

PICKING DIVISION III

Moving on from Tragedy, Moving Forward a Tradition

Johns Hopkins took a step onto the national stage last season, reaching the national semifinals before falling to eventual national runner-up Mount Union, 28-20.

The players, coaches and staff members at Johns Hopkins — fifth in *Lindy's* pre-season rankings — knew taking the next step would be a challenge. They had no idea how big a challenge it would be.

Respected and admired head coach Jim Margraff, who had led the Blue Jays since 1990, died suddenly on January 2, 2019 — just three weeks after leading Johns Hopkins to its deepest playoff run in school history. Greg Chimera, who had been a member of Margraff's staff since 2009 and the offensive coordinator since 2014, was named Margraff's replacement. Margraff had a 29-year record of 221-89-3 since taking over at Johns Hopkins in 1990.

"Our goal is to continue performing at an elite level on and off the field, just as we did under Coach Margraff," Chimera said. "Learning from him for the last 10 years has prepared me for this opportunity; he left a lasting impact on the program, and I will be reminded and motivated daily by the lessons learned from a legend."

Johns Hopkins athletic director Alanna Shanahan said Chimera stood out in Johns Hopkins' search.

"He has been a member of the Blue Jay football family for 14 years and has been an instrumental part of the success the program has enjoyed for the last decade," she said.

Chimera is not the only familiar face that will be in place for the Blue Jays. Seven starters return on both offense and defense.

David Tammaro was the only Division III quarterback to top 4,000 yards in 2018. The senior threw for 4,111 yards and 35 touchdowns with just seven interceptions. Tammaro will be throwing to junior receiver Ryan Hubley. He led the team in receiving (83-995-7). Senior Joe Figueroa was the anchor of an offensive line that paved the way for a unit that averaged 45.8 points and 550.3 yards per game.

On defense, senior end Mike Kalanik made 18 tackles for losses, including 10.5 sacks, last season. Sophomore linebacker Robert Fletcher stepped into a starting role the day he arrived and led the team with 100 tackles, adding six pass break-ups and nine tackles for loss. He was the first freshman to lead JHU in tackles in at least 30 years.

The Blue Jays will have more than

just emotional hurdles standing in front of them when the 2019 season kicks off. *Lindy's* Top 5 is filled with title contenders who have national championship aspirations, too.

Maintaining the top spot in the pre-season rankings is defending champion Mary Hardin-Baylor. The Cru has been to three straight Stagg Bowls, winning in 2018 and 2016. They return seven starters on offense and six defense including the team's leading sacker *Lindy's* preseason All-American tackle Joey Longoria (eight sacks in 2018).

Not surprisingly, Mount Union is second in the preseason. The Purple Raiders have missed just four title games since 1995. Mount Union returns quarterback

D'Angelo Fulford (37 passing, five rushing touchdowns) and running back Josh Petruccelli (1,531 rushing yards and 19 TDs).

Saint John's is third with seven starters back on each side of the ball. Gagliardi Award-winning quarterback Jackson Erdmann and offensive guard Dan Greenheck will power the Johnnies.

Rounding out *Lindy's* top five is No. 4 Wisconsin-Whitewater. The Warhawks are the only team not named Mary Hardin-Baylor or Mount Union to win a national championship since 2005. Running back Alex Peete will have to carry the load until the Warhawks can sort out key replacements on offense.

