

# 2020 Liberty Football Preview



**Head Coach (Yr)**  
Hugh Freeze (2)  
**Co-Off Coord.**  
Kent Austin (2)  
Maurice Harris (2)  
**Defensive Coord.**  
Scott Symons (2)  
**Conference/Div**  
Independent

Team Profile	#	Rk
2020 Team Power Rating	55.3	114
Power Ratings Diff vs Last Year	-5.3	124
2020 Strength of Schedule	56.2	127
2020 Season Win Projection	6.1	78
Returning Starters (OFF/DEF)	10 (5/5)	117
Return Starting QB (YES/NO)	NO	
Returning Production %	52%	105
Returning Offense Production	44%	110
Returning Defense Production	59%	81
2020 Recruiting (Signees)	27	95
2020 Roster Talent Rank		120

## 2020 Offense/Defense Analysis

Liberty University has very deep financial pockets and this is a football program to keep an eye on. Last year head coach Hugh Freeze (formerly of Ole Miss) in his first season dealt with a back injury that forced him to miss 24 fall practices. He coached a game from the press box in a medical bed, and four more games on an elevated platform on the sidelines. Despite that, Liberty joined Georgia Southern and Appalachian State as the only teams to move from FCS to FBS and win a bowl game in its first season of eligibility!

It will be tough to duplicate 2019's success as Liberty loses their all-time leading passer in Stephen Calvert (12,025 yards), their No. 2 all-time receiver in Antonio Gandy-Golden (3,722 yards, 4th round draft pick) and their No. 4 all-time rusher in Frankie Hickson (2,898 yards). Auburn transfer Malik Willis figures to be the favorite to replace Calvert and keep an eye on WR Noah Frith who impressed us in the bowl game. The defense also suffers some heavy losses including their top 3 tacklers. DE Jessie Lemonier was the Flames' best pass rusher (10.5 sacks, bowl MVP) and he also departs.

The schedule is manageable for Liberty in 2020 as it ranks only No. 127 in terms of difficulty. Despite the heavy personnel losses, Liberty could find themselves favored in as many as 7 games. A 2nd straight bowl trip is possible provided they find themselves a QB. Note that since they play two FCS teams, Liberty needs to win 7 games to get to bowl eligibility.

## 2020 Schedule with BP Projected Lines

Date	Opponent	Line	Win %	Line	Total	Score	W/L/O/U
9/5	at Virginia Tech	28.0	4%				
9/12	NC A&T	-7.2	69%				
9/19	at W Kentucky	14.6	16%				
9/26	FIU	-1.2	53%				
10/3	at Bowl Green	-10.7	76%				
10/10	UL-Monroe	-4.2	63%				
10/17	at Syracuse	13.4	19%				
10/24	So. Miss	6.5	33%				
10/31	at Connecticut	-8.6	72%				
11/7							
11/14	W Carolina	-28.4	96%				
11/21	at NC State	16.9	11%				
11/28	UMass	-20.9	93%				
<b>Projected Wins</b>		<b>6.05</b>					

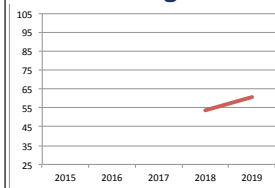
## Last 5 Year Records

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Straight Up	FCS	FCS	FCS	6-6	8-5	14-11
Home	5-1	5-1	10-2			
Away	1-5	2-4	3-9			
Neutral	0-0	1-0	1-0			
Conference	0-0	0-0	0-0			
Non-Conf	6-6	8-5	14-11			
ATS	FCS	FCS	FCS	5-7	8-5	13-12
Home Fav	1-2	3-1	4-3			
Home Dog	2-1	1-1	3-2			
Away Fav	0-2	2-1	2-3			
Away Dog	2-2	1-2	3-4			
Conference	0-0	0-0	0-0			
Non-Conf	5-7	8-5	13-12			
O/U	FCS	FCS	FCS	7-5	6-7	13-12

## ATS Stat

Liberty head coach Hugh Freeze is 55-33-1 ATS (62.5%) in all games in his coaching career.

