



Arnijae Ponder  
RB, Morningside (Iowa)

### PRESEASON TOP 10

- **Morningside (Iowa)**
- **Marian (Ind.)**
- **Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)**
- **College of Idaho**
- **Northwestern (Iowa)**
- **Saint Xavier (Ill.)**
- **Saint Francis (Ind.)**
- **Concordia (Mich.)**
- **Bethel (Kan.)**
- **Kansas Wesleyan**

### ALL-AMERICA TEAM

#### OFFENSE

- QB** Joe Dolincheck, Morningside (Iowa), Jr.
- RB** Arnijae Ponder, Morningside (Iowa), Sr.
- RB** Tim Whitfield, Langston (Okla.), Sr.
- OL** Austin Sherrill, Keiser (Fla.), Sr.
- OL** Andrew Rupcich, Culver-Stockton (Mo.), Sr.
- OL** Dustin Rivera, Southwestern (Kan.), Sr.
- OL** Tristan Shehorn, Ottawa (Ariz.), Jr.
- OL** Donovan Corlew, Concordia (Mich.), Sr.
- TE** Austin Harris, Midland (Neb.), Jr.
- WR** Stevie Williams, Kansas Wesleyan, Sr.
- WR** Shane Solberg, Northwestern (Iowa), Sr.

#### DEFENSE

- DL** Robert Robinson, Briar Cliff (Iowa), Sr.
- DL** Kumi Sarpong Jr., Cumberlands (Ky.), Jr.
- DL** Sage DeLong, Eastern Oregon, Sr.
- DL** Seth Maitlen, Morningside (Iowa), Sr.
- LB** DaMarcus Wimbush, Bluefield (Va.), Sr.
- LB** Lane Napier, Concordia (Neb.), Sr.
- LB** Josh Seabolt, Bethel (Kan.), Jr.
- DB** Twon Collymore, Sterling (Kan.), Jr.
- DB** Dallas Flowers, Grand View (Iowa), Jr.
- DB** Sage Chen-Young, Keiser (Fla.), Jr.
- DB** Athanias Leeviraphan, Evangel (Mo.), Sr.

#### SPECIALISTS

- K** Nathan Hamilton, Grand View (Iowa), So.
- P** Camdon Griffiths, Midland (Neb.), Sr.

# Backfield sets stage for Morningside three-peat

BY WILL LONG

Street & Smith's correspondent

**M**orningside (Iowa) continues rolling right along in NAIA football. The Mustangs won their second straight national title with last year's 40-38 victory over Marian (Ind.). Coach Steve Ryan's team has no plans to slow down either. With 16 consecutive postseason appearances and a trip to the semifinals in seven of the last nine years, Morningside has become the measuring stick in NAIA. Marian and Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) have the best shot at reining in the Mustangs in 2020.

### TOP 10

After having the best scoring offense in the country at 52.5 points per game in 2019, **Morningside (Iowa)** will feature the nation's most explosive backfield this season. Quarterback Joe Dolincheck (4,303 passing yards, 49 TDs) and running back Arnijae Ponder (1,884 rushing yards, 23 TDs), both preseason All-America selections, will lead the offense, while Bo Els (95 receptions, 1,283 yards, 16 TDs) and Reid Jurgensmeier (69, 1,377, 17) will provide a pair of elite targets in the passing game. Lineman Seth Maitlen will anchor the Mustang defense.

**Marian (Ind.)** allowed just 231.9 yards per game to lead the nation last year in total defense, and nine starters return on that side of the ball as the Knights attempt to dethrone Morningside. Entering his eighth season, coach Mark Henninger's team will have a trio of senior leaders at each level of the defense: lineman Krys Oakley, linebacker Bailey Bennett and cornerback TJ Comer. The offense must replace graduated NAIA National Player of the Year Charles Salary at running back.

After reaching the national semifinals for the first time in school history last year, **Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)** has its sights set on the ultimate prize in 2020. The Blue Raiders, who averaged 40.3 points per game in 2019, will be loaded offensively with the return of QB Cameron Dukes (3,394 passing yards, 35 TDs), running back Jaylen Boyd (1,119 rushing yards, 12 TDs) and wide receivers Josh Lewis (52 receptions, 773 yards, 11

TDs) and Terrill Cole (39, 749, 6).

The **College of Idaho** will continue to rely on an effective ground game led by senior Nick Calzaretta (1,221 rushing yards, 12 TDs). The Yotes will be searching for a new starting signal-caller for the first time in five years with the graduation of Darius-James Peterson, but whoever wins the job will be working with an experienced skill-position corps.

**Northwestern (Iowa)** will provide the stiffest competition to Morningside in the Great Plains Athletic Conference this season. The Red Raiders will rely on the pitch-and-catch combination of QB Tyson Kooima (3,007 passing yards, 27 TDs) and wide receiver Shane Solberg (85 receptions, 1,264 yards, 13 TDs).

**Saint Xavier (Ill.)** will have to rely on defense and the running game in 2020 after the loss of QB Alex Martinez and four wide receivers. However, eight starters return on defense for the Cougars, including standout linebackers Joey Markasovic and Danny Saracco.

**Saint Francis (Ind.)** will look to improve upon the 172.5 rushing yards per game from a year ago behind the blocking of first-team all-conference linemen Landon Myers and Rece Roney. Running back Martell Williams (766 yards, 7 TDs) should be the linchpin of an offense that returns seven starters.

All-American Donovan Corlew will pave the way for running back Omar Sinclair (993 rushing yards, 11 TDs) for **Concordia (Mich.)** this season, while a stout defensive line led by end Alex Hinojosa and tackle Trey Freeman should limit opposing ground-gainers.

**Bethel (Kan.)** returns 21 starters from a team that led the NAIA with 371.3 rushing yards per game, including their entire stable of backs, led by Camryn Harrison (68 carries, 840 yards, 6 TDs), Chantz Scurry (592 yards, 6 TDs) and QB Zach Esau (647 yards, 15 TDs), who also passed for 690 yards and eight more scores.

After consecutive Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference titles, **Kansas Wesleyan** coach Myers Hendrickson must find replacements for most of his regulars from last season. All-America wideout Stevie Williams (57 receptions, 1,455 yards, 17 TDs) will be the building block on offense.