

2020 Akron Football Preview



Head Coach (Yr)

Tom Arth (2)

Offensive Coord.

Tommy Zagorski (2)

Defensive Coord.

Matt Feeney (2)

Conference/Div

MAC/East

Team Profile

	#	Rk
2020 Team Power Rating	42.2	128
Power Ratings Diff vs Last Year	8.5	1
2020 Strength of Schedule	59.6	112
2020 Season Win Projection	2.7	124
Returning Starters (OFF/DEF)	15 (9/6)	30
Return Starting QB (YES/NO)	YES	
Returning Production %	78%	14
Returning Offense Production	89%	3
Returning Defense Production	66%	57
2020 Recruiting (Signees)	24	124
2020 Roster Talent Rank		128

2020 Offense/Defense Analysis

Akron enters 2020 on a nation-long 17-game losing streak. Year one under head coach Tom Arth set records for all the wrong reasons as the Zips became the first team ever to start a season 0-10 ATS (finished 1-11). Akron had the worst offense in college football ranking dead last in rushing ypg, rushing ypc, yards per play, yards per game and scoring. They were also the worst team in the country as far as protecting the QB (allowed 58 sacks) and the worst at getting after the QB (only 10 sacks on defense).

However, there is some good news as we think Akron could be one of the most improved teams in the country thanks to the return of 15 starters led by QB Kato Nelson (dual-threat). Per Bill Connelly, 44 players logged at least 100 snaps last season and 33 return. WR Nate Stewart (14.3 ypc) is one of their better weapons on offense.

The defense does lose 1st-Team All-MAC LB John Lako (138 tackles and a "Pick-6" last year) but return Bubba Arslanian (125 tackles). The Zips' D was much more respectable than their offensive counterparts including ranking No. 69 in yards per play allowed.

The schedule is much more manageable this season as there are 4 winnable games starting with the opener vs Youngstown St. However, the Zips did not get in a single spring practice before the COVID-19 cancellations.

2020 Schedule with BP Projected Lines

Date	Opponent	Line	Win %	Line	Total	Score	W/L/O/U
9/5	Youngstown St	4.5	38%				
9/12	at New Mex St	5.7	35%				
9/19	at Clemson	60.6	0%				
9/26	Miami (OH)	15.9	13%				
10/3	at Buffalo	24.8	5%				
10/10	at Kent State	16.4	12%				
10/17	UMass	-8.1	71%				
10/24	at Ball State	21.1	7%				
10/31	Toledo	14.3	17%				
11/7							
11/14	Bowling Green	-1.9	55%				
11/21	W Michigan	17.9	9%				
11/27	at Ohio	23.7	6%				
Projected Wins		2.68					

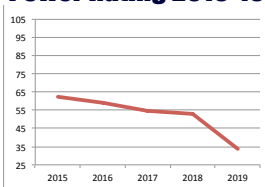
Last 5 Year Records

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Straight Up	8-5	5-7	7-7	4-8	0-12	24-39
Home	3-3	2-4	5-1	2-3	0-6	12-17
Away	4-2	3-3	2-5	2-5	0-6	11-21
Neutral	1-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	1-1
Conference	5-3	3-5	6-3	2-6	0-8	16-25
Non-Conf	3-2	2-2	1-4	2-2	0-4	8-14
ATS	8-5	4-8	8-6	5-7	1-11	26-37
Home Fav	2-1	1-2	2-1	1-3	0-0	6-7
Home Dog	1-2	0-3	2-1	0-1	0-6	3-13
Away Fav	2-0	0-2	1-0	0-1	0-1	3-4
Away Dog	2-2	3-1	2-4	4-2	1-4	12-13
Conference	6-2	3-5	6-3	2-6	1-7	18-23
Non-Conf	2-3	1-3	2-3	3-1	0-4	8-14
O/U	5-8	6-6	3-11	4-8	6-6	24-39

ATS Stat

Akron became the first team ever to start a season 0-10 ATS. The Zips were -11.3 ppg vs the spread for the season.

End of Season Power Rating 2015-19



2019 Stats

Rushing	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
YPC	1.8	130	4.5	88
YPG	47.6	130	213.5	116
Passing	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
Comp %	51.5%	122	65.9%	122
YPA	5.9	120	7.9	93
YPG	195.6	100	200.4	29
TD-INT	12-14		23-5	
Total	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
YPP	4.0	130	5.7	69
YPG	243.2	130	413.9	83
Scoring	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
PPG	10.5	130	36.3	122
3rd Down	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
%	26.4%	130	53.0%	130
Red Zone	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
TD %	42.3%	128	70.7%	119
Scoring %	69.2%	128	84.5%	77
KO Ret	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
Avg	21.5	53	14.9	1
Punt Ret	Akron	Rk	Opp	Rk
Avg	3.8	117	5.6	31
Sacks	By	Rk	Vs	Rk
#	10	130	58	130
TFL's	By	Rk	Vs	Rk
#	51	127	110	125
Net Punt	Akron	Rk		
Avg	35.4	123		
4th Down	Off	Rk		
Att P/Gm	1.8	49		
Turnovers				
Margin	-15	128		
Penalties				
Per Game	6.7	90		