— Dominick DiRenzo

DIVISION III TOP 25

1. Mary Hardin-Baylor	Joey Longoria and Elijah Cross return to a defense that gave up less than 9 ppg.
2. Mount Union	Justin Hill gets his chance to be the next great Mount Union receiver.
3. Saint John's	Gagliardi Award-winning QB Jackson Erdmann and OG Dan Greenheck provide foundation.
4. Wisconsin-Whitewater	RB Alex Peete rushed for 22 TDs in 2018.
5. Johns Hopkins	Can Blue Jays take next step after the shocking death of coach James Margraff?
6. Muhlenberg	Mules welcome back 10 on offense. Bigger story: DE Frankie Feaster (17.5 sacks) is back.
7. North Central	QB Broc Rutter established school season records for completions and passing yards in 2018.
8. Whitworth	Leif Ericksen leads no-huddle attack, but LB Kale Wong provides sting on Pirates' defense.
9. Hardin-Simmons	In four seasons, Cowboys only losses are to Mary Hardin-Baylor and Linfield.
10. St. Thomas	Running back Josh Parker cuts teammates' hair and cuts down opponents.
11. Delaware Valley	Identical twins Anthony and Michael Nobile create havoc for opposing offenses.
12. Bethel	Royals will be good in '19 (and '20), with sophomore QB Jaran Roste, junior RB Sam Gibas.
13. Linfield	Ex-Linfield stars Aaron Boehme, Brett Elliott co-OCs for attack featuring RB Chidubem Nnoli.
14. Wabash	Isaac Avant and Ike James give the Little Giants two RBs with 1,000-yard seasons on resumes.
15. Wittenberg	LB Jonathan Seay makes it three straight Tigers to be NCAC Defensive Player of the Year.
16. Hobart	JR kicker Kyle Hackett is 19-for-19 on FGs and 80-for-82 on PATs in his career.
17. Chicago	Sophomore NT Jackson Ross clogs the middle for the Maroons; 104 tackles last season.
18. St. Norbert	Kordell Draves and Jerome Tillis anchor a D-line that gave up just 57 yards rushing per game.
19. Monmouth	For the second time in three seasons, the Scots had stingiest defense, allowing just 8.3 ppg.
20. Washington & Jefferson	Junior WR Andrew Wolf led Division III in receiving yards (1,339) and receiving touchdowns (21).
21. Hope	QB Mason Oppe passed for 18 TDs and rushed for 15 more while throwing just one INT.
22. Wheaton	With Clay Wagner on the line, Wheaton averaged 154.3 rushing yards, 294.0 passing ypg.
23. Berry	Head coach Tony Kunczewski has been named the SAA Coach of the Year three straight years.
24. Case Western	Sophomore QB Drew Saxton (34 TDs, 3,033 yards) and junior WR Colt Morgan give Spartans spark.
25. Montclair State	If Ja'Quill Burch continues to improve in his second year at QB, Red Hawks will be formidable.

Lindy's 2019 ALL-DIV III Team

OFFENSE - FIRST TEAM	QB	Jackson Erdmann	Sr.	Saint John's
	RB	Alex Peete	Jr.	Wisc.-Whitewater
	RB	Nas Smith	Sr.	Alfred
	WR	Andrew Wolf	Jr.	Washington & Jefferson
	WR	Alvin Johnson	Sr.	Puget Sound
	TE	Ryan Curtiss	Sr.	Muhlenberg
	C	Matt Beck	Sr.	St. Thomas
	OG	Dan Greenheck	Sr.	Saint John's
	OG	Sharmore Clarke	Jr.	North Central
	OT	Jonathan Castaneda	Sr.	Hardin-Simmons
	OT	Brendan Klaus	Sr.	Mount Union
DEFENSE - FIRST TEAM	AP	Aaron Sims	So.	Mary Hardin-Baylor
	K	Derik Judka	So.	North Central
DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM	DE	Frankie Feaster	Sr.	Muhlenberg
	DT	Joey Longoria	Sr.	Mary Hardin-Baylor
	DT	Conner Bogard	Sr.	John Carroll
	DE	Michael Nobile	So.	Delaware Valley
	LB	Sam Romanski	Sr.	Wisc.-Eau Claire
	LB	Trey Williams	Sr.	Mount Union
	LB	Re'Shaun Myers	Sr.	Bridgewater
	CB	Cal Lewellyn	Sr.	Centre
	CB	Gabe Brown	Sr.	Mount Union
	S	Jefferson Fritz	Jr.	Mary Hardin-Baylor
	S	Raeqwon Greer	Jr.	Alfred
OFFENSE - SECOND TEAM	P	Michael Raczak	Sr.	Widener
	QB	David Tammaro	Sr.	Johns Hopkins
	RB	Tanner Clark	Sr.	Marietta
	RB	EJ Lee	Sr.	Wesley
	WR	Justin Hill	Sr.	Mount Union
	WR	Will Gladney	Sr.	Ithaca
	TE	Jacob Maher	Sr.	Worcester State
	C	Nick Bainter	Sr.	Springfield
	OG	Joe Figueroa	Sr.	Johns Hopkins
	OG	Quinn Meinerz	Jr.	Wisc.-Whitewater
	OT	Joe Krall	Sr.	Monmouth
DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM	OT	Clay Wagner	Sr.	Wheaton
	AP	Elijah Rehm	Sr.	Rowan
	K	Kyle Hackett	Jr.	Hobart
	DE	Andrew Roesch	Sr.	Mount Union
	DT	Tommy Hyland	Jr.	North Central
	DT	Taj Gooden	Jr.	Wesleyan
	DE	David Gajderowicz	Sr.	Rowan
	LB	James Turner	Sr.	Dickinson
	LB	Jonathan Seay	Sr.	Wittenberg
	LB	Zachary Blackiston	So.	Heidelberg
	CB	Obasi Dees	Sr.	Cal Lutheran
DEFENSE - SECOND TEAM	CB	JoJo McNair	Jr.	Wartburg
	S	Dedrick Strambler	Sr.	Hardin-Simmons
	S	Lane Barnes	Sr.	Ripon
	P	Zach Warcola	Sr.	The College of New Jersey

