



6
TRANSPERFECT
MUSIC CITY
BOWL
1998 25 2022

ARE YOU READY?

DECEMBER 31, 2022 • NOON ET

TRANSPERFECT MUSIC CITY BOWL • NASHVILLE, TN

WATCH ON



VERSUS



COACH STOOPS

- Kentucky's all-time winningest coach
- School-record seven straight bowl appearances
- Four straight bowl wins



BARION BROWN
FRESHMAN ALL-SEC
FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN



JAGER BURTON
FRESHMAN ALL-SEC



KEIDRON SMITH
SECOND-TEAM ALL-SEC



DEONE WALKER
ALL-SEC FRESHMAN TEAM
FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN

FOUR STRAIGHT BOWL WINS



2022 GOVERNOR'S CUP CHAMPIONS

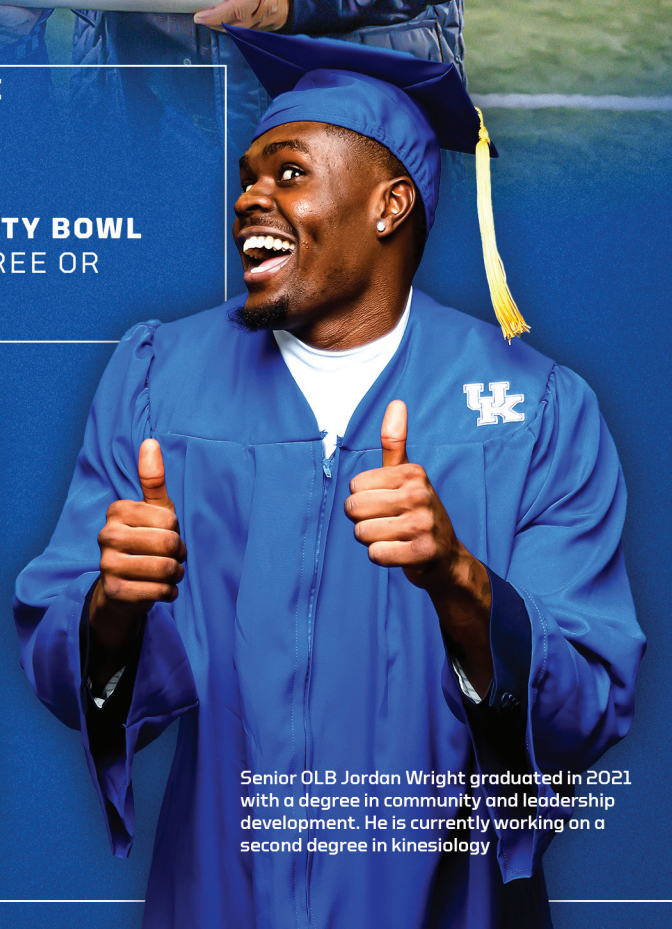


MATT RUFFOLO

Named the winner of the Howard Schnellenberger Award as the Most Valuable Player for the winning team of the Governor's Cup game, the first kicker to win the honor since it was founded in 2010.

Pictured above with the Louisville Sports Commission's Julie Howell and Greg Fante.

- **23 - UK BOASTS 23 PLAYERS IN THE BOWL GAME WHO HAVE EARNED AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE**
- **14 PLAYERS GRADUATED OR EARNED A SECOND DEGREE IN DECEMBER OF 2022**
- **FOUR PLAYERS IN THE TRANSPERFECT MUSIC CITY BOWL HAVE EITHER ALREADY EARNED A MASTER'S DEGREE OR THEY ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON ONE**
(KENNETH HORSEY, WILLIAM NALTY, MATT RUFFOLO AND QUINTIN WILSON)



Senior OLB Jordan Wright graduated in 2021 with a degree in community and leadership development. He is currently working on a second degree in kinesiology

HONORARY HEAD COACH
GOOD WORKS TEAM
Allstate | AFGA
MARK STOOPS
 KENTUCKY WILDCATS



2022 FOOTBALL RESULTS



AT



W • 37-13



W • 31-0



W • 31-23

AT



L • 19-22



L • 14-24



W • 27-17

AT



L • 6-44

AT



W • 21-17



L • 21-24

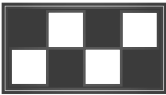


L • 6-16



W • 26-13





KENTUCKY MEDIA ITINERARY

(Note that practice times are TBA; all times Central; these events are open to the media unless noted otherwise)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Team departs for Nashville

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Time is 12:45 p.m. CT

Practice at Vanderbilt University

2601 Jess Neely Drive, Nashville, TN 37232
First 15 minutes of practice open to media, interviews after practice

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Time is 12:45 p.m. CT

Practice at Vanderbilt University

2601 Jess Neely Drive, Nashville, TN 37232
First 15 minutes of practice open to media, interviews after practice

Time is 7-8:30 p.m. CT

*Kentucky Team Welcome Dinner

Wildhorse Saloon
120 2nd Ave N, Nashville

*This event will be a b-roll opportunity for the media

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Time is 12:45 p.m. CT

Practice at Vanderbilt University

2601 Jess Neely Drive, Nashville, TN 37232
First 15 minutes of practice open to media, interviews after practice

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Time is 11:15 - 12:15 a.m. CT

News conference with Coach Mark Stoops and Coach Kirk Ferentz and both teams' offensive/defensive coordinators

Gaylord Opryland Resort
Ryman Studio ABC

6-6:30 p.m. CT

Battle of the Bands

Broadway between 4th Ave and Rep. John Lewis Way

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

7 a.m. CT

Stadium parking lots open

8 a.m. CT

Press box opens and will remain open only two hours after the end of the game

11 a.m. CT

25th Annual Transperfect Music City Bowl

Kentucky vs. Iowa
Nissan Stadium (414 Union Street)
ABC - TV
UK Sports Network - Radio
Bowl Season Radio - Radio

Vanderbilt Practice Parking options:

- McGugin Center: 2601 Jess Neely Dr.
Rec Center/Lot 27: Entrance off 25th between tennis center and indoor facility (there's a very small risk if VUPD decides to write tickets)
25th Ave & West Parking Garages: Off 25th but this is a pay only lot for visitors

Kentucky Media Contacts

Susan Lax, 859-608-5019
Matt May, 859-806-7463
Cami Moore, 859-396-0368
Tony Neely, 859-576-9943

Iowa Media Contact

Steve Roe, 319-430-6346

Media Headquarters

Renaissance Nashville Hotel
611 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203

Bowl Media Contact

Aldo Amato
Office: (615) 743-3124
Cell: (256) 503-2291
AAmato@nashvillesports.com

ALL-TIME BOWL RESULTS (12-9)

Table listing all-time bowl results including Great Lakes Bowl (1947), Orange Bowl (1950), Sugar Bowl (1951), Cotton Bowl (1952), Peach Bowl (1976), Hall of Fame Bowl (1983), HomePoint.com Music City Bowl (1999), Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl (2006), AutoZone Liberty Bowl (2009), BBVA Compass Bowl (2011), TaxSlayer Bowl (2016), Franklin Mortgage Music City Bowl (2017), VRBO Citrus Bowl (2019), Belk Bowl (2019), TaxSlayer Gator Bowl (2021), and Vrbo Citrus Bowl (2022).

UK FOOTBALL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media handles for UK Football on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, including @UKFootball, @UKCoachStoops, @CoachC_Collins, @CoachBuffano, @CoachWoody7, @OL_Coach_Yenser, @CoachJ_Boulware, @Bigstew9, @Mike_Stoops41, @vincemarrow, @CoachWhiteFB, Kentucky Football, Kentucky Wildcats, and UKStoopsTroops.



KENTUCKY BOWL HISTORY

All-Time Record: 12-9

Great Lakes Bowl

Dec. 6, 1947: UK 24, Villanova 14

Orange Bowl

Jan. 2, 1950: Santa Clara 21, UK 13

Sugar Bowl

Jan. 1, 1951: UK 13, Oklahoma 7

MVP: Walt Yowarsky

Cotton Bowl

Jan. 1, 1952: Kentucky 20, TCU 7

MVPs: Emery Clark, Ray Correll, Babe Parilli

Peach Bowl

Dec. 31, 1976: UK 21, North Carolina 0

Off. MVP: Rod Stewart

Def. MVP: Mike Martin

Hall of Fame Bowl

Dec. 22, 1983: West Virginia 20, UK 16

UK MVP: George Adams

Hall of Fame Bowl

Dec. 29, 1984: UK 20, Wisconsin 19

MVP: Marc Logan

Peach Bowl

Dec. 31, 1993: Clemson 14, UK 13

UK Offensive MVP: Pookie Jones

UK Defensive MVP: Zane Beehn

Outback Bowl

Jan. 1, 1999: Penn State 26, UK 14

HomePoint.com Music City Bowl

Dec. 29, 1999: Syracuse 20, UK 13

Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl

Dec. 29, 2006: UK 28, Clemson 20

MVP: Andre' Woodson

Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl

Dec. 31, 2007: UK 35, Florida State 28

MVP: Andre' Woodson

AutoZone Liberty Bowl

Jan. 2, 2009: UK 25, East Carolina 19

MVP: Ventrell Jenkins

UK Offensive MVP: Mike Hartline

UK Defensive MVP: Braxton Kelley

Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl

Dec. 27, 2009: Clemson 21, UK 13

BBVA Compass Bowl

Jan. 8, 2011: Pittsburgh 27, UK 10

TaxSlayer Bowl

Dec. 31, 2016: Georgia Tech 33, UK 18

UK MVP: Stephen Johnson

Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl

Dec. 29, 2017: Northwestern 24, UK 23

VRBO Citrus Bowl

Jan. 1, 2019: UK 27, Penn State 24

MVP: Benny Snell Jr.

Belk Bowl

Dec. 31, 2019: UK 37, Virginia Tech 30

MVP: Lynn Bowden Jr.

TaxSlayer Gator Bowl

Jan. 2, 2021: UK 23, NC State 21

UK MVP: A.J. Rose

VRBO Citrus Bowl

Jan. 1, 2022: UK 20, Iowa 17

MVP: Wan'Dale Robinson

BOWL GAME INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Rushing

- 233 Lynn Bowden Jr. (34 att.) Belk, 2019
- 152 Rafael Little (28 att.) Music City, 2007
- 148 A.J. Rose (12 att.) Gator, 2021
- 144 Benny Snell Jr. (26 att.) Citrus, 2019
- 107 Chris Rodriguez Jr. (20 att.) Citrus, 2022
- 104 Rod Stewart (19 att.) Peach, 1976

Pass Attempts

- 50 André Woodson (32 comp.) Music City, 2007
- 48 Tim Couch (30 comp.) Outback, 1999
- 43 Dusty Bonner (30 comp.) Music City, 1999

Pass Completions

- 32 André Woodson (50 att.) Music City, 2007
- 30 Dusty Bonner (43 att.) Music City, 1999
- 30 Tim Couch (48 att.) Outback, 1999

Passing Yards

- 358 André Woodson (32 of 50) Music City, 2007
- 336 Tim Couch (30 of 48) Outback, 1999
- 308 Dusty Bonner (30 of 43) Music City, 1999

Offensive Plays

- 56 Tim Couch (8 rush, 48 pass) Outback, 1999
- 54 André Woodson (4 rush, 50 pass) Music City, 2007
- 52 Dusty Bonner (9 rush, 43 pass) Music City, 1999

Total Yards

- 344 Tim Couch (8 rush, 336 pass) Outback, 1999
- 332 André Woodson (-26 rush, 358 pass) Music City, 2007
- 326 Lynn Bowden Jr. (233 rush, 73 pass, 20 kick return); Belk, 2019
- 324 Dusty Bonner (16 rush, 308 pass) Music City, 1999

Receptions

- 10 Wan'Dale Robinson (170 yards) Citrus, 2022
- 8 Anthony White (85 yards) Music City, 1999
- Rafael Little (50 yards) Music City, 2007

Receiving Yards

- 170 Wan'Dale Robinson (10 rec.) Citrus, 2022
- 124 Steve Johnson (7 rec.) Music City, 2007
- 89 Tavin Richardson (5 rec.) Music City 2017
- 85 Anthony White (8 rec.) Music City, 1999

BOWL GAME TEAM RECORDS

Rushing

Rush Attempts: 55 (Belk, 2019)
 Net Rushing Yards: 331 (Belk, 2019)
 Touchdowns Rushing: ... 3 (Great Lakes, 1947; Peach, 1976; Music City 2017, Belk 2019)

Passing

Pass Attempts: 50 (Music City, 2007)
 Pass Completions: 32 (Music City, 2007)
 Had Intercepted: 2 (Orange, 1950; Outback, 1999; Music City 2017)
 Passing Yards: 358 (Music City, 2007)
 Touchdowns Passing: 4 (Music City, 2007)

Total Offense

Offensive Plays: 82 (Music City, 2007)
 Total Yards: 501 (Music City, 2007)

Scoring

Points Scored: 37 (Belk, 2019)
 Most Touchdowns: ... 5 (Music City 2007, Belk 2019)
 Most Field Goals: 3 (Gator Bowl, 2021)

First Downs

Most First Downs: 29 (Music City, 2007)
 First Downs by Rush: 17 (Peach, 1976)
 First Downs by Pass: 19 (Music City, 2007)

Fumbles

Most Fumbles: 5 (Music City, 2007)
 Fumbles Lost: 3 (Music City, 2007)

Interceptions

Most INTs: 3 (Citrus Bowl, 2022)





2022 DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

Left Tackle

68 Kenneth Horsey, 6-3, 304, Sr-3L, Sanford, Fla. (Sanford Seminole)
56 Deondre Buford, 6-3, 312, So-Sq, Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King)
or 70 Nik Hall, 6-6, 307, Fr-HS, Austin, Texas (Akins)

Left Guard

62 Jager Burton, 6-4, 301, Fr-RS, Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
67 Paul Rodriguez, 6-5, 325, Fr-RS, Mason, Ohio (William Mason)

Center

75 Eli Cox, 6-4, 298, Jr-2L, Nicholasville, Ky. (West Jessamine)
60 Quintin Wilson, 6-1, 295, Sr-3L, Cincinnati, Ohio (Turpin)

Right Guard

79 Tashawn Manning, 6-4, 330, %Sr-Tr, Apopka, Fla. (Auburn/Wekiva)
65 Grant Bingham, 6-5, 318, Fr-HS, Johnson County, Ky. (Johnson Central)

Right Tackle

77 Jeremy Flax, 6-6, 328, Jr-Sq, Detroit, Mich. (Independence CC/Robichaud)
56 Deondre Buford, 6-3, 312, So-Sq, Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King)
or 74 David Wohlabough Jr., 6-6, 302, Fr-RS, Stow, Ohio (Walsh Jesuit)

Tight End

85 Jordan Dingle, 6-4, 236, Fr-RS, Bowling Green, Ky. (Bowling Green HS)
8 Izayah Cummings, 6-3, 240, Jr-2L, Louisville, Ky. (Male)

Tight End/FB

8 Izayah Cummings, 6-3, 240, Jr-2L, Louisville, Ky. (Male)
47 Justice Dingle II, 6-3, 267, Sr-Sq, Bowling Green, Ky. (Georgia Tech/
Bowling Green HS)

Wide Receiver (F)

9 Tayvion Robinson, 5-11, 187, Sr-Tr, Virginia Beach, Va. (Virginia Tech/Cox)
18 Brandon White, 5-9, 160, Fr-HS, Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)

Wide Receiver (X)

6 Dane Key, 6-3, 194, Fr-HS, Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
13 Jordan Anthony, 5-9, 155, Fr-HS, Tylertown, Miss. (Tylertown)

Wide Receiver (Z)

2 Barion Brown, 6-1, 166, Fr-HS, Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)
3 Dekel Crowdus, 5-10, 171, Fr-RS, Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)

Quarterback

12 Kaiya Sheron, 6-3, 208, Fr-RS, Somerset, Ky. (Somerset)
or 15 Destin Wade, 6-3, 222, Fr-HS, Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)
or 16 Deuce Hogan, 6-4, 205, So-Tr, Southlake, Texas (Iowa/Grapevine Faith Christian)

Running Back

17 JuTahn McClain, 5-9, 201, Jr-2L, Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
29 La'Veil Wright, 6-0, 217, Fr-RS, Louisville, Ky. (North Hardin)

SPECIALISTS

Kicker

96 Matt Ruffolo, 5-11, 211, %Sr-3L, Centerville, Ohio (Archbishop Alter)
12 Chance Poore, 6-2, 221, Sr-3L, Anderson, S.C. (Westside)

Punter

93 Wilson Berry, 6-4, 208, Fr-RS, Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)
12 Chance Poore, 6-2, 221, Sr-3L, Anderson, S.C. (Westside)

Long Snapper

46 Cade Degraw, 5-11, 213, Sr-2L, Lake Cormorant, Miss. (Lake Cormorant)
55 Clay Perry, 6-0, 193, Jr-1L, Upton, Ky. (Central Hardin)

Punt Return

9 Tayvion Robinson, 5-11, 187, Sr-Tr, Virginia Beach, Va. (Virginia Tech/Cox)
2 Barion Brown, 6-1, 166, Fr-HS, Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)

Kickoff Return

2 Barion Brown, 6-1, 166, Fr-HS, Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)
17 JuTahn McClain, 5-9, 201, Jr-2L, Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)

Holder

12 Chance Poore, 6-2, 221, Sr-3L, Anderson, S.C. (Westside)
93 Wilson Berry, 6-4, 208, Fr-RS, Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)

DEFENSE

Outside Linebacker

13 J.J. Weaver, 6-5, 242, Jr-2L, Louisville, Ky. (Moore Traditional)
20 Keaten Wade, 6-5, 237, Fr-HS, Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)

Defensive End

90 Tre'vonn Rybka, 6-4, 275, So-1L, Dickson, Tenn. (Dickson County)
33 Tomiwa Durojaiye, 6-4, 255, Fr-HS, Middletown, Del. (Middletown)

Nose Guard

52 Justin Rogers, 6-3, 332, Jr-2L, Detroit, Mich. (Oak Park)
95 Jamarius Dinkins, 6-5, 280, Fr-RS, Columbus, Ohio (Walnut Ridge)

Defensive Tackle

0 Deone Walker, 6-6, 330, Fr-HS, Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)
8 Octavious Oxendine, 6-1, 281, Jr-2L, Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)

Middle Linebacker

10 Jacquez Jones, 6-0, 233, %Sr-1L, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Ole Miss/Hillcrest)
or 54 D'Eryk Jackson, 6-1, 241, Jr-2L, Dublin, Ga. (West Laurens)
40 Luke Fulton, 6-4, 225, Jr-Sq, Youngstown, Ohio (Michigan State/
Cardinal Mooney)

Weakside Linebacker

32 Trevin Wallace, 6-2, 240, So-1L, Jesup, Ga. (Wayne County)
44 Martez Thrower, 6-2, 224, So-1L, Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)

Strongside Linebacker

15 Jordan Wright, 6-5, 231, %Sr-4L, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Dillard)
3 Alex Afari Jr., 6-2, 203, Fr-HS, Cincinnati, Ohio (Lakota West)

Cornerback

1 Keidron Smith, 6-2, 204, %Sr-Tr, West Palm Beach, Fla. (Ole Miss/
Oxbridge Academy)
28 Jordan Robinson, 6-4, 202, So-Tr, Columbia, S.C. (Livingstone College/Westwood)

Cornerback

23 Andru Phillips, 6-0, 190, So-1L, Mauldin, S.C. (Mauldin)
31 Maxwell Hairston, 6-1, 185, Fr-RS, West Bloomfield, Mich. (West Bloomfield)

Strong Safety

6 Tyrell Ajian, 6-0, 193, %Sr-4L, Mansfield, Ohio (Madison Comprehensive)
16 Kobi Albert, 5-11, 185, Fr-HS, Fairfield, Ala. (Fairfield Prep)

Free Safety

25 Jordan Lovett, 6-2, 202, Fr-RS, Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)
11 Zion Childress, 6-0, 191, So-Tr, Houston, Texas (Texas State/New Caney)



ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

3	Alex Afari Jr.	DB	6-2	203	Fr-HS
6	Tyrell Ajian	DB	6-0	193	%Sr-4L
16	Kobi Albert	DB	5-11	185	Fr-HS
27	Kory Albert	LB	6-3	215	Jr-Tr
91	Sam Anaele	DL	6-4	287	So-Sq
13	Jordan Anthony	WR	5-9	155	Fr-HS
63	Alex Bascom	DL	6-5	264	Sr-Sq
64	Richard Bascom	DL	6-5	269	Sr-Sq
80	Brenden Bates	TE	6-5	264	Sr-3L
98	Isaiah Beasley	DL	5-11	263	Jr-Sq
21	Dee Beckwith	WR	6-5	230	So-Tr
57	Jonathan Berry	OL	6-5	284	So-Sq
93	Wilson Berry	P	6-4	208	Fr-RS
65	Grant Bingham	OL	6-5	318	Fr-HS
2	Barion Brown	WR	6-1	166	Fr-HS
45	Jase Bruner	OLB	6-2	235	Jr-Sq
56	Deondre Buford	OL	6-3	312	So-Sq
62	Jager Burton	OL	6-4	301	Fr-RS
11	Zion Childress	DB	6-0	191	So-Tr
75	Eli Cox	OL	6-4	298	Jr-2L
35	Londyn Craft	DB	6-0	200	%Sr-Tr
3	Dekel Crowdus	WR	5-10	171	Fr-RS
8	Izayah Cummings	TE	6-3	240	Jr-2L
46	Cade Degraw	LS	5-11	213	Sr-2L
34	Trey Dennis	WR	5-8	150	So-Sq
85	Jordan Dingle	TE	6-4	236	Fr-RS
47	Justice Dingle II	FB	6-3	267	Sr-Sq
95	Jamarius Dinkins	DL	6-5	280	Fr-RS
37	Isaac Dixon	RB	5-11	201	Fr-HS
30	Taj Dodson	DB	6-1	203	Jr-1L
5	Mike Drennen II	RB	5-11	204	Jr-1L
33	Tomiwa Durojaiye	DL	6-4	255	Fr-HS
46	Braxton Eiserman	ILB	6-1	226	Sr-Sq
42	Tyreese Fearbry	OLB	6-5	227	Fr-HS
77	Jeremy Flax	OL	6-6	328	Jr-Sq
40	Luke Fulton	ILB	6-4	225	Jr-Sq
86	Dylan Gary	WR	6-4	198	Fr-HS
4	Jalen Geiger	DB	6-1	197	Jr-2L
94	Colin Goodfellow	P	6-2	225	%Sr-2L
78	Kiyaunta Goodwin	OL	6-8	351	Fr-HS
31	Maxwell Hairston	DB	6-1	185	Fr-RS
70	Nikolas Hall	OL	6-6	307	Fr-HS
99	Josaih Hayes	DL	6-3	309	Jr-2L
50	Darrion Henry-Young	DL	6-4	255	So-Tr
16	Deuce Hogan	QB	6-4	205	So-Tr
68	Kenneth Horsey	OL	6-3	304	Sr-3L
54	D'Eryk Jackson	ILB	6-1	241	Jr-2L
26	Ramon Jefferson	RB	5-10	215	%Sr-Tr
10	Jacquez Jones	ILB	6-0	233	%Sr-1L
72	Josh Jones	OL	6-6	325	So-Sq
84	Josh Kattus	TE	6-4	232	Fr-HS
6	Dane Key	WR	6-3	194	Fr-HS
81	Cole Lanter	WR	5-11	179	Fr-HS
59	Conner Long	OLB	6-3	220	So-Sq
25	Jordan Lovett	DB	6-2	202	Fr-RS
79	Tashawn Manning	OL	6-4	330	%Sr-Tr
55	Noah Matthews	OLB	6-5	244	Fr-HS
17	JuTahn McClain	RB	5-9	201	Jr-2L
37	Edward McKee	ILB	6-1	206	Fr-HS
83	Jack Monday	TE	6-1	227	Fr-HS
54	Jordan Morrow	LS	6-1	226	Sr-Sq
47	Jarard Mosely	DB	6-2	185	Fr-HS
38	William Nalty	ILB	6-0	220	%Sr-2L
22	Chris Oats	ILB	6-3	232	Sr-2L