Follow Brad
on Twitter:
@BradPowers7

Scoring Quarter-By-Quarter

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	OT	Total
Akron	32	23	21	50	0	126
Opp	90	158	111	76	0	435

2019 Stat Margins

	Margin	+/-	Rk
Rush YPC	-2.8		129
Pass YPA	-2.0		119
YPP	-1.7		125
YPG	-170.7		129
Scoring	-25.8		129

2019 Individual Stats

Bold = Returning

	Passing	Att	Yds	%	Ratio
Kato Nelson	280	1820	53.9	11-6	
Zach Gibson	81	425	50.6	1-3	
	Rushing	Att	Yds	YPC	TD
Brandon Lee	61	179	2.9	0	
P. Hayes-Patrick	41	138	3.4	0	
	Receiving	Rec	Yds	YPC	TD
Nate Stewart	37	529	14.3	3	
Jeremiah Knight	31	430	13.9	0	
Dustin Burkhardt	15	320	21.3	1	
M. Mathison	31	243	7.8	0	
	Defense	Tkl	Sks	TFL	INT
John Lako	138	1	8.5	1	
Bubba Arslanian	125	2	0	0	
Alvin Davis	79	0	5	0	
Josh Ward	48	2.5	1.5	0	
Dylan Meeks	47	0.5	0.5	0	
Randy Cochran	41	0	2	0	
	Kicking	FG	LG	XP	
Cory Smigel	5-6	35	80+		
	Punting	Avg	I20	50+	BLK
Jonah Wieland	37	120	5	0	

2019 Game-By-Game Recap

Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Akron		61	3	Under: 16
Illinois	-15	-18.5	42	Cover: 20.5
-Illinois had a 401-192 yard edge including 207-64 on the ground.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
UAB	-9	-8.5	31	Cover: 2.5
Akron	55	46	20	Over: 5
-Final stats were close as UAB only had a 402-393 yard edge.				
-UAB did miss two FG's and led Akron 31-6 into the 4Q.				
-Akron QB Kato Nelson was 25 of 44 for 359 yards and 2 TD's.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Akron	52	45.5	24	Over: 23.5
Cent. Mich	-7	-2.5	45	Cover: 18.5
-CMU had a 533-324 yard edge, led 27-3 late 2Q and never looked back.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Troy	-16	-18	35	Cover: 10
Akron	52.5	57	7	Under: 15
-Troy dominated with 32-10 first down and 485-242 yard edges including 270-39 on the ground.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Akron	-5.5	-8.5	29	Over: 4.5
UMass	60.5	61.5	37	Cover: 16.5
-UMass had 24-22 first down and 433-406 yard edges including 220-71 on the ground. The Minutemen were also +2 in TO's.				
-4 different Akron players attempted a pass and they were a combined 28 of 42 for 335 yards and 3 TD's with 2 INT's.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Kent State	-10	-14.5	26	Cover: 8.5
Akron	56	57	3	Under: 28
-Kent St had 24-19 first down and 382-288 yard edges including 233-86 on the ground.				
-Akron did miss a FG and were stopped on downs twice inside the Kent St 5-yard line!				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Buffalo	-18	-17.5	21	Cover: 3.5
Akron	47	47.5	0	Under: 26.5
-Buffalo had a 254-196 yard edge including 189-3 on the ground but were also +3 in TO's.				
-The Bulls got TWO strip sack fumble return TD's in the game.				
-Both teams missed a pair of FG's.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Akron	47.5	42.5	0	Over: 6.5
No. Illinois	-25.5	-23	49	Cover: 26
-Northern Illinois had 21-7 first down and 345-145 yard edges including 274-94 on the ground.				
-NIU did score 2 non-offensive TD's as the Zips have allowed 4 non-off TD's in the last 2 games.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Akron	51	49.5	6	Under: 8.5
Bowl Green	-5	-4.5	35	Cover: 24.5
-Bowling Green had 17-7 first down and 276-100 yard edges including 156-29 on the ground.				
-Bowling Green was also +3 in TO's as Akron TO's led to 3 BG TD's on just 34 yards of offense.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
East. Mich	-14.5	-17	42	Cover: 11
Akron	49	45	14	Over: 11
-EMU had 25-14 first down and 498-342 yard edges including 252-54 on the ground.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Akron	45	45	17	Cover: 27.5
Miami (OH)	-31	-30.5	20	Under: 8
-Miami had 19-11 first down and 355-202 yard edges including 238-5 on the ground.				
-Miami was -2 in TO's including a 64-yard interception return TD that Akron got.				
-Akron covered a game for the first time. The Zips were the first team ever to start 0-10 ATS.				
Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Ohio	-28	-27	52	Cover: 22
Akron	50.5	53	3	Over: 2
-Ohio had 25-8 first down & 603-74 yard edges!				
-The Zips ended the season with a 17-game losing streak. Their last win was a 17-10 contest against Central Michigan on Oct. 27, 2018.				

