



BOSTON COLLEGE

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#5

ACC ATL.

#50

OVERALL



BOSTON COLLEGE					
5-YEAR WIN TREND					
13					
12	SYRACUSE	FSU	(B) Iowa	(B) Boise St	(B) Cincinnati
11	Notre Dame	LOUISVILLE	NC STATE	SYRACUSE	Notre Dame
10	NC STATE	SYRACUSE	VA TECH	FSU	FSU
9	VA TECH	CLEMSON	CLEMSON	CLEMSON	CLEMSON
8	LOUISVILLE	VA TECH	Notre Dame	NC STATE	LOUISVILLE
7	CLEMSON	GA TECH	WAKE FOREST	Purdue	WAKE FOREST
6	WAKE FOREST	(B) Maryland	SYRACUSE	VA TECH	Kansas
5	DUKE	WAKE FOREST	UConn	MIAMI	PITTSBURGH
4	FSU	UConn	FSU	LOUISVILLE	SYRACUSE
3	N. Illinois	NC STATE	VIRGINIA	Temple	NC STATE
2	Howard (FCS)	Buffalo	LOUISVILLE	WAKE FOREST	Rutgers
1	Maine (FCS)	Wagner (FCS)	C. Michigan	Holy Cross (FCS)	Richmond (FCS)
		UMass	N. Illinois	UMass	VA TECH
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	STEVE ADDAZIO				

“GET IN!”

The rebuild and rebrand of Boston College football is underway with a young, passionate, authentic figure leading the way. Jeff Hafley takes over a program that was ready for a change.

After rising to a #2 national ranking with Matt Ryan at the helm, Boston College had fallen from perennial conference contender to 7-win land. During the Steve Addazio era, 5 of his 7 seasons finished with exactly 7 wins. And while winning seasons and bowl games should never be discredited, a look at BC's non-conference scheduling habits show that these win totals were a bit inflated.

With an 8-game ACC slate, BC has four non-conference games each year. Of their 20 non-cons of the past five years, 14 were either FCS or non-AQ, three were Notre Dame (forced by ACC), and just three were Power 5 opponents: Purdue, Rutgers, and Kansas.

Showing no signs of long-term improvement, the administration cut the Addazio era after seven seasons.

While out on the coaching carousel circuit, former athletic director Martin Jarmond zeroed in on Hafley and apparently five minutes into the introductory interview in Columbus he knew he found his top candidate. Ohio State head coach Ryan Day spent nine years here in Chestnut Hill, and gave BC a glowing recommendation to Hafley when he was reviewing his opportunities.

Of course, Hafley oversaw the best one-year defensive improvement last year, inheriting a very average 2018 Ohio State defense and turning them into a Top 5 unit in all 12 major statistical categories. He has defensive coaching roots at both the college and NFL levels and familiarity with New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

While that region has always been Boston College's recruiting footprint, Hafley brings a fresh approach to the branding strategy. On our phone call, he mentioned the recruiting focus was to show national prospects what makes Boston College special: elite academics, proximity to downtown Boston, its Catholic and Jesuit affiliations, and yes, the NFL pipeline of offensive linemen.

His passion for rebuilding the Boston College program is apparent, and that certain level of authentic energy will translate in the recruiting game and with the alumni.

BOSTON COLLEGE					
2019 RESULTS	Yard +/-	TO +/-	GRADE		
VIRGINIA TECH	W 35-28	-10	4	65.8	
RICHMOND	W 45-13	154	2	FCS	
KANSAS	L 24-48	-120	1	12.3	
RUTGERS	W 30-16	56	2	56.5	
WAKE FOREST	L 24-27	93	-1	48.3	
LOUISVILLE	L 39-41	-101	-2	35.9	
NC ST	W 45-24	166	1	70.4	
CLEMSON	L 7-59	-497	-1	0.0	
SYRACUSE	W 58-27	243	-1	90.9	
FLORIDA ST	L 31-38	-16	-1	30.6	
NOTRE DAME	L 7-40	-310	-2	2.0	
PITTSBURGH	W 26-19	-7	4	58.5	
(B) CINCINNATI	L 6-38	-295	-1	2.6	
OVERALL:	49th / 66	ACC: 10th / 14	39.5		

OFFENSE

BOSTON COLLEGE				
BEST/WORST GAME GRADES (LAST 5 YEARS)				
YEAR	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	GRADE
2017	FLORIDA ST	W	35-3	112.2
2019	SYRACUSE	W	58-27	90.9
2017	VIRGINIA	W	41-10	89.7
2018	MIAMI	W	27-14	87.4
2017	SYRACUSE	W	42-14	85.4
2019	CLEMSON	L	7-59	0.0
2016	VIRGINIA TECH	L	0-49	0.3
2016	LOUISVILLE	L	7-52	1.0
2016	CLEMSON	L	10-56	1.1
2019	NOTRE DAME	L	7-40	2.0

Hafley's first coordinator hire is Frank Cignetti who has an extensive mix of pro and college experience. Most recently he coached quarterbacks in Green Bay, New York (Giants), and was the offensive coordinator for Sam Bradford's best season in St. Louis. Prior to that he's got some Northeast college experience at Pitt and Rutgers where he and Hafley's professional paths crossed.

