



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

LUMBERJACKS

Western Athletic Conference (WAC)

2020: 6-4

Homer Bryce Stadium

Lumberjacks Breakdown

Location.....Nacogdoches, Texas
Head Coach:.....Colby Carthel
 Record at ACU.....9-13
 Career Record.....68-31
Offensive Coordinator.....Matt Storm
Defensive Coordinator.....Scott Power

Last League Title: 1989

Last FCS Playoff: 2014 (L. First Round to Northern Iowa 44-10)

Players to Watch: QB Trae Self, RB Da'Leon Ward, LT Zach Ingram, WR Xavier Gipson, DL Dennis Osagiede, LB DayDay Coleman, LB Brevin Randle, CB Tkai Lloyd

Team Record Last 5 Years:

2016: 5-6, 4-5 (Southland) Coach Conque

2017: 4-7, 4-5 (Southland) Coach Conque

2018: 2-8, 2-7 (Southland) Coach Bird

2019: 3-9, 3-6 (Southland) Coach Carthel

***Changed to 0-9 by NCAA Committee**

Key Wins: Lamar, UIW, Northwestern State

2020: 6-4, 0-0 (Fall Only) Coach Carthel

Key Wins: ACU, EKU

COACH/ PROGRAM

The Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks first season of football was 1923, and the team's only bowl game was in 1973 Poultry in Gainseville, Georgia, when the Lumberjacks defeated Gardner Webb 31-10. Stephen F. Austin made the FCS (DI-AA) playoffs for the first time in 1988. They have made the playoffs seven times and have an overall record of 7-7. The last time the Lumberjacks made the FCS Playoffs was in 2014, but they made a quick exit in the first round, Northern Iowa (44-10). SFA has an overall record of 410-528-31 ties (.423) and boasts four Southland Conference titles. Head Coach Colby Carthel follows Jeff Byrd, the interim coach for the 2018 season, and went 2-8. Coach Carthel's first season, the Jacks went 3-9, but later had their wins vacated due to an NCAA infraction that forced 289 wins and several conference championships erased across multiple sports after an administrative error was found certifying player's eligibility from 2013-2019. Football served the penalty during the 2020 season. They were ineligible for a post-season appearance, so they took advantage of the opportunity to play a fall-only football schedule against three FBS opponents, nearly upsetting UTEP. Stephen F. Austin finished the second season with a 6-4 record and bring great optimism into the 2021 season. The hire of Carthel shows dedication for improving the defense, as he played linebacker at Angelo State and served as a defensive coordinator for West Texas A&M, and spent five years at the helm of Texas A&M-Commerce, where the Lions won the 2017 NCAA DII National Championship. Coach Carthel finished his tenure with a

59-18 record as a head coach. Carthel has made a splash with his bright and fun personality, which is clear why a recruit wants to play for his football team. He has also made coaching a family affair as he coached with his father, Don Carthel, while coaching at West Texas A&M and has brought his father on as a volunteer coach with the Lumberjacks.

Stephen F. Austin has active rivalries against Northwestern State (Southland) and Sam Houston (WAC). The winner of Northwestern State (Natchitoches, LA) and Stephen F. Austin (Nacogdoches, TX) takes home the Chief Caddo statue. The Battle of Piney Woods will remain alive as Sam Houston joins SFA in the new WAC.

The Jacks were Nationally Ranked at 142 in recruiting, but 1st in the Southland, thanks to six three stars and five transfers (four from FBS schools.)

The Lumberjacks have officially joined the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) and will play in the ASUN-WAC Challenge (AQ7) for the 2021 season. Preseason polls have placed the Jacks in the middle of the pack at 4th of the seven teams.



