



# ARMY BLACK KNIGHTS

2023 Record: 6-6

American Athletic Conference

West Point, NY

FBS Ranking

93



**BRYSON DAILY – QB**

Photo via Sports Illustrated

Welcome to the American Athletic Conference, Army! For the first time since 2004, the Black Knights are part of a conference. What's more is that they join rival Navy in the same conference for the first time ever, so Army immediately has a measuring stick in their first season in the American.

It's now been back-to-back seasons in which Army has clinched six wins but has been left out of a bowl game. The reason for the snub in both years is that two of the wins each year came against FCS opponents. That won't be the case this year as the Black Knights have just one such game (Lehigh) before conference play begins in Week 2.

### OFFENSE

The new chop block rules have taken their toll on teams employing the triple option attack like Army and Navy. The Black Knights tried to mitigate this challenge by taking to the air more, but the results were mixed at best. In the first eight games of the season, Army attempted an average of 16.7 passes per game. In that stretch, they finished with a 2-6 record including back-to-back shutout losses against Troy and LSU. After five straight losses, Army switched up their strategy and went back to their more traditional run-first offense. They won the final four games of the season attempting just 7.8 passes per game.

Cody Worley takes over as offensive coordinator this year but he's been on staff for five seasons and is very familiar with the offense as well as the midseason scheme changes. Quarterback **Bryson Daily** returns after leading the Black Knights in both passing and rushing. Of the two quarterbacks that threw the ball last year, he was easily the most effective. He raced through a top-25 Air Force team for 170 yards and 2 touchdowns which helped Army kick off that win streak.

**Kanye Udoh** worked his way onto the field as a freshman about halfway through the season and he capitalized on his opportunity. Even though the Black Knights didn't score against either Troy or LSU, he posted two strong performances, rushing for 124 yards against Troy and 108 against LSU. He'll have more carries (only 99 last season) and he's a 1,000-yard caliber back even with Daily taking the lion's share of the attempts. **Hayden Reed** added 209 yards and two touchdowns and **Tyrell Robinson** added 195 yards and two touchdowns so this unit is in great shape.

The offensive line brings back four returning starters and the only non-starter on that unit is senior **Bill Katsigiannis** who appeared in three games last season. Primarily running the option offense should help the line out, too. Wide receivers in that offensive scheme are primarily used for blocking, but when they do catch passes those plays often go for big yards. **Noah Short** and **Casey Reynolds** both topped 200 yards last season.

### DEFENSE

Despite the consistent struggles of the offense, the Army defense was as strong as ever, allowing only 21.1 points per game. If you take away the 62 points allowed to the nation's best offense last season in LSU and Heisman Trophy quarterback Jayden Daniels, that number falls to just 17.4 points per game (and there's no team like LSU on this year's schedule). However, the Black Knights do have to replace much of their production from last season and only three starters return.

Each defensive unit essentially brings back one starter. Linebacker **Kalib Fortner** will likely be looked to as the leader of the defense after a 68 tackle season. Tackle and captain **Kyle Lewis** recorded 25 tackles and a sack as the man in the middle in Nate Woody's 3-4 scheme. In the secondary, **Max Didomenico** returns his 53 tackles and two interceptions.

The biggest improvement needed is up front. Despite a strong showing overall, teams found success on the ground against Army and the Black Knights gave up 200 rushing yards or more six teams and won only one of those games (a nail biting 17-14 victory over FCS Holy Cross). Army does have good size on the ends with 6'5" **Jack Latore** and 6'6" **Trey Sofia** and that duo will be the catalyst for the line. There's not a lot of experience at the linebacker position outside of Fortner but Army has historically developed this position well (Andre Carter II made the roster with the Minnesota Vikings in 2023).

What does year one in the American hold for the Black Knights?