NUMERICAL ROSTER (BOWL GAME)

0	Deone Walker	DL	6-6	330	Fr-HS	Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)
1	Keidron Smith	DB	6-2	204	%Sr-Tr	West Palm Beach, Fla. (Ole Miss/Oxbridge Academy)
2	Barion Brown	WR	6-1	166	Fr-HS	Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)
3*	Dekel Crowdus	WR	5-10	171	Fr-RS	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
3*	Alex Afari Jr.	DB	6-2	203	Fr-HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Lakota West)
4	Jalen Geiger	DB	6-1	197	Jr-2L	Columbia, S.C. (Spring Valley)
5*	Mike Drennen II	RB	5-11	204	Jr-1L	Hilltop, Ohio (Coffman)
5*	DeAndre Square	ILB	6-1	221	%Sr-4L	Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)
6*	Dane Key	WR	6-3	194	Fr-HS	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
6*	Tyrell Ajian	DB	6-0	193	%Sr-4L	Mansfield, Ohio (Madison Comprehensive)
7	Vito Tisdale	DB	6-1	184	Jr-2L	Bowling Green, Ky. (Bowling Green)
8*	Izayah Cummings	TE	6-3	240	Jr-2L	Louisville, Ky. (Male)
8*	Octavious Oxendine	DL	6-1	281	Jr-2L	Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)
9	Tayvion Robinson	WR	5-11	187	Sr-Tr	Virginia Beach, Va. (Virginia Tech/Cox)
10	Jacquez Jones	ILB	6-0	233	%Sr-1L	Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Ole Miss/Hillcrest)
11	Zion Childress	DB	6-0	191	So-Tr	Houston, Texas (Texas State/New Caney)
12*	Chance Poore	K	6-2	221	Sr-3L	Anderson, S.C. (Westside)
12*	Kaiya Sheron	QB	6-3	208	Fr-RS	Somerset, Ky. (Somerset)
13*	J.J. Weaver	OLB	6-5	242	Jr-2L	Louisville, Ky. (Moore Traditional)
13*	Jordan Anthony	WR	5-9	155	Fr-HS	Tylertown, Miss. (Tylertown)
15*	Destin Wade	QB	6-3	222	Fr-HS	Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)
15*	Jordan Wright	OLB	6-5	231	%Sr-4L	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Dillard)
16*	Deuce Hogan	QB	6-4	205	So-Tr	Southlake, Texas (Iowa/Grapevine Faith Christian)
16*	Kobi Albert	DB	5-11	185	Fr-HS	Fairfield, Ala. (Fairfield Prep)
17	JuTahn McClain	RB	5-9	201	Jr-2L	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
18	Brandon White	WR	5-9	160	Fr-HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)
20	Keaten Wade	OLB	6-5	237	Fr-HS	Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)
21*	Andre Stewart	DB	5-11	182	Fr-HS	Atlanta, Ga. (North Cobb)
21*	Dee Beckwith	WR	6-5	230	So-Tr	Florence, Ala. (Tennessee/Florence)
22	Chris Oats	ILB	6-3	232	Sr-2L	Cincinnati, Ohio (Winton Woods)
23	Andru Phillips	DB	6-0	190	So-1L	Mauldin, S.C. (Mauldin)
24	Elijah Reed	DB	6-3	183	Fr-HS	Louisville, Ky. (Pleasure Ridge Park)
25	Jordan Lovett	DB	6-2	202	Fr-RS	Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)
26	Ramon Jefferson	RB	5-10	215	%Sr-Tr	Bronx, N.Y. (Sam Houston State/Garden City CC/Maine/Truman)
27	Kory Albert	LB	6-3	215	Jr-Tr	Clanton, Ala. (UAB/Chilton County)
28	Jordan Robinson	DB	6-4	202	So-Tr	Columbia, S.C. (Livingstone College/Westwood)
29*	Jackson Schulz	DB	6-2	180	Fr-HS	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
29*	La'Ve'll Wright	RB	6-0	217	Fr-RS	Louisville, Ky. (North Hardin)
30	Taj Dodson	DB	6-1	203	Jr-1L	Union City, Ga. (Creekside)
31	Maxwell Hairston	DB	6-1	185	Fr-RS	West Bloomfield, Mich. (West Bloomfield)
32	Trevin Wallace	ILB	6-2	240	So-1L	Jesup, Ga. (Wayne County)
33	Tomiwa Durojaiye	DL	6-4	255	Fr-HS	Middletown, Del. (Middletown)
34*	Brady Pierce	DB	6-0	181	Fr-HS	Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)
34*	Trey Dennis	WR	5-8	150	So-Sq	Lexington, Ky. (Sayre)
35*	Londyn Craft	DB	6-0	200	%Sr-Tr	Rio Rancho, N.M. (Mississippi State/IMG Academy)
35*	Sean O'Horo	RB	5-11	180	Fr-HS	Youngstown, Ohio (Boardman)
37*	Isaac Dixon	RB	5-11	201	Fr-HS	Belfry, Ky. (Belfry)
37*	Edward McKee	ILB	6-1	206	Fr-HS	Fort Worth, Texas (IMG Academy)
38	William Nalty	ILB	6-0	220	%Sr-2L	Metairie, La. (Metairie Park Country Day)
39*	Dillon Wheatley	FB	6-1	215	Sr-Sq	Richmond, Ky. (Pikeville/Lexington Christian)
39*	Jackson Smith	K	5-11	194	Fr-HS	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)
40	Luke Fulton	ILB	6-4	225	Jr-Sq	Youngstown, Ohio (Michigan State/Cardinal Mooney)
42	Tyreese Fearbry	OLB	6-5	227	Fr-HS	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Perry Traditional Academy)
43	Angelo Washington	LB	6-2	226	Fr-HS	Ironton, Ohio (Ironton)
44	Martez Thrower	ILB	6-2	224	So-1L	Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)
45	Jase Bruner	OLB	6-2	235	Jr-Sq	Science Hill, Ky. (Somerset)
46*	Braxton Eiserman	ILB	6-1	226	Sr-Sq	Jackson, Ky. (Breathitt County)
46*	Cade Degraw	LS	5-11	213	Sr-2L	Lake Cormorant, Miss. (Lake Cormorant)
47*	Justice Dingle II	FB	6-3	267	Sr-Sq	Bowling Green, Ky. (Georgia Tech/Bowling Green HS)
47*	Jarard Mosely	DB	6-2	185	Fr-HS	West Palm Beach, Fla. (Cardinal Newman)
48	Jack Varga	FB	5-11	223	Sr-Sq	Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)
49	Jai Williams	OLB	6-5	215	So-Sq	Lake Forest, Ill. (Lake Forest)
50	Darrion Henry-Young	DL	6-4	255	So-Tr	Cincinnati, Ohio (Ohio State/Princeton HS)





35 Sean O'Horo	RB	5-11	180	Fr-HS	52 Justin Rogers	DL	6-3	332	Jr-2L	Detroit, Mich. (Oak Park)
8 Octavious Oxendine	DL	6-1	281	Jr-2L	54* D'Eryk Jackson	ILB	6-1	241	Jr-2L	Dublin, Ga. (West Laurens)
58 Lucas Padgett	OL	6-4	306	So-Sq	54* Jordan Morrow	LS	6-1	226	Sr-Sq	Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)
55 Clay Perry	LS	6-0	193	Jr-1L	55* Clay Perry	LS	6-0	193	Jr-1L	Upton, Ky. (Central Hardin)
23 Andru Phillips	DB	6-0	190	So-1L	55* Noah Matthews	OLB	6-5	244	Fr-HS	Bridgeville, Del. (Woodbridge)
34 Brady Pierce	DB	6-0	181	Fr-HS	56 Deondre Buford	OL	6-3	312	So-Sq	Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King)
12 Chance Poore	K	6-2	221	Sr-3L	57 Jonathan Berry	OL	6-5	284	So-Sq	Stamping Ground, Ky. (Scott County)
24 Elijah Reed	DB	6-3	183	Fr-HS	58 Lucas Padgett	OL	6-4	306	So-Sq	Birmingham, Ala. (La Cueva)
66 Abelardo Reza	OL	6-3	250	Fr-HS	59 Conner Long	OLB	6-3	220	So-Sq	East Lansing, Mich. (East Lansing)
28 Jordan Robinson	DB	6-4	202	So-Tr	60 Quintin Wilson	OL	6-1	295	Sr-3L	Cincinnati, Ohio (Turpin)
9 Tayvion Robinson	WR	5-11	187	Sr-Tr	62 Jager Burton	OL	6-4	301	Fr-RS	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
67 Paul Rodriguez	OL	6-5	325	Fr-RS	63 Alex Bascom	DL	6-5	264	Sr-Sq	Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)
52 Justin Rogers	DL	6-3	332	Jr-2L	64 Richard Bascom	DL	6-5	269	Sr-Sq	Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)
96 Matt Ruffolo	K	5-11	211	%Sr-3L	65 Grant Bingham	OL	6-5	318	Fr-HS	Johnson County, Ky. (Johnson Central)
90 Tre'vonn Rybka	DL	6-4	275	So-1L	66 Abelardo Reza	OL	6-3	250	Fr-HS	Eminence, Ky. (Eminence HS)
92 Kahlil Saunders	DL	6-5	288	Fr-RS	67 Paul Rodriguez	OL	6-5	325	Fr-RS	Mason, Ohio (William Mason)
29 Jackson Schulz	DB	6-2	180	Fr-HS	68 Kenneth Horsey	OL	6-3	304	Sr-3L	Sanford, Fla. (Sanford Seminole)
12 Kaiya Sheron	QB	6-3	208	Fr-RS	70 Nikolas Hall	OL	6-6	307	Fr-HS	Austin, Texas (Akins)
39 Jackson Smith	K	5-11	194	Fr-HS	72 Josh Jones	OL	6-6	325	So-Sq	Columbus, Ga. (Central-Phenix City - Ala.)
1 Keidron Smith	DB	6-2	204	%Sr-Tr	74 David Wohlabough Jr.	OL	6-6	302	Fr-RS	Stow, Ohio (Walsh Jesuit)
5 DeAndre Square	ILB	6-1	221	%Sr-4L	75 Eli Cox	OL	6-4	298	Jr-2L	Nicholasville, Ky. (West Jessamine)
21 Andre Stewart	DB	5-11	182	Fr-HS	77 Jeremy Flax	OL	6-6	328	Jr-Sq	Detroit, Mich. (Independence CC/Robichaud)
87 Josh Terrell	WR	5-10	175	Fr-HS	78 Kiyaunta Goodwin	OL	6-8	351	Fr-HS	Louisville, Ky. (Charleston (Ind.))
44 Martez Thrower	ILB	6-2	224	So-1L	79 Tashawn Manning	OL	6-4	330	%Sr-Tr	Apopka, Fla. (Auburn/Wekiva)
7 Vito Tisdale	DB	6-1	184	Jr-2L	80 Brenden Bates	TE	6-5	264	Sr-3L	Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)
48 Jack Varga	FB	5-11	223	Sr-Sq	81 Cole Lanter	WR	5-11	179	Fr-HS	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)
15 Destin Wade	QB	6-3	222	Fr-HS	83 Jack Monday	TE	6-1	227	Fr-HS	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Catholic)
20 Keaten Wade	OLB	6-5	237	Fr-HS	84 Josh Kattus	TE	6-4	232	Fr-HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)
0 Deone Walker	DL	6-6	330	Fr-HS	85 Jordan Dingle	TE	6-4	236	Fr-RS	Bowling Green, Ky. (Bowling Green HS)
32 Trevin Wallace	ILB	6-2	240	So-1L	86 Dylan Gary	WR	6-4	198	Fr-HS	Sugar Hill, Ga. (North Gwinnett)
43 Angelo Washington	ILB	6-2	226	Fr-HS	87 Josh Terrell	WR	5-10	175	Fr-HS	Fort Worth, Texas (Grapevine Faith Christian)
13 J.J. Weaver	OLB	6-5	242	Jr-2L	90 Tre'vonn Rybka	DL	6-4	275	So-1L	Dickson, Tenn. (Dickson County)
39 Dillon Wheatley	FB	6-1	-215	Sr-Sq	91 Sam Anaele	DL	6-4	287	So-Sq	Lagos, Nigeria (McDougle Technical Institute - Fla.)
18 Brandon White	WR	5-9	160	Fr-HS	92 Kahlil Saunders	DL	6-5	288	Fr-RS	Huntsville, Ala. (Grissom)
49 Jai Williams	OLB	6-5	215	So-Sq	93 Wilson Berry	P	6-4	208	Fr-RS	Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)
60 Quintin Wilson	OL	6-1	295	Sr-3L	94 Colin Goodfellow	P	6-2	225	%Sr-2L	Cleveland, Ohio (Saint Ignatius)
74 David Wohlabough Jr.	OL	6-6	302	Fr-RS	95 Jamarius Dinkins	DL	6-5	280	Fr-RS	Columbus, Ohio (Walnut Ridge)
15 Jordan Wright	OLB	6-5	231	%Sr-4L	96 Matt Ruffolo	K	5-11	211	%Sr-3L	Centerville, Ohio (Archbishop Alter)
29 La'Ve'll Wright	RB	6-0	217	Fr-RS	98 Isaiah Beasley	DL	5-11	263	Jr-Sq	Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)
					99 Josaih Hayes	DL	6-3	309	Jr-2L	Horn Lake, Miss. (Horn Lake)

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Sam Anaele (ah-NEL-lee)
 Tyrell Ajian (a-jun)
 Barion (bear-EON) Brown
 Jager (Jagger) Burton
 Dekel (da-KEL) Crowdus (CROWD-us)
 Jamarius (jah-MAR-ee-us) Dinkins
 Taj (same as "Taj Mahal") Dodson
 Tomiwa (TOE-mee-wah) Durojaiye (Durr-oh-Ji-yay)
 Jalen Geiger (GI-ger)
 Kiyaunta (key-ON-tay) Goodwin
 Josaih (joe-SIGH-uh) Hayes

D'Eryk (dee-ERIC) Jackson
 Tashawn (TAY-shawn) Manning
 JuTahn (juh-TAWN) McClain
 Abelardo (abba-LAR-doe) Reza (REE-zah)
 Tayvion (TAY-vee-on) Robinson
 Kaiya (Ki-yah) Sheron (Sharon)
 Keidron (KEY-drun) Smith
 Deone (dee-ON) Walker
 Jai (Ji) Williams
 David Wohlabough (WUL-uh-bah)



KENTUCKY FOOTBALL

KENTUCKY (7-5, 3-5)

9/3	MIAMI (OHIO) (ESPN+)	W, 37-13
9/10	at #12/19 Florida* (ESPN)	W, 26-16
9/17	YOUNGSTOWN STATE (SECN)	W, 31-0
9/24	NORTHERN ILLINOIS (ESPN2)	W, 31-23
10/1	at #14/11 Ole Miss* (ESPN)	L, 19-22
10/8	SOUTH CAROLINA* (SECN)	L, 14-24
10/15	#16/17 MISS. STATE* (SECN)	W, 27-17
10/22	Open	
10/29	at #3/3 Tennessee* (ESPN)	L, 44-6
11/5	at Missouri* (SECN)	W, 21-17
11/12	VANDERBILT* (SECN)	L, 24-21
11/19	#1/1 GEORGIA* (CBS)	L, 16-6
11/26	RV/RV LOUISVILLE (SECN)	W, 26-13

TRANSPERFECT MUSIC CITY BOWL
12/31 vs. Iowa (ABC) Noon (ET)
** SEC game; Home games in bold*



IOWA VS KENTUCKY TRANSPERFECT MUSIC CITY BOWL SATURDAY, DEC. 31

NOON ET (11 AM CT) • ABC TV
NISSAN STADIUM, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



WILDCATS

2022 Record/SEC Record	7-5 / 3-5
AP/USA Today Coaches Poll	NR / NR
Head Coach	Mark Stoops
Record at Kentucky (Years)	66-58 (10th)
Career Record (Years)	Same
Last Game	W, 26-13 vs. Louisville

HAWKEYES

2022 Record/ACC Record	7-5 / 5-4
AP/USA Today Coaches Poll	NR / NR
Head Coach	Kirk Ferentz
Record at Iowa (Years)	185-115 (24th)
Career Record (Years)	197-136 (27th)
Last Game	L, 24-17, vs. Nebraska

ABOUT THE GAME

TV • ABC
 Play-by-Play Matt Barrie
 Analyst Louis Riddick
 Sideline Harry Lyles Jr.

RADIO • UK SPORTS NETWORK
 Play-by-Play Tom Leach
 Analyst Jeff Piccoro
 Sideline Dick Gabriel

RADIO • BOWL SEASON RADIO
 Play-by-Play Joe Fisher
 Analyst Hans Olsen
 Sideline Amie Wells

SATELLITE RADIO
 Sirius - 138 or 195 SXM APP - 957

INTERNET RADIO • UKathletics.com
 Live Audio - free; Live Stats

TICKET INFORMATION
 musiccitybowl.com

BY THE NUMBERS

2 10-WIN SEASONS IN PAST FOUR YEARS

4 SCHOOL-RECORD STRAIGHT BOWL WINS

7 STRAIGHT BOWL APPEARANCES

20 STRAIGHT WINS OVER NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS (UK RECORD), LONGEST ACTIVE STREAK IN THE NATION

40 WINS SINCE START OF 2018, TIED FOR 16TH MOST AMONG POWER FIVE PROGRAMS

66 COACH STOOPS CAREER WINS, MOST IN SCHOOL HISTORY

UK FACES IOWA IN TRANSPERFECT MUSIC CITY BOWL

For the second consecutive season, Kentucky and Iowa will meet during bowl season, as the schools follow up their meeting in the VrboCitrus Bowl to conclude the 2021 season, a 20-17 UK victory, with a showdown in the Transperfect Music City Bowl. It marks UK's seventh consecutive bowl appearance, 22nd all-time and record sixth in the Nashville event.

UK will be without the services of quarterback Will Levis and third-leading career rusher Chris Rodriguez Jr. after they opted out of the game. The Cats should still have plenty of weapons, including star freshman receivers Barion Brown, who is from Nashville, and Dane Key.

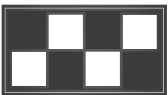
The game also features a pair of top 20 defenses in what could be a physical, hard-hitting rematch.



QUICK NOTES

- UK is 12-9 all-time in bowl games. The Cats are appearing in a school-record seventh straight bowl. The Cats have won their last four bowl games.
- UK is appearing in the Transperfect Music City Bowl for the sixth time, the most of any participating schools. The Cats have a 2-3 record in the Music City Bowl, defeating Clemson (2006) and Florida State (2007) and losing to Syracuse (1999), Clemson (2009) and Northwestern (2017).
- Kentucky is coming off its fourth-straight win over intrastate rival Louisville, defeating the Cardinals, 26-13, on Nov. 26 at Kroger Field in Lexington. It also marked UK's fifth-straight victory in the regular-season finale, first time in school history that has been accomplished.
- The Wildcats improved their streak to 20 straight nonconference wins, the longest such active streak in FBS, which dates back to the 2017 Music City Bowl loss to Northwestern.
- In their regular-season finale, Kentucky continued its streak of holding 15 of its last 16 opponents to 24 points or less as the defense continues to prove it's one of the strongest in the conference. The Wildcats concluded the regular season ranked 20th in the nation in total defense (320.2 ypg) and 12th in scoring defense (19.1 ppg).
- On the other side of the ball, quarterback Will Levis concluded the regular season ranked fourth in the SEC and 27th in the nation in passing efficiency (151.9 rating points), while he also concluded the regular season ranked seventh in the league and 29th in the nation in completion percentage (65.4). However, Levis has opted out and will not play in the bowl.





