

# NAMES TO KNOW-AAC

## Central Florida Knights

**Top Play:** QB Dillon Gabriel

**Potential Bust:** WR Jaylon Robinson

**Sleeper:** WR Ryan O'Keefe

**Impact Transfer:** RB Isaiah Bowser

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB Mark Antony-Richards

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR Titus Mokiao-Atimalala



No. 1 storyline to monitor and watch in fall camps for me will be UCF. I tried my absolute best to project **Dillon Gabriel** higher than he is currently slotted today, but just tough to do with what we've seen out of a Gus Malzahn offense in the past which typically operates at its peak with a dual-threat. Our starting point for projections was Malzahn's lone year at Arkansas State where his QB1 averaged 258 yards per game through the air – higher than anything he had during his time at Auburn – but almost 100 yards lower than what Gabriel averaged last season. Wide range of possible outcomes here. Does Malzahn keep things more status quo for his debut and play to the strengths of the roster? Possible. Do we see a more conventional offense similar to what we've seen in past from Malzahn? Also possible. Will try and glean as much as we can throughout the summer on this. The lefty gunslinger remains the best CFF option UCF has to offer. In a similar vein to Gabriel, **Jaylon Robinson's** value will depend on how the offense takes shape in 2021. Not one 1,000-yard or double-digit touchdown season from any wide receiver during Malzahn's time at Auburn. Love the player, but if his ADP is in the Top 10 which is currently is on Fantrax, I would have zero shares this year. Would much rather spend the capital on projected WR2 **Ryan O'Keefe** who could start in the slot where we've seen some relevant fantasy producers with the likes of Anthony Schwartz and Ryan Davis. O'Keefe has blazing speed and had a strong spring from all accounts, capped off with 6-83-1 in the spring game. Too many mouths to feed in the UCF backfield where I have very little idea who will be the starter is a situation I want to avoid entirely. Northwestern transfer **Isaiah Bowser** fits the size profile of what we typically see from a Malzahn RB1, but Auburn transfer **Mark Antony-Richards** was brought over by his head coach this offseason as well. As many as six different backs are in line for carries this year which steers me away from this group altogether. 4-star FR receiver **Titus Mokiao-Atimalala** was a heavily sought after prospect with 17 offers from P5 schools.

## Tulsa Golden Hurricane

**Top Play:** RB Shamari Brooks

**Potential Bust:** RB Shamari Brooks

**Sleeper:** RB Deneric Prince

**Impact Transfer:** RB Steven Anderson

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Davis Brin

**Fantastic Freshman:** RB Bill Jackson



**Shamari Brooks** is back after missing last season with a torn ACL, and will be running behind an offensive line that returns all five starters, regains the services of depth piece who opted out due to COVID, and adds in a former OL starter from Oklahoma State. Tulsa backs should have no issue finding holes to run through this season. The issue – there's a lot of them. The Golden Hurricane also return a pair of former SEC transfers in Anthony Watkins (Missouri) and **Deneric Prince** (Texas A&M), along with talented backup Christian Lovick who averaged over five yards a pop in limited reps last year. Southern Miss transfer **Steven Anderson** was also added during the offseason. Potentially a lot of mouths to feed here. Tulsa often hits the 400-carry mark as a team with Phillip Montgomery as head coach, including four 200+ carry rushers in the last six years so the likelihood is that someone here will be rosterable in CFF. Four receivers were targeted 50 or more times last season, and nobody more than 70, so a fairly equal target share amongst the group...and they're all back. Bad news for the receivers, but good for new starting quarterback **Davis Brin** who is most known for his 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter comeback vs. Tulane. I haven't seen enough from Brin to give a full breakdown of his skillset, but confident he will at least be an upgrade over Zach Smith.

