUECHEL / QB / 2013-16

- Finished his career as the leading passer in NEC history (10,330 yards)
- Led the Dukes to 3 NEC titles and 1st FCS Playoff appearance (2015)
- 3-time All-NEC pick
- Only player in school history with pair of 6 TD passing games
- Finalist for the 2016 Walter Payton Award (FCS Off. POY)

VS.

JOSH RUE / RB / 1999-01

- Recorded 2,683 all-purpose yards with 30 TDs in three seasons
- His 409 all-purpose yards in a 2001 win over Canisius still rank among the Top 15 efforts in FCS history
- Also saw action at defensive end during his career
- Spent 2003 season on Cardinals' practice squad

DAVE LOYA / QB / 1994-97

- Finished his career as the holder of 13 of a possible 15 passing records
- Led Dukes to first 2 MAAC titles in going 30-7 as a starter
- Still ranks fourth in school history in career pass yards (6,180)
- Duquesne Hall of Fame (2008)

VS.

RYAN TOLAN / RB / 2001-04

- Consensus All-American (2004)
- MAAC Defensive Player of the Year (2004)
- Set single-season record with 12.5 sacks (2004)
- Helped Duquesne to 4-straight MAAC titles (2001-04) and I-AA Mid-Major National Championship (2003)