QUICK FACTS

Location: Lexington, Ky.
Founded: 1865
Enrollment: 33,000
Nickname: Wildcats
Colors: Blue (PMS 286) and White
Conference: Southeastern (Eastern Division)
Stadium: Kroger Field (61,000)
President: Dr. Eli Capilouto
Athletics Director: Mitch Barnhart
Faculty Representative: Joseph L. Fink III

2022 COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Mark Stoops (Iowa, '89)

Overall College Coaching Record:

Record at Kentucky (Years): 65-58 (10 years)
Career Record (Years): 65-58 (.528, 10 yrs.)
SEC Record: 32-50 (.390)
Bowl Record: 4-2 (.667)

Assistant Coaches:

Jay Boulware (Texas, '96)

Running Backs/Special Teams Coord., 1st year

Frank Buffano (Arizona, '06)

Safeties, 3rd year

Chris Collins (Western Carolina, '10)

Defensive Backs, 2nd year

Vince Marrow (Toledo, '92)

Assoc. HC/TE/Recruiting Coord., 10th year

Anwar Stewart (Kentucky, '17)

Defensive Line, 3rd year

Mike Stoops (Iowa, '87)

Inside Linebackers, 1st year

Brad White (Wake Forest, '05)

Defensive Coord/OLBs, 5th year

Scott Woodward (UMass, '09)

Wide Receivers, 2nd year

Zach Yenser (Troy, '07)

Offensive Line, 1st year

Quality Control:

Bryan Berezowitz (Kentucky, '19)
Josh Estes-Waugh (Kentucky, '12)
Louie Matsakis (Emporia State, '00)
Mark Perry (Kentucky, '01)
Joe Scola (Dartmouth, '07)

Graduate Assistants:

C.J. Conrad (offense)
Kalon Humphries (defense)
Courtney Love (defense)
Drake Jackson (offense)
Cam Garner (off the field - offense)
Dan Hebert (off the field - offense)
Andrew Verboys (off the field - defense)

- Running back Chris Rodriguez Jr. put an exclamation point on his career at Kentucky, amassing 3,644 rushing yards after recording his school record 20th game of 100-plus rushing yards against Louisville on Nov. 26. His 3,644 rushing yards in his career are the third-most in program history. However, he has opted out and will not play in the bowl.
Seventeen different players have recorded at least one reception this season.
The Wildcats have had 41 different offensive and defensive players start at least one game this season, which is 12th most in the nation. New Mexico leads the nation with 50 different starters in 2022.
This is head coach Mark Stoops' 10th year as head coach at UK, making him the longest tenured coach in program history. With Kentucky's win at then-No. 12/19 Florida on Sept. 10, he surpassed Paul "Bear" Bryant as the winningest head coach in program history and now has a 66-58 overall record.
Stoops is the second-longest tenured active head coach in the SEC, behind Alabama's Nick Saban, and the ninth-longest in the nation (FBS).
He has inked a contract extension that will keep him in Lexington through June 2031 with amended financial terms.
Stoops began his tenure at Kentucky 12-26 (.316) (2013 - through first two games of 2016). He has since gone 54-32 (.623) (2016 - present).
Stoops was on the midseason watch lists for the Bobby Dodd and Paul "Bear" Bryant National Coach of the Year Awards. He was also named the honorary head coach of the 2022 Allstate American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Team for his work with the Kentucky Children's Hospital.
The Wildcats' nationally-ranked defense is filled with experienced defenders, including seniors Jacquez Jones, Keidron Smith, DeAndre Square, Tyrell Ajian and Jordan Wright and juniors J.J. Weaver and Carrington Valentine.
Senior linebacker DeAndre Square joins former Wildcat Josh Paschal (2019-21) as the only players in school history to be elected team captain three straight seasons.
The Wildcats have 40 wins in the last four-plus seasons, which is the fifth most in the SEC and tied for 16th among Power Five programs.
The Wildcats are tied for second in the SEC East with Florida (54) in wins from 2016 - present (54) and only behind Georgia (78).
Last season, Kentucky finished 10-3 and won the Vrbo Citrus Bowl for the second time in the past four seasons, defeating No. 15 Iowa, 20-17, on Jan. 1, 2022.
All three of UK's second-place SEC East finishes have been in the last seven seasons under Mark Stoops.
UK has recorded multiple wins against ranked teams in four of the past five seasons, including this season (three in 2018, two in 2020, two in 2021, two in 2022). Before 2018, the Cats had just one season with multiple wins against ranked foes in the previous 40 years (two in 2007).
Kentucky has 11 players in school history who have rushed for at least 1,900 career yards. Four of those have come during Stoops' tenure - Benny Snell Jr. (3,873), Chris Rodriguez Jr. (3,644), Stanley "Boom" Williams (2,511) and A.J. Rose (1,971).
Since Brad White joined the staff in 2018, including defensive coordinator since 2019, UK has been ranked in the top 25 in total defense in three seasons (2018, '19, and '21) and twice in scoring defense (2018 and '19). UK concluded the regular season in the top 20 in both categories in 2022.
UK has allowed 30 or fewer points in 57 of its past 64 games, including 42 of the last 49 games since Brad White became coordinator, and has held its last 15 of 16 opponents to 24 points or less (then-No. 3/3 Tennessee scored 44 points on Oct. 29).
UK has allowed fewer than 400 yards in 13 of its last 15 games (then-No. 3/3 Tennessee combined for 422 yards on Oct. 29 and Vanderbilt tallied 448 on Nov. 12).
During Stoops' tenure, the Wildcats have had nine different starting quarterbacks win a game in Jalen Whitlow, Maxwell Smith, Patrick Towles, Drew Barker, Stephen Johnson, Luke Wright, Lynn Bowden Jr., Terry Wilson and Will Levis.
Since 2016, UK is 21-10 (.677) in games decided by seven points or less.
The Wildcats signed their highest-rated recruiting class in school history in 2022. Six of the first-year players are seeing significant action.



KENTUCKY IN BOWL GAMES

- The Wildcats own a 12-9 all-time record in bowl games, including a 4-2 record under head coach Mark Stoops.
- UK is appearing in its school-record seventh straight bowl game.
- Kentucky has won four straight bowl games which is tied with Northwestern, Syracuse, Texas and Troy for the third-longest active streak in FBS. The Cats defeated Penn State, Virginia Tech, N.C. State and Iowa for their bowl game winning streak.
- UK is appearing in the Transperfect Music City Bowl for the sixth time, the most of any participating school. The Cats have a 2-3 record in the Music City Bowl, defeating Clemson (2006) and Florida State (2007) and losing to Syracuse (1999), Clemson (2009) and Northwestern (2017).

Bowl Games : Consecutive bowl game wins

Alabama	7 years - 2015 .. 2021
Minnesota	5 years - 2015 .. 2021
Kentucky	4 years - 2018 .. 2021
Northwestern	4 years - 2016 .. 2020
Syracuse	4 years - 2010 .. 2018
Texas	4 years - 2017 .. 2020
Troy	4 years - 2010 .. 2018

SENIOR SALUTE

Eight players will be donning the Blue and White in their final game for Kentucky:

Tyrell Ajian, Colin Goodfellow * (injured for bowl game), Jacquez Jones, Tashawn Manning, William Nalty, Matt Ruffolo, Keidron Smith and Jordan Wright.

SMARTY CATS

- UK will have 23 players wearing SEC graduate patches in the Music City Bowl:
 1. Tyrell Ajian - Family Science, Minor – Coaching
 2. Alex Bascom – Bachelor Business Administration
 3. Richard Bascom – Bachelor Business Administration
 4. Brenden Bates – Consumer Economics & Family Financial Counseling
 5. Eli Cox - Integrated Strategic Communication, Minor – Business
 6. Londyn Craft (Mississippi State) - Youth Development and Family Studies
 7. Cade Degraw – Bachelor Business Administration in Management
 8. Justice Dingle – Bachelor of Science in Communication
 9. Taj Dodson – Bachelor of Arts in Communication
 10. Braxton Eiserman – Bachelor of Arts in Art Studio
 11. Jeremy Flax – Bachelor of Science in Community Leadership Development
 12. Colin Goodfellow - Nursing
 13. Kenneth Horsey - Communication
 14. Ramon Jefferson (Sam Houston State) - Humanities and Social Sciences
 15. Jacquez Jones – Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
 16. Tashawn Manning (Auburn) - Interdisciplinary Studies; Graduate Certificate in Sport, Fitness, & Recreation Management (UK)
 17. Jordan Morrow – Bachelor of Arts in Communication-Sport Communication; Minor Coaching
 18. Will Nalty - Marketing and Management
 19. Matt Ruffolo – Master’s of Business Administration
 20. Keidron Smith (Ole Miss) – Finance
 21. Quintin Smith – Master’s of Business Administration
 22. Dillon Wheatley – Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics
 23. Jordan Wright – Community Leadership & Development

UK COMMUNICATIONS/ PR CONTACTS



**Director of Athletics
Communications and PR/
Primary Football Contact**
Susan Lax - 859-608-5019 (cell)
slax0@uky.edu



**Assistant AD/Athletics
Communications and PR/
Mark Stoops Contact**
Tony Neely - 859-576-9943
(cell)
tneely@uky.edu



**Associate Director of Athletics
Communications and PR/
Secondary Football Contact**
Matt May - 859-806-7463 (cell)
matt.may@uky.edu



**Assistant Director of Athletics
Communications and PR
Secondary Football Contact**
Cami Moore - 859-396-0368 (cell)
camiranmoore@uky.edu



**Senior Associate Director of
Athletics Communications and
PR/Credentials and Press Box
Coordinator**
Evan Crane - 270-559-8120 (cell)
wesley.crane@uky.edu

Main Office Phone: 859-257-3838

Central Bank Press Row Phone: 859.323.2800

Office Address:

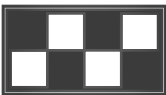
Joe Craft Center, 338 Lexington Ave.
Lexington, KY 40506-0019

Website: UKathletics.com



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100-YARD RUSHERS

Player	2022	Career	'22 Opponent
Chris Rodriguez Jr.	5	20	S. Carolina Miss. State Missouri Vanderbilt Louisville
Will Levis	0	1	
Kavosiey Smoke	0	1	

100-YARD RECEIVERS

Player	2022	Career	'22 Opponent
Tayvion Robinson	2	2	Miami (Ohio) N. Illinois
Barion Brown	2	2	N. Illinois Georgia

300-YARD PASSERS

Player	2022	Career	'22 Opponent
Will Levis	3	6	Miami (Ohio) Youngstown St. N. Illinois

INTERCEPTIONS

Player	2022	Career
Keidron Smith	2	7
Jordan Lovett	2	2
Trevin Wallace	2	2
DeAndre Square	1	3
Jacquez Jones	1	2
Jordan Wright	1	2
Carrington Valentine	1	1
Tyrell Ajian	0	4
J.J. Weaver	0	2
D'Eryk Jackson	0	2
Jalen Geiger	0	1

TRACKING SACK LEADERS

Player	2022	Career
J.J. Weaver	3.0	9.5
Jordan Wright	1.0	8.5
DeAndre Square	1.0	6.5
Trevin Wallace	2.5	4.5
Jacquez Jones	1.0	4.0
Justin Rogers	0.5	3.0
Carrington Valentine	1.0	2.0
Octavious Oxendine	0.0	2.0
Tre'vonn Rybka	1.0	1.5
Alex Afari Jr.	1.0	1.0
Tyrell Ajian	1.0	1.0
Zion Childress	1.0	1.0
Jamarius Dinkins	1.0	1.0
Darrion Henry-Young	1.0	1.0
Deone Walker	1.0	1.0
Josaih Hayes	0.0	1.0
Vito Tisdale	0.0	1.0
Kahlil Saunders	0.5	0.5
Keaten Wade	0.5	0.5

STAT SUPERLATIVES

Most Games Played (min. 30): Tyrell Ajian (59), Keidron Smith (59), DeAndre Square (58), Jordan Wright (52), Jacquez Jones (51), Chance Poore (48), Tayvion Robinson (46), Chris Rodriguez Jr. (46), Kavosiey Smoke (46), Brendan Bates (45), Matt Ruffolo (42), Tashawn Manning (41), Will Levis (39), DeMarcus Harris (39), Kenneth Horsey (36), Zion Childress (36), Ramon Jefferson (35), Izayah Cummings (34), J.J. Weaver (34), Ju. Dingle (31)

Most Games Started (min. 20): DeAndre Square (43), Keidron Smith (40), Jacquez Jones (36), Tyrell Ajian (34), Kenneth Horsey (32), Carrington Valentine (25), Will Levis (24)

Consecutive Games Started (min. 12): Kenneth Horsey (32), Will Levis (24)

Consecutive Games with a Tackle (min. 12): Jacquez Jones (32), J.J. Weaver (30), DeAndre Square (28)

Consecutive Games with a Reception (min. 5): Brown (12), Key (12)

KENTUCKY WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT GOVERNOR'S CUP

- Kentucky defeated No. 25 (CFP) Louisville, 26-13, on Nov. 26 at Kroger Field.
- Chris Rodriguez Jr., who rushed 24 times for 120 yards in his final home game, broke the UK record for 100-yard rushing games, eclipsing the mark for the 20th time in his illustrious career.
 - It was the fifth time this season that Rodriguez has rushed for at least 100 yards.
- Fellow senior Will Levis was efficient, connecting on 11 of 19 through the air for 188 yards and a pair of touchdowns, one to Barion Brown and another to Dane Key.
- Freshman wide receiver Barion Brown had four receptions for 44 yards and one touchdown.
 - Brown recorded his fourth touchdown receiving of the season on a three-yard catch to help Kentucky lead Louisville, 22-7, in the third quarter.
- Freshman wide receiver Dane Key had three receptions for 37 yards and one touchdown.
 - Key, who already holds the freshman record for most touchdowns receiving in program history, recorded his sixth touchdown receiving of the season on an eight-yard catch on Kentucky's second drive of the game.
- The UK defense was stout on this day, holding Louisville to just 309 yards of total offense in the game, which is a season low for the Cards.
- Having missed the last six games, senior inside linebacker Jacquez Jones returned to game action against Louisville and made three tackles.
 - In the first quarter, on 4th-and-1 from the UK 13, he tackled the runner for no gain to turn over the ball on downs. It was the 300th tackle of his collegiate career, including his three seasons at Ole Miss and two at Kentucky.
- Having missed the last three games, senior inside linebacker DeAndre Square returned to game action against the Cardinals and made three tackles.
- Both Jones and Square joined the 300-tackle club in that game.
- Junior outside linebacker J.J. Weaver had seven tackles, one sack, one tackle for loss and a pass breakup.
- Freshman defensive lineman Deone Walker tied his career high with six tackles. It is the second straight game he has recorded exactly six tackles.
 - He was named a SEC co-Defensive Lineman of the Week for his performance.
- Sophomore linebacker Trevin Wallace intercepted a pass in the third quarter, returning it 19 yards to the Louisville 15.
- Kicker Matt Ruffolo made four field goals and two extra points in the game.

RUFFOLO WINS SCHNELLENBERGER AWARD AS GOVERNOR'S CUP MVP

- Kicker Matt Ruffolo made field goals of 43, 29, 35 and 40 yards, and two extra points against Louisville on Nov. 26.
 - Four made field goals in a game are a career high for the graduate student.
 - His performance gave him 245 points in his career and moved him into fifth place on the UK career scoring list. He needs one more point to tie for fourth.
- He was named winner of the Howard Schnellenberger Award as the Most Valuable Player for the winning team of the Governor's Cup game, the first kicker to win the honor since it was founded in 2010.
- His four field goals also tied the Governor's Cup record.
- He became the first Wildcat with four field goals in a game since Austin MacGinnis against Missouri in 2017.

KENTUCKY-IOWA SERIES

- This marks UK's second meeting against Big Ten member Iowa, both coming in bowl games the past two seasons.
- Kentucky is 30-37-4 all-time against current Big Ten members.
- UK defeated Iowa, 20-17, in the teams' first matchup, a thrilling game in the Vrbo CitrusBowl on January 1, 2022. The Cats mounted a last-minute scoring drive and then sealed the victory on an interception by inside linebacker DeAndre Square.



2022 STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING:	ATT.	YARDS	AVG.	TDS		
Chris Rodriguez Jr.*	175	904	5.2	6		
Kavosiey Smoke	59	277	4.7	1		
PASSING:	ATT.	COMP	INT.	TDS	YARDS	PCT.
Will Levis*	283	185	10	19	2,406	65.4
Kaiya Sheron	29	17	1	2	187	58.6
RECEIVING:	REC.	YARDS	AVG.	AVG/GAME	TDS	
Barion Brown	45	604	13.4	50.3	4	
Tayvion Robinson	35	470	13.4	52.2	3	
Dane Key	31	472	15.2	39.3	6	
TACKLES:	TOTAL	SOLO	AST.	INT.	SACKS	TFL (YDS)
D'Eryk Jackson	63	25	38	0	0	4.0 (11)
Jordan Lovett	59	34	25	2	0	1.5 (3)

*Has announced intentions to opt out of playing in the Transperfect Music City Bowl

KENTUCKY-IOWA CONNECTIONS

- Kentucky coach Mark Stoops lettered at Iowa from 1987-89, playing for legendary coach Hayden Fry.
- Stoops also served as a graduate assistant at his alma mater in 1990 and 1991. In 1990, the Hawkeyes won the Big Ten title and played in the Rose Bowl.
- Stoops' brothers, Bob (1979-82) and Mike (1981-84), both played at Iowa as well.
- Stoops said his late father, Ron, was buried in 1988 with one of his Iowa game jerseys in his casket.
- Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz was on the Iowa staff when Stoops was recruited to play for the Hawkeyes and knows the family well.
- UK reserve quarterback Deuce Hogan transferred from Iowa after last season's bowl game.

A UK WIN WOULD...

- Be Kentucky's fifth straight bowl win, improving its school-record streak of consecutive bowl wins.
- Give Kentucky eight wins, the fourth time in the last five seasons, and the 16th time all-time, UK has finished with at least eight wins.
- Be the school's 13th bowl victory overall and third in the Music City Bowl.
- Extend Stoops' all-time school records for wins (67).
- Improve Kentucky's nation-leading nonconference winning streak to 21 games.

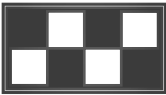
KENTUCKY VS. THE RANKED

- Kentucky has played 265 ranked teams in the Associated Press poll in its history, while the Wildcats are 50-210-5 in those games.
- The Wildcats are 2-3 against ranked teams this season, defeating then-No. 12/19 Florida on the road and then-No. 16/17 Mississippi State at home.
 - The Cats fell to then-No. 14/11 Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi, in a heartbreaking, 22-19, loss and it lost to then-No. 3/3 Tennessee on the road, 44-6.
 - The Cats played top-ranked Georgia tough before falling 16-6.
- Kentucky has won five of its last nine ranked meetings, including No. 23 NC State in 2020, No. 10 Florida and No. 17 Iowa in 2021, and No. 12 Florida and No. 16 Mississippi State in 2022.
- Since 2015, the Wildcats are 11-15 against ranked teams.
- Kentucky has a 7-5 all-time record against ranked teams in bowl games.
 - UK has defeated its last three ranked opponents in bowl games.

#LAFAMILIA

Kentucky football has several set of sons playing for former Wildcats or who are currently working for UK Football:

- Senior TE Brendan Bates is the grandson of former UK basketball player Gene Neff (1951-52)
- Sophomore Dru Phillips is the son of former Wildcat Carlos Phillips (1986-90)
- Sophomore WR Trey Dennis is the son of former Wildcat Harold Dennis (1994-96)
- Freshman walk-on WR Dylan Gary is the son of former DB Willie Gary, who played at UK from 1997-2000 and was a 1997 Freshman All-America First-Team selection by The Sporting News and a team captain in 2000
- Freshman OL Nik Hall is the son of Antonio Hall, who played at UK from 2000-03 and was an All-SEC selection.
- Freshman WR Dane Key is the son of former LB/DE Donte Key who played at UK from 1992-95 and was the National Defensive Player of the Week for his performance in the 1994 inaugural Governor's Cup game vs. Louisville
- OL Lucas Padgett is the son of Scott Padgett who played basketball at Kentucky (1995-99), helping the Wildcats advance to two Final Fours, including a national title in 1998 ... Went on to play eight years in the pros ... Mom, Cynthia (Dozier), was a four-year letter winner on UK's volleyball team (1994-97)
- Freshman kicker Jackson Smith is the son of former Wildcat punter Andy Smith (1997-99), an All-SEC punter whose 42.7-yard average in 1999 was, at the time, the third-best single-season mark in school history
- We have brothers, too. Senior OLB Justice Dingle is the older brother of redshirt freshman TE Jordan Dingle. They are from Bowling Green, Ky.
- Walk-on defensive ends Richard and Alex Bascom of Louisville, Ky., are fraternal twins.
- Freshmen Destin and Keaten Wade from Spring Hill, Tennessee, also are twins.
- Walk-on and transfer from UAB LB Kory Albert is the older brother of freshman DB Kobi Albert. They are from Fairfield and Clanton, Alabama, respectively.



2022 CAT SCRATCHES

FRESHMAN • DB • ALEX AFARI JR.

- Born in Pordenone, Italy
- Mother, Mary Acheampong, originated from Ghana and moved to the U.S. in 2008
- Speaks fluent Twi (a dialect of the Akan language spoken in southern and central Ghana)
- Brother, David, is Lakota West HS's second all-time leading rusher who played two seasons at Miami (Ohio) before transferring to Northern Colorado in 2022

SOPHOMORE • DE • SAM ANAELE

- Born in Lagos, Nigeria
- Moved to Miami in 2017, originally to play basketball at McDougle Technical Institute
- Has only been playing football for five years

FRESHMAN • WR • JORDAN ANTHONY

- Won the U-20 National Track 200-meter title with a personal-record 20.34 seconds
- Deemed the "fastest high schooler in the world" after finishing with a 10.14 in the 100-meters as well

SENIOR • TE • BRENDEN BATES

- Parents, Doug and Kelly, and brother, Doug, all played/play Division I sports
- Grandfather is former UK Basketball player Gene Neff

SOPHOMORE • WR • DEE BECKWITH

- Very mechanically inclined and loves to work on cars and trucks ... Currently building his own custom truck

R-FRESHMAN • P • WILSON BERRY

- Played three years of Australian rules football for Essendon's team in the Victorian Football League
- While playing footy, held down a part-time job at Grill'd, a restaurant known for preparing healthy hamburgers ... Started as a waiter before being promoted into the kitchen as a cook and then as an assistant manager
- Currently 24 years old
- Had a son, Leo, in July
- UK's third straight Australian punter, following in the footsteps of Matt Panton (2017) and Max Duffy (2018-20)
- Older brother, Jordan, played football at Eastern Kentucky and is currently a punter for the Minnesota Vikings; Younger brother, Oscar, currently plays basketball at North Florida

FRESHMAN • OL • GRANT BINGHAM

- Excellent tennis player who, along with doubles partner Brayden Pickle, advanced to Johnson Central's first regional team tennis championship

R-FRESHMAN • OL • JAGER BURTON

- Dad, Jeff, played football at Morehead State

SENIOR • DB • LONDYN CRAFT

- Dad, Douglas, played college football at Southern and went on to play seven seasons (1993-99) in the Canadian Football League ... Also saw time with the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and Indianapolis Colts

SOPHOMORE • WR • TREY DENNIS

- Dad, Harold, was a wide receiver at Kentucky from 1994-96

FRESHMAN • ILB • TOMIWA DUROJAIYE

- Dad, Bayo, originated from Nigeria

COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S LONGEST ACTIVE TENURED FBS HEAD COACHES

1998

1. Dec. 2, Kirk Ferentz, Iowa

2004

2. Dec. 9, Kyle Whittingham, Utah

2005

3. Jan. 3, Mike Gundy, Okla. State
4. Dec. 12, Rick Stockstill, MT

2006

5. July 7, Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern
6. Dec. 22, Troy Calhoun, AF

2007

7. Jan. 3, Nick Saban, Alabama

2008

8. Oct. 13, Dabo Swinney, Clemson

2012

9. Nov. 27, Mark Stoops, UK
10. Dec. 1, Dave Doeren, N.C. State

Mark Stoops is the second-longest tenured coach in the SEC behind Alabama's Nick Saban. He is the 11th-longest tenured coach in the nation (see chart above).