## Cincinnati Bearcats

**Top Play:** QB Desmond Ridder

**Potential Bust:** QB Desmond Ridder

**Sleeper:** WR Alec Pierce

**Impact Transfer:** n/a

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Evan Prater

**Fantastic Freshman:** RB Myles Montgomery



While there are holes to poke in **Desmond Ridder's** game, particularly as a passer, you cannot deny he was one of the best fantasy QBs in all of college football down the stretch last season, topping 39 fantasy points in each of his last five regular season games. I do question, though, if we see Ridder have the same impact on the ground in 2021 as we saw last year with his 12 rushing touchdowns in nine games which is a bit of an outlier compared to previous seasons in a Mike Denbrock scheme. With better production out of the RB1 spot from **Jerome Ford**, I suspect we see some regression with Ridder that might not allow for him to reach his ADP of QB5. I know I didn't list Ford anywhere above, but want to give him a mention here as one of the players I'm highest on entering 2021 and can envision a Michael Warren-type workload with little to no depth behind him in the backfield. And if we do in fact see a statistical regression from Ridder, Ford will be the reason why. Very little interest in any of the receivers from this group, but primarily due to lack of volume. If one were to emerge, **Alec Pierce** would be the top candidate with his big-play ability, averaging over 18 YPC in his career. With Cincinnati easing into the 2021 schedule with Miami (Ohio) and Murray State, it will be the perfect opportunity to get a look at the future with former 4-star recruit **Evan Prater** who will take over in 2022. If all goes according to plan, this probably will be the only season we get to see Jerome Ford as the full-time starter, and I'm unaware of who potentially would be the next man up. Incoming FR **Myles Montgomery** should be in the mix.

## Houston Cougars

**Top Play:** QB Clayton Tune

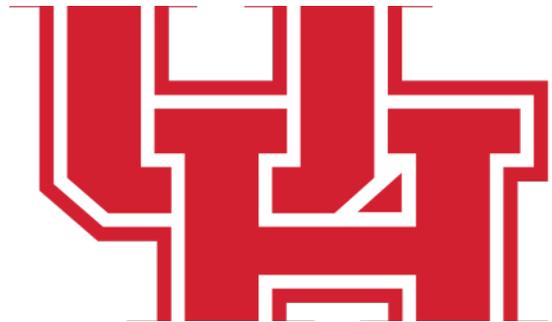
**Potential Bust:** WR Nathaniel Dell

**Sleeper:** WR Nathaniel Dell

**Impact Transfer:** WR KeSean Carter

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Maddox Kopp

**Fantastic Freshman:** RB Alton McCaskill



**Clayton Tune** is a shining example of a player that can be a top-end fantasy producer without being a top-end quarterback. Some of that is the product of the situation where Houston dealt with COVID postponements and the offensive line in front of him was not any good, but his progressions are extremely slow reading the field from what I saw, and his three-interception performance in the bowl game vs. Hawaii did him no favors with the fanbase. A normal offseason should help matters, as well as improvements up front. Tune averaged over 30 fantasy points per game last season in 6-pt leagues, and gives us a great floor if he averages nine carries a contest on the ground. For a team that averaged 37 passing attempts per game in 2020, it is strange that only one Houston receiver has come off the board in CFF Drafts with any regularity in former JUCO transfer **Nathaniel Dell**. While our favor to wind up as the WR1 next season, his size is a slight concern for me as a primary outside receiver at 5-foot-10, 155 pounds. If someone were to emerge as a secondary option, give me Texas Tech transfer **KeSean Carter** who should start immediately in the slot. Tune has two years left of eligibility so we may not need to prioritize his backup in dynasty drafts, but the Cougars did land an Elite 11 prospect in this year's cycle in **Maddox Kopp**. Rarely do I seek out running backs in Dana Holgorsen's system, with the RB1 averaging 163 carries and seven touchdowns over the last seven years, but **Alton McCaskill** could start from Day 1 as a freshman. Mulbah Car has never lived up to the early hype in his career and I heard next to nothing about Ta'Zhawn Henry in the spring.

