

2006 Season Outlook

The Colgate Raiders, defending co-champions of the Patriot League, come into the 2006 season seeking their 11th straight winning season.

Last season, they posted an 8-4 overall record and made their seventh appearance in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

Here is a capsule outlook entering fall camp.

Quarterback

Colgate returns 2005 first team all-Patriot League honoree **Mike Saraceno** (5-10, 197) as its starter this season. Saraceno, a senior, averaged 218.6 total yards per game last season, tops in the league. He saw limited action during spring practice, as he is still recovering from a separated non-throwing shoulder which he sustained during the 2005 season.

There is an intense battle for the backup slot. According to head coach Dick Biddle, "All of the backups were up and down during spring practice. No one emerged as the number two, so one of our primary goals for fall camp is to establish a solid number two quarterback." Junior **Lee Sloan** (5-10, 181) was the number two quarterback last season. He started two games in place of an injured Saraceno, and led the Raiders to a

crucial victory over then-No. 15 Massachusetts. Sloan suffered a concussion in Colgate's third game of 2005 and missed the rest of the season. He will battle for the second quarterback position during fall camp along with sophomores **Dan Pitcher** (6-0, 195), **Anthony Fucillo** (6-3, 214) and **Alex Relph** (5-11, 175).

Also factoring into the mix will be freshman transfer **Ryan Meyers** (6-2, 225). Meyers, who was enrolled at Colgate during the spring semester after transferring from Tulane, still has four years of eligibility remaining.

Tailback

Sophomore **Jordan Scott** (5-10, 201), the 2005 Patriot League Rookie of the Year, will anchor the Raiders' backfield again in 2006. Scott started the final nine games last season and rushed for a Patriot League-leading 1,364 yards. He rushed for over 100 yards in eight of his nine starts, and eclipsed the 200-yard mark three times. Scott finished the 2005 season strong, as he totaled 462 yards in Colgate's last two games.

Scott's primary backups will be a pair of returnees: junior **J.J. Bennett** (5-7, 187) and sophomore **Steve Hansen** (5-8, 174). Both players tasted success in 2005. Bennett rushed 32 times for an average of 4.7



J.J. Bennett average a team-best 4.7 yards per carry en route to 150 yards on 32 carries.

yards per carry, and Hansen started two of Colgate's first three games before suffering a season-ending knee injury at Dartmouth.

"Our running backs looked good during spring practice," said Biddle. "Scott and Bennett both played well, and along with Hansen, we definitely have some weapons there. We might have to explore some different ways to get them all enough touches."

Fullback

The loss of Ben Evans '06 means that the Raiders are looking for a new starting fullback. "The position is still wide open," said Biddle after spring practice. Several candidates will battle for the position during fall camp, including sophomore **Mike Beatty** (5-11, 216). "We want to see what he can do," said Biddle. "He'll compete for the starting spot along with junior **Robert Wenger** (5-10, 231), who we moved from linebacker, and senior **Anthony Pumilio** (6-1, 223), who saw some time last season."

Senior **Tyler Coffin** (6-1, 222) figures to play a backup role, along with junior **Kevin Riley** (5-11, 234).

Quarterbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Anthony Fucillo	6-3	214	So.	--
Ryan Meyers	6-2	225	Fr.	--
Dan Pitcher	6-0	195	So.	--
Alex Relph	5-11	175	So.	--
Mike Saraceno	5-10	197	Sr.	2VL
Lee Sloan	5-10	181	Jr.	1VL

Tailbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
J.J. Bennett	5-7	187	Jr.	1VL
Steve Hansen	5-8	174	So.	1VL
Jordan Scott	5-10	201	So.	1VL

Fullbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Mike Beatty	5-11	216	So.	--
Tyler Coffin	6-1	222	Sr.	--
Anthony Pumilio	6-1	223	Sr.	1VL
Kevin Riley	5-11	234	Jr.	--
Robert Wenger	5-10	231	Jr.	1VL

Tight Ends

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Jeff Brown	6-3	233	Sr.	2VL
Brent Dillingham	6-4	253	So.	1VL

Wide Receivers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Erik Burke	6-2	191	Jr.	1VL
Brian Lombardo	6-2	201	Jr.	--
David Morgan	5-10	174	So.	1VL
Kenny Parker	5-11	186	Sr.	2VL

Centers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Brian Doyle	6-1	280	So.	--
Jake Sulovski	6-3	272	Sr.	2VL