2015 (SU: 8-5, ATS: 8-5, O/U: 5-8)					2016 (SU: 5-7, ATS: 4-8, O/U: 6-6)					2017 (SU: 7-7, ATS: 8-6, O/U: 3-11)					2018 (SU: 4-8, ATS: 5-7, O/U: 4-8)					2019 (SU: 0-12, ATS: 1-11, O/U: 6-6)									
Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U	Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U	Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U	Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U	Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U					
9/5	at Oklahoma	+31	3-41	L	u57	9/3	VMI	-29	47-24	L	o54	9/2	at Penn St	+30	0-52	L	u64	9/1	at Nebraska	Cancelled	8/31	at Illinois	+18	3-42	L	u61			
9/12	Pittsburgh	+12	7-24	L	u50	9/10	at Wisconsin	+23	10-54	L	o46	9/9	Ark-Pine Bluff	-48	52-3	W	u57	9/8	Morgan State	-42	41-7	L	u57	9/7	UAB	+8	20-31	L	o46
9/19	Savannah St	-46	52-9	L	o59	9/17	at Marshall	+17	65-38	W	o56	9/16	Iowa St	+10	14-41	L	u63	9/15	at Northwestern	+21	39-34	W	o46	9/14	at Central Mich	+2	24-45	L	o45
9/26	at UL-Lafayette	+7	35-14	W	u51	9/24	Appalachian St	+5	38-45	L	o57	9/23	at Bowling Green	-3	34-23	W	u57	9/22	at Iowa State	+20	13-26	W	u47	9/21	Troy	+18	7-35	L	u57
10/3	Ohio	+2	12-14	W	u44	10/1	at Kent St	-7	31-27	L	o52	10/7	Ball St	-5	31-3	W	u51	10/6	Miami (OH)	-4	17-41	L	u47	9/28	at Massachusetts	-8	29-37	L	o61
10/10	at Eastern Mich.	-8	47-21	W	o53	10/8	Miami, Oh	-11	35-13	W	u54	10/14	at Western Mich.	-12	14-13	W	u54	10/10	at Buffalo	+11	6-24	L	u54	10/5					
10/17	at Bowling Green	-12	10-59	L	o66	10/15	Western Mich.	+12	0-41	L	u70	10/21	at Toledo	+15	21-48	L	o59	10/20	at Kent State-ot	-4	24-23	L	u50	10/12	Kent St	+14	3-26	L	u57
10/31	Central Mich.	+2	6-14	L	u46	10/22	at Ball St	+3	35-25	W	u61	10/28	Buffalo	+1	21-20	W	u49	10/27	Central Mich	-4	17-10	W	u44	10/19	Buffalo	+17	0-21	L	u47
11/7	at Massachusetts	+2	17-13	W	u54	10/27	at Buffalo	-18	20-41	L	o58	11/7	at Miami, Oh	+8	14-24	L	u51	11/1	No Illinois	+6	26-36	L	o37	10/26	at No. Illinois	+23	0-49	L	o42
11/14	at Miami, OH	-6	37-28	W	o42	11/2	Toledo	+9	17-48	L	u72	11/14	Ohio St	+13	37-34	W	o51	11/10	at Eastern Mich	+11	7-27	L	u42	11/2	at Bowling Green	+4	6-35	L	u49
11/21	Buffalo	-4	42-21	W	o44	11/9	Bowling Green	-10	28-38	L	u72	11/21	Kent St	+15	24-14	L	u47	11/17	Bowling Green	-6	6-21	L	u48	11/12	Eastern Mich	+17	14-42	L	o45
11/27	Kent St	-10	20-0	W	u38	11/19					12/2	at Toledo	+21	28-45	W	o61	11/23	at Ohio	+24	28-49	W	o56	11/20	at Miami, Oh	+30	17-20	W	u45	
12/22	at Utah St	+7	23-21	W	u47	11/22	at Ohio	+10	3-9	W	u53	12/19	at Florida Atl	+22	3-50	L	u64	12/1	at S. Carolina	+28	3-28	W	u56	11/26	Ohio	+27	3-52	L	o55