## East Carolina Pirates

**Top Play:** QB Holton Ahlers

**Potential Bust:** WR C.J. Johnson

**Sleeper:** RB Rahjai Harris

**Impact Transfer:** WR Ray Rose

**Dynasty Prospect:** WR Taji Hudson

**Fantastic Freshman:** TE Jacob Coleman



Will this finally be the year we get “November **Holton Ahlers**” for the entirety of the regular season, or will it be the same rollercoaster ride we’ve experienced over his career? While Ahlers does deserve some of the blame, his struggles last year could also be attributed to the dismal play of the offensive line which ranked second to last in the conference in pass blocking per PFF, forcing Ahlers off-script which led to erratic play. That said, you don’t have to pay a premium price right now at QB55 in ADP and had six 30+ fantasy point performances in 6-point passing TD leagues in eight games! I prefer Ahlers in bestball formats because of his high-ceiling performances that are often tough to predict, but I’ll take him comfortably as a QB3-4 in redraft given his current price. In a similar vein to Ahlers, is this the final chance we see a possible breakout from **C.J. Johnson** whose career has trended downward since his FR year. Johnson has the highest ADP of any ECU receiver, yet is expected to share time at the “X” with Audie Omotosho. ECU also bolstered their WR depth, adding former 4-star recruit **Ray Rose** from North Carolina and got a strong performance in the spring from redshirt freshman **Taji Hudson** who is expected to start opposite Johnson. Tight ends see infrequent targets in this offensive system, so I question why **Jacob Coleman**, the team’s highest-rated offensive recruit, decided on the Pirates. Had some P5 offers, including Boston College which has a knack for locating talent at that position, so could be a name to watch down the road. ECU has a dynamic backfield in returnees **Rahjai Harris** and Keaton Mitchell, of which the former was listed as a first-team All-AAC selection for this year by Phil Steele. Five starters are back along the offensive line, for better or worse given their struggles LY. Individually, Harris and Mitchell are both very talented, but this is a system that believes in the committee approach where the RB1 averages just 154 carries per season and one that rarely throws the ball to their backs.

## Tulane Green Wave

**Top Play:** QB Michael Pratt

**Potential Bust:** RB Tyjae Spears

**Sleeper:** WR Deuce Watts

**Impact Transfer:** RB Devin Brumfield

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Michael Pratt

**Fantastic Freshman:** RB Iverson Celestine



Sensational debut season from **Michael Pratt** who averaged over 22 FPPG as a true freshman, accounting for two or more touchdowns in every game played last year. Limited upside from a fantasy perspective as he topped 30 fantasy points just once, but could we see that change under new offensive coordinator Chip Long who will implement more pro-style concepts? Expect an uptick in passing attempts for Pratt as a sophomore, and if he maintains the 12 carry per game average from a year ago, his value increases. We likely see much of the same from the Tulane backfield with 2-3 backs utilized on a consistent basis, and the Wave finding a great deal of success on the ground with four starters back up front. **Tyjae Spears** began the year as the starter in 2020, but injuries limited him to just three games. Impressive in that brief showing, averaging over seven yards a pop, and topped 100 rushing yards against both South Alabama and Navy. At full health, he is the best option in the backfield, but Tulane boasts plenty of depth with leading returning rusher Cameron Carroll and Utah transfer **Devin Brumfield** which could spread out the production. Incoming 3-star RB **Iverson Celestine** was thought to be a lock for Utah, but wanted to stay closer to home. Should the passing game get more looks under Long, WR1 **Deuce Watts** suddenly becomes a steal at his current ADP of WR95. 40 of his 56 targets came in his last six games with all six of his touchdowns coming in that span.

## Memphis Tigers

**Top Play:** WR Calvin Austin III

**Potential Bust:** RB Asa Martin

**Sleeper:** WR Javon Ivory

**Impact Transfer:** QB Grant Gunnell

**Dynasty Prospect:** RB JP Martin

**Fantastic Freshman:** QB Seth Henigan



No dispute as to who Memphis' best player on offense is with returning WR **Calvin Austin III** back after posting 63-1,053-11 in 11 games, averaging around 11 targets per game and accounted for almost 29 percent of the market share. Does that number grow even higher now in 2021 with second-leading receiver Tahj Washington having transferred to USC? There is no Kenneth Gainwell or Darrell Henderson-type talent in the Memphis backfield which contributed to the struggles on the ground in 2020, but the offensive line was abysmal, ranking 97<sup>th</sup> in line yards. Zero clarity coming out of spring ball as to who the RB1 will be, but our lean as of now is on former 4-star **Asa Martin** who closed last season as the starter. If Martin or the five other contenders for the job can't get it done, maybe the coaching staff gives incoming FR **JP Martin** a look -the 57<sup>th</sup> ranked RB in this past year's recruiting class. The Tigers added three transfers up front in the offseason, so conventional wisdom would side with that group being improved. 43 receptions and 75 targets have departed with Washington now off the roster, and the coaching staff speaks glowingly about **Javon Ivory** who has all the physical tools at 6-foot-2, 180 pounds. His conversion rate was uninspiring at just 52 percent (24 catches / 46 targets), but we've seen the WR2 in this offense catch anywhere between 36 and 72 receptions in the past. Similar to running back, the quarterback competition is completely up in the air at the moment, with most seeming to think that it will be Arizona transfer **Grant Gunnell** winning the job. LSU transfer Peter Parrish and redshirt freshman Keilon Brown are also still in the running, and both could give the offense a different look with their running ability. According to the Athletic, *"the Tigers believe they may have something special in true freshman **Seth Henigan**, an early enrollee from Denton, Texas."* Name to monitor down the road.

