



**LSU (7-6) vs. No. 24 Houston (10-3)**  
**Postgame Notes – Kinder's Texas Bowl**  
**Saturday, December 27, 2025 · Kickoff 8:25 p.m. CT · ESPN**

### GAME INFORMATION

**LSU Captains:** PK Damian Ramos, DT Jacobian Guillory II, WR Chris Hilton

**Coin Toss:** UH won, deferred; LSU received

**Weather:** Dome (outside: Partly cloudy, 72 degrees)

**Wind:** Dome (outside: SSE at 9 mph)

**Attendance:** 63,867

**Frank Wilson Career Record:** 28-43

**Frank Wilson's LSU Record:** 2-3

**Frank Wilson vs. UH:** 0-1

**LSU vs. UH All-Time:** 2-2

### LSU STARTERS

#### Offense

QB Michael Van Buren Jr., RB Harlem Berry, WR Zavion Thomas, WR Chris Hilton, WR Kyle Parker, TE Bauer Sharp, LT Tyree Adams, LG Coen Echols, C Braelin Moore, RG Paul Mubenga, RT Weston Davis

#### Defense

DT Bernard Gooden, DT Jacobian Guillory II, EDGE Patrick Payton, EDGE Jimari Butler, LB Davhon Keys, LB Tylen Singleton, STAR Jardin Gilbert, S Tamarcus Cooley, S Dashawn Spears, CBDJ Pickett, CB PJ Woodland

### GAME NOTES

#### General

- LSU dropped the Texas Bowl to the Houston Cougars by a score of 38-35.
- LSU returned to the Kinder's Texas Bowl for the second consecutive year at NRG Stadium
  - The contest marked LSU's fourth appearance in the Texas Bowl and the Tigers have a 2-2 mark in the game.
    - Last year, LSU posted a 44-31 win over Baylor to cap the 2024 season.
    - Other appearances for LSU at the Texas Bowl include a 56-27 win over Texas Tech in 2015 and a 42-20 loss to Kansas State in 2021.
  - LSU is making its 57th bowl appearance overall and the Tigers are 31-25-1 all-time in bowl games. The 31 victories tie for No. 6 among all FBS programs, while the 56 appearances rank No. 7 nationally.
- LSU and Houston met for the fourth time at the Texas Bowl in Houston.
  - LSU leads the overall series with the Cougars, 2-2, with the last meeting between the teams coming in 2000 in Tiger Stadium. LSU won that game, 28-13.
    - The teams first met in the 1996 season opener with the Tigers using a second half rally to win, 35-34. Houston's win over LSU came in 1999 when the Cougars posted a 20-7 victory in Tiger Stadium in what was Gerry DiNardo's final game as head coach of the Tigers.
- LSU is 3-2 in NRG Stadium following the Texas Bowl.
  - The Tigers beat Wisconsin, 28-24, to open the 2014 season at NRG Stadium followed by a 56-27 victory over Texas Tech in the 2015 Texas Bowl. LSU dropped a 42-20 decision to Kansas State in the Texas Bowl on Jan. 4, 2022 and then last year posted a 44-31 win over Baylor to cap the 2024 season.
    - LSU was scheduled to play BYU in the 2017 season-opener at NRG Stadium, however, severe flooding to Houston forced the game to be moved to the Superdome in New Orleans. LSU won that game against BYU, 27-0.
- Houston, home to the largest LSU alumni base of any city outside the state of Louisiana, hosted an LSU football game for the 35th time at the 2025 Texas Bowl.
  - LSU is 15-16-4 all-time in games played in the city of Houston with 26 of the games coming against Rice.
    - LSU and Rice met in Houston 26 times between 1915 and 1983 with the Tigers going 12-12-2 against the Owls during that span.
    - LSU has appeared in a bowl game in Houston five times as the Tigers are 2-1 in the Texas Bowl and 0-2 in the Bluebonnet Bowl.
    - Dating back to a 1983 win over Rice, LSU has won four of its last six games in Houston, which includes three victories in NRG Stadium (Wisconsin in 2015 season-opener; Texas Tech in 2015 Texas Bowl and Baylor in 2024 Texas Bowl).
    - LSU's first appearance in Houston came on Nov. 18, 1911 when the Tigers dropped a 17-6 decision to Southwestern (Texas).
- LSU improved its three-game bowl winning streak to four against Houston in the Texas Bowl.
  - It marked the second time LSU has won four straight bowl games. Prior to its current streak, LSU won four bowl games over a four-year span under Les Miles from 2005-08.
  - LSU's longest bowl winning streak is five games, which covered seven seasons.