Kentucky's All-Time Ranked Wins in Bowl Games

Year*	Opponent	Score	Bowl
1950	#1 Oklahoma	13-7	Sugar Bowl
1951	#11 TCU	20-7	Cotton Bowl
1976	#19 North Carolina	21-0	Peach Bowl
1984	#19 Wisconsin	20-19	Hall of Fame Bowl
2018	#12 Penn State	27-24	VRBO Citrus Bowl
2020	#23 NC State	23-21	TaxSlayer Gator Bowl
2021	#17 Iowa	20-17	Vrbo Citrus Bowl

*yaer refers to the regular season and does not reflect if game played in January of next year

WILL POWERED

- Quarterback Will Levis announced his intention to opt out of playing in the Transperfect Music City Bowl and enter the 2023 NFL Draft.
- After transferring from Penn State in 2021, Levis earned the starting spot early in fall camp and started all 13 games, throwing for 2,827 yards and 24 touchdowns. He also rushed for 376 net yards and nine TDs.
 - In his UK debut against ULM in 2021, he passed for 367 yards and four touchdowns. He became just the second quarterback in the SEC since 2000 to rack up at least 350 passing yards, with at least four passing touchdowns and at least a 65 percent completion percentage in a win in his first career start, joining J.T. Daniels of Georgia (vs. Mississippi State in 2020).
 - Last season, against Louisville on Nov. 27, he rushed 14 times for a career-high 113 yards and a career-best four touchdowns. His four touchdowns tied the single-game school records for most rushing TDs and most total TDs.
- During the 2022 summer, he was one of the few collegiate passers to participate in the elite Manning Passing Academy camp.
- In 2022, Levis has helped Kentucky to a 7-4 record (unavailable against South Carolina because of a foot injury), including two ranked wins, with 185 completions in 283 attempts and 10 interceptions (65.4 completion percentage). He has accumulated 2,406 passing yards, averaging 218.7 yards per game and 19 passing touchdowns.
 - In the season opener against Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 3, he recorded his fourth 300-yard game as a Wildcat and his fifth game with at least three TD tosses. Moreover, he became the second quarterback in UK history with 300-yard passing games in consecutive season openers, joining Tim Couch in 1997 and '98. He also became the 15th UK quarterback to throw for at least 3,000 yards as a Wildcat.
 - In a highly-anticipated matchup with fellow NFL prospect Anthony Richardson of Florida, Levis shined, leading Kentucky to a win in The Swamp with his poise and playmaking ability.



- He completed 27-of-35 passes for a season-high 377 yards against Youngstown State, which is his highest completion percentage in a game when attempting at least 20 passes (.771) and the second-most passing yards in his career. It is also the highest single-game completion percentage for a Wildcat (min. 35 pass attempts) since Dusty Bonner hit 34 of 40 (85 percent) in 1999.
- Had his second straight 300+ passing yard game against Northern Illinois, while it also marked his third career game that he threw for four touchdowns.
- Levis helped Kentucky to its second ranked triumph of the season after completing 17 of his 23 passes, and just one interception, for 230 yards and a touchdown against then-No. 16/17 Mississippi State on Oct. 8.
- Levis completed 13-of-19 passes for 170 yards and three touchdowns at Missouri on Nov. 5. It marked the sixth game of his Kentucky career that he has thrown three touchdowns passes in a single game and the third instance this season.
- He completed 11 of his 19 passes for 188 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions to help Kentucky earn its fourth straight win over in-state rival Louisville on Nov. 26.
- He has earned publicity as being a potential top-10 overall selection for the 2023 NFL Draft.
- Levis is currently on the watch lists for the Davey O'Brien Quarterback Class of 2022, the 2022 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Top 10, the Maxwell Award, Walter Camp Player of the Year, Manning Award. He also recently accepted an invitation to the Reece's Senior Bowl.

ODE TO QB1

- In 24 career games at Kentucky, Will Levis was 17-7 and had 5,233 passing yards, which ranks sixth on the program's career list. His 43 passing touchdowns are fifth all-time, while his 11 rushing touchdowns are also sixth all-time among UK quarterbacks. His 5,502 yards of total offense in his Kentucky career is ranked fifth all-time.
 - He is one of just two quarterback on UK's career total offensive leaders top-five list with plus rushing yardages, joining Jared Lorenzen (2000-03).
- Levis had a 17-7 overall record as Kentucky's starting quarterback, tying Terry Wilson for the second-most quarterback wins since 1993 (starting lineups available since 1993).

Career Passing Yards

4. Mike Hartline (2007-10)	5,680
5. Bill Ransdell (1983-86)	5,564
6. Will Levis (2021-pres.)	5,233

Career Passing Touchdowns

3. Tim Couch (1996-98)	74
4. Babe Parilli (1949-51)	50
5. Will Levis (2021-pres.)	43

Career Rushing Touchdowns (min. 200 passing att.)

3. Shane Boyd (2001-04)	13
Pookie Jones (1991-93)	13
5. Jared Lorenzen (2000-03)	12
6. Will Levis (2021-pres.)	11

Career Total Offense Leaders

3. Tim Couch (1996-98)	-275 rush	8,435 pass	8,160 total
4. Mike Hartline (2007-10)	-20 rush	5,680 pass	5,660 total
5. Will Levis (2021-pres.)	269 rush	5,233 pass	5,502 total

HOT C-ROD

- Running back Chris Rodriguez Jr. has announced his intention to opt out of the Transperfect Music City Bowl and prepare for the 2023 NFL Draft.
- He finishes as the third all-time leading career rusher in school history.

2022 CAT SCRATCHES

JUNIOR • ILB • LUKE FULTON

- Father, Jeff, played baseball at Pitt

FRESHMAN • WR • DYLAN GARY

- Father, Willie, played defensive back at Kentucky from 1997-2000 and went on to play for the St. Louis Rams in 2001
- Mother, Sam, ran track at Tennessee from 1998-2002, competing in the 100-, 200- and 400-meters

JUNIOR • DB • JALEN GEIGER

- Father, Tony, was a Chief Warrant Officer (CW3) in the United States Army for 21 years with five combat deployments, while his mom, Ramona, retired as a First Sergeant (E-8) after 25 years of service with three combat deployments in the Army

SENIOR • P • COLIN GOODFELLOW

- Earned his (RN) nursing degree in 2021

FRESHMAN • OL • KIYAUNTA GOODWIN

- Can play five instruments

FRESHMAN • OL • NIK HALL

- Father, Antonio, played for Kentucky from 2000-03 and was a two-year first-team All-SEC selection.

SENIOR • OL • KENNETH HORSEY

- Had open-heart surgery in April of 2018
- Competed in martial arts for 14 years

FRESHMAN • TE • JOSH KATTUS

- Dad, Eric Kattus, was a tight end at Michigan from 1982-85 and went on to a seven-year career in the NFL, playing six years with the Cincinnati Bengals and one with the New York Jets

FRESHMAN • WR • DANE KEY

- Father, Donte Key, was a UK linebacker/defensive end from 1992-95
- Brother, Devon Key, played for the Kansas City Chiefs

FRESHMAN • WR • COLE LANTER

- Cousin, Tod Lanter, played basketball at Kentucky from 2012-15 and uncle Bo Lanter, played basketball at Kentucky from 1979-82

SOPHOMORE • ILB • CONNOR LONG

- Dad, Octavis, was a wide receiver at Michigan State from 1995-97
- Mother, Lynette, ran track for the Spartans

SENIOR • OL • TASHAWN MANNING

- During his senior year of high school, was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia ... After eight months of chemotherapy, he was declared cancer-free on July 10, 2016

FRESHMAN • OLB • NOAH MATTHEWS

- Mom, Christel, threw the discus at Delaware State from 1992-96

SENIOR • LS • JORDAN MORROW

- Dad, Jeff, played football at Kent State and is the current director of player personnel for the Carolina Panthers

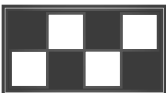
SENIOR • ILB • WILL NALTY

- Dad, Donald, played football at Tulane from 1982-86

JUNIOR • DT • OCTAVIOUS OXENDINE

- Dad, Kirk, is a retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class





2022 CAT SCRATCHES

SOPHOMORE • OL • LUCAS PADGETT

- Father, Scott, played basketball at Kentucky from 1995-99, helping the Wildcats advance to two Final Fours, including a national title in 1998 ... Went on to play eight years in the pros ... Mom, Cynthia, was a four-year letter winner on UK's volleyball team from 1994-97 ... Older brother, Logan, currently plays basketball at Manhattan College

JUNIOR • LS • CLAY PERRY

- Father, Matthew, played football at Western Kentucky; uncle, Mark Perry, played football at Northwestern; uncle, Todd Perry, is a former Wildcat who played from 1988-92 and went on to an 11-year career in the NFL with the Chicago Bears (eight years) and the Miami Dolphins (three years) as a guard

SOPHOMORE • DB • ANDRU PHILLIPS

- Father, Carlos, played linebacker at Kentucky under Jerry Claiborne; mom, LaTonya, was a standout athlete at Danville High School; brother, C.J., played football at Morehead State in 2015

FRESHMAN • DB • BRADY PIERCE

- Father, Chris, was a punter/kicker at Southern Miss (1994-96); mother, Andrea, was a softball player (second base) at Notre Dame (1992-96); Brother, Andrew, is currently a defensive back at Mount St. Joseph

R-FRESHMAN • OL • PAUL RODRIGUEZ

- Mother, Wendy, played softball and basketball at Davis & Elkins College from 1985-89

SENIOR • K • MATT RUFFOLO

- Graduated in 2022 with his MBA and is working on a second master's degree in finance
- Nicknamed the "spicy Italian meatball"

FRESHMAN • K • JACKSON SMITH

- Son of former Wildcat punter Andy Smith (1997-99), an All-SEC punter whose 42.7-yard average in 1999 was, at the time, the third-best single-season mark in school history

SENIOR • DB • KEIDRON SMITH

- Mother, Deirdre, played basketball at UCF; father, Alonzo, played basketball at Savannah State; sister, Kaylon, is currently a senior forward on the Vanderbilt women's basketball team

FRESHMAN • WR • JOSH TERRELL

- Father, Scott, was a receiver at Howard Payne University

SOPHOMORE • ILB • MARTEZ THROWER

- Sister, Tionne Wallace, is a Private First Class in the U.S. Army

JUNIOR • S • VITO TISDALE

- Son of "Big V" the co-founder and former member of the Southern rap quartet from Louisville, Kentucky, Nappy Roots

SENIOR • FB • JACK VARGA

- Comes from a tennis family as dad, John, uncle Andrew Varga, uncles Paul and Andrew Varga, and aunt, Julie Hale, all played tennis at UK

SOPHOMORE • ILB • TREVIN WALLACE

- Uncle, Robert Bryant, was a linebacker at Oklahoma from 2009-11

FRESHMAN • WR • BRANDON WHITE

- Timed as fast as 4.28 seconds in the 40-yard dash

- Rodriguez had 1,379 rushing yards in 2021, which ranked fifth on UK's single-season rushing list and made him the leading returning rusher in the SEC in 2022.
 - By surpassing 1,000 rushing yards last season, he became the 10th Wildcat to have a 1,000-yard season. It has only been accomplished 14 times in total in the history of UK football.
 - He was second in the SEC and 12th nationally with 106.1 yards per game and seventh in the SEC in all-purpose yards (110.8).
 - His nine 100-yard rushing games in 2021 was a single-season school record.
 - He rushed for 100 yards or more in five consecutive games to conclude the 2021 season, the second-longest streak in school history.
- He eclipsed 3,000 career rushing yards against then-No. 16/17 Mississippi State on Oct. 15, just the fourth player in program history to accomplish that feat.
 - He has 3,644 rushing yards in his career, the third most in program history.
- He also has 32 career rushing touchdowns, which is the second-most in school history, and his 35 career total touchdowns are the third-most in school history. Moreover, he averages 6.2 career yards per carry, which is ranked third in program history.
 - He concluded the regular season with 24 carries for 120 yards against Louisville on Nov. 26. It marked his 20th career game of 100+ yards rushing, which set the program record previously owned by Benny Snell Jr. who had 19 career games of 100+ yards rushing (2016-18).
- He had only 28 of his 592 career carries (less than five percent) go for negative yardage, a staggering testament to his ability to hit the hole and grind out yards.
- Since beginning to receive consistent carries in 2019, Rodriguez Jr. is one of just five players in the SEC to have multiple games of at least 195 rushing yards, joining former Wildcat Lynn Bowden Jr., Tyler Badie (Missouri), Kevin Harris (South Carolina) and Kylin Hill (Texas A&M).
- Rodriguez concluded the regular season ranked fifth on the FBS' active career rushing yards list.

Career Rushing Yards

1.	Benny Snell Jr. (2016-18)	3,873
2.	Sonny Collins (1972-75)	3,835
3.	Chris Rodriguez Jr. (2018-pres.)	3,644

Career Rushing Touchdowns

1.	Benny Snell Jr. (2016-18)	48
2.	Chris Rodriguez Jr. (2018-pres.)	32

Career Total Touchdowns

1.	Benny Snell Jr. (2016-18)	48
2.	Randall Cobb (2008-10)	37
3.	Chris Rodriguez Jr. (2018-pres.)	35
4.	Craig Yeast (1995-98)	32

Career 100-Yard Rushing Games, FBS (2019-2022)

1.	Breece Hall (Iowa State, 2019-21)	20
2.	Xazavian Valladay (Wyoming/Arizona St., 2019-22)	20
3.	Chris Rodriguez Jr. (Kentucky, 2019-22)	20
4.	Deuce Vaughn (Kansas State, 2020-22)	20

RUN, CATS, RUN

- Kentucky is the home of two of FBS's most prolific rushers, as Chris Rodriguez Jr. ranks in the top five for career rushing yards, while Ramon Jefferson was ranked in the top five prior to the start of the season.
 - Jefferson did the bulk of his damage at Sam Houston State before transferring to UK during the offseason. However, Jefferson missed almost all of the regular season after incurring a knee injury in the season opener.



Most Career Rushing Yards - FBS

1.	4,597	Mohamed Ibrahim	Minnesota
2.	4,473	Xazavian Valladay	Arizona State
3.	3,995	Travis Dye	Southern Cal
4.	3,985	Toa Taua	Nevada
5.	3,644	Chris Rodriguez Jr.	Kentucky

GREAT DANE

- Through 12 games, freshman wide receiver Dane Key leads the team with six touchdowns receiving, after he caught a touchdown pass in Kentucky's win against Louisville on Nov. 26.
 - Key broke the program's freshman single-season record after recording two touchdowns receiving at Missouri on Nov. 5, reaching five touchdowns receiving on the season to that point. The record was previously set at three touchdowns receiving, which was set in 2000 by Derek Abney and tied in 2001 by Tommy Cook.
 - Key improved his own record to six touchdowns receiving by the end of the regular season.
 - Key's first three touchdowns of the season were recorded with one each in the freshman's first three games. The last Wildcat with a touchdown catch in the first three games of a season was La'Rod King in 2011.
 - Key also became the only true freshman at UK, since freshmen were granted eligibility in 1972, to record receiving touchdowns in each of his first two collegiate games. He was also the first freshman since Derek Abney (2000) to catch at least two scores through his first two games (Abney had a pair of TD catches vs. South Florida in his debut).
- Key snagged a season-long, 55-yard touchdown at then-No. 12/19 Florida, with a highly contested leaping catch, to earn SEC Freshman of the Week honors for his impressive performance in The Swamp.
- Through five weeks, ESPN.com ranked him the No. 13 freshman in the country.
- He concluded the regular season ranked seventh in the conference in touchdowns receiving (6) and 14th in the conference in yards per reception (15.23).

Freshman WR/TE (RS or True) to Have 100+ Receiving Yards in First Three Games of Season (since 2000):

2022	Dane Key	2022	13 rec.
179	Garrett "Juice" Johnson	2014	9 rec.
133	Ryan Timmons	2013	9 rec.
124	Jeff Badet	2013	9 rec.
114	Derek Abney	2000	11 rec.
113	Blake Bone	2014	5 rec.
107	Dorian Baker	2014	9 rec.
104	Jordan Aumiller	2010	7 rec.

WHAT CAN BROWN DO FOR YOU?

- Freshman wide receiver Barion Brown concluded the regular season ranked 31st in the nation and fifth in the SEC in kickoff return average at 28.3 yards per 15 attempts.
 - He is also ranked 13th in the SEC in all-purpose yards per game (88.17).
- The rookie set the Kentucky freshman single-season receiving yardage school record after his game against top-ranked Georgia on Nov. 19. By the end of the regular season, he improved that record to 605 yards.
 - The record was previously set at 413 yards by Derek Abney in 2000.
- Brown also broke the program's freshman single-season record for the most pass receptions after his game against top-ranked Georgia. By the end of the regular season, he has 45 pass receptions.
 - The record was previously set at 40 pass receptions by Derek Abney in 2000.
- He earned his third SEC honor this season after racking up 245 all-purpose yards on just five touches at then-No. 14/11 Ole Miss. He caught two passes for 81 yards and had three kickoff

2022 CAT SCRATCHES

- Mother, Jeanita, played basketball at Mississippi State, while dad, Ben, was a running back at Mississippi State

JUNIOR • OLB • J.J. WEAVER

- Has six functioning fingers on his right hand
- Got custom gloves made to fit his hand
- Played high school football in Louisville but grew up in Broward County, Florida

SOPHOMORE • OLB • JAI WILLIAMS

- Father, James, also known as "Big Cat," played 12 seasons (1991-2002), mostly as an offensive tackle, with the Chicago Bears and is known as one of the "100 Greatest Bears of All-Time"

SENIOR • C • QUINTIN WILSON

- Graduated in December of 2020 with a degree in management ... Completed his bachelor's degree in two and one-half years with the help of advanced placement credits earned in high school ... Earned his MBA in 2022 and is currently working on a second master's degree in sport leadership
- Didn't start playing football until his freshman year of high school

R-FRESHMAN • OL • DAVID WOHLABAUGH JR.

- Father, Dave, played at Syracuse and went on to a nine-year NFL career with New England (1995-98), Cleveland (1999-2002) and St. Louis (2003) ... Also a member of the 1995 All-Rookie Team, played in the 1997 Super Bowl, and started all 128 games of his NFL career ... Teammate with former Kentucky quarterback Tim Couch with the Cleveland Browns
- Brother, Jack, was center at Duke from 2018-21
- Played hockey (defense) as a young child until his sophomore year of high school

R-FRESHMAN • RB • LA'VELL WRIGHT

- Has a pet lizard, Dash

SENIOR • OLB • JORDAN WRIGHT

- Older sister, Kayla, played basketball at Nova Southeastern

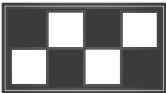
WHERE ARE THE COACHES?

SIDELINE

Mark Stoops, Head Coach
 Vince Marrow, Assoc. Head Coach, Tight Ends
 Chris Collins, Defensive Backs
 Anwar Stewart, Defensive Line
 Mike Stoops, Inside Linebackers
 Brad White, Defensive Coordinator, Outside LBs
 Scott Woodward, Wide Receivers
 Zach Yenser, Offensive Line

PRESS BOX

Frank Buffano, Safeties

**HONORING THE CATS****Barion Brown**

- All-True Freshman Team (PFF)
- Freshman All-America, Second-Team (The Athletic)
- Fourth-Team All-American (Phil Steele)
- Freshman All-America, Third-Team (College Football News)
- Freshman All-SEC (Coaches)
- Second-Team All-SEC - KR (Phil Steele)
- Fourth-Team All-SEC - WR (Phil Steele)
- Midseason True Freshman All-American (247 Sports, On3.com)
- SEC Special Teams Player of the Week (9/5)
- SEC co-Freshman of the Week (9/26), (10/3)

Jager Burton

- Freshman All-SEC (Coaches)

Eli Cox

- UK Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- SEC Football Leadership Council

Izayah Cummings

- UK Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Jordan Dingle

- Freshman All-America, Honorable Mention (College Football News)

Jalen Geiger

- SEC Community Good Works Team

Colin Goodfellow

- Campbell Trophy (semifinalist)
- Preseason Fourth-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)

Kiyaunta Goodwin

- Preseason Freshman All-America (ESPN)

Kenneth Horsey

- Preseason Honorable mention All-America (PFN)
- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Media Days)

Dane Key

- Freshman All-America, Honorable Mention (College Football News)
- Midseason True Freshman All-American (247 Sports)
- SEC Freshman of the Week (9/12)

Will Levis

- Davey O'Brien QB Class of 2022
- Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Top 10
- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Media Days)
- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Coaches)

Jordan Lovett

- Freshman All-America, Honorable Mention (College Football News)

returns for 164 yards. The 164 kickoff return yards set a new single-game freshman record, breaking Tony Mayes' record of 159 set vs. Georgia in 1983.