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2021 AQ7 Preseason Football Coaches Poll

Rank	Team (1st Place)	Points
1.	Sam Houston (7)	49
2.	Central Arkansas	40
3.	Jacksonville State	37
4.	Stephen F. Austin	27
5.	Eastern Kentucky	20
6.	Abilene Christian	15
7.	Lamar	8

OFFENSE

Quarterback:

The Lumberjacks scored 25.9 ppg and totaled 361.3 ypg, with 99 of their 171 first downs came through the air. The Jacks only converted 33 percent of their Third Downs. In the red zone, SFA was 29/34 with 19 touchdowns. The Lumberjacks return their starting QB from 2019 and 2020 **#2 Trae Self** (6'4" 190lbs/ Butler CC). Self had a rating of 135.7, completing 58.3 percent of his passes for 2008 yards and 15 TDs. A tall, athletic quarterback is a dual-threat and has run the RPO-style offense with precision and decisiveness. On the ground, Self had 235 yards on 68 carries and rushed for a team-high four TDs. He exhibits a confident grasp of Coach Matt Storm's offense and has looked impressive. He threw seven interceptions and, at times, had to scramble for his life. He was sacked 26 times, which put him on his back too many times. Improvement upfront for the Jacks could make a tremendous difference in the high-powered offense that SFA wants to run. Backing up Self is **#18 Preston Weeks** (6'4" 280lbs/ Baylor) a r-junior who saw action in four games of 2020, completing 20/30 for 266 yards and 1 TD. Weeks spent one season with Baylor as a redshirt freshman. Another good-sized QB for SFA could be beneficial for a spirited QB battle and, as a backup, should Self win the starting job. **#12 Blake Short** (6'0" 180lbs) and **#14 Peyton Culberson** (6'5" 220lbs) add depth to the QB room. Short played in one game in 2020 and went 11-for-14 for 75 yards.



Courtesy of Stephen F. Austin Sports Information

Running Back:

SFA rushed for 126.4 ypg (59th nationally) and had 13 rushing touchdowns. The Lumberjacks run a lot of RPO, so their QBs will get a lot of carries, but they need a solid RB corp. Leading rusher from 2020 **#24 Jaquarion Turner** (5'11" 202lbs) returns to the backfield for SFA with **#21 Da'Leon Ward** (5'10" 180lbs/ Texas Tech). Turner netted 541 yards and three TDs on 132 carries. Ward had 276 yards and three TDs on 56 carries. **#35 Tre'Jon Henderson** (5'11" 205lbs) scored two TDs on 28 carries. **#44 Ja'Bray Young** (5'08" 208lbs), a three-star recruit from Melissa, TX, had offers from Boston College, Colorado State, Nevada, and North Texas. **#29 Korbyn White** (5'9" 175lbs) is a freshman from Texarkana, Texas, and also a three-star that garnered interest from Baylor, Houston, and Louisiana Tech and an offer from Illinois State. He chose the Jacks and will add good depth to the position.



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Offensive Line:

The Jacks offensive line will return all five starters from 2020, and they are led by LT **#71 Zach Ingram** (6'7" 325lbs/ Butler CC), who received a WAC preseason all-conference selection. He is joined on the left side of the line by **#70 Jaret Porterfield** (6'4" 300lbs). **#66 Keegan Holm** (6'4" 285lbs) anchors the line for the Jacks, and to his right is guard **#72 Justice Guillory** (6'3" 325lbs) and tackle **#78 Drew Beymer** (6'9" 333lbs). **#77 Jaylon Washington** (6'6" 350lbs) and **#74 Terrin Robinson** (6'7" 310lbs/ Independence CC) will get plenty of playing time and battle for starting jobs. This group is a strength for SFA and one of the biggest offensive lines among the AQ7 teams. In 2020, the line protected their QB well on quick passes, but they allowed 21 sacks. Some of the sacks can be contributed to the QB, but they will want to eliminate the ones in their control. Depth on the O-line is essential and was a focus in recruiting. **Will Huntsinger** (6'4" 280lbs) comes to SFA from San Antonio, TX, as the 110th prospect from the state. **Grant Jefferis** (6'6" 285lbs) from Aledo, Texas, is another large lineman and was ranked 8th in the state out of high school. It looks like Stephen F. Austin has put together an excellent group to build around in 2021.