Offensive Guards

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Mike Hovey	6-4	306	Sr.	1VL
Rich Rosabella	6-0	251	So.	1VL
Matt Sullivan	6-4	306	Jr.	--
Mike Trotta	5-11	266	So.	--

Offensive Tackles

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Nick Hennessey	6-5	270	So.	--
Steve Jonas	6-4	295	So.	1VL
Brandon Whitaker	6-2	264	Sr.	1VL

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Wide Receiver

"Along with safety, this is the position with the deepest group of returnees," Biddle commented. Senior **Kenny Parker** (5-11, 186) will reprise the starting role he played in 2005. Parker led the team with seven touchdown grabs last season. Junior **Erik Burke** (6-2, 191) will be the Raiders' other starting wideout in 2006. Burke made his presence known last season by grabbing 23 balls for a team-leading 18.5 yards per catch average. The speedster scored his only touchdown of 2005 in a crucial Patriot League victory at Holy Cross.

The Raiders' third wide receiver is sophomore **David Morgan** (5-10, 174). "David had a good spring," said Biddle. Morgan caught three passes last season and returned 10 kickoffs.

Depth at the wide receiver position will be provided by **Brian Lombardo** (6-2, 201).

Tight End

Colgate's top two tight ends both return in 2006. Sophomore **Brent Dillingham** (6-4, 253) is the starter. Last season, Dillingham caught 18 passes for 150 yards. His 18 catches were the fourth-most on the squad.

Backing up Dillingham will be senior **Jeff Brown** (6-3, 233). Brown was used primarily in run-blocking schemes during the 2005 season. He caught six passes for 75 yards.

Offensive Line

Senior center **Jake Sulovski** (6-3, 272) returns to anchor the Raiders' offensive line in 2006. Sulovski was a second team all-Patriot League honoree last season. He has started 22 of Colgate's 23 games over the past two seasons.

Sophomore **Steve Jonas** (6-4, 295) returns as the starter at right tackle. In 2005, Jonas became the only freshman offensive lineman to start a game in Biddle's 10-year tenure. By the end of the season, Jonas had started 11 games and established himself as a player whom rivals must deal with for years to come.

Sophomore **Rich Rosabella** (6-0, 251) will step into the starting right guard position. The slot was occupied last season by Ryan Hall '06. Rosabella served as Colgate's backup



Brent Dillingham had 18 catches for 150 yards last season for the Raiders.

center in 2005, and was also used as a short-yardage fullback. According to Biddle, "Rosabella had an excellent spring. We're still looking for our two starters on the left side of the line. We want to see what the freshmen

can do during fall camp."

The left side of the line was left vacant by left guard Todd Mulligan '06 and second team all-league left tackle Jeremy Wurst '06. Returning contenders for the 2006 starting positions include seniors **Brandon Whitaker** (6-2, 264), who appeared in three games in 2005, and **Mike Hovey** (6-4, 306) who played in 12 games last season on special teams.

Depth at the position will be provided by junior **Matt Sullivan** (6-4, 306) as well as sophomores **Mike Trotta** (5-11, 266), **Nick Hennessey** (6-5, 270), and **Brian Doyle** (6-1, 280).

Defensive Line

Colgate's entire 2005 defensive line graduated in May. Biddle said, "Defensive line is probably our most unsettled position right now. I'd be surprised if there are not freshmen on the two-deep or even starting at the position."

Among returning players, senior **Pat Nolan** (6-4, 265) heads the list of potential starters. Nolan played in eight games last season including one starting assignment. Juniors **Ryan Keller** (6-1, 225) and **Jim Meara** (6-2, 235) both figure to contend as well. Both played primarily on special teams last season, with

Defensive Ends

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Owen Brenner	6-1	231	Jr.	--
Ryan Keller	6-1	234	Jr.	1VL
Chris Rupert	6-1	210	So.	--
Steve Saulen	6-1	232	Jr.	1VL

Defensive Tackles

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Jim Meara	6-2	246	Jr.	1VL
Pat Nolan	6-4	266	Sr.	1VL
Nick Sabo	6-0	267	Sr.	1VL
Steve Salavantis	5-11	249	Sr.	--
Justin Snyder	6-3	268	So.	--
Ryane Staples	6-0	252	So.	--
Frank Viola	6-5	227	Jr.	--