- He also was previously named SEC Special Teams Player of the Week after the season opener and was SEC co-Freshman of the Week after his first 100-yard receiving game against Northern Illinois.
- He is the first Wildcat to win a SEC weekly award three times in a single season since Lynn Bowden Jr. in 2019.
- The rookie is the only player in the nation with two 80-plus yard kickoff returns (vs. Miami (Ohio), at then-No. 14/11 Ole Miss).
- He will return to his home town of Nashville for the Transperfect Music City Bowl.
- He made a stunning debut against Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 3, taking the opening kick of the second half back 100 yards for a touchdown in the season opener. Brown took the kick, sliced to his left, found open space and then outran everyone down the visiting sideline.
 - It was the first Kentucky kickoff return for a score since Derrick Locke went to the house vs. Louisville (100 yards) in September 2009.
 - He also caught three passes for 45 yards in his collegiate debut.
 - He was named the SEC Special Teams Player of the Week for his efforts.
- He notched his first career 100-yard receiving game with 102 yards against Northern Illinois, including his first two collegiate touchdown catches.
- Brown had a career-high seven catches for 62 yards in his latest appearance against then-No. 16/17 Mississippi State on Oct. 15.
 - It is the most catches for a UK freshman since Daryl Collins had seven receptions vs. Louisville in 2012.
- Brown had three receptions for 44 yards in Kentucky's win at Missouri on Nov. 5.
 - He had 39-yard reception in UK's first offensive play of the game, which marked his sixth 30+ yard reception of his young career and set Kentucky up for a touchdown on its first drive of the game.
- Brown had a career game against Georgia with 10 receptions for 145 yards and a score.
 - The 10 catches are most by a UK freshman since Chad Scott had 10 vs. South Carolina in 2000.
 - The 145 yards are the second-most by a Wildcat freshman, Garrett Johnson had 154 at Florida in 2014.
 - The 145 yards are also the second-most for a Wildcat vs. a No. 1 team. Rick Kestner had 185 in the win vs. Ole Miss in 1964.
- Brown recorded his fourth touchdown receiving of the season on a three-yard catch to help Kentucky lead Louisville, 22-7, in the third quarter on Nov. 26.
 - With his four touchdowns receiving, he broke the four-way tie for the second-most touchdown receptions by a freshman in program history.

HERE'S TO YOU, MR. ROBINSON

- Senior wide receiver Tayvion Robinson has made a big splash at Kentucky this season.
 - He ranks second on the team in catches (35) and is third in total receiving yards (470). He's tied for third on the team with three receiving touchdowns.
 - In his Kentucky debut against Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 3, the transfer from Virginia Tech tied his career high with six catches, good for a career-best 136 yards, the first 100-yard game of his career. His first UK play was a 45-yard catch-and-run that set up the Wildcats' first touchdown of the season. He followed with two catches on a field-goal drive, then a 41-yard reception to set up another field goal. He also contributed with a 23-yard punt return that preceded UK's third field-goal drive of the game.
 - He proved his versatility at then-No. 12/19 Florida, seeing time at running back with four carries for 11 yards. He also played some running back at then-No. 14/11 Ole Miss.
 - He set a new career best with seven catches for 147 receiving yards and two touchdowns against Northern Illinois, including touchdown receptions on 69 and 40 yards. The 69-yarder marked the longest of his collegiate career.



- He sat out against then-No. 16/17 Mississippi State on Oct. 15 because of an injury, but returned against then-No. 3/3 Tennessee, making four catches and 11 total yards in that game.
- In three seasons at Virginia Tech, he caught 113 passes for 1,555 yards and eight touchdowns. He also averaged 11.4 yards on punt returns, including a 60-yard TD jaunt.

WHITE-OUT

- Fourth-year defensive coordinator Brad White has proven to be an excellent hire after Coach Mark Stoops plucked him from the NFL in 2018. During White's term, Kentucky has steadily become more stout on that side of the ball and other programs have taken notice, as White has turned down several other coaching opportunities in that time.
- For the first time since 1986-89, UK has allowed 26 or fewer points per game in four straight seasons.
- For the first time since 1959-62 it has yielded 160 rushing yards or fewer per game for four straight seasons.
- In today's high-scoring offensive game, the UK defense has held opponents to 30 or fewer points in 42 of his 49 games as coordinator (2019-present).

DEFENSE, DEFENSE, DEFENSE

- Kentucky is ranked third in the league, behind Georgia and Alabama, and 20th nationally in total defense through 12 games, limiting its opponents to just 320.2 yards per game. The Wildcats are also ranked third in the SEC, behind UGA and UA, and 12th nationally in scoring defense this season, holding their opponents to just 19.1 points per game. Moreover, the Cats are ranked second in the SEC, behind Texas A&M, and seventh in the nation in passing defense this season, holding their opponents to just 173.4 passing yards per game.
- Kentucky has allowed fewer than 215 passing yards in 11 of its 12 games this season (Kentucky allowed 245 passing yards at then-No. 3/3 Tennessee on Oct. 29). It has allowed fewer than 200 passing yards in eight of those 12 games this season.
 - UK held its first four opponents of the season to under 200 passing yards, the first time it has done so through the first four games since 1989.
- The Wildcat defense is coming off a stout performance in their last game, holding Louisville to just 309 yards of total offense on Nov. 26, which is a season low for the Cardinals.
- Kentucky allowed just 203 passing yards in its game against then-No. 16/17 Mississippi State on Oct. 15. UK limited MSU to season lows for total offense (225 yards), rushing yards (22), passing yards (203) and first downs (13). UK also allowed only 10 offensive points.
 - 22 rushing yards is the fewest UK has allowed since the Mississippi State game in 2020 (20 yards in that game).
- Moreover, Kentucky limited Missouri to total just 89 rushing yards in their matchup on Nov. 5, which is the Tigers' fewest rushing yards in a game through week 10 in 2022.
- The Cats held a Georgia offense averaging 40 points and 509.0 yards per game to just 16 and 363, season lows in both categories.
- The Wildcat defense dominated their opponents in the first three weeks, holding each opposing squad to under 300 total yards. It marked the first time the UK defense has done so since the first three games of 1989.
 - Kentucky held its first three opponents of the season to a combined 761 yards of total offense, its fewest in the first three games since 2008 (752 in first three games).
 - UK also limited Florida and Youngstown State to under 50 percent completions, the first time in back-to-back games since 2018 (Florida and Murray State).
 - UK had held its opponents scoreless for six straight quarters for the first time since 2019, after a second-half shutout at Florida on Sept. 10 and the game shutout against Youngstown State on Sept. 17.

MAYBE NEXT TIME

- Kentucky has allowed just 26 touchdowns through 12 games this season, which is the third fewest in the league and the 12th fewest in the nation. Meanwhile, those 26 combined

2022 HONORS (CONT'D)

Tayvion Robinson

- Preseason Second-Team All-SEC, PR (Phil Steele)
- Third-Team All-SEC, WR (Phil Steele)

Chris Rodriguez Jr.

- Third-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Preseason Second-Team All-America (Phil Steele)
- Preseason First-Team All-SEC (Coaches)
- Preseason First-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Preseason Second-Team All-SEC (Media Days)

Justin Rogers

- Preseason Fourth-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)

Matt Ruffolo

- Lou Groza Award Stars of the Week (9/7)
- Howard Schnellenberger Award (11/26)

Keidron Smith

- Second-Team All-SEC (Coaches)
- Second-Team All-SEC (PFF)

DeAndre Square

- Third-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Butkus Award semifinalist
- SEC co-Defensive Player of the Week (10/17)
- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)

Carrington Valentine

- UK Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Deone Walker

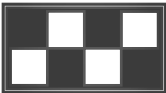
- First-Team Freshman All-America, First-Team (College Football News, The Athletic)
- True Freshman All-American (On3.com)
- All-True Freshman Team (PFF)
- HM All-American (Phil Steele)
- Second-Team All-SEC (Associated Press)
- Freshman All-SEC (Coaches)
- Second-Team All-SEC (PFF, Phil Steele)
- SEC Co-Defensive Lineman of the Week (11/28)
- Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Year Award (semifinalist)
- Midseason True Freshman All-American (The Athletic, 247 Sports, On3.com)
- Preseason Freshman All-America (247 Sports, On3.com)

J.J. Weaver

- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)

Jordan Wright

- SEC co-Defensive Player of the Week (9/12)



CATS IN THE PROS

A total of 23 former Kentucky Wildcats are currently on National Football League rosters or practice squads with additional players in the CFL. Here is the list, along with their years at UK (as of October 31, 2022): (*practice squad)

Atlanta Falcons

Josh Ali, WR (2017-2021)^

Carolina Panthers

Marquan McCall, DT (2018-21)

Cincinnati Bengals

Yusuf Corker, S (2018-21)^

Dallas Cowboys

Quinton Bohanna, NT (2017-20)
Kelvin Joseph, DB (2020)

Detroit Lions

Josh Paschal, DE (2017-21)
Logan Stenberg, OG (2016-19)

Green Bay Packers

Randall Cobb, WR (2008-10)

Jacksonville Jaguars

Josh Allen, DE/LB (2015-18)
Luke Fortner, C (2017-21)
Corey Peters, DL (2006-09)

Kansas City Chiefs

Darian Kinnard, OT (2018-21)

Minnesota Vikings

Za'Darius Smith, OLB (2013-14)

New England Patriots

Lynn Bowden Jr., WR (2017-19)^

New Orleans Saints

Landon Young, OT (2016-17, 19-20)

New York Giants

Wan'Dale Robinson, WR (2021)

New York Jets

Brandin Echols, CB (2019-20)

Pittsburgh Steelers

Benny Snell Jr., RB (2016-18)

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Mike Edwards, S (2015-2018)
Quandre Mosely, DB (2019-2021)^

Tennessee Titans

Bud Dupree, OLB (2011-14)
Lonnie Johnson Jr., CB (2017-18)

Washington Commanders

Jamin Davis, ILB (2018-20)

OTHER CATS IN NFL ROLES

Assistant General Manager, Las Vegas Raiders

Champ Kelly, WR/DB (1998-2001)

San Francisco 49ers, Director of Player Engagement

Austin Moss, DE (2006-09)

CATS IN THE CFL

Derrick Baity Jr. (EDM) and Micah Johnson (HAM)

touchdowns given up in 2022 included its game against the top-scoring offense in the nation in then-No. 3/3 Tennessee on Oct. 29.

Fewest Touchdowns Allowed in the SEC

Table with 4 columns: Team, Touchdowns Allowed, Team, Touchdowns Allowed. Includes Kentucky at 26.

PRICE IS WRIGHT

- Kentucky super senior and outside linebacker Jordan Wright has been wreaking havoc on opposing offenses, currently leading the team with 8.5 tackles for loss (25 yards).
Wright recovered a fumble in the second quarter at Missouri on Nov. 5. He has five fumble recoveries in his career.
He has at least 2.0 TFLs in three of 11 games played this season.
He made an instant impact on the field in his first outing of the season against then-No. 12/19 Florida, his home-state school. He earned SEC co-Defensive Player of the Week for his work, which included:
Made a game-changing interception while totaling six tackles, a quarterback sack, another tackle for loss, and caused a fumble.
With Kentucky trailing 16-7 late in the second quarter, he made a spectacular one-handed interception and returned it to the Florida six-yard line, setting up a UK touchdown that swung the momentum in favor of the Wildcats.
From that point, UK limited Florida to no points, five first downs and 91 total yards in the second half; it was the first time UF had been shut out in the second half since 2017.
In the third quarter, stopped a possession with an eight-yard sack, forcing a punt.
Also credited with a five-yard tackle for loss and a caused fumble.

GAINING CLOUT WITH THE SHUTOUT

- In the Wildcats' 31-0 triumph over Youngstown State on Sept. 17, UK recorded its first shutout since a 42-0 win over Miami (Ohio) at a neutral-site game in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Sept. 5, 2009.
It marked Kentucky's first shutout at home since defeating Vanderbilt 25-0 on Nov. 16, 1996 (25-0) and first shutout since the facility was named Kroger Field in 2015.
It was UK's largest margin of victory in a home shutout since a 35-0 win over Kent State in 1993.
It marked Kentucky's first first-half shutout since LSU on Oct. 9, 2021, and their second-straight, second-half shutout since holding Florida off the scoreboard in week two on Sept. 10, 2022.

JORDAN YEAR

- Albeit by chance, a few members of the 2022 Kentucky football team are connected to Michael Jordan, perhaps the greatest basketball player in history, and the Jordan River from the Bible.
Six Wildcats were given the name Jordan, both as an ode to Michael's greatness and to the Jordan River, which is important in biblical circles, while some have no specific meaning to either.
The six student-athletes include WR Jordan Anthony, TE Jordan Dingle, DB Jordan Lovett, LS Jordan Morrow, DB Jordan Robinson and OLB Jordan Wright. Lovett and Anthony said they were named after Michael Jordan, while Wright and Dingle claim they were named after the Jordan River.



RUNNING WILD

A.J. ROSE, CHRIS RODRIGUEZ JR., BENNY SNELL JR. AND STANLEY "BOOM" WILLIAMS

THE QUARTET HAS PUT ITS STAMP ON KENTUCKY FOOTBALL OVER THE PAST EIGHT SEASONS, TURNING THE PROGRAM INTO "RUNNING BACK U" AS COACH MARK STOOPS HAS CREATED A PHYSICAL, AGGRESSIVE IDENTITY IN LEXINGTON. HELPED BY THE "BIG BLUE WALL" THE FOUR RUNNING BACKS ALL RANK IN THE TOP 11 IN CAREER RUSHING AT KENTUCKY, HAVING CHURNED OUT 11,999 YARDS AND SCORED 111 TOUCHDOWNS ON THE GROUND.

FIRST-YEAR FROSH ARE TRUE

- Six Kentucky true freshmen have been making significant contributions to the Wildcats.
 - Defensive back Alex Afari is 15th on the team in tackles with 21 stops and is tied for sixth on the team in tackles for loss with three (-10 yards).
 - Linebacker Keaten Wade has made 16 tackles, including 2.5 tackles for loss (-13 yards) and 1.5 sacks (-8 yards).
 - Deone Walker leads UK defensive linemen in tackles with 39, including 3.5 for loss (-12 yards). He has two games this season with six total tackles.
 - WR/KOR returner Barion Brown leads the team with a pair of program freshman records - 45 catches for 604 yards - and four touchdowns. He also has a 100-yard kickoff return TD to his credit.
 - WR Dane Key leads the team and set the program's freshman single-season record with six touchdowns receiving.
 - Freshman tight end Josh Kattus became the 17th player this season with a reception when he caught a 10-year pass at Missouri on Nov. 5. He has had at least one reception in each game since his COMO performance. He also has impressed the coaches with his blocking.
- Brown and Walker both were named freshman All-Americans by several outlets.
- Brown, Burton, TE Jordan Dingle, DB Jordan Lovett and Walker all were named Freshman All-SEC. Burton became the first offensive lineman to earn that honor since Logan Stenberg in 2016.
- Freshman trio Brown, Key and Walker were on the 247Sports Midseason True Freshman All-America Team for 2022. Meanwhile, Walker was also named a Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Year Award semifinalist.

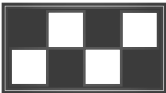
COUCH ON THE BALLOT



Former Kentucky quarterback Tim Couch has been named to the 2023 ballot for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, the National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced. Couch is one of 80 players and nine coaches from the Football Bowl Subdivision and 96 players and 33 coaches from the divisional ranks.

A storied name of the Kentucky program, Couch, was the team's quarterback from 1996-98. After giving up his senior season of eligibility, he was drafted as the No. 1 pick by Cleveland in the 1999 NFL Draft. In 1998, the junior quarterback was named a first-team All-American and consensus Southeastern Conference Player of the Year. Couch completed 400 of 553 passes for 4,275 yards and 36 touchdowns and led the nation in pass completions while ranked second in completion percentage, passing yardage and touchdown passes, and fourth in total offense. After guiding the Wildcats to the Outback Bowl, UK's first New Year's Day bowl appearance in 47 years, Couch finished fourth in Heisman Trophy balloting. He was also a finalist for the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award as a junior and sophomore. His breakout sophomore campaign featured 363 of 547 passes completed for 3,884 yards and 37 touchdowns while leading the nation in pass attempts, completions, yardage, and completion percentage. Also during his sophomore year, Couch earned second-team All-SEC honors and finished ninth in Heisman voting. He played in seven games as a true freshman, with two starts. Career wise, Couch completed 795 passes on 1,184 attempts for 8,435 yards and 74 touchdowns. The legend ended his career with seven NCAA records, 14 SEC records, and 26 school records.

Couch, also a standout at Leslie County High School in Hyden, Kentucky, was inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National High School Hall of Fame in 2021.



WE'RE GOING STREAKIN'

Kentucky's victory over Louisville in the regular season finale extended its non-conference winning streak to 20 games, the longest active streak in FBS.

Streak	Last Non-Conf. Loss
20 - Kentucky	Dec. 29, 2017 vs. Northwestern

UK also is tied for the longest active bowl winning streak with four straight victories:

Streak	Team
4	Kentucky, Texas*

(*Texas did not appear in a bowl game following the 2021 season)

LET'S GO KROGERING

- Overall, Kentucky is 182-141-4 (.563) all-time in Kroger Field, including 46-25 (.648) under Mark Stoops.
- Kentucky has won 13 of its past 17 games at Kroger Field.
- UK is 16-4 in its last 20 home night games.
- Since the beginning of 2018, the Cats have three ranked wins at home, including against No. 10 Florida (2021), No. 14 Mississippi State (2018) and No. 16 Mississippi State (2022).

2022 TRANSFER PORTAL ADDITIONS

- Head coach Mark Stoops took advantage of the NCAA Transfer Portal to fulfill needs in key positions for the 2022 season and beyond, welcoming 10 new Wildcats to the program:

- Dee Beckwith - So., WR - Tennessee
- Zion Childress - So., DB - Texas State
- Londyn Craft - Sr., DB - Mississippi State
- Darrion Henry-Young - So., DL - Ohio State
- Deuce Hogan - So., QB - Iowa
- Ramon Jefferson - Sr., RB - Sam Houston State
- Tashawn Manning - Sr., OL - Auburn
- Jordan Robinson - So., DB - Livingstone College
- Tayvion Robinson, Sr., WR - Virginia Tech
- Keidron Smith, Sr., DB - Ole Miss

2022 TEAM CAPTAINS

Seven Wildcats – including six seniors – were voted as team captains for the 2022 football campaign. Senior linebacker DeAndre Square joins former Wildcat Josh Paschal (2019-21) as the only players in school history to be elected team captain three straight seasons. Along with Square, the team's permanent season captains include returning captains Will Levis, Christopher Rodriguez Jr., and first-time captains Kenneth Horsey, Jacquez Jones, J.J. Weaver and Jordan Wright. Game captains will be decided on a week-by-week basis. They are listed below.

vs. Miami (OH)	Kenneth Horsey, Jacquez Jones, Will Levis, DeAndre Square
at Florida	Kenneth Horsey, Will Levis, DeAndre Square and Jordan Wright
vs. Youngstown State	Jacquez Jones, Will Levis, DeAndre Square, J.J. Weaver
vs. NIU	Kenneth Horsey, Will Levis, DeAndre Square, Jordan Wright
at Ole Miss	Jacquez Jones, Will Levis, Chris Rodriguez Jr., DeAndre Square
vs. South Carolina	Kenneth Horsey, Chris Rodriguez Jr., DeAndre Square, J.J. Weaver
vs. Miss. State	Kenneth Horsey, Will Levis, Chris Rodriguez Jr., DeAndre Square
at Tennessee	Kenneth Horsey, Will Levis, Chris Rodriguez Jr., DeAndre Square
at Missouri	Kenneth Horsey, Will Levis, Chris Rodriguez Jr., J.J. Weaver
vs. Vanderbilt	Kenneth Horsey, Will Levis, Chris Rodriguez Jr., J.J. Weaver
vs. Georgia	Will Levis, Chris Rodriguez Jr., J.J. Weaver, Jordan Wright
vs. Louisville	Kenneth Horsey, Chris Rodriguez Jr., DeAndre Square, Jordan Wright

CATS IN THE NATIONAL POLLS

- The Wildcats were ranked in the top 10 in both the Associated Press poll (7th) and coaches' poll (8th) for three straight weeks to close out the month of September, climbing one spot in each poll over that stretch. The Cats dropped out of the top 10, to No. 13 in both polls, after their loss at then-No. 14/11 Ole Miss on Oct. 1.
- Kentucky hadn't been ranked in the top 10 in three straight weeks in the AP poll since Nov. 14, 1977 (7th), Nov. 21, 1977 (7th) and Nov. 28, 1977 (7th), while this was the first instance of being ranked in the top 10 in even just two consecutive weeks in the coaches' poll.
- Kentucky moved into the top 10 and remained there from the Sept. 11 - Oct. 2. The Wildcats were tabbed No. 9 in the AP poll and No. 10 in the AFCA Coaches' poll, jumping 11 and 10 spots, respectively, from its placement in the polls the week before.
 - It marked UK's first top-10 ranking in the AP poll since Oct. 14, 2007 (No. 8) when the Wildcats were 6-1, and the 26th time in program history.
 - It marked UK's first top-10 ranking in the coaches poll since Sept. 30, 2007 (No. 8) when the Wildcats were 5-0, and only the second time in program history.
- For the first time in school history, Kentucky was ranked in both national preseason polls, coming in at 20 in the AP poll and 21 in the USA TODAY Sports AFCA Coaches Poll.

IN GOOD COMPANY

Kentucky has the fifth-most wins in the SEC since 2018.

Total Wins (2018-present)

1. Alabama	61	8. Tennessee	33
2. Georgia	57	9. Ole Miss	32
3. LSU	45	Mississippi State	32
4. Florida	41	11. Missouri	31
5. KENTUCKY	40	12. South Carolina	27
6. Texas A&M	39	13. Arkansas	22
7. Auburn	34	14. Vanderbilt	15



SIMPLY STOOPS-ENDOUS

UK head coach Mark Stoops has proven to be an excellent hire, turning around a struggling program and making him the first UK coach to lead the program to a sixth consecutive bowl appearance. He also has erased a number of the long-standing hurdles and streaks in the program's history. A partial accounting of Stoops' achievements features:

- 40 wins in the last four-plus seasons, which is the fifth most in the SEC and tied for 16th among Power Five programs
- Winning the regular-season finale five years in a row for the first time in school history
- First top-10 ranking in each the Associated Press poll and the coaches' poll since 2007 (Sept. 11, 2022)
- First consecutive top-10 rankings in each poll since 1977 (Sept. 18, 2022)
- First home win over Florida since 1986, also marking the first win over an Associated Press top 10-ranked opponent since 2010 (2021)
- First win at Tennessee since 1984 (2020)
- First New Year's Day Bowl win since 1951 (2018 season)
- First 10-win season since 1977 (2018)
- First SEC Coach of the Year since 1983 (2018)
- First final poll ranking since 1984 (2018)
- First bowl win since 2008 (2018 season)
- First win vs. Florida since 1986 (2018)
- First bowl appearance since 2010 (2016)
- Stoops began his tenure at Kentucky 12-26 (.316) (2013 - through first two games of 2016). He has since gone 54-32 (.623) (2016 - present). Overall, Stoops is now 66-58 at Kentucky, surpassing Paul "Bear" Bryant's 60 victories to set a new school record.
- Off the field, Stoops is a staunch supporter of the Kentucky Children's Hospital, helping raise more than \$500,000 annually for the kids.
- Kentucky's football team has fared well academically under Stoops, as each year UK's football score in the NCAA Academic Progress Rate has been well above the benchmark of 930.