## End of Season Power Rating 2015-19



## 2019 Stats

Category	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
<b>Rushing</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
YPC	4.5	59	4.6	89
YPG	150.5	78	189.7	96
<b>Passing</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
Comp %	56.9%	93	59.7%	56
YPA	8.3	25	7.4	68
YPG	288.9	21	219.5	52
TD-INT	29-8		27-12	
<b>Total</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
YPP	6.4	18	5.7	76
YPG	439.4	32	409.2	80
<b>Scoring</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
PPG	32.8	34	28.1	68
<b>3rd Down</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
%	40.7%	57	42.3%	98
<b>Red Zone</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
TD %	69.6%	25	55.8%	39
Scoring %	83.9%	62	80.8%	43
<b>KO Ret</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
Avg	24.3	19	19.5	40
<b>Punt Ret</b>	LU	Rk	Opp	Rk
Avg	0.5	130	8.2	74
<b>Sacks</b>	By	Rk	Vs	Rk
#	35	28	28	76
<b>TFL's</b>	By	Rk	Vs	Rk
#	80	47	69	44
<b>Net Punt</b>	LU	Rk		
Avg	37.1	94		
<b>4th Down</b>	Off	Rk		
Att P/Gm	1.2	95		
<b>Turnovers</b>	Rk			
Margin	+2	50		
<b>Penalties</b>	Rk			
Per Game	6.8	98		

## Scoring Quarter-By-Quarter

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	OT	Total
LU	141	138	83	65	0	427
Opp	63	104	103	95	0	365

## 2019 Stat Margins

Margins	+/-	Rk
Rush YPC	-0.1	78
Pass YPA	+0.9	42
YPP	+0.7	34
YPG	+30.2	59
Scoring	+4.7	51

## 2019 Individual Stats

Category	Player	Att	Yds	%	Ratio
<b>Passing</b>	Stephen Calvert	431	3663	57.8	28-7
	Landon Brown	10	25	30.0	0-1
	Frankie Hickson	187	1041	5.6	12
<b>Rushing</b>	Joshua Mack	136	792	5.8	7
	Receiving	Rec	Yds	YPC	TD
	A. Gandy-Golden	79	1396	17.7	10
<b>Defense</b>	DJ Stubbs	32	401	12.5	3
	Kevin Shaa	26	346	13.3	2
	Noah Frith	15	291	19.4	3
<b>Kicking</b>	FG	LG	XP		
	Alex Probert	13-19	51	50-53	
	<b>Punting</b>	Avg	I20	50+	BLK
Aidan Alves	46	11	9	0	