Cornerbacks

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Chris Ekpo	6-1	190	So.	1VL
Jamil Jude	5-10	188	So.	--
Matt Morris	5-10	194	So.	--
Raymon Taft	6-0	191	Jr.	1VL
Cody Williams	5-9	186	Jr.	1VL

Free Safeties

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Sam Breslin	5-10	197	So.	1VL
Andrew Moore	6-0	180	Sr.	3VL
Chek Wingo	6-1	197	Jr.	--

Strong Safeties

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Geoff Bean	6-0	200	Sr.	3VL
Andre Dawson	6-0	184	Jr.	1VL
Andrew Kirkland	5-11	184	So.	--
Chek Wingo	6-1	205	So.	--

Linebackers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Mike Gallihugh	6-0	197	Jr.	1VL
Nate Johnson	5-11	200	Sr.	2VL
Ted Marshall	6-3	224	So.	1VL
Eric Tupta	6-2	227	So.	1VL
David Wesley	6-0	229	Sr.	2VL

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Keller seeing action in nine games and Meara in six contests. Senior **Nick Sabo** (5-11, 255), who appeared in five games last season on special teams, is in the mix as well.

Depth on the defensive line will be provided by senior **Steve Salavantis** (5-11, 249), juniors **Owen Brenner** (6-1, 231), **Steve Saulen** (6-1, 232) and **Frank Viola** (6-5, 227), and sophomores **Ryane Staples** (6-0, 252), **Justin Snyder** (6-3, 268), and **Chris Rupert** (6-1, 210).

Linebackers

The linebacker position has big shoes to fill, as 2005 AFCA All-American and Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year Jared Nepa '06 and two-year starter Zach Dollar '06 both departed to graduation. Senior **David Wesley** (6-0, 229) figures to occupy one of the three starting positions. Wesley started all 12 games last season and was the Raiders' ninth-leading tackler.

Junior **Mike Gallihugh** (6-0, 197) and sophomore **Eric Tupta** (6-2, 227) "both did a nice job during

spring practice," said Biddle. "Gallihugh really stood out on defense." They are the leading contenders for the vacant starting assignments. Both saw plenty of action on special teams in 2005.

Returnees **Ted Marshall** (6-3, 224), a sophomore, and senior **Nate Johnson** (5-11, 200), will likely provide depth at the position.

Defensive Secondary

"This is the defensive position with the strongest group of returnees," said Biddle. Both starting safeties return: seniors **Geoff Bean** (6-0, 200) and **Andrew Moore** (6-0, 180). Bean was Colgate's second-leading tackler last year and was named to the first team all-Patriot League. Moore was the Raiders' sixth-leading tackler in 2005.

At cornerback, the Raiders return a second team all-league honoree in junior **Cody Williams** (5-9, 186). Williams made four interceptions last season. He will have a new partner at cornerback, as his older brother Chris Williams '06 graduated in May.

The leading contenders for the position are sophomore **Chris Ekpo** (6-1, 190), junior **Raymon Taft** (6-0, 191), and sophomore **Sam Breslin** (5-10, 197). Breslin saw the most action of the trio last season. He appeared in all 12 games as Colgate's nickel back and made 22 tackles and one interception. "This spot is still wide open. During fall camp, we will have to find a replacement for Chris Williams," commented Biddle.

Depth in the secondary will be provided by juniors **Andre Dawson** (6-0, 184) and **Chek Wingo** (6-1, 197) along with sophomores **Andrew Kirkland** (5-11, 184), **Jamil Jude** (5-10, 188), and **Matt Morris** (5-10, 194).

Special Teams

Senior punter **Jason Sutton** (6-3, 215) returns for his fourth season as Colgate's starting punter. His career average is 35.1 yards per punt. Sophomore **Jacob Stein** (5-10, 172) will handle the kickoff and placekicking duties. Last season, Stein was the Raiders' kickoff specialist and split the placekicking assignments with Mike Rava '06. Stein connected on nine of 12 extra points and five of seven field goals in 2005. His longest successful field goal was 31 yards. "Finding a long-snapper is a priority for us during fall camp," added Biddle. The Raiders' 2005 long-snapper, Ronnie Millen graduated.



Junior cornerback Cody Williams (left) blocks for his brother, Chris, during an interception return last season.

Placekickers

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Mike Buck	6-1	201	Jr.	--
Jacob Stein	5-10	172	So.	1VL

Punter

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.
Jason Sutton	6-3	215	Sr.	3VL