Kentucky Before / After Mark Stoops

	1881-2012	2013-Pr.
Win Pct.	49.9%	53.2%
1st / 2nd Rd. Draft Picks	11*	7
Bowl Games	15	6

*Modern draft era (1970-2012)

Most Career Wins By A Head Coach, School History

1. **66 Mark Stoops (2013-Present)**
2. 60 Paul "Bear" Bryant (1946-53)
3. 47 Fran Curci (1973-81)
4. 41 Jerry Claiborne (1982-89)
- 41 Blanton Collier (1954-61)

Most Career SEC Wins By A Head Coach, School History

1. **32 Mark Stoops (2013-Present)**
2. 25 Fran Curci (1973-1981)
3. 22 Paul "Bear" Bryant (1946-53)

Most Career Home Wins By A Head Coach, School History

1. **46 Mark Stoops (2013-present)**
2. 33 Paul Bryant (1946-53)
3. 32 Jerry Claiborne (1982-89)

2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
Sept. 2	BALL STATE
Sept. 9	EASTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 16	AKRON
Sept. 23	at Vanderbilt*
Sept. 30	FLORIDA*
Oct. 7	at Georgia*
Oct. 14	MISSOURI*
Oct. 21	Open
Oct. 28	TENNESSEE*
Nov. 4	at Mississippi State*
Nov. 11	ALABAMA*
Nov. 18	at South Carolina*
Nov. 25	at Louisville

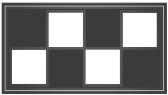
*SEC game

BURTON ELECTED TO UK ATHLETICS HOF

The University of Kentucky Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2022 was announced in July, with Jim Andrews (men's basketball), Derek Bryant (baseball), Dezerea Bryant (women's track and field), **Keenan Burton (football)**, Mike Lyden (swimming and diving) and Kelsey Nunley-Moore (softball) chosen for induction. The new Hall of Famers were inducted during Hall of Fame Weekend on November 10-12.

KEENAN BURTON, FOOTBALL, 2003-07

Great pass receiver and kickoff returner who also won awards for his outstanding character ... Finished his career fourth in school history in pass receptions (189), second in UK history for receiving yardage (2,376) and TD catches (25) ... Three-year All-SEC honoree, including first-team honors as a junior ... Led UK in pass receiving as a junior and senior as the Wildcats posted consecutive wins in the 2006 and '07 Music City Bowls ... Set UK career record for kickoff return average (25.6-yard average, min. 50 returns) ... Named to the UK Athletics Society of Character, the SEC Community Service Team and the SEC Academic Honor Roll ... Played two years in the NFL before sustaining a career-ending injury.



Most Wins by an Active FBS Coach - All at The Same School

- 1. 160 Dabo Swinney Clemson
- 2. 156 Mike Gundy Oklahoma State
- 3. 153 Kyle Whittingham Utah
- 4. 120 Troy Calhoun Air Force
- 5. 110 Pat Fitzgerald Northwestern
- 6. 108 Rick Stockstill Middle Tennessee
- 7. 78 Kirby Smart Georgia
- 8. 66 **Mark Stoops** **Kentucky**

STOOPS NAMED HONORARY COACH OF ALLSTATE AFCA GOOD WORKS TEAM

- Head coach Mark Stoops, who has helped raise more than \$2 million for the Kentucky Children’s Hospital, was named the honorary head coach of the 2022 Allstate American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Team®.
- Stoops has a passion for helping children and you can see that in the countless number of community service projects he has worked on in his 10 seasons at Kentucky.
- Each July, Stoops spearheads a fundraiser called “Coaches for the Kids” which raises money for the Kentucky Children’s Hospital. Since 2013, the event has raised over \$2 million. The event was originally started by former head coach Rich Brooks and Stoops has worked tirelessly to make sure the event has grown and continues to raise money for the children’s hospital.
- In March of 2022, Coach Stoops and the Coaches for the Kids Foundation presented funds totaling \$1.15M for projects at Kentucky Children’s Hospital. This gift will fund three projects:
 - Zero Suicide Academy is a training program for providers and staff to effectively identify individuals with suicide risk through screenings for patients at every visit. Training has begun for all KCH clinical and non-clinical staff.
 - LOCUS home monitoring technology for medically complex infants. This system is a bridge to health for infants discharged home between surgeries and at high risk for mortality. For families that may not have access to medical facilities in their home county, LOCUS provides them with a safe, accurate and user-friendly technology to monitor their children at home between visits, drastically reducing fatalities among these patients.
 - In combination with generous gifts from other donors, the CFTK Foundation will support the purchase and operation of a mobile clinic to serve pediatric patients in rural areas of Kentucky. The mobile will have the capacity to see up to 1,100 patients per year in pediatric cardiology, hemophilia/ blood disorders, high BMI and adolescent mental health. The unit can also serve as a primary pediatric service with the ability to complete routine well visits and sports and school physicals.
- The SEC leads all conferences with 82 selections to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team since it began in 1992. Georgia is in first place with 22 honorees, while Kentucky follows with 17 honorees.

GEIGER ON SEC COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

- Junior defensive back Jalen Geiger was named to the SEC Community Service Good Works Team for his volunteer work in the community.
- Growing up in a military family, Geiger, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, attended six different schools from kindergarten through 12th grade and knows a thing or two about what it feels like to be the new kid in class and how hard it can be to make new friends. Because of his background, Geiger has a passion for helping people, especially elementary school-age kids. Geiger has been using his platform as a football player to help kids in need and in 2021, found a mentorship opportunity at Liberty Elementary in Lexington, Kentucky. He has visited the school on several occasions, playing with the kids and talking to them about anti-bullying, learning and trusting their teachers.
- In 2022, Geiger created the “Just. Inspire. Greatness.” initiative. Based on his initials, J. I. G. (Jalen Isaiah Geiger), his initiative hopes to inspire greatness in kids around the Commonwealth and his hometown community in South Carolina. He used his own money to purchase wristbands with his mantra and he handed them out to the kids and teachers at Liberty Elementary on his last visit.
- He has also participated in the following community service projects: Real Men Read (2021) – Volunteered to read to a group of first graders at Yates Elementary three times during the season; Citrus Bowl Volunteer Project (2021) – Volunteered to mentor children in the Orlando area at an amusement park ... Paired up with one of the students and began a friendship with him and talked to him about the importance of school because he was not doing well in the classroom; Belk Bowl Volunteer Project (2020) – Volunteered to pack food bags for people in the Charlotte area with food and/or home insecurities in the community; God’s Pantry (2020) - Volunteered to pack food bags for food insecurity elementary students in the Lexington area to take home for the weekends; Lighthouse Ministries (2020) – Volunteered to prepare, clean and serve meals to the homeless.

J.J. WEAVER MAKES AN “IMPACT”

- Junior outside linebacker J.J. Weaver was one of 42 candidates on the 2022 Lott IMPACT Trophy Watch List, the only major college football award that considers character.
- This season, he has 44 tackles (seventh on the team), 6.0 tackles for loss (second-most on the team), a team-high 2.5 sacks, three quarterback hurries, a team-high three fumble recoveries, a team-high tying two forced fumbles and a blocked kick.
- In 2021, Weaver earned six starting assignments and totaled 34 tackles, 10.0 tackles for loss (second on the team), a team-high 6.0 sacks, four quarterback hurries, two interceptions, one forced fumble and one pass breakup. He was named third-team All-SEC by Phil Steele.
- He was having a breakout freshman campaign in 2020 with 33.5 tackles and 6.5 tackles for a loss through nine games of the 2020 season when he suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee at Florida. Despite missing the final two games, he still earned All-SEC Freshman Team honors. That injury was just one part of a very difficult year for Weaver, who also lost his father to homicide and then



in the fall of 2021 lost his beloved high school coach, Rob Reader, to liver cancer. As a result, his challenging off-season included both the rehabilitation of his knee and undergoing counseling to deal with his grief. Both were successful as he returned to the field with a strong knee and a clear mind. He was named the Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award and was a Capital One Orange Bowl Courage Award nominee in 2021 because of his resolve on and off the field.

- Another interesting note about Weaver is that he has polydactyly, a condition in which a person has more than five fingers or toes on one, or on each, hand or foot. Weaver plays with six functioning fingers on his right hand. He now not only uses his platform to speak to elementary school kids on the importance of mental health but also how to embrace being different.

KENTUCKY'S YOUNGSTOWN BOYS

- A neighbor of Pittsburgh, a.k.a. Steel City USA, Youngstown, Ohio, has a reputation as a blue collar community defined by hard work and relationships forged over generations that are stronger than steel. Kentucky's football program is, in many ways, defined by that bond as it creates a southern alumni club from Youngstown, the hometown of head coach Mark Stoops and his brother Mike Stoops and several other key members of the program. Below is a list of staffers and players from Youngstown:
- **Mark Stoops** - Head Coach (Cardinal Mooney), **Mike Stoops** – Inside Linebackers Coach (Cardinal Mooney), **Vince Marrow** – Recruiting Coord./Tight Ends (Cardinal Mooney), **Frank Buffano** – Safeties (Cardinal Mooney), **Courtney Love** – Grad Assistant (Cardinal Mooney), **Luke Fulton** – Junior, inside linebacker (Cardinal Mooney) and **Sean O'Horo** – freshman, running back (Boardman).

COACHING CHANGES

- Jay Boulware is the newest face to the Kentucky coach staff as he was hired on Dec. 12, 2022 to coach running backs coach and serve as the special teams coordinator. Boulware has 25 years of full-time coaching experience and has coached in 16 bowls. In 2021, he served as an offensive intern in the Pittsburgh Steelers, working specifically with the running backs, including UK's all-time leading rusher, Benny Snell Jr. Before the Steelers, he served as the associate head coach for special teams and tight ends coach at Texas, helping the No. 19 Longhorns finish 7-3 overall and capture the Alamo Bowl title in 2020. He has also had stints at Oklahoma, Auburn, Iowa State, Utah, Stanford, Arizona and Northern Illinois.
- Zach Yenser was named UK's new offensive line coach on Feb. 22. He came to UK after three seasons with the 49ers. Prior to that, he spent three seasons at Kansas (2015-17) as the run game coordinator/offensive line coach and had coaching stints at Southern Methodist (2018), California (2013-14), Louisiana Tech (2010-12), Colquitt County High School (2009) and Henderson State (2008). He began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at his alma mater Troy University in 2007, working with special teams and the offensive lineman under former Wildcat and beloved UK assistant coach John Schlarman. He replaced Eric Wolford, who left to become the offensive line coach at Alabama.
- Mike Stoops was hired on Jan. 18, 2022 as Kentucky's new inside linebackers coach. He came to UK after spending the 2021 season as the defensive coordinator and safeties coach at Florida Atlantic.

Prior to that he spent two seasons (2019 and 2020) at Alabama as an analyst on Nick Saban's staff, highlighted by the 2020 national championship. He also was the assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Oklahoma from 2012-18 and was the head coach at Arizona from 2004-11. He had a first term at Oklahoma from 1999-2003, including the 2000 national championship season. He replaced Jon Sumrall, who left to become the head coach at Troy. Mike is the brother of head coach Mark Stoops. They coached together at Arizona as Mark served as defensive coordinator.

CATS IN THE NFL DRAFT

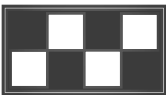
- Kentucky had four selections in the 2022 NFL Draft - Wan'Dale Robinson (2nd round, New York Giants), Josh Paschal (2nd, Detroit Lions), Luke Fortner (3rd, Jacksonville Jaguars) and Darian Kinnard (5th, Kansas City Chiefs).
- In total, 22 players have been drafted under head coach Mark Stoops since 2013, including 13 defensive players in Avery Williamson, Bud Dupree, Za'Darius Smith, Josh Forrest, Josh Allen, Lonnie Johnson, Mike Edwards, Jamin Davis, Kelvin Joseph, Quinton Bohanna, Brandin Echols and Josh Paschal.
- Kentucky has totaled four or more players selected in the first five rounds three times in school history, including twice in the last four years under Coach Mark Stoops - 2022, 2019 and 1966.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A picture of longevity, UK Equipment Manager **Tom Kalinowski** enters his 45th season in that role. He also was a student manager in 1974-77, marking his 49th year in UK football. He has worked more than 500 consecutive games.
- UK is one of only 10 schools that have won an NCAA men's basketball championship while also having a claim on a national championship in football.
- UK is one of only seven universities in the U.S. that have programs in agriculture, engineering, law, medicine and pharmacy on a single campus.
- The Kentucky cheerleaders have won an unprecedented 24 national cheerleading championships at the annual Universal Cheerleaders Association championships.

A LOOK AHEAD

- Seven home games highlight the University of Kentucky's football schedule in 2023.
- The Wildcats will begin the season with three straight home games at Kroger Field, including a visit from nearby foe Eastern Kentucky.
- The schedule, which is a combination of four nonconference games and eight conference games, features home appointments against Ball State, Eastern Kentucky, Akron, Florida, Missouri, Tennessee and, for the first time since 2015, Alabama.
- The road trips include stops at Vanderbilt, Georgia, Mississippi State, South Carolina and Louisville.



2022 GAME REVIEWS

1

KENTUCKY 37, MIAMI (OHIO) 13

SEPT. 3, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY. KROGER FIELD (61,139)



Quarterback Will Levis passed for 303 yards and three touchdowns as No. 20/21 Kentucky opened the 2022 season with a 37-13 win over Miami (Ohio) at Kroger Field.

Tayvion Robinson, playing in his first game as a Cat, caught six passes for 136 yards, while true freshman Dane Key caught four passes for 53 yards and his first career touchdown.

It was Key's classmate, Barion Brown, who electrified the crowd, and broke open the game, with a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to begin the second half.

The UK defense allowed just 290 total yards in the game. DeAndre Square led UK with seven tackles, while another true freshman, Alex Afari, had six tackles, including one and a half tackles for loss and his first career sack.

Miami took the opening possession of the game, beginning at their own 25. The RedHawks got 43 yards passing from quarterback Brett Gabbert, driving deep into UK territory. Then, running back Tyre Shelton went off left tackle, broke through the UK secondary and scored, giving Miami the lead. Graham Nicholson added the point after and the RedHawks led 7-0 with 9:39 to play in the first quarter.

Kentucky took over and the Cats got a big play immediately. Levis connected with Robinson, who broke a couple of tackles on his way to a 45-yard gain on UK's first play from scrimmage. UK would get into the red zone when Levis connected with Key for a 19-yard gain, getting to the Miami six yard line. Two plays later, Levis hit tight end Brendan Bates with a touchdown pass in the front left corner of the end zone. Matt Ruffolo added the PAT and the game was tied 7-7 with 7:29 to play in the first period.

Miami would get one first down on its next possession before the UK defense forced a punt. Kentucky would take the ensuing possession and methodically march into Miami territory. The first period would come to an end with the game still tied 7-7 and the Cats on the Miami 25 yard line.

Kentucky would get into the Miami red zone early in the second. Then, on fourth and two from the Miami four yard line, Levis was intercepted by Miami's Eli Blakey. The RedHawks would take over on their own six with 12:36 left in the half.

The RedHawks could not take advantage of the turnover. Miami would have a third-and-four from their own 12 when Gabbert's pass was broken up by Carrington Valentine. Then, the RedHawks punt was partially blocked by UK's JJ Weaver, giving UK the ball at the Miami 32 with 11:08 left in the half.

Kentucky would get a big play on first down when Levis hit Key again, this time for a 17-yard completion. But the Cats' drive stalled and UK was forced to settle for a 34-yard Ruffolo field goal. The super senior converted it and the Cats led 10-7 with 9:22 to play in the half.

Miami responded with a scoring drive of its own. The RedHawks got into UK territory by covering 45 yards in just seven plays before the Cats came up with a defensive stop. That forced Miami into a 48-yard field goal that Nicholson converted, tying the game at 10-10 with 6:10 remaining in the half.

The next two possessions went three-and-out, one by each team. The Cats took over on their own 16 with 2:04 left in the half. The drive appeared to be going nowhere until Levis hit Robinson across the middle for a 41-yard gain. Levis then hit Kavosiey Smoke with a screen pass for a 10-yard gain, setting the Cats up at the Miami 19 with 19 seconds left in the half.

JuTahn McClain would rush for six yards on the next play, which was followed by a UK timeout with 14 seconds to play in the half. Levis and Robinson connected again on the next play, getting UK to the Miami seven with six seconds left on the clock. On the next play, Levis could not find an open receiver and threw the ball away. That set up another Ruffolo field goal attempt, this one from 25 yards, that the super senior nailed as time expired in the half with the Cats holding a 13-10 advantage.

The Cats would start the second half with a bang. Brown took the second half kickoff and raced down the left sideline, outrunning the Miami defense for a 100-yard kickoff return touchdown. It was Brown's first career touchdown and it, combined with Ruffolo's PAT, gave UK a 20-10 lead just 13 seconds into the second half.

Miami took possession but, on the second play from scrimmage, Tyrell Ajian forced a Jaylor Bestor fumble that was recovered by UK's Keidron Smith, who returned it to the eight yard line. On the second play of the ensuing drive, Levis connected with Chauncey Magwood in the end zone for an eight-yard score. It was Magwood's first career touchdown. Ruffolo nailed the point after and Kentucky led 27-10 with 13:58 still to play in the third quarter.

Miami would answer with an 11-play, 65-yard drive that ended with a 27-yard field goal by Nicholson. The kick was good and UK's lead was cut to 27-13 with 9:04 left in the third quarter.

The teams would exchange punts, but the Cats got the better end of that deal when Robinson returned the Miami punt 23 yards to the RedHawks 48 yard line.

Kentucky would get one first down on the next drive but the drive ultimately stalled. UK called on Ruffolo again and again he delivered, this time from 50 yards out, giving the Cats a 30-13 lead with 1:09 left in the third quarter.

Early in the fourth quarter, Miami was forced to punt again and the Cats took over on their own 16 with 12:58 to play. The Cats would move the ball methodically until Levis hit Brown on a 38-yard completion, getting UK within striking distance. Key would draw a pass interference penalty in the end zone and, three plays later, he would catch his first collegiate touchdown, a one-yard strike from Levis. Ruffolo added the PAT and UK led 37-13 with 7:46 remaining.

From there, the Cats would run out the clock and would open the season with a 24-point win.

SCORING SUMMARY

Table with 5 columns: Team, Rush, Pass, FG, PAT, Total Points. Rows for Miami (OH) and Kentucky.

- 1st 09:39 Miami - #9 T.Shelton 22 yd rush (#98 G.Nicholson kick), 13-75, 05:21 7-0
1st 07:29 UK - #80 B.Bates 6 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 5-79, 02:03 7-7
2nd 09:22 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 34 yd FG, 5-16, 01:46 7-10
2nd 06:10 Miami - #98 G.Nicholson 48 yd FG, 7-45, 03:12 10-10
2nd 00:00 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 25 yd FG, 10-77, 02:04 10-13
3rd 14:47 UK - #2 B.Brown 100 yd kickoff return (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 00:00 10-20
3rd 13:58 UK - #10 C.Magwood 8 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 2-8, 00:04 10-27
3rd 09:04 Miami - #98 G.Nicholson 27 yd FG, 11-65, 04:54 13-27
3rd 01:09 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 50 yd FG, 6-17, 02:55 13-30
4th 07:46 UK - #6 D.Key 1 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 9-84, 05:12 13-37

TEAM STATISTICS

Table with 3 columns: Team, MIAMI, UK. Rows for First Downs, Rush Att./Net Rush, Passing C/A/I, Offensive Plays, Total Offense, Fumbles/Lost, Penalties/Yards, Punts/Average, Third-Down Conv., Time of Possession.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)
MIAMI - Shelton 7-50-1, Gabbert 10-28, Mozee 7-25, Tracy 2-7, Bester 2-3, Davis 2-(1-), Smith 2-(1)
UK - Smoke 7-32, McClain 6-16, Jefferson 2-10, Wright 3-10, Levis 7 (-18)

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)
MIAMI - Gabbert - 20-28-0-166-0, Smith 2-4-0-13-0
UK - Levis 21-32-1-303-3

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)
MIAMI - Hippenhammer 7-14, Walker 4-27, Coldiron 3-20, Marshall 2-17, Shelton 2-14, Muersch 2-13, Mozee 2
UK - Robinson 6-136, Key 4-53-1, Brown 3-45, Smoke 2-16, Jo. Dingle 2-11, Harris 1-15, Wright 1-13, Magwood 1-8, Bates 1-6-1

TACKLES
MIAMI - McWood 11, Blakey 9, Salopek 7, Dowell 6, Wise 5
UK - Square 7, Afari 6, Phillips 5, Valentine 5, Weaver 5, Jackson 5



2022 GAME REVIEWS

2

NO. 20 KENTUCKY 26, NO. 12 FLORIDA 16

SEPT. 10, 2022 • GAINESVILLE, FLA.
BEN HILL GRIFFIN STADIUM (89,993)

Mark Stoops became Kentucky's all-time winningest coach as No. 20 Kentucky topped 12th-ranked Florida 26-16 at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

It was the Kentucky defense that came up large all night long. The Cats held Florida to 279 yards of total offense and kept Florida's talented quarterback Anthony Richardson in check. UK's defense also came up with a pair of huge interceptions, both of which defined the outcome of the win.

Kentucky (2-0) struggled offensively but made enough plays to get the win. Quarterback Will Levis connected on 13 of 24 through the air for 202 yards and a touchdown. Kavosiey Smoke carried the ball 14 times for 80 yards, most of which came in the second half.

Florida had the opening possession of the game but, after one first down, the Gators were forced to punt. On Kentucky's first possession, the Cats went three-and-out, punting the ball back to Florida.