Wide Receiver/ Tight End:

In the 2020 season, the Lumberjacks averaged 234.9 passing ypg (34th nationally) and had 16 TDs through the air. Stephen F. Austin returns All-American honoree **#19 Xavier Gipson** (5'9" 170lbs), their leading receiver from 2019 and 2020 who tallied 841 yards receiving and caught nine TDs. Although Gipson had too many drops, his numbers outpaced his teammates, and he was a go-to receiver for Trae Self. Gipson tied for 2nd in the Nation with Sam Houston WR Jequez Ezzard for Receiving TDs. The receiving position falls off after Gipson. **#11 Jeremiah Miller** (6'2" 190lbs) returns for the Jacks after a 20 reception year in the fall. **#8 Larry Jones III** (5'9" 185lbs/ Butler CC) played in seven contests in 2020 and caught 13 passes. Jones also assisted on KR and PR. The only other returning wideout that saw the endzone last season is **#15 Lawton Rikel** (6'1" 175lbs), who had six receptions and a TD. **#85 QuenTyvian Borders** (6'2" 180lbs) brings good size to the WR position and saw action in four games in 2020. Borders is an experienced wideout as he enters his senior season. Tight End **#82 Chad Aune** (6'4" 220lbs) had some big catches in 2020, including two TDs. The Jacks signed **Cameron Brady** (6'2" 195lbs), a three-star from Arlington, TX. He received offers from Arizona, Arkansas, Houston, Kansas, Ole Miss, UCF, Louisiana Tech, and North Texas. As of this breakdown, Brady is not listed on the 2021 roster, which is a bit concerning. All indications are he is still signed and committed to SFA, including a pinned tweet from Brady's account. All in all, the Jacks have talent at the WR/ TE position, but all need to prove the position is solid.

2021 Lumberjacks Schedule

Sept 4	vs. Tarleton State
Sept 11	@ Texas Tech
Sept 18	vs. Mississippi Valley St
Sept 25	vs. Lincoln University
Oct 2	Sam Houston
Oct 9	@ Jacksonville State
Oct 23	@ Dixie State
Oct 30	vs. Abilene Christian
Nov 6	vs Eastern Kentucky
Nov 13	@ Central Arkansas
Nov 20	@ Lamar

DEFENSE

Defensive Line:

The Jacks defense allowed 164.0 (61st nationally) yards per game in the fall of 2020 and allowed 18 rushing TDs. As a defense, SFA put good pressure on opposing QBs with 26 sacks (#23 nationally) and 65 Tackles-for-Loss (#43 nationally). Leading the line is **#99 Dennis Osagiede** (6'0" 290lbs/ UMASS), who played in all ten games last fall and had 32 tackles (15 solo). *Phil Steele* recognized Osagiede as an All-Independent 2nd Team D-Lineman at UMASS. **#59 Branard Wright** (6'3" 315lbs) is a three-star recruit; Jack-fans have been looking forward to seeing him on the field. He was recruited by several SEC teams,



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including Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, and LSU. Lumberjacks return an exceptional edge rusher in **#3 BJ Thompson** (6'6" 230lbs). Thompson had six sacks and 8.5 TFL last season. He also had 28 tackles (18 solo). It earned him a WAC Preseason All-Conference selection for 2021. Thompson is joined on the opposite edge by **#54 Amad Murray** (6'3" 245lbs), who played in 12 games in 2019 and 10 games in 2020. He registered 22 tackles (10 solo) and had six TFL. Add in Baylor transfer **#40 Marje Smith** (6'4" 225lbs/ Baylor) and his former Bear teammate four-star transfer **James Sylvester** (6'4" 243lbs/ Baylor), and the SFA defense is looking mighty dangerous. Sylvester did not play in 2020, but out of high school, he helped Newton HS to a pair of state championships (2017-2018) and was District MVP. He recorded 85 tackles and 15 sacks his senior season. Sylvester picked Baylor over TCU, Alabama, Georgia, Florida State, Oklahoma, Texas A&M, and LSU. Now at Stephen F. Austin, Coach Carthel is loaded on the defensive line with quick, strong, and athletic players. And, his bench is deep, which will pay dividends as the season progresses.