## 2019 Game-By-Game Recap

Teams	Open	Close	Score	ATS
Syracuse	-17.5	-19	24	Cover: 5
Liberty	66	69.5	0	Under: 45.5
-Syracuse had a 368-234 yard edge including 192(-4) on the ground. The Orange had 8 sacks.				
-First-year Liberty head coach Hugh Freeze watched from a hospital bed in the coaching box. "I don't know how much it played" a factor, he said of not being on the sidelines. "I think me being gone for two weeks probably had an effect somewhat on some things."				
Liberty	69.0	65.5	14	Under: 16.5
UL-Lafayette	-10	-14	35	Cover: 7
-ULL had a 26-20 first down and 593-361 yard edge including 407-142 on the ground.				
-ULL had 2 turnovers, 3 missed FG's & still covered.				
Buffalo	-6.5	-6	17	Under: 3
Liberty	57.5	55	35	Cover: 24
-Buffalo had a 26-22 first down edge but Liberty had a 401-373 total yard edge.				
-The Bulls did out-rush Liberty 206-76 but were stopped on downs twice and missed two FG's.				
Hampton		58.5	27	Over: 30.5
Liberty	-24	-25.5	62	Cover: 9.5
-Liberty had a 575-405 yard edge including 256-113 on the ground. The Flames led 41-12 at halftime.				
New Mexico	66.5	72	10	Cover: 0.5
Liberty	-9	-7.5	17	Under: 45
-Liberty had a 466-362 yard edge.				
-The Flames deserved the cover as they fumbled the ball at the New Mexico 4-yard line in the first half and then missed a 32-yard field goal in the second half. Still they allowed New Mexico to go 86 yards in 11 plays for the back-door cover TD with :43 left.				
Liberty	-4.5	-4	20	Cover: 3
New Mexico St	63	63	13	Under: 30
<b>Misleading Final:</b> New Mexico St had 23-20 first down and 396-334 yard edges but were -3 in TO's.				
-The Aggies fumbled at the Liberty 6-yard line with 3:15 left in the game.				
Maine		43.5	44	Cover: 0.5
Liberty	-14.5	-15.5	59	Over: 59.5
-Maine had 29-27 first down and 572-487 yard edges.				
-However, Liberty led 52-17 late in the 3Q.				
Liberty	-4	-7.5	34	Over: 33.5
Rutgers	49	44.5	44	Cover: 17.5
-Rutgers had a 463-413 yard edge.				
"I saw that they were favored to win, which I thought was ridiculous," Rutgers QB Langan said.				
Liberty	-24	-23.5	63	Cover: 18.5
Massachusetts	67	70	21	Over: 14
-Liberty had 31-10 first down and 730-240 yard edges!				
-Liberty easily won and covered despite being -3 in TO's.				
-Liberty led 49-14 at halftime.				
-Liberty QB Calvert threw for 474 yards and 4 TD's.				
Liberty	55	61.5	24	Cover: 10.5
BYU	-20.5	-17.5	31	Under: 6.5
-Liberty had a 25-23 first down edge but BYU a 471-431 yard edge. BYU was -2 in TO's.				
Liberty	55	57.5	27	Over: 24.5
Virginia	-18.5	-16.5	55	Cover: 12
-Virginia had 25-20 first down and 499-392 yard edges including 227-79 on the ground.				
-UVA was +2 in TO's turned them into 14 points.				
New Mexico St	69	66.5	28	Over: 10.5
Liberty	-14	-14.5	49	Cover: 6.5
Liberty had 25-19 first down and 486-328 yard edges and were +2 in TO's.				
-Liberty RB Frankie Hickson rushed for a career-high 196 yards and a career-best four TD's.				
Liberty	55.5	58.5	23	Cover: 12
Ga Southern	-6	-5	16	Under: 19.5
-Liberty had 19-13 first down and 402-249 yard edges.				
-Liberty joined Georgia Southern and Appalachian State as the only teams to move from FCS to FBS and win a bowl game in its first season of eligibility.				
-QB Calvert, a senior making his 43rd start, topped 12,000 yards in career passing yards.				

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Liberty didn't start playing at the FBS level until 2018. Liberty's Last 5 Years of FCS action:

2017 6-5  
2016 6-5  
2015 6-5  
2014 9-5  
2013 8-4

Liberty had 12 straight winning seasons from 2006-2017 prior to jumping to the FBS!

2018 (SU: 6-6, ATS: 5-7, O/U: 7-5)

Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U
9/1	Old Dominion	+5	52-10 W	o58
9/8	at Army	+8	14-38 L	u58
9/15	Norfolk St		Postponed	
9/22	North Texas	+12	7-47 L	u67
9/29	at New Mexico	+7	52-43 W	o65
10/6	at New Mexico St	-3	41-49 L	o64
10/13	Troy	+10	22-16 W	u63
10/20	Idaho St	-7	48-41 L	o78
10/27				
11/3	at Mass-ot	-1	59-62 L	o67
11/10	at Virginia	+24	24-45 W	o58
11/17	at Auburn	+28	0-53 L	u64
11/24	New Mexico St	-7	28-21 L	u73
11/21	Norfolk St	-29	52-17 W	o59

2019 (SU: 8-5, ATS: 8-5, O/U: 6-7)

Date	Opponent	Line	Score	W/L/O/U
8/31	Syracuse	+19	0-24 L	u69
9/7	at UL-Lafayette	+14	14-35 L	u65
9/14	Buffalo	+6	35-17 W	u55
9/21	Hampton	-25	62-27 W	o58
9/28	New Mexico	-7	17-10 L	u72
10/5	at New Mex St	-4	20-13 W	u63
10/12				
10/19	Maine	-14	59-44 W	o43
10/26	at Rutgers	-7	34-44 L	o44
11/2	at Massachusetts	-23	63-21 W	o70
11/9	at BYU	+17	24-31 W	u61
11/16				
11/23	at Virginia	+16	27-55 L	o57
11/30	New Mexico St	-14	49-28 W	o66
12/21	at Ga Southern	+5	23-16 W	u58