The Gators took over on their own 48 and quickly got into UK territory. However, the UK defense held, forcing Florida into a field goal attempt. Adam Mihalek converted the 39-yard attempt and the Gators grabbed a 3-0 lead with 10:03 left in the first quarter.

Kentucky would take the ensuing possession into Florida territory but the Gators were able to hold, forcing another UK punt. Florida would get a first down on the ensuing possession, but the Gators would be forced to punt.

The Cats would put together another drive as the first quarter was winding down. Levis connected with Dane Key for 16 yards, then Keaton Upshaw for 22, getting UK to midfield. The first quarter would come to an end with Florida leading 3-0.

Kentucky was forced into another punt early in the second quarter and Florida took over at its own 25. The Gators were forced to punt again and the Cats took over on their own 33.

The Cats would strike on the next possession. Levis hit Keaton Upshaw in the left flat for a 12-yard gain. Then Levis went deep, finding Key, who jumped and, with a defender draped all over him, made a tremendous catch for a touchdown. Matt Ruffolo added the PAT and UK led 7-3 with 11:36 left in the half.

Florida wasted no time in responding. The Gators got a 40-yard rush from Montrell Johnson to get into UK territory. But the UK defense stood tall after that, forcing a 50-yard field goal attempt from Mihalek. The kick was good and the Gators cut the UK lead to 7-6 with 10:01 to play in the half.

Kentucky got one first down on its next possession but two plays later, Levis was hit and Florida's Gervon Dexter picked the ball out of the air for what was ruled an interception, giving UF the ball at the UK 34.

Florida would get into the red zone and would get into the end zone for the first time on an 11-yard touchdown run by Trevor Etienne. Florida would go for two and Richardson would connect with Etienne for the scoring, giving Florida a 14-7 advantage with 5:49 to play in the half.

The Cats went three-and-out on their next possession. And on fourth down, the snap went over the head of UK punter Colin Goodfellow, who chased the ball down and kicked it through the back of the end zone for a safety, giving Florida a 16-7 lead with 4:12 left in the half.

Florida took the next possession with a chance to blow the game open. Instead, on third and three, Richardson tried to go into the flat but UK's Jordan Wright made a one-handed interception and returned it to the Florida six yard line.

It took four plays, but the Cats would punch it in, with Levis running the quarterback sneak up the middle to cut the Florida lead to 16-13. UK could not convert the PAT after a bad snap prevented the kick from happening.

Kentucky got the first possession of the second half but the Cats couldn't get anything going and were forced to punt. Florida would follow suit, punting the ball back to the Cats after just three plays.

The Cats took the next possession and methodically marched onto the Florida side of the field. For the first time in the game, UK established the ground game, eventually getting inside the Florida 10 yard line. But Florida held and forced the Cats into a 24-yard field goal, which Ruffolo converted, to tie the game at 16-16 with 6:35 to play in the third quarter.

Florida was poised to answer on its next drive before the Cats defense made yet another huge play. With the Gators at the UK 39, Richardson threw a pass to the right that UK's Keidron Smith intercepted. Smith had only Richardson between himself and the end zone, and the Ole Miss transfer negotiated that obstacle on his way to the end zone, giving Kentucky a 22-16 lead. Ruffolo added the PAT and UK led 23-16 with 3:25 remaining in the third quarter.

The Gators would make a first down on their next drive, but eventually would be forced to punt, giving UK the ball on its own 15 yard line with 1:27 left in the third. Kentucky would hold that 23-16 lead as the third quarter ended.

The fourth quarter opened with Levis hitting Chancey Magwood for a 22-yard gain on third down. UK would get into Florida territory again, but the drive eventually stalled and the Cats were forced to punt, giving the Gators the ball on their own 20 with 11:05 remaining.

Florida would make a first down on its next possession before the UK defense stood tall once again. Then, on fourth and three from their own 40, Florida went for it, but Richardson's pass was knocked away by UK's Carrington Valentine, giving the Cats the ball in good field position.

Kavosiey Smoke would rush for 18 yards on first down, getting the Cats to the 22. But the drive stalled and Ruffolo came on for a 38-yard field goal attempt. The kick missed to the left and Florida got the ball back with 6:13 to play.

Florida did nothing with the ensuing possession, which was highlighted by a tackle for loss by Kentucky true freshman Deone Walker. Again, Florida went for it on fourth down and again, the Gators failed. UK took over at the Florida 24, looking to put the game away.

Kentucky was content to run the clock with a seven-point lead and less than four minutes to play. Smoke would rush for seven yards, getting the Cats into the red zone. On the next play, Smoke, with the push of his offensive line, gained 11, getting the ball to the Florida five yard line.

The Cats would run clock and would get a 26-yard field goal from Ruffolo with 1:24 to play, giving the Cats a 26-16 lead.

UF could do nothing with its final possession and the Cats claimed the victory.

SCORING SUMMARY

Kentucky	0	13	10	3	-	26
Florida	3	13	0	0	-	16

1st 10:03 UFL - #49 A.Mihalek 39 yd FG, 5-30, 01:39 0-3
 2nd 11:36 UK - #6 D.Key 55 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 2-67, 00:49 7-3
 2nd 10:01 UFL - #49 A.Mihalek 50 yd FG, 5-42, 01:35 7-6
 2nd 05:49 UFL - #7 T.Etienne 11 yd rush (#7 T.Etienne pass from #15 A.Richardson), 5-34, 02:42 7-14
 2nd 04:12 UFL - SAFETY, 01:37 7-16
 2nd 01:25 UK - #7 W.Levis 1 yd rush (pass from #12 C.Poore failed), 3-6, 01:22 13-16
 3rd 06:35 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 24 yd FG, 11-69, 05:43 16-16
 3rd 03:25 UK - #1 K.Smith 65 yd interception return (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 03:10 23-16
 4th 01:24 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 26 yd FG, 7-16, 02:38 26-16

TEAM STATISTICS

	UK	UF
First Downs	17	12
Rush Att./Net Rush	38/70	30/136
Passing C/A/I	13/24/1	14/35/2
Offensive Plays	62	65
Total Offense	272	279
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	1/0
Penalties/Yards	2/10	3/28
Punts/Average	5/38.8	5/47.4
Third-Down Conv.	4 of 13	4 of 16
Time of Possession	33:24	26:36

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

Florida - Johnson Jr. - 7-62, Etienne 9-46-1, Wright 8-24, Richardson 6-4
 UK - Smoke 14-80, Wright 11-27, Robinson 4-11, Brown 1-3, Levis 7-(-12)

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

Florida - Richardson 14-25-2-143-0
 UK - Levis 13-24-202-1-1

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

Florida - Henderon 6-50, Pearsall 2-39, Shorter 2-26, Zipperer 2-21, Zanders 1-4, Johnson Jr. 1-3
 UK - Key 3-83, Magwood 2-47, Upshaw 2-34, Dingle 2-29, Bates 2-11, Wright 1-0, Robinson 2-0, Brown 1-(-2)

TACKLES

Florida - Dean III - 9, Torrence II 7, Dexter Sr. 7, James 7
 UK - Weaver 9, Lovett 7, Jones 7, Wright 6, Square 6





2022 GAME REVIEWS

3

NO. 9/10 KENTUCKY 31, YOUNGSTOWN STATE 0

SEPT. 17, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY.
KROGER FIELD (61,000)

The Kentucky defense pitched its first shutout in over 13 years as the Cats blanked Youngstown State 31-0 at Kroger Field.

Kentucky moved to 3-0 on the season after shutting out its first opponent since blanking Miami (Ohio) 42-0 on Sept. 5, 2009.

The UK defense held Youngstown State to just 192 yards of total offense (134 passing, 58 rushing). The Cats had six tackles for loss, including a pair of sacks. Freshman Alex Afari led UK with five tackles in the game. Jordan

Wright had four tackles, including two for losses.

Quarterback Will Levis had another big day for the Cats. The senior completed 27 of 35 through the air for 377 yards and two touchdowns. He did throw two interceptions in the game but was able to connect with 11 different receivers.

Dane Key and Tayvion Robinson were Levis' primary targets in Saturday's win. Key, the Lexington native, caught six passes for 90 yards and a touchdown, his third in three games as a Cat. Robinson, the transfer from Virginia Tech, also caught six passes and had 66 yards receiving.

Kentucky took the opening kickoff and got the offense cranked up immediately. Levis and Key connected on the first play, gaining 23 yards. Levis would hit Kavosiey Smoke for a 14-yard completion. But YSU would sack Levis on third down and the Cats were forced to punt.

Youngstown State took over at its own 16 yard line but the Penguins could do nothing with the possession, punting it back to the Cats. The teams would trade punts on the next two possessions but Youngstown State's punt was blocked by UK's Martez Thrower and recovered by Izayah Cummings, who returned it to the YSU 27 yard line.

On the ensuing possession, the Cats appeared to be ready to score. But Levis was intercepted at the three yard line by Youngstown State's Troy Jakubek, ending the threat and giving the ball back to the Penguins with 4:49 left in the first quarter.

YSU could do nothing with the possession and punted the ball back to the Cats, who got a good return by Tayvion Robinson and took over at the 35 yard line with 3:07 left in the first.

Kentucky would again drive deep into YSU territory. Levis connected with Robinson on a 15-yard gain, getting the Cats to the one yard line as time expired on the first quarter with the teams in a scoreless tie.

As the second quarter began, the Cats tried, unsuccessfully, to get in from the one on rushes by La'Veil Wright and Smoke. Then, on third down, Levis took the quarterback sneak up the middle for a UK touchdown. Matt Ruffolo added the point after and Kentucky led 7-0 with 13:34 left in the first half.

After another YSU punt, the Cats drove again, with Levis and Key connecting for a 29-yard gain early in the drive. Levis connected with Keaton Upshaw on a 12-yard completion and, later in the drive, he connected with Key again, this time on a three-yard touchdown. Ruffolo added the PAT and UK led 14-0 with 6:10 to play in the first half.

YSU punted on its next possession but the Penguins would get the ball back at the UK 47 on a fumble by La'Veil Wright. But the Penguins could do nothing with the ensuing possession and were forced to punt the ball back to UK.

That particular punt was a short one, covering just 17 yards, giving the Cats the ball at their own 29 yard line with 1:54 to play in the half.

Kentucky would employ its two-minute offense and would get into the YSU red zone with under a minute to play. Then, on first and goal from the two yard line, Levis connected with Chris Lewis for a touchdown with just 20 seconds left in the half. It was the first career reception, and touchdown, for Lewis. Ruffolo would add the point after and UK led 21-0. That would be the halftime score.

YSU had the opening possession of the second half and the Penguins quickly got into UK territory. It looked like the Penguins would score on a touchdown reception by former Cat Bryce Oliver. However, UK's Carrington Valentine broke up the fourth-down pass in the end zone, ending the Youngstown State drive.

On the ensuing possession, the Cats would ride the arm of Levis into YSU territory. Levis would connect with Barion Brown, Robinson and Dekel Crowdus, getting

the Cats inside the 10. From the seven yard line, Smoke would rush to the left corner of the end zone for the touchdown. Ruffolo again added the PAT and the Cats led 28-0 with 8:36 left in the third quarter.

Youngstown State would appear to be ready to score on its next drive. Aided by a 64-yard completion from Demeatric Crenshaw to Jaleel McLaughlin, the Penguins got inside the UK five. But Crenshaw was intercepted by Valentine in the end zone, ending the threat.

Kentucky would lead 28-0 after three quarters.

In the fourth quarter, the biggest offensive play was a 58-yard completion from Levis to Demarcus Harris, which got the Cats inside the YSU five. The Cats would settle for a 23-yard field goal from Ruffolo, which would make the score 31-0 with 4:54 to play.

SCORING SUMMARY

Youngstown State	0	0	0	0	-	0
Kentucky	0	21	7	3	-	31

2nd 13:34 KEN - #7 W.Levis 1 yd rush (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 8-35, 04:33 0-7
 2nd 06:10 KEN - #6 D.Key 3 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 8-77, 05:00 0-14
 2nd 00:20 KEN - #89 C.Lewis 2 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 9-71, 01:34 0-21
 3rd 08:36 KEN - #0 K.Smoke 7 yd rush (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 8-67, 05:17 0-28
 4th 04:54 KEN - #96 M.Ruffolo 23 yd FG, 8-70, 03:57 0-31

TEAM STATISTICS

	YSU	UK
First Downs	9	26
Rush Att./Net Rush	58/56	36/103
Passing C/A/I	9/24/1	27/35/2
Offensive Plays	46	71
Total Offense	192	480
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	4/1
Penalties/Yards	7/46	10/74
Punts/Average	8/34.1	3/41.7
Third-Down Conv.	0 of 10	6 of 11
Time of Possession	21:50	38:10

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

YSU - McLaughlin 10-36, Davidson 4-22, Rushton 5-8, Crenshaw 2 (-8)
 UK - Smoke 18-66-1, Wright 6-26, Beckwith 2-8, Robinson 1-5, Levis 8-3-1

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

YSU - Crenshaw 7-21-1-120-0, Davidson 2-3-0-14-0
 UK - Levis 27-35-2-377-2

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

YSU - McLaughlin 3-60, Oliver 2-40, Fordham 1-19, Smith 1-9, Alexander 1-5, Rushton 1-1
 UK - Key 6-90-1, Robinson 6-66, Brown 5-56, Bates 2-46, Crowdus 2-17, Upshaw 2-16, Harris 1-58, Smoke 1-14, Ju. Dingle 1-10, C. Lewis 1-2

TACKLES

YSU - Trowers 11, Augustin 8, Wudke 6, Benton Jr. 5, Freeman 5
 UK - Afari Jr. 5, Wright 4, Jones 4, Lovett 3, Phillips 3, Ajan 3, Walker 3, Ke. Wade 3



2022 GAME REVIEWS

4

NO. 8/9 KENTUCKY 31, NORTHERN ILLINOIS 23

SEPT. 24, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY.
KROGER FIELD (61,579)



Senior quarterback Will Levis connected on 18 of his 26 passes for 303 yards and four touchdowns as No. 8 Kentucky held off a tough Northern Illinois squad 31-23 at Kroger Field.

Kentucky (4-0) had two receivers have big games in the victory. Tayvion Robinson caught seven passes for 147 yards and two touchdowns. True freshman Barion Brown caught four balls for 102 yards and two touchdowns of his own as the Cats remained unbeaten.

Kavosiey Smoke rushed 12 times for 85 yards in the game as the Cats rushed for 103 yards as a team.

Defensively, Jacquez Jones led the Cats with 12 tackles, including four of the solo variety. DeAndre Square and Jordan Wright each had six tackles for UK in the win.

Northern Illinois took the opening kickoff and wasted little time in getting the scoring underway. The Huskies used the ground game to move deep into Kentucky territory. A 20-yard rush by Antario Brown got the Huskies inside the UK five yard line. Then, on third-and-goal, quarterback Ethan Hampton connected with Tristen Tewes on a two-yard touchdown pass. John Richardson added the PAT and NIU led 7-0 with 8:53 to play in the first quarter.

Kentucky would answer with a scoring drive of its own. The Cats started slowly, having to go for it on fourth down early in the drive, but found their rhythm later in the possession. Unlike NIU, the Cats went the air, riding the passing of Levis, who hit on six of his nine passes on the drive for 55 yards. The drive culminated with a 15-yard touchdown to freshman Brown. Matt Ruffolo added the PAT and the game was tied 7-7 with 48 seconds left in the first quarter. That would be the score as the period came to an end.

Northern Illinois would drive near midfield with its next drive but, on fourth down, used a quick kick from Hampton to end the drive. The punt went into the end zone and the Cats took over at their own 20 with 13:01 left in the first half. Kentucky did very little with the next drive and punted the ball back to Northern Illinois with 8:50 to play in the half.

NIU punted on its next possession as well, with punter Tom Foley drilling a 61 yarder and pinning the Cats at their own two yard line with 6:47 to play in the half.

It took just one play for the Cats to get out of that hole. On first down, Smoke broke through the left side for a 27-yard run, getting the Cats out of the shadow of their own goalpost and into manageable territory. Later in the drive, Levis hit a streaking Robinson, who outraced the defense on his way to the end zone. It was a 69-yard touchdown and, when Ruffolo added the PAT, the Cats led 14-7 with 5:08 to play in the half.

Late in the half, NIU had the ball near midfield and was forced to punt. On the ensuing UK drive, Smoke fumbled and NIU recovered at the Kentucky 34 with 42 seconds left in the half. The Huskies got a 20-yard completion from Hampton to Cole Tucker on first down, then another completion, this one from Hampton to Fabian McCray, getting NIU to the UK five yard line.

UK appeared to be poised for a big defensive stop. But on third and goal, NIU ran a reverse to Shemar Thornton, who pulled up and connected with Tewes on a three-yard scoring pass with just six seconds left in the half. Richardson added the point after and the game was tied at 14-14. That would be the halftime score.

Kentucky had the first possession of the second half and, on the second play from scrimmage, Levis appeared to be intercepted. However, the NIU defender could not come up with the catch, giving new life to the UK drive. On the next play, Levis made the Huskies pay, connecting with Brown across the middle and watching the freshman do the rest, as he took it to the house for a 70-yard touchdown. Ruffolo added the PAT and the Cats grabbed a 21-14 lead just 58 seconds into the third quarter.

The next three drives, two by NIU and one by UK, all ended with punts. Kentucky took over at its own 33 with 7:16 left in the third. The Cats would take the ball into NIU territory before the drive stalled. UK would cap the drive with a 49-yard field goal from Ruffolo to take a 24-14 lead with 3:04 remaining in the third period. The third quarter would come to an end with the Cats holding that 10-point advantage.

After another NIU punt, the Kentucky offense again put points on the board. The Cats were able to march 78 yards in 11 plays, culminating when Levis connected with Robinson for a second touchdown pass, this one covering 40 yards. Ruffolo made another point after and UK led 31-14 with 8:46 to play.

NIU would add a 38-yard Thornton field goal to make it 31-17 with 5:26 to play. After UK was forced to punt, the Huskies struck quickly, as Hampton connected with Kacper Rutkiewicz on a 63-yard gain, getting the ball to the UK five. The UK defense appeared to have stopped the Huskies, but a defensive holding call on fourth down gave NIU a first down, with the ball at the two. On the next play, Justin Lynch ran left and scored, cutting the UK lead to 31-23. The Huskies two-point conversion was broken up by Zion Childress and the Cats led by eight with 2:47 to play.

After an unsuccessful onside kick by NIU, Kentucky was able to run out the clock and clinch the victory.

SCORING SUMMARY

Northern Illinois	7	7	0	9	-	23
Kentucky	7	7	10	7	-	31

- 1st 08:53 NIU - #82 T.Tewes 2 yd pass from #2 E.Hampton (#39 J.Richardson kick), 11-75, 06:07 7-0
- 1st 00:48 UK - #2 B.Brown 15 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 16-75, 08:01 7-7
- 2nd 05:08 UK - #9 T.Robinson 69 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 4-98, 01:39 7-14
- 2nd 00:06 NIU - #82 T.Tewes 3 yd pass from #19 S.Thornton (#39 J.Richardson kick), 6-34, 00:36 14-14
- 3rd 14:02 UK - #2 B.Brown 70 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 3-70, 00:55 14-21
- 3rd 03:04 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 49 yd FG, 7-36, 04:12 14-24
- 4th 08:46 UK - #9 T.Robinson 40 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 11-78, 06:01 14-31
- 4th 05:26 NIU - #39 J.Richardson 38 yd FG, 7-55, 03:20 17-31
- 4th 02:47 NIU - #5 J.Lynch 2 yd rush (#30 H.Waylee pass from #2 E.Hampton failed), 5-68, 01:27 23-31

TEAM STATISTICS

	NIU	UK
First Downs	14	18
Rush Att./Net Rush	33/128	35/103
Passing C/A/I	14/26/0	18/26/0
Offensive Plays	59	61
Total Offense	327	406
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	2/1
Penalties/Yards	6/45	2/8
Punts/Average	6/47.8	3/46.3
Third-Down Conv.	6 of 15	10 of 16
Time of Possession	26:11	33:49

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

NIU - Waylee 18-63, Brown 6-27, Lynch 7-21-1, Hampton 1-6, Blakemore 1-1
UK - Smoke 12-85, McClain 3-15, Wright 9-14, Levis 9-(-10)

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

NIU - Hampton - 13-25-0-196-1, Thornton 1-1-0-3-1
UK - Levis 18-26-0-303-4

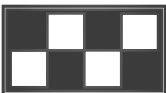
RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

NIU - Tewes 6-37-2, Tucker 3-55, McCray 2-12, Rutkiewicz 1-63, Thornton 1-7, Soraghan 14
UK - Robinson 7-147-2, Brown 4-102-2, Key 2-15, Bates 2-7, Dingle 1-19, Wright 1-8, McClain 1-5

TACKLES

NIU - Rayner 10, Taylor 7, Lafayette 7, O'Malley 5, Kennedy 5
UK - Jones 12, Square 6, Wright 6, Lovett 5, Childress 4





2022 GAME REVIEWS

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#14/11 OLE MISS 22, #7/8 KENTUCKY 19

OCT. 1, 2022 • OXFORD, MISS. VAUGHT-HEMINGWAY STADIUM (64,828)



Will Levis connected on 18 of his 24 passes for 220 yards and two touchdowns, but a late drive came up short as seventh-ranked Kentucky fell at No. 14 Ole Miss 22-19 at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

Chris Rodriguez Jr., playing in his first game of the season, carried 19 times for 72 yards and a touchdown, and caught three passes for 40 yards in the game.

Freshman Barion Brown had four explosive plays in the game for the Cats, two receptions and two on kick returns.

DeAndre Square led the UK defensive attack with 11 tackles and Jordan Wright had eight.

Ole Miss (5-0, 1-0 SEC) had the first possession of the game and the Rebels were able to get one first down before the Cats forced a punt.

Kentucky (4-1, 1-1) took over at its own five yard line and, like the Rebels, the Cats made one first down before being forced to kick it away.

On its second possession, Ole Miss got the scoring underway. The Rebels needed just 1:40 to cover 70 yards in six plays, ending with a four-yard touchdown rush by Zach Evans. Jonathan Cruz added the point after and Ole Miss led 7-0 with 7:09 left in the first quarter.

The Cats would take the ensuing possession into Ole Miss territory, aided by a 30-yard completion from Levis to freshman Brown. But the drive would stall and Kentucky would try a 39-yard field goal from Matt Ruffolo. The kick would sail wide left and the score remained 7-0 with 2:44 left in the first.