**HC: Jeff Monken**  
(11th Year, 70-55)

**OC: Cody Worley**  
(1st Year)

**DC: Nate Woody**  
(5th Year)

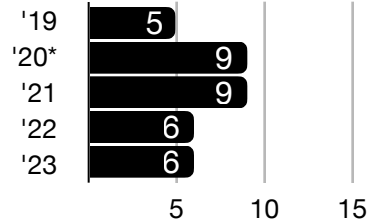
### 2024 Class Rankings

Recruiting  
152

Transfer Portal  
N/A

Via 24/7 Sports

### ARMY WIN TREND



### 2023 Results (6-6)

- @ ULM (L 13-17)
- Delaware St. (W 57-0)
- @ UTSA (W 37-29)
- @ Syracuse (L 16-29)
- Boston College (L 24-27)
- Troy (L 0-19)
- @ LSU (L 0-62)
- UMass (L 14-21)
- vs. Air Force (W 23-3)
- Holy Cross (W 17-14)
- Coastal Carolina (W 28-21)
- vs. Navy (W 17-11)

Wk	2024 Army Schedule	
1	Fri, Aug 30	vs. Lehigh
2	Sat, Sep 7	@ Florida Atlantic
4	Sat, Sep 21	vs. Rice
5	Thu, Sep 26	@ Temple
6	Sat, Oct 5	@ Tulsa
7	Sat, Oct 12	vs. UAB
8	Sat, Oct 19	vs. East Carolina
10	Sat, Nov 2	vs. Air Force
11	Sat, Nov 9	@ North Texas
13	Sat, Nov 23	vs. Notre Dame*
14	Sat, Nov 30	vs. UTSA
16	Sat, Dec 14	vs. Navy*

■ Home ■ Away ■ Neutral

### Key Games

**Rice:** The Black Knights play their first home conference game since 2004. These two schools played three times from 2016 to 2019 and Army won all three matchups.

**Air Force:** Army pulled off one of the biggest upsets in college football last season in Denver when, as 17 point underdogs, they bludgeoned the Falcons 23-3 and eventually won the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy.

**vs. Navy:** The annual Army/Navy game heads to Landover, Maryland for the first time since 2011. For the second straight season, the Black Knights claimed a narrow victory and the last three games have been decided by a single possession.



# Player Spotlight

Photo via Times Herald-Record



## TYRELL ROBINSON – RB

Robinson was one of the offensive focal points in 2021 when the Black Knights won nine games and rushed for a whopping 281 yards per game. He suffered a season ending injury early in the 2022 season and in 2023 he was still finding his way back on the field. Kanye Udoh projects as the top running back but a healthy Robinson gives Army another dynamic weapon in the backfield.