Like his experience, his goal for the offense is a blend of pro and college elements. He wants pro-level blocking techniques mixed with college themes like fast tempo, and more quarterback runs/option. Those are fairly vague and we won't know the final look until September, but at the very least, it signals a shift from the usual Addazio offense. The past seven years have been run-first, run-second. It played to the roster strengths considering Addazio was an excellent offensive line developer, and star running backs Andre Williams and AJ Dillon combined for an incredible 8,100 yards & 72 touchdowns.

The offensive line will once again be the strength of the offense. Last season, all five starters earned All-ACC honors, and four are back for 2020. That's right, *four* returning offensive linemen with all-league credits. For context, no other ACC team returns more than two. The only missing piece from last year's front that finished with a Top 25 yards per carry is John Phillips.

This plays right into Boston College's program trademark as an offensive line pipeline to the NFL. Since 2000, 14 of BC's 40 draft picks have been offensive linemen. No other school nationally has had a higher percentage of their draft picks (35%) coming from the offensive line.

Dillon is also gone after a workhorse three-season career. David Bailey has the same physical running style and has the 240-pound frame to match. He had two multi-touchdown games last year and was especially unstoppable against NC State. Per early spring practice reports, he has shown pass-catching ability out of the backfield – a potential new element to the offense under Cignetti.

BOSTON COLLEGE	RANK	
Scoring Offense	29 ppg	66
Points per Play	0.39	80
Total Offense	429 ypg	47
Yards per Play	5.8	67
Rushing Offense	253 ypg	8
Yards per Carry	5.0	23
1st Down YPC	5.1	38
Explosive Rush	6.0	51
Passing Offense	176 ypg	113
Yards / Attempt	7.5	66
QB Rating	134	72
TD / INT Ratio	3.3	26
Sacks / Attempt	4%	20
Explosive Pass	8.0	41
Return. Production	54%	86

BOSTON COLLEGE		OFFENSE & DEFENSE, vs. OPPONENT AVERAGE (PERCENTILE)												
O														
F	51%	12%	27%	1%	1%	63%	75%	26%	5%	10%				57th
F	BAJAKIAN	SCOT LOEFFLER	FITCH	RYAN DAY	MARTIN	ROGERS	TRANQUILL							
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-YEAR			
D	JIM REID			DON BROWN			BILL McGOVERN							
E	4%	72%	56%	72%	96%	54%	18%	22%	29%	88%				
F														30th

While the running back spot reloads just fine, there are some concerns at quarterback due to an open NCAA appeal for immediate eligibility. Former 5-star Phil Jurkovec transferred in from Notre Dame and is the likely starter if his NCAA case goes through. His transfer commitment

BOSTON COLLEGE		RANK
Scoring Defense	32.2 ppg	101
Points per Play	0.43	85
Total Defense	479 ypg	125
Yards per Play	6.3	110
3rd Down Conv%	46.4%	121
Rushing Defense	193 ypg	100
Yards per Carry	4.8	100
Negative Play %	10%	26
Explosive Rush	8.4	109
Passing Defense	286 ypg	122
Yards / Attempt	8.1	106
QB Rating	150	114
Completion %	65.1%	115
Explosive Pass	6.5	72
Return. Production	81%	17

was a milestone achievement just weeks into Hafley's tenure – and was followed by another blue-chip win when former Top50 wide receiver Jaelen Gill chose to leave Ohio State. These early transfer wins are hopefully a sign of his recruiting ability here.

If Jurkovec's appeal is blocked, BC will turn to Dennis Grosel who was thrown into a starting role midseason but failed to cross the 50% completion threshold. Anthony Brown transferred to Oregon after starting/playing in 28 games here.

Even with Gill forced to sit a year, they are set at receiver as Kobay White enters his fourth season starting, and swift Zay Flowers is ready for a breakout year. Flowers was also used extensively in the rushing game, so look for him to get the ball in a variety of ways. From the tight end spot, Hunter Long was actually the team's receiving yards leader and had been impressing again in early spring practices.

DEFENSE

As recently as 2015, Boston College was home to the #2 defense in America. Then Michigan plucked away Don Brown, and the defense went from elite to more of a Top 40 quality. But still, it was the defense that held together the Addazio years while the one-dimensional offense averaged a #85 ranking over those seven seasons.

In the preview book last preseason I wrote:

As a developmental program that lacks the recruiting pop as other ACC programs, this transition year could be the one that finally pushes BC to an average or below average defense.

