



# 2022 FOOTBALL

Monarch Nation,

Old Dominion's inaugural football season in the Sun Belt Conference is right around the corner and our players have been hard at work preparing for this exciting new challenge! From winter workouts to spring ball and into summer conditioning, our team has met each new phase with passion and hard work. This hard work has earned our team the right to set high expectations, but we know that we cannot do it alone. We need the commitment and passion of every Monarch! My vision is to have S.B. Ballard Stadium be the best home field advantage in the conference, and I am confident that Monarch Nation can make this a reality.

My first year experiencing the passion in S.B. Ballard Stadium was special, but I'm expecting Monarch Nation to take it to another level this season. Our move to the Sun Belt Conference has helped to create one of the best home schedules in the entire Group of 5. Conference home games include Arkansas State University in Norfolk for our first ever SBC game. Following this matchup, we welcome back long time rivals Georgia Southern, James Madison and Marshall.

Our out-of-conference home schedule is just as exciting! It all starts with an in-state battle when Virginia Tech comes to Norfolk to open the season on a Friday night. All eyes will be on the 757! It is also just the first of four games that we will play with opponents from within the commonwealth in 2022. That is something that hasn't happened since 2011 and will be the first time that all four opponents are in the FBS. The state of Virginia is home to great football across all levels, and S.B. Ballard Stadium will be the focal point for multiple weeks throughout this season.

Last year, we made major strides to improve the atmosphere both inside and outside of S.B. Ballard Stadium. Prior to kickoff, Kaufman Mall will be the place to entertain friends, family, and other fellow Monarchs that you meet while tailgating. We will continue the Beer Garden and TV Truck on Kaufman Mall this year so you can enjoy games on the big screen before coming in to watch us play. The Deloreans 80s Tribute Band will play on Kaufman Mall before the Virginia Tech game on September 2nd, and we have an exciting slate of entertainment throughout the remainder of the season.

For the 2022 season, we are debuting a new Premium Seating area, "The Deck," that offers fans the ability to purchase seats in a new area of S.B. Ballard Stadium for a premier in-game experience. "The Deck" consists of a block of seats in Sections W118-W119 that have access to a private premium area for you and your friends/clients to watch the game with great amenities, including a full game day buffet with non-alcoholic drinks and a cash bar.

Our program is built on a winning culture and that begins with our three Cs - Care, Compete and Character. Last semester was a prime example of our student-athletes living out these core values in all facets of their lives. Together, we achieved a 3.0 cumulative team GPA. What an accomplishment by our guys!

As many of you know, our team is built on embracing a 1-0 Mentality. Taking not only each game one at a time, but one day at a time, one play at a time, and one rep at a time. This mentality helped us win five-straight games to finish our regular season last year, making ODU only the third team since 1936 to win five-straight games after starting a season with six losses in their first seven games.

Keep in mind that our future schedule is loaded with attractive home games, so secure your seats for the future now. This season begins a 10-year series between your Monarchs and the Virginia Tech Hokies, including five home games in Norfolk. We also begin a six-year series with ECU, our closest FBS foe, that includes three home games. In addition, we play another ACC opponent, Wake Forest, at home in 2023.

If you have any questions or ticketing concerns, our Director of Ticket Sales, Justin Ross, is available to assist you. Justin is ready to talk with you about your personal ticket situation and find the best option for you. Don't miss this opportunity while season tickets are still available! Justin can be reached at [jross@odu.edu](mailto:jross@odu.edu) or by calling 757.683.3360.

I look forward to seeing you at S.B. Ballard Stadium this fall. Reign on!

*Ricky Rahne*  
ODU Football Head Coach

#ODUSPORTS