**2023 Stats: 39 RUSH, 187 YDS, 2 TD**

Photo via Sports Illustrated

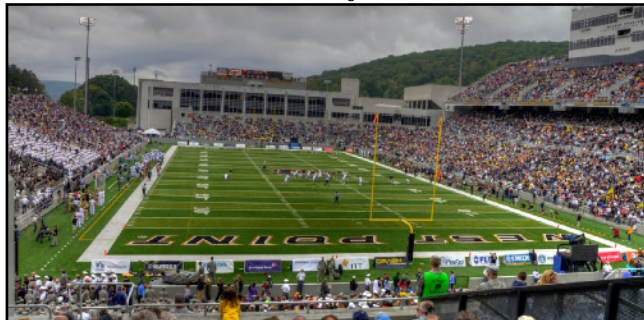


## KALIB FORTNER – LB

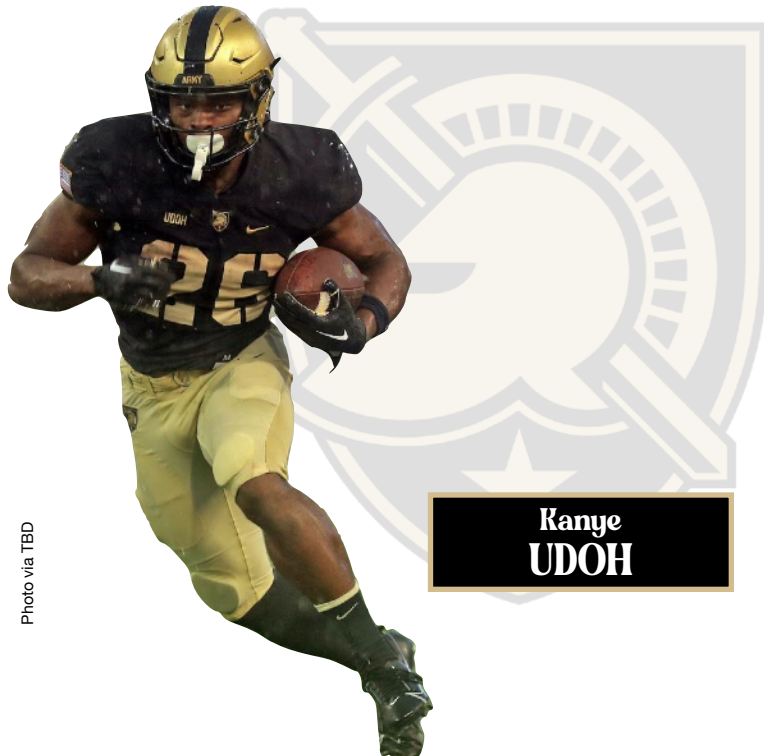
The defense will likely be comprised of primarily sophomores and juniors but Fortner is one of the seniors and he's also the leading returning tackler. He had his best season of the game at the right time: against Navy. In that game he recorded 10 tackles and a remarkable strip sack for a scoop and score that ended up being the winning touchdown for the Black Knights. He'll be the "quarterback" of the defense in 2024.

**2023 Stats: 68 TKL, 3.5 TFL, 2.5 SACK, 1 FF, 1 TD**

Photo via College Gridirons



**Michie Stadium (38,000)**



**Kanye  
UDOH**

Photo via TBD

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Army loses Quinn Maretzki who made 12 of 14 field goals. **Trey Gronette** attempted three extra points and he'll likely get the nod. **Cooper Allan** averaged only 34.8 yards per punt last season so that position could be an open competition in the fall. **Jabril Williams** returned only one punt last year but he took it 57 yards to the house.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Army's brief stint in Conference USA did not go well. In 7 years, the Black Knights posted a 13-67 record and their conference record was just 9-41. However, don't expect the same issues in their transition to the American. For one, this season Army avoids Tulane, Memphis, and South Florida and they get UTSA at home. By avoiding those teams, their schedule is actually easier this year on paper than it was last season where the Black Knights faced three Power 5 teams and a tough Troy team. For what it's worth, Navy immediately found success in the American, going 11-2 and reaching a CFP ranking as high as #15. Army likely won't find that level of success in year one, especially since Navy had the advantage of the shock value of their offense in their first year. Still, the Black Knights are poised to complete their fifth consecutive season of .500 football or better, the longest streak since 12-such seasons from 1952-1963. As Air Force found out last year (and UTSA for that matter), even in a "down" year, Army is more than capable of pulling upsets and it's extremely difficult to blow them out.

## Appointment Television



vs.



**Sat, Dec 14 - 3:00 PM ET CBS**

College football's best rivalry heads to Landover, Maryland. Defense has been the key in this matchup (with the "under" hitting in 17 of the last 18 matchups) so it just feels correct that Army helped clinch their second straight win in the series with a scoop and score. After years of Navy domination, the Black Knights have now claimed three of the last four and they haven't allowed more than 17 points since 2019.

### 2023 Statistics

Offense			Defense		
Statistic	Per Game	FBS Rank	Statistic	Per Game	FBS Rank
<b>Points</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Rushing</b>	<b>208.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Rushing</b>	<b>176.3</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Passing</b>	<b>102.8</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>Passing</b>	<b>187.9</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>310.8</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>364.2</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Sacks</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>T-17</b>	<b>Sacks</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>T-101</b>

## 2024 Projection

**6-6**

**10th in AAC**

## Trophy Case



**X3**

**1944  
1945  
1946**



**X0**



**X0**