## GAME NOTES

- Dating back to the 2001 season when LSU captured its first outright SEC title since 1986, the Tigers have done quite well against non-conference opponents, going 100-15 against non-SEC foes during that span.
  - LSU went 4-1 in 2025 against non-SEC foes.
  - Dating back to the start of the 2018 season, LSU is 30-6 against non-conference foes.
  - Of the 100 wins against non-conference opponents since 2001, 22 have come against Top 25 teams. Of the 14 losses, seven have come during the regular season (2002 at Virginia Tech, 2016 vs. Wisconsin at Lambeau Field, 2017 vs. Troy, 2021 at UCLA, 2022 vs. FSU, 2023 vs. FSU, and 2024 vs. USC). The other eight losses occurred in bowl games (2003 Cotton Bowl vs. Texas; 2005 Capital One Bowl vs. Iowa; 2009 Capital One Bowl vs. Penn State; 2012 Chick-Fil-A Bowl vs. Clemson; 2014 Music City Bowl vs. Notre Dame; 2018 Citrus Bowl vs. Notre Dame; 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl vs. Kansas State; 2025 Kinder's Texas Bowl).
- The Houston contest marked LSU's 49th game against current members of the Big 12.
  - LSU is 38-10-1 all-time against current Big 12 members with its last meeting coming against Baylor (W, 44-31) in the 2024 Texas Bowl.
  - LSU has faced every current member of the Big 12 with the exception of Kansas and the Tigers have at least one victory over every team except Cincinnati, who posted a 26-0 win over LSU during the 1897 season in the only meeting between the teams.
- Dec. 27 is the earliest calendar date for an LSU bowl game since the 1985 Liberty Bowl, which was also Dec. 27.
  - The 8:25 p.m. start is the second-latest start time for an LSU bowl. The latest was 8:34 p.m. in 1983 Orange Bowl vs. Nebraska.
- Freshman Keylan Moses saw his first action at LSU on the Tigers' kickoff return team.

### Offense

- QB Michael Van Buren Jr. led the passing attack for LSU, connecting on 16-of-26 passes with 267 yards and 3 TDs.
  - Van Buren Jr. matched his career high in TD passes.
- Freshman RB Harlem Berry closed the night with 45 yards rushing on 3 attempts.
- Three LSU receivers finished with 60-plus receiving yards as TE Trey'Dez Green led the Tigers with 4 receptions, 80 yards and 2 TDs.
  - WR Kyle Parker recorded 7 receptions for 68 yards and WR Chris Hilton tallied 3 receptions for 67 yards.
- Van Buren Jr. connected with TE Trey'Dez Green on a 23-yard TD that gave LSU the 14-0 lead with 10:48 left in the first quarter.
  - The TD pass was his 6th of the season and the 17th of his career.
  - Green reeled in his 6th TD of the season and the 10th of his career.
    - Green's 6 TD receptions this year is a single-season record by an LSU TE. His 10 career TD receptions is tied for the most by an LSU TE (Richard Dickson and Brad Boyd).
  - The scoring drive went 60 yards on four plays and took 1:26 off the game clock.
  - The 60-yard TD drive was the 4th this season that ended in a TD within 60-69 yards.
- Van Buren Jr. found Green again early in the second half with a jump ball in the right corner of the endzone to tie the ballgame at 21 with a 4-yard TD. LSU and UH were tied with 9:31 left in the third quarter.
  - The TD pass was his 7th of the season and the 18th of his career.
  - Green reeled in his 7th TD of the season and the 11th of his career.
    - Green's 7 TD receptions this year is a single-season record by an LSU TE. His 11 career TD receptions is the most by an LSU TE.
  - The scoring drive went 73 yards on seven plays and took 4:00 off the game clock.
  - The 73-yard TD drive was the 11th this season that ended in a TD within 70-79 yards.
- Van Buren Jr. tossed his third TD pass of the game to WR Kyle Parker for the 6-yard score to tie the game at 28 with 14:54 remaining in the game.
  - The TD pass was his 8th of the season and the 19th of his career.
  - Parker reeled in his 4th TD of the season and the 5th of his career.
  - The scoring drive went 72 yards on five plays and took 1:35 off the game clock.
  - The 72-yard TD drive was the 12th this season that ended in a TD within 70-79 yards.
- With 1:15 left in the game, WR Zavion Thomas scored on a 3-yard rush to make the score 38-35 Houston.
  - The rushing TD for Thomas was the first of his career.
  - The scoring drive went 63 yards on 8 plays and took 1:07 off the game clock.
  - The 63-yard TD drive was the 4th this season that ended in a TD within 60-69 yards.

### Defense

- The LSU defense allowed 38 total points and 437 total yards (236 passing, 201 rushing)
- LB Davhon Keys led the Tiger defense with 14 tackles. S Tamarcus Cooley picked up double-digit tackles with 11.

### Special Teams

- PK Damian Ramos went a perfect 7-for-7 on PATs.
  - Ramos surpassed Colt David's (2005-08) career record for PAT's made (201) at LSU. David was 201 for 204. Ramos is

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currently 202 for 206.

2. P Grant Chadwick recorded 3 punts for 127 yards, averaging 42.3 yards per kick.

3. LSU WR Barion Brown got the fireworks started for the Tigers with a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, which gave LSU the 7-0 lead with 14:46 remaining in the first quarter.

a. The kickoff return for a TD was the 6th of Brown's career, which extended his SEC lead. Brown last returned a kickoff for a touchdown (also 99 yards) against Florida on Oct. 19, 2024.

b. It was the first time LSU opened a game with a kickoff return for a TD since Dec. 2, 1978, vs. Wyoming (Hokie Gajan, also 99 yards). It was just the third time LSU started a game with a kickoff return for a TD (Hokie Gajan, 99 yards; Jesse Fatheree, 95 yards).

c. Brown became the 7th LSU player to record a kickoff return for a TD for at least 99 yards. It was the 22nd instance LSU had a kickoff return for a TD in program history.

d. Brown's 99-yard kickoff return TD is the 2nd-longest opening kickoff return TD in a bowl game (Iowa's C.J. Jones had a 100-yard return to begin the 2003 Orange Bowl).

i. The last opening kickoff return TD in a bowl game was in the 2021 Myrtle Beach Bowl by Old Dominion against Tulsa.

4. Ramos attempted a 44-yard FG and missed it wide right with 3:04 remaining in the first quarter.

a. Ramos' totals moved to 69-of-87 in his career and 24-of-29 on the season.