

NAMES TO KNOW-MAC

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

Top Play: WR Tyrice Richie

Potential Bust: RB Harrison Waylee

Sleeper: WR Trayvon Ruddolph

Impact Transfer: QB Rocky Lombardi

Dynasty Prospect: RB Harrison Way-lee

Fantastic Freshman: RB Antario Brown



QB position is still a question mark again this year for Northern Illinois but even Ross Bowers was sufficient enough to provide support for WR1 **Tyrice Richie** who became a bonafide star in CFF, accumulating 53 receptions on 72 targets and four TDs in just six games. All MAC schedule which needs to be noted to provide context, but Richie topped double-digit fantasy points every week and accounted for 35 percent of the target share. Best suited for PPR formats, but a value WR2 or WR3 on any fantasy roster. From all reports, **Harrison Waylee** had a big spring, with head coach Thomas Hammock stating he saw the sophomore back break off 50+ runs multiple times during camp. Biggest trepidations with Waylee are size and an incoming recruit by the name of **Antario Brown**. A former South Carolina commit, NIU was able to secure a commitment from Brown despite his offer sheet having all P5 schools on it. Why? Not sure the reasoning, but at 205 pounds with a reported 4.5 40-yard dash, Brown seems like a commit that could have an immediate impact and extreme long-term value. I would handcuff Waylee with Brown in all formats if roster sizes allow for it. Trayvon Rudolph finished second on the team with 31 targets as a freshman but only converted to catches 45 percent of the time. Speed to burn, though, as Rudolph was one of the best kick returners in the nation, averaged 24 yards per return. Maybe he can turn that physical talent into a being a formidable receiver. I'm just not sure if new starting QB **Rocky Lombardi**, formerly of Michigan State, is capable of supporting two fantasy-relevant receivers in this offense, even with dropping down a level to the MAC. The backfield of Waylee and Brown are the best prospects on the team from a dynasty perspective as this is a run-heavy offensive system.

BALL STATE CARDINALS

Top Play: WR Justin Hall

Potential Bust: RB Will Jones

Sleeper: WR Yo'Heinz Tyler

Impact Transfer: WR Jayshon Jackson

Dynasty Prospect: RB Rico Barfield

Fantastic Freshman: QB Kiael Kelly



I can't think of a WR in all of college football that has been as consistent over the last four years than **Justin Hall** who is the active leader in FBS with 257 career receptions. Assuming he remains healthy, 60 receptions is a near lock, and Hall was well on his way to topping that benchmark with 49 catches in just seven games in 2020. His counterpart, **Yo'Heinz (ketchup) Tyler**, finally had his breakout season as he tallied a receiving touchdown in every game played. Ball State brought in Cincinnati transfer **Jayshon Jackson** this offseason and could potentially fill Hall's role in the slot in 2022 if we are looking ahead in dynasty formats. Ball State RBs aren't being drafted in redraft formats, but Ball State appears intent on rolling out Will Jones and Tye Evans in a shared backfield. Don't view either player as being a Caleb Huntley-type back, handling 20 carries a game, so I'll avoid altogether. Incoming FR **Rico Barfield** will be a name to know in the coming years. Already 215 pounds, Barfield played in one of the most talented backfields in high school football last season with the likes of Taj Butts (Missouri) and Darez Snider (Miami-Ohio). Drew Plitt will eventually retire from collegiate athletics, and incoming FR **Kiael Kelly** will have a shot at the job in 2022 – offers from Illinois, Indiana, Coastal Carolina and Liberty.

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