## Temple Owls

**Top Play:** WR Jadan Blue

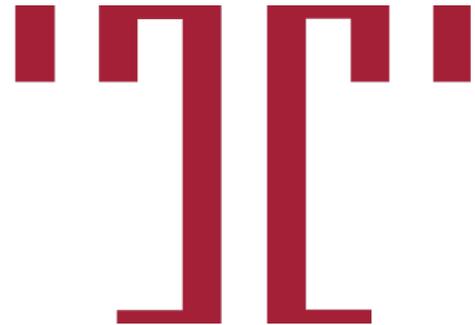
**Potential Bust:** WR Jadan Blue

**Sleeper:** QB D'Wan Mathis

**Impact Transfer:** RB Iverson Clement

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB D'Wan Mathis

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR Corey Palmer



A personal favorite sleeper of mine both in redraft and dynasty, D'Wan Mathis has already been named the starter for Temple next season where he will play in a system under Rod Carey that should rival what we saw back in his time at Northern Illinois. Mathis did struggle in his lone start for Georgia last season, but his skillset should translate better to Temple's style of offense where Carey's QB1s averaged over 500 rushing yards and five touchdowns per season in his last five years with the Huskies. If I'm being completely blunt...I literally don't have the slightest clue right now who will start at running back for Temple in 2021 and not sure I totally care. Carey brought in a pair of transfers in Iverson Clement (Florida) and Ra'Von Bonner (Illinois) who will compete with senior Tayvon Ruley, Edward Saydee and a host of other backs. Clement is the choice as of this moment, but that could change tomorrow for all we know. Temple brings back four starters along the offensive line, but ranked 95<sup>th</sup> in line yards and graded out poorly in run blocking per PFF. With Mathis stealing carries as well, I'm completely avoiding this group. Jadan Blue is one of my favorite targets at the end of our CFF Bestball Drafts, with his ADP currently sitting at WR101. While the WR production from this scheme is extremely hit or miss, I don't mind betting on a receiver like Blue with a 95-catch season on his resume. At WR101, why the hell not?

## South Florida Bulls

**Top Play:** n/a

**Potential Bust:** WR Bryce Miller

**Sleeper:** WR Xavier Weaver

**Impact Transfer:** QB Cade Fortin

**Dynasty Prospect:** WR Xavier Weaver

**Fantastic Freshman:** QB Timmy McClain



Consider 2020 to be Year 0 for head coach Jeff Scott at South Florida. The quarterback position was a mess, and it's been a mess for quite some time. Scott tried to address that this offseason, adding North Carolina transfer **Cade Fortin** and former Miami QB Jarren Williams, with the former coming out of spring as the projected starter. Game scripts are likely to favor the QB here with USF trailing in most contests, and the Bulls did rank 35<sup>th</sup> nationally in passing attempts per game at 34.8. That said, I will only consider a USF quarterback as a streaming play if in dire straits, or possibly DFS depending on matchup/pricing. That's about it. Same situation at running back where you'll see 4-5 different options used this season between Kelley Joiner, Brian Battie, Colorado transfer Jaren Mangham and former Oregon transfer Darrian Felix. USF returns all five starters up front, but that group was atrocious last season. I want nothing to do with this room. **Bryce Miller** has the highest ADP of any USF player currently on Fantrax, but no receiver had more than 15 percent of the target share. Redshirt freshman **Xavier Weaver** has the highest upside of the returnees, and caught two touchdowns in the spring game. If taking a chance on someone, it would be him...especially if USF is throwing it 35 times again in 2021. Scott signed a pair of incoming FR that I think garner draft capital late in dynasty formats – dual-threat QB **Timmy McClain** and WR **Jimmy Horn Jr.**

Overall, you see my interest in South Florida for CFF with “n/a” being my Top Play.