BC was #128 (of 130) in terms of returning production on defense, and my warning came true. Back in 2018, former coordinator Jim Reid rotated much less than most, meaning the new starters were *extra* new for 2019. It resulted in an absolute defensive collapse last year. Boston College fell in 13 of my 14 defensive stat categories – the only increase was in Negative Play percentage. It means that BC gambled more, made more plays in the backfield, but overall the gamble wasn't worth it with the huge increases in total yardage allowed and explosive plays allowed. In total, it was the third worst decline in Power 5 from 2018 to 2019.

Fortunately for new defensive coordinator Tem Lukabu, all of those ahead-of-schedule game reps start to pay dividends in 2020. That extreme inexperience flips, and now BC has the #12 returning production. They lose four seniors, which means an amazing 21 of the top 25 tacklers are back. Look for a mix of 3-man and 4-man fronts, and a lot of single-high safety, which was a foundation of Hafley's Buckeye defense last year.

It starts in the middle with the duo of Max Richardson and John Lamot who were the team's top two tacklers in 2019. Richardson earned All-ACC honors at linebacker and provided leadership during the early spring practices. The entire linebacker core returns around them, as well as the entire secondary minus one starter. That opening will be filled by grad transfer, and former Top200 recruit Deon Jones from Maryland.

Three seniors do graduate from the defensive line, but there is simply too much returning experience for there not to be a boost.

OUTLOOK

There is a lot to like from the Boston College roster, especially offensively. The line is filled with All-ACC honorees, David Bailey ensures the run game won't regress, and there are several playmakers on the outsides.

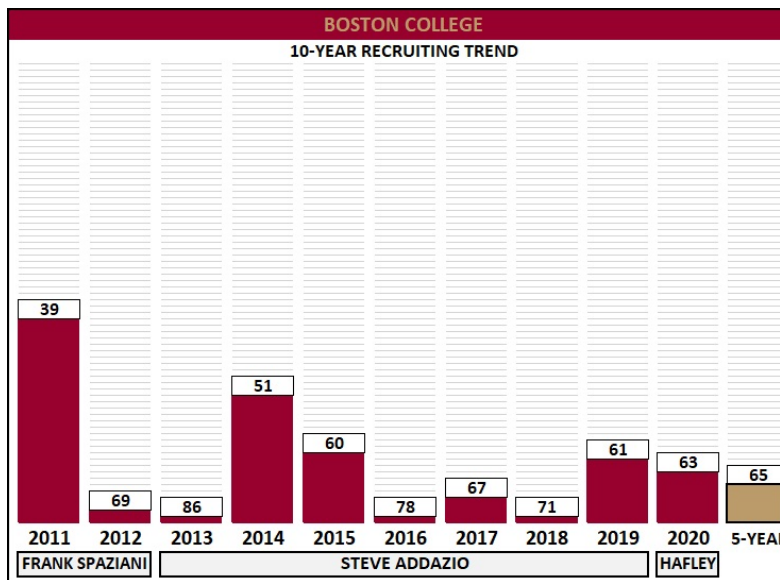
They are usually stout on defense but need a boost after last year's low performance. Most of that was due to extreme youth, which means they are now one of the more veteran groups in the league.

Hafley turned around the Ohio State defense overnight. While it may be a longer process here, you can tell he is passionate about building Boston College into a winner.

BOSTON COLLEGE	
2020 SCHEDULE	
S. 4	SYRACUSE
S. 12	OHIO
S. 19	@ Kansas
S. 26	PURDUE
O. 2	CLEMSON
O. 10	LOUISVILLE
O. 17	--- BYE ---
O. 22	@ Virginia Tech
O. 31	HOLY CROSS
N. 7	@ NC State
N. 14	@ Florida State
N. 21	UNC
N. 28	@ Wake Forest

BOSTON COLLEGE		RANK / 66
All-Time Wins	681	31
All-Time Win %	0.575	31
Wins (Last 100)	605	23
Wins (Last 50)	325	31
Wins (Last 25)	170	37
Wins (Last 10)	57	52
Wins (Last 5)	30	45
Game Grader (10 yr)	41.1	53
Game Grader (5 yr)	43.0	51
Game Grader (3 yr)	46.5	41
Draft Picks s' 2000	43	47
Draft Picks s' 2010	22	41
Player Development: Recruit Rank ('13-'16) vs. Draft ('17-'20)		3
Win Conversion: Recruit Rank ('11-'19) vs. Wins ('15-'19)		10

BOSTON COLLEGE				GAME GRADER (RANK / 66)						
2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	10-YEAR
39.5 (49)	48 (37)	52.1 (33)	39.7 (50)	35.5 (54)	52.7 (32)	38 (52)	31.8 (59)	29.6 (58)	44.1 (47)	41.1 (53)



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