Linebackers:

A long highlight reel could be put together for the SFA linebackers over the past few seasons. **#6 Brevin Randle** (5'11" 228lbs) lead the LB corps last season with 68 tackles (38 solo) with 7.5 TFL and two sacks. Randle was consistently the quickest and most athletic player on the field. He explodes off the snap and has a nose for the football. Playing next to Randle, **#0 DayDay Coleman** (6'0" 225lbs/ Arizona) is another fine LB who is quick and athletic. He is physical enough to shed blockers and pursue the ball quickly. **#39 Daryan Williams** (5'11" 218lbs) is a hometown guy from Nacogdoches, TX. He was fourth on the team in tackles from 2020 with 32 tackles (23 solo) 2.5 TFL. Adding depth to the LBs is **#28 Jermaine Brown** (6'1" 195lbs), who only played in five games in 2020, but still had 18 tackles (10 solo) and a sack.



#6 Brevin Randle
Courtesy of dailysentinel.com

Cornerbacks/Safeties:

A lot of players got starts in the secondary for the Jacks in the 2020 season as they looked for the best recipe for success. SFA's defense allowed only 209.0 (**#59th** nationally) receiving ypg. **#25 Tkai Lloyd** (5'11" 195lbs/ Texas A&M-Commerce) played in all ten games for SFA and tallied 54 tackles (37 solo) and 3.5 TFL. **#32 Myles Heard** (5'9" 208lbs) played nine games at the safety position and had 50 tackles (37 solo). **#27 JaTerious Evans** (6'1" 190lbs) got a couple of starts as well for the Jacks making 27 tackles (20 solo). Redshirt Freshman **#23 Bruce Harmon** (5'11" 181lbs) also got good playing time, recording 13 tackles (11 solo) in seven games. Add **#4 Willie Roberts** (5'10" 180lbs) to the mix, and you are bringing back key pieces to a good defense from the fall. Adding depth to the secondary is **#10 Myles**

Brooks (6'1" 185lbs) and **#1 Aretavious Hendrix** (6'1" 192lbs/ Mississippi Gulf Coast CC), who took a redshirt in 2019 after a standout junior season in 2018. In 2020 Hendrix returned to the field to start a couple of games for the Jacks recording seven tackles (all solo) in six games. As far as the starting mix of players, the answer will be found during camps to see who stands out. It's a deep position for SFA, with no apparent star power.



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SPECIAL TEAMS

Place Kicker:

#58 Chris Campos (5'10" 200lbs) returns to kick for SFA in 2021 after a decent year. Campos was 13-for-19 in FGs in 2020, making 68.2 percent of his kicks. Beyond the 40 yard mark, he struggled, making just 5-of-9 kicks. His longest FG on the season came vs. Western Colorado when he nailed a 48-yard kick. **#60 Alex Schrag** (5'10" 200lbs) played in all 12 games of 2019, handling the kickoff duties, averaging 61.6 yards. **#81 Dylan Brown** (5'6" 150lbs) handled all of the kickoffs in 2020 but only averaged 54.8 yards.

Punter:

#37 Max Quick (5'10" 185lbs) returns as the SFA punter. The redshirt sophomore had 44 punts for 41.02 avg, and he had a long of 53 yards. He put 15 punts inside the 20, pinning opponents deep. Quick is the lone punter on the roster, so the job is his for the 2021 season.

Kick Returner/ Punt Returner:

#29 Korbyn White and **#8 Larry Jones III** split KR duties for the Jacks. White had a 29.9 return average in 2020, which was tops in the nation for the FCS. **Xavier Gipson** is a dynamic punt returner and makes great decisions for SFA. Gipson had nine returns for 95 yards. He returned a short punt for a TD after it bounced high off the turf. It was an extremely athletic play that highlighted Gipson's speed and agility. **#36 Zach Nwachukwu** (5'8" 186lbs) returned his sole punt return opportunity for a TD at Eastern Kentucky. The return game is a real threat for SFA and can be a game-changer in close contests.

Big Question:

The big question for Coach Carthel is his team's ability to be consistent and have next-level players on the offense step up. QB Trae Self has to limit 3rd and long situations. The Jacks were only 46 of 138 in 3rd Down Conversions in 2020. They will want to increase their conversion rate significantly. They will also want to limit the number of hits on their QB. Additionally, scoring TDs in the RedZone will be critical. Coach Carthel has shown he is not afraid to roll the dice and go for a TD on 4th and goal situations. He expects his team to deliver.