## Navy Midshipmen

**Top Play:** QB Xavier Arline

**Potential Bust:** QB Xavier Arline

**Sleeper:** FB Isaac Ruoss

**Impact Transfer:** n/a

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Xavier Arline

**Fantastic Freshman:** QB AJ Snow



Good news everyone – Navy is back to having padded practices again! Would've been nice to know there was no contact in practices before getting trounced by BYU in last year's opener.

I digress.

Navy's version of the triple-option is different from Air Force or Army in that the quarterback is typically the position to target in CFF as we've seen in the past from the likes of Keenan Reynolds, Zach Abey, Will Worth and Malcolm Perry. When Navy settles on one QB, it's a lock for 250 carries in a season. We spotlighted sophomore **Xavier Arline** as a possible dynasty add late last year after rushing for 194 yards on 38 attempts in the final two games, and he did come out as the starter following spring ball. The issue – Arline is 176 pounds, which is more 11 pounds more than last season, but still slight of build. Both Reynolds and Perry played at 185 pounds. Arline's primary competition, Tai Lavatai, is 210 pounds and made his way up the depth chart in the spring. Situation to monitor closely in the summer because if Navy does settle on one QB, his value skyrockets. Senior **Isaac Ruoss** is listed atop the depth chart at fullback following the dismissal of Jamale Carothers. FB1 averages just 140 carries per season over the last seven years, but we have two instances of double-digit rushing touchdowns over that span. I don't know much about Ruoss or his backup James Harris, though. Navy boasts talented players at the slot-back and wide receiver positions, including Mychal Cooper and Chance Warren, but they are insignificant from a fantasy perspective.

## SMU Mustangs

**Top Play:** RB Ulysses Bentley IV

**Potential Bust:** WR Reggie Roberson

**Sleeper:** WR Danny Gray

**Impact Transfer:** QB Tanner Mordecai

**Dynasty Prospect:** QB Preston Stone

**Fantastic Freshman:** WR Dylan Goffney



I find **Ulysses Bentley IV** to be one of the more fascinating players this upcoming season in CFF because of the wide range of plausible outcomes. On one hand, Bentley is *easily* the most talented rusher on the roster, but head coach Sonny Dykes explained where his star running back needed to grow this offseason. *“He had a bunch of 20-yard and 30-yard runs, but he needs a lot more 2- and 3-yard runs,”* Dykes said. *“He’s done better in the spring, and he’s got to continue to improve in the fall where he can be an every-down back.”* T.J. McDaniel started the first four games of 2020 before an ankle injury cut his season short, and while the staff appears to trust the veteran back, he’s a JAG. North Texas transfer Tre Siggers and Tyler Lavine will be in the mix, but the hope is Bentley’s development at the running back position lead to another breakout season. We have instances of both committee and workhorse approaches under Sonny Dykes and offensive coordinator Garrett Riley, so how this season shakes out will depend on Bentley. Same wide range of outcomes for **Reggie Roberson** in 2021, but for much different reasons, after suffering season-ending injuries in back-to-back seasons. You all know my infatuation by now for WR2 **Danny Gray** who has garnered the praises of the coaching staff for a second straight offseason. In a similar vein to Bentley, physically, it’s all there for Gray who is one of the fastest players in all of college football. It’s all about refining the nuances of the wide receiver position. Currently sits at WR48 in ADP. He won’t get much playing time in 2021, but adding true freshman WR **Dylan Goffney** late in dynasty drafts would be a savvy move. A high 3-star recruit with a plethora of P5 offers, Goffney offers size and speed at 6-foot-1 and was singled out by Dykes as having a strong spring. Feasible SMU will lose Roberson and at least one of Rice/Gray (if not both) to the NFL after this year. Oklahoma transfer **Tanner Mordecai** remains the favorite to succeed Shane Buechele in an offense that will rank in the Top 10 nationally in passing volume once again. BUT, this is a legitimate competition still from most accounts and I don’t believe it to be coach-speak either. 4-star recruit **Preston Stone** had offers from all the big-wig programs around the country but chose to remain close to home. Derek Green, son of NFL QB Trent Green, continues to be mentioned repeatedly as having a great offseason and has the strongest arm of the three despite his walk-on status. Very confident that Mordecai eventually is named the guy, but this is a legitimate competition and might be wise to handcuff if drafting the SMU quarterback. Despite multiple years left of eligibility for Mordecai, I would still make Stone a priority dynasty stash.