THE BIG ONES

Sept. 5 Johns Hopkins at Randolph Macon	Head coach Greg Chimera leads the Jays in the first game since the passing of Jim Margraff.
Sept. 7 Wittenberg at Washington & Jefferson	Regional conference rivalry matchup between NCAC's Wittenberg and PAC's W&J.
Sept. 14 Linfield at Rowan	Linfield travels from Oregon to New Jersey for this rare East-West matchup.
Oct. 19 Saint John's vs. St. Thomas	Saint John's looks take control of MIAC title race at Allianz Field.
Oct. 26 Hardin-Simmons at Mary Hardin-Baylor	If Hardin-Simmons has plans for a deep playoff run, this game will prove it.

2018 PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Mary Hardin-Baylor 27
Hardin-Simmons 6

Berry 31
Maryville (Tenn.) 0

Saint John's 84
Martin Luther 6

Whitworth 48
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 6

Wisconsin-Whitewater 67
Eureka 14

St. Norbert 31
Trine 7

North Central 52
Hanover 0

Bethel 41
Wartburg 14

Mount Union 60
Denison 0

Centre 54
Washington & Jefferson 13

Randolph-Macon 23
John Carroll 20

Muhlenberg 20
Delaware Valley 13

Brockport 40
Framingham State 27

Rensselaer 38
Husson 14

Frostburg State 42
Western New England 24

Johns Hopkins 49
MIT 0

SECOND ROUND

Mary Hardin-Baylor 75
Berry 9

Saint John's 45
Whitworth 24

Wisconsin-Whitewater 54
St. Norbert 21

Bethel 27
North Central 24

Mount Union 51
Centre 35

Muhlenberg 35
Randolph-Macon 6

Rensselaer 21
Brockport 13

Johns Hopkins 58
Frostburg State 27

QUARTERFINALS

Mary Hardin-Baylor 21
Saint John's 18

Wisconsin-Whitewater 26
Bethel 12

Mount Union 38
Muhlenberg 10

Johns Hopkins 37
Rensselaer 14

SEMIFINALS

Mary Hardin-Baylor 31
Wisconsin-Whitewater 14

Mount Union 28
Johns Hopkins 20

CHAMPIONSHIP

Mary Hardin-Baylor 24
Mount Union 16

Most Valuable Player

Jackson Erdmann,
QB, Saint John's

Offensive Player of the Year

Andrew Wolf,
WR, Washington & Jefferson

Defensive Player of the Year

Joey Longoria,
DT, Mary Hardin-Baylor

Newcomer of the Year

David Marsh,
DL, Wabash