Grades

Offense

Trae Self is a solid QB and is confident in Coach Storm's offense. He isn't a top-tier QB, but has the potential to get there if he can raise his game in the RPO-offense. A QB that can run the ball is necessary for this kind of offense. In 2020, Self only averaged 1.6 ypc. He has enough speed to elevate those numbers if the offensive line steps up. The running back corps is solid behind Turner and Ward. Gipson has too many drops but is an electric player that strikes quickly. Another target in the passing game for Self could make a huge difference in the Jacks' offensive output.

Grade B (7/10)

Defense

The defense for the Lumberjacks was pretty good in 2020 and only looks stronger with more depth and experience. Their secondary may be an issue if they can't find consistent corners and safeties to lock down receivers. The AQ7 opponents will like to stretch the field and test the opponent's secondary. The talent is there for SFA, but the size of their safeties may be an issue. But all-in-all, the D-line and Linebackers will put pressure on the QB, which compensates for whatever issues the Jacks may have in the secondary.

Grade B+ (8/10)



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Special Teams

Chris Campos is a solid FG kicker, but there is room for improvement. He only missed one kick from inside of 39 yards (33), going 5-for-6 from that range. Stretching out his ability to push his range to 45-49 would put him in the elite FCS kickers. The return game with Gipson and White is a real threat. Many teams struggle to flip the field on punts returns. SFA has the threat capabilities, and that could be a difference-maker.

Grade B (7/10)

Intangibles

As a new member of the WAC and playing in the new ASUN-WAC Challenge for 2021, SFA has a challenging schedule starting with their first game against Tarleton State (Sept 4), who took McNeese to double overtime in the spring. The game against the Texans is followed by Texas Tech (Sept 11) in Lubbock, TX. The ASUN-WAC Challenge begins with back-to-back games away from Homer Bryce Stadium against the FCS National Champion Sam Houston in Houston, TX (Oct 2) in *The Battle of Piney Woods*, followed by Jacksonville State (Oct 9). Home games against Abilene Christian (Oct 30) and Eastern Kentucky (Nov 6) are set before wrapping up the AQ7 opponents on the road. The Jacks have to get past Central Arkansas (Nov 13) in Conway before playing Lamar (Nov 20) in Beaumont.

The fans at SFA have supported the team, averaging 8,324 fans at Homer Bryce Stadium. The stadium was built in 1973 with 14,575 seats but has grassy banks to accommodate 25,000 fans. A high-definition videoboard creates a great gameday experience. In 2013, old turf was replaced with Hellas Matrix Turf. The press box includes luxury suites and the Touchdown Club. A field track encapsulates the field.

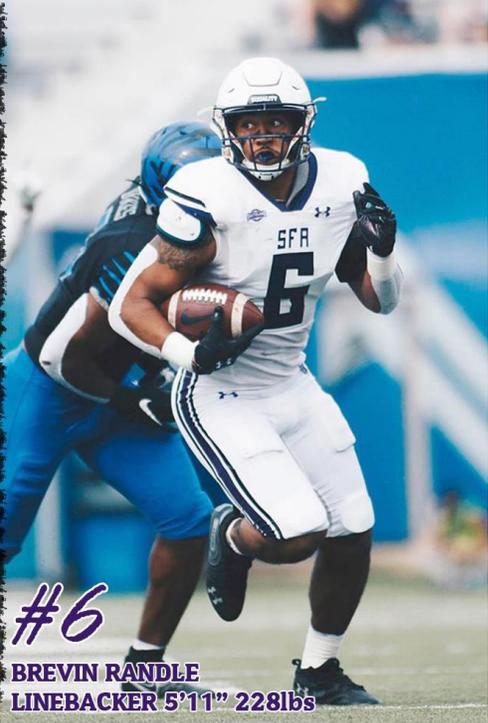
The @SFA_Football has 24.3 followers and is very active. There are a lot of graphics and videos for fans to enjoy.

Grade C+ (6)

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OFFENSE 7/10	B
SPECIAL TEAMS 8/10	B+
DEFENSE 7/10	B
INTANGIBLES 6/10	C+
OVERALL FINAL SCORE 7	B

 READ COMPLETE TEAM BREAKDOWN AT WWW.MCCREARYBROADCASTING.COM



#6
BREVIN RANDLE
LINEBACKER 5'11" 228lbs



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