Ole Miss would strike again on its next drive. The Rebels would get to midfield, and that's when freshman Quinshon Judkin busted free up the middle and raced to the end zone for a 48-yard touchdown. Cruz made the PAT and the Rebels led 14-0 with 59 seconds left in the first quarter.

Kentucky would respond on the ensuing kickoff. Brown took the kickoff at the goal line and sprinted 85 yards down the left sideline to the Ole Miss 15 yard line. Two plays later, Rodriguez took it right up the middle for a 10-yard touchdown, getting the Cats on the board. The PAT was blocked and the period ended with Ole Miss leading 14-6.

In the second quarter, Ole Miss would make one first down on its next drive before being forced to punt again. The Rebels down the ball at the UK one yard line, where the Cats would take over.

Kentucky would get out of the shadow of its own goal post with a first down. However, Ole Miss held and on third-and-12, Levis was under pressure and threw the ball away. Intentional grounding was called on the play and, because Levis was in the end zone, it resulted in a safety, giving the Rebels a 16-6 advantage with 10:28 to play in the half.

Ole Miss took possession at their own 37 after the free kick and quickly got into UK territory. But an offensive pass interference call set the Rebels back and they were forced into a 53-yard field goal by Cruz, which was good, giving Ole Miss a 19-6 lead with 7:03 remaining in the half.

Kentucky needed points on its next drive and the Cats got just that. UK used a nice mix of running and passing to get inside the Ole Miss 10. Among the key plays was a 23-yard rush by Izayah Cummings.

On first and goal from the five, Levis flipped a pass to Tayvion Robinson, who sprinted right and into the front corner of the end zone for a touchdown. A bad snap prevented the extra point attempt but the Cats got within seven, 19-12, with 1:23 left in the half.

Ole Miss would get a final possession and the Rebels would get into UK territory before former Rebel Jacquez Jones intercepted Dart at the UK 28. The half would end with Ole Miss holding a 19-12 lead.

Kentucky took the second half kickoff but the Cats were forced into a three-and-out. Colin Goodfellow booted a 52-yard punt and Ole Miss took over at its own 16 yard line.

Ole Miss followed suit, going three-and-out and punting the ball back to the Cats. The punt, which was into the wind, also took a UK bounce and the Cats took over in great field position at the Ole Miss 49 yard line.

Levis would connect with Dane Key for a 14-yard completion. The Cats would later face a fourth-and-1 from the Ole Miss 26 and Rodriguez would convert, giving UK a new set of downs. Kentucky would not waste the opportunity, as Levis hit tight end Jordan Dingle, who fought his way into the end zone for a 17-yard touch-down. Ruffolo added the PAT and the game was tied 19-19 with 6:22 to play in the third quarter.

Ole Miss would assemble a scoring drive on the next possession. The Rebels used their high-paced offense to get down the field in a hurry. But the Cats' defense stood tall and forced the Rebels into a 26-yard field goal from Cruz, which was good, giving Ole Miss a 22-19 advantage with 2:19 left in the third.

On the ensuing kickoff, Brown struck again, taking the kickoff 54 yards to the Ole Miss 39 and giving the Cats very good field position again. But the Cats were unable to take advantage and gave the ball up on downs as the fourth quarter began.

Ole Miss marched down the field and got inside the UK red zone. But big plays by DeAndre Square and D'Eryck Jackson forced the Rebels into a fourth-and-goal from the five and Dart's pass was knocked away by Jordan Lovett, giving UK the ball with 10:14 to play.

The Cats got out of the deep hole on the first play of the ensuing drive as Ju'Tahn McClain went up the middle for 17 yards and a first down. UK would continue to march down the field, with Levis and Rodriguez hooking up on a 17-yard completion and, two plays later, Levis and Dingle connecting for 14 yards. But on third-and-two from the Ole Miss 19, Levis, trying to stretch for the first down, was hit and fumbled. Ole Miss would recover, taking over at their own 21 with 2:55 to play.

Ole Miss went three-and-out with the ensuing possession, punting the ball back to the Cats, who took over at their own 34 with 1:49 to play. After an eight-yard completion to Rodriguez, Levis hit Brown on a screen that the speedster took 51 yards to the Ole Miss seven.

On the next play, Levis hit freshman Dane Key on a fade in the corner of the end zone for an apparent touchdown. But the Cats were not set on the play and were called for illegal motion. Then, on the next play, Levis was back to pass and was hit by the Rebels' Jared Ivey, who forced a fumble that the Rebels recovered to seal the game.

SCORING SUMMARY

Table with 5 columns: Team, Rushing, Passing, Field Goals, Extra Points, Total Points. Rows for Kentucky and Ole Miss.

- 1st 07:09 OM - #6 Z.Evans 4 yd rush (#14 J.Cruz kick), 6-65, 01:40 0-7
1st 00:59 OM - #4 Q.Judkins 48 yd rush (#14 J.Cruz kick), 6-79, 01:45 0-14
1st 00:00 UK - #24 C.Rodriguez Jr. 10 yd rush (#96 M.Ruffolo kick blocked), 2-15, 00:47 6-14
2nd 10:28 OM - SAFETY, 03:03 6-16
2nd 07:03 OM - #14 J.Cruz 53 yd FG, 10-28, 03:20 6-19
2nd 01:23 UK - #9 T.Robinson 5 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (rush failed), 9-70, 05:34 12-19
3rd 06:22 UK - #85 J.Dingle 17 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 8-49, 05:08 19-19
3rd 02:19 OM - #14 J.Cruz 26 yd FG, 13-57, 04:03 19-22

TEAM STATISTICS

Table comparing UK and UM statistics: First Downs, Rush Att./Net Rush, Passing C/A/I, Offensive Plays, Total Offense, Fumbles/Lost, Penalties/Yards, Punts/Average, Third-Down Conv., Time of Possession.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)
Ole Miss - Judkins 15-106-1, Dart 8-40, Henry 2-26, Evans 9-24-1, Mingo 1-0, Watkins 1-0
UK - Rodriguez Jr. 19-72-1, Cummings 1-23, McClain 5-21, Smoke 2-6, Robinson 1-5, 9 (-19)

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)
Ole Miss - Dart 15-29-1-213-0
UK - Levis 18-24-0-220-2

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)
Ole Miss - Heath 6-100, Trigg 3-41, Watkins 2-49, Judkins 1-14, Mingo 1-3, Kelly 1-3, Evans 1-3
UK - Robinson 4-16-1, Rodriguez Jr. 3-40, Jo. Dingle 3-30-1, Brown 2-81, Key 2-28, Bates 2-10, Magwood 1-8, McClain 1-7

TACKLES
Ole Miss - Finley 9, Brown 9, Igbinosun 8, Keys 6
UK - Square 11, Wright 8, Smith 6, Jones 5



2022 GAME REVIEWS

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SOUTH CAROLINA 24, #13/13 KENTUCKY 14

OCT. 8, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY.
KROGER FIELD (61,612)

Chris Rodriguez Jr. rushed for 126 yards on 22 carries but 13th-ranked Kentucky, playing without starting quarterback Will Levis, lost to South Carolina 24-14 on at Kroger Field.

Levis suffered a lower body injury in last week's loss at Ole Miss and was unable to play on Saturday night. The Cats turned to redshirt freshman Kaiya Sheron behind center. The Somerset, Kentucky, native connected on 15 of 27 through the air for 178 yards and two touchdowns, with one interception.

Rodriguez went over 100 yards for the 16th time in his UK career. He also moved past Mark Higgs and into fifth place on UK's career rushing list in the game.

The Cats got a big effort from its defense, led by DeAndre Square, who had nine tackles in the game. Jordan Wright added seven tackles for the Cats and D'Eryk Jackson had five.

Kentucky (4-2, 1-2 SEC) got the ball first but, on the first play from scrimmage, the Cats fumbled and South Carolina's Tonka Hemingway recovered and returned it to the UK two yard line. On the Gamecocks' first play from scrimmage, MarShawn Lloyd scored a two-yard touchdown. Mitch Jeter added the PAT and the Gamecocks led 7-0 just 13 seconds into the game.

On the following possession, Kentucky would make one first down before being forced to punt. South Carolina got an 18-yard return from Josh Vann and the Gamecocks took over at their own 38 with 11:39 still remaining in the first quarter.

South Carolina (4-2, 1-2) was affected by the UK home crowd on the next possession, committing two false start penalties. The Gamecocks would be forced to punt and UK would take over at its own 24 with 10:18 still left in the first half.

Kentucky was forced to punt on its next possession and the Gamecocks would block the Colin Goodfellow kick. King-Demenias Ford blocked the kick and South Carolina recovered at the UK 22.

The Gamecocks appeared to be ready to go ahead by two scores, but UK's Tyrell Ajian sacked Ga'eco'cks' quarterback Spencer Rattler, forcing a fumble that Kentucky's JJ Weaver recovered at the 21.

Kentucky would put together a solid drive with the ensuing possession. The Cats covered 52 yards before the drive stalled at the South Carolina 27. From there, Matt Ruffolo tried a 45-yard field goal, but the try clanged off the left upright, keeping the Cats off the board. South Carolina took over at their own 35 with 1:22 remaining in the first quarter.

South Carolina would lead 7-0 after the first quarter.

The Gamecocks would make two first downs on the next drive and would get into UK territory. However, on a fourth-and-two from the Kentucky 40, Lloyd was stuffed in the backfield for a four-yard loss by DeAndre Square and JJ Weaver, giving the Cats the ball at their own 44 with 11:53 to play in the half.

Kentucky would drive into South Carolina territory on the next possession, riding Rodriguez and JuTahn McClain to get into the red zone. Then, Sheron connected with Jordan Dingle over the middle for a 16-yard touchdown. Ruffolo added the point after and the game was tied 7-7 with 8:30 left in the half.

The teams would exchange punts late in the half, and South Carolina took over at the UK 43 with 2:37 left in the half. But with under a minute to play before half-time, Rattler was intercepted by Trevin Wallace at the UK 19 with just 37 seconds before halftime. The Cats would run one play and would let the half expire with the teams tied 7-7.

South Carolina had the first possession of the second half and Lloyd started the possession with an 18-yard run. Later in the drive, on third-and-nine from the South Carolina 44, Rattler connected with Jaheim Bell for a 14-yard gain. Then, two plays later, Rattler hit Antwane Wells in the right flat, and Wells scampered 42 yards for the Gamecock touchdown. Jeter added the PAT and South Carolina led 14-7 with 12:47 left in the third quarter.

After a Kentucky punt, South Carolina put together one of its best drives of the night. The Gamecocks went 70 plays in 14 plays, covering 7:01 on the clock. However, the UK defense stood tall in the red zone, forcing South Carolina into a 32-yard Jeter field goal, which was good, and the Gamecocks led 17-7 with 2:38 left in the third. That would be the score after three periods.

In the fourth quarter, South Carolina would add to its lead with a 24-yard touchdown rush by Jalen Brooks. The PAT made it 24-7 with 6:53 to play.

Kentucky would score on the ensuing drive, with Sheron connecting with several receivers, including McClain, who caught a 10-yard touchdown pass. Ruffolo added the PAT and South Carolina led 24-14 with 2:49 to play.

The Cats would attempt an onside kick but South Carolina recovered at its own 49. The Cats forced South Carolina into a three-and-out and a punt. But on the first play of the following possession, Sheron was intercepted, sealing the win for the Gamecocks.

SCORING SUMMARY

South Carolina	7	0	10	7	-	24
Kentucky	0	7	0	7	-	14

1st 14:47 SC - #1 M.Lloyd 2 yd rush (#98 M.Jeter kick), 1-2, 00:04 7-0
 2nd 08:30 UK - #85 J.Dingle 16 yd pass from #12 K.Sheron (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 7-56, 03:23 7-7
 3rd 12:47 SC - #3 A.Wells Jr. 42 yd pass from #7 S.Rattler (#98 M.Jeter kick), 6-75, 02:13 14-7
 3rd 02:38 SC - #98 M.Jeter 32 yd FG, 14-70, 07:01 17-7
 4th 07:02 SC - #13 J.Brooks 24 yd rush (#98 M.Jeter kick), 3-72, 01:24 24-7
 4th 02:49 UK - #17 J.McClain 10 yd pass from #12 K.Sheron (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 16-75, 04:13 24-14

TEAM STATISTICS

	SC	UK
First Downs	15	18
Rush Att./Net Rush	42/179	36/121
Passing C/A/I	14/19/1	15/27/1
Offensive Plays	61	63
Total Offense	356	299
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	1/1
Penalties/Yards	4/26	5/25
Punts/Average	4/41.5	6/33.0
Third-Down Conv.	6 of 14	3 of 12
Time of Possession	28:55	31:05

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

South Carolina - Lloyd 22-110-1, Brooks 1-24-1, McDowell 5-17, Bell 4-12, Brown 1-9, Rattler 8-7
 UK - Rodriguez Jr. 22-125, McClain 3-19, Sheron 11-(-24)

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

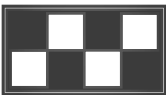
South Carolina - Rattler 14-19-1-177-1
 UK - Sheron 15-27-1-178-2

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

South Carolina - Wells Jr. 3-66-1, Brooks 3-37, Lloyd 2-31, Vann 2-16, Bell 2-16, Brown 1-7, McDowell 1-4-1
 UK - Magwood 2-37, Key 2-22, Bates 2-19, Brown 2-6, Robinson 1-27, C. Lewis 1-20, Jr. Dingle 1-16-1, McClain 1-9-1, R. Lewis 1-10, Harris 1-10, Rodriguez Jr. 1-1

TACKLES

South Carolina - Greene 12, Smith 8, Edmond 7, Burch 6
 UK - Square 9, Wright 7, Jackson 6, Lovett 5



2022 GAME REVIEWS

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#22/22 KENTUCKY 27, #16/17 MISSISSIPPI STATE 17

OCT. 15, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY. KROGER FIELD (61,451)



Chris Rodriguez Jr. rushed for 196 yards and two touchdowns as No. 22 Kentucky topped 16th-ranked Mississippi State 27-17 at Kroger Field.

For Rodriguez, it was the second-highest rushing total of his Kentucky career. He also eclipsed the 3,000-yard mark in career rushing in Saturday's win, becoming the fourth player in school history to reach that number.

Kentucky (5-2, 2-2 SEC) saw quarterback Will Levis connect on 17 of his 23 passes for 230 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Levis briefly exited the game with a left shoulder injury but only missed part of one series.

The Cats also got a big effort on the defensive side of the ball. UK held the Bulldogs well below their 37.5 points per game average and became just the second team this season to hold MSU under 30 points. DeAndre Square led the defensive attack with 11 tackles and an interception in the game.

Mississippi State (5-2, 2-2) took the opening kickoff and quickly crossed midfield. But the Cats' defense would force a punt, and UK would take over at its own 20.

Kentucky took the ball and was able to advance into Mississippi State territory. However, when Levis connected with Raasaan Lewis, it appeared to be enough for the first down. Instead, Lewis was stripped and MSU recovered at its own 36 with 7:45 left in the first.

MSU was forced to punt on its next possession and the Cats appeared to have the game's first big play. Barion Brown took the punt and raced down the right sideline for an apparent touchdown. But the Cats were flagged for a block in the back, negating Brown's big effort.

Kentucky appeared to be stopped on its next possession before Levis hit Dane Key down the left sideline on a 31-yard completion, taking UK near midfield. Later in the possession, the Cats would convert a fourth-and-one on a Levis quarterback sneak. But a couple of penalties set Kentucky back and the Cats were set to punt as the scoreless first quarter expired.

MSU would break the scoring drought on its next drive. The Bulldogs would cover 57 yards in 13 plays and would get a 48-yard field goal from Massimo Biscardi to take a 3-0 lead with 8:24 to play in the first half.

Kentucky would sustain a drive on its next possession, riding on the back of Rodriguez, who carried for 27 yards on the drive. UK would face a fourth-and-eight from the 33 and would attempt a 51-yard field goal by Matt Ruffolo. The kick had the distance but sailed wide left and the score remained 3-0.

MSU took over with 1:52 to play in the half and the Bulldogs were looking for points in their two-minute offense. The Bulldogs would advance to the Kentucky side of the field but the Cats' defense again stood tall and, on fourth-and-eight from the UK 35, Will Rogers' pass was too tall for his receiver and UK took over with 47 seconds to play in the half.

Kentucky would take advantage of the final possession. The Cats, with the help of a couple of MSU penalties, got into the Bulldogs' red zone but would not be able to get into the end zone. Ruffolo would be called upon again, and would convert from 28 yards out, tying the game 3-3 with four seconds left in the half. That would be the halftime score.

The Cats would get the opening possession of the second half and the Cats advanced into MSU territory quickly, but at a cost. Levis hit Brown on a 33-yard completion. However, Levis injured his left shoulder on the play and was forced out of the game. Backup quarterback Kaiya Sheron entered as the Cats got into the MSU red zone. But the drive stalled and Ruffolo was called on for a field goal, this one from 36 yards out, which Ruffolo converted, giving the Cats a 6-3 lead with 11:34 left in the third quarter.

MSU would answer with a drive that produced the game's first touchdown. The Bulldogs would cover 75 yards in eight plays and would end when, on fourth-and-one from the one, Rogers connected with tight end Austin Williams in the front corner of the end zone for the score. Biscardi added the PAT and Mississippi State led 10-6 with 8:28 left in the third quarter.

Levis returned on the next drive, when the Cats when back to the ground game. Kentucky gave the ball to Rodriguez on four consecutive plays, the fourth of which

was a 47-yard scamper that put the senior over 100 yards for the game and got the Cats to the MSU eight.

From there, UK tried Rodriguez three times but he was not able to get into the end zone. Then, on fourth-and-goal from the MSU three yard line, Levis connected with Lewis for a touchdown, the first of Lewis' career. Ruffolo added the PAT and Kentucky led 13-10 with 4:10 left in the third quarter.

The third period would end with the Cats holding a 13-10 advantage.

MSU would be forced to punt on its next possession, and the Cats would take advantage. Kentucky would cap off the seven-play, 80-yard scoring drive with two spectacular plays. First, Levis connected with JuTahn McClain on a sidearm pass thrown between two defenders, a play that McClain took for 31 yards. On the next play, Rodriguez ran left, broke two tackles, and found the end zone for another UK touchdown. Ruffolo added the PAT and the Cats had a 20-10 lead with 11:43 to play.

The Kentucky defense would force another MSU punt on the next possession, and things went from bad to worse for the Bulldogs on that punt. Backup punter George Georgopoulos shanked it off the side of his foot, resulting in a four-yard punt that gave Kentucky the ball at the MSU 45 with 10:14 to play in the game.

The Cats seemed to be ready to put the game away with a solid drive. In fact, UK went for it on fourth-and-eight from the MSU 43. But on the play, MSU's Emmanuel Forbes cut off the route of Chauncey Magwood and intercepted Levis at the MSU 41. Forbes raced untouched to the end zone for a touchdown that got MSU back in the game with 8:33 to play. Biscardi added another point after, making it 20-17 Kentucky.

Kentucky would answer on its next drive when Levis hit Lexington's own Dekel Crowdus with a 50-yard completion down the left sideline. On the next play, Rodriguez would bull his way into the end zone for his second score of the night, essentially sealing the game for the Cats. Ruffolo added the PAT and UK led 27-17 with just 5:30 to play.

On MSU's next drive, Square picked off Rogers and the Cats took over in MSU territory. The Cats would be able to run out the clock from there.

SCORING SUMMARY

Mississippi State	0	3	7	7	-	17
Kentucky	0	3	10	14	-	27

- 2nd 08:26 MSU - #29 M.Biscardi 48 yd FG, 13-57, 06:31 3-0
- 2nd 00:04 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 28 yd FG, 5-55, 00:43 3-3
- 3rd 11:34 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 37 yd FG, 8-56, 03:26 3-6
- 3rd 08:28 MSU - #85 A.Williams 1 yd pass from #2 W.Rogers (#29 M.Biscardi kick), 8-75, 03:06 10-6
- 3rd 04:10 UK - #19 R.Lewis 3 yd pass from #7 W.Lewis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 8-76, 04:11 10-13
- 4th 11:43 UK - #24 C.Rodriguez Jr. 16 yd rush (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 7-80, 03:52 10-20
- 4th 08:33 MSU - #13 E.Forbes 59 yd interception return (#29 M.Biscardi kick), 01:41 17-20
- 4th 05:30 UK - #24 C.Rodriguez Jr. 7 yd rush (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 5-75, 03:03 17-27

TEAM STATISTICS

	MSU	UK
First Downs	13	24
Rush Att./Net Rush	10/22	48/239
Passing C/A/I	25/37/1	19/25/1
Offensive Plays	47	73
Total Offense	225	478
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	1/1
Penalties/Yards	13/109	11/84
Punts/Average	4/36.5	1/42.0
Third-Down Conv.	3 of 11	6 of 15
Time of Possession	20:38	39:22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

MSU - Johnson 2-16, Marks 5-14, Rogers 2-(-8)
UK - Rodriguez Jr. 31-197-2, McClain 9-30, Levis 4-7, Smoke 2-6

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

MSU - 25-37-1-203-1
UK - Levis 17-23-1-230-1, Sheron 2-2-0-9-0

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

MSU - Marks 7-60, Ducking 5-32, Williams 3-34-1, Johnson 3-5, Walley 2-32, Price 2-10, Thomas 1-15, Griffin 1-10, Harvey 1-5-1,
UK - Brown 7-62, Lewis 4-42-1, McClain 3-48, Crowdus 1-50, Key 1-31, Magwood 1-4, Dingle 1-2, Rodriguez 1-0

TACKLES

MSU - Watson 17, Richardson 11, Johnson 10, Duncan 9, Matthews 7
UK - Square 11, Valentine 6, Jackson 5, Lovett 4





2022 GAME REVIEWS

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#3/3 TENNESSEE 44, #19/17 KENTUCKY 6

OCT. 29, 2022 • KNOXVILLE, TENN.
NEYLAND STADIUM (101,915)

Chris Rodriguez Jr. rushed 15 times for 64 yards and a touchdown but No. 3 Tennessee beat No. 19 Kentucky 44-6 at Neyland Stadium.

Kentucky (5-3, 2-3 SEC) fell behind early and never caught up against the high-powered Tennessee offense.

Tennessee (8-0, 4-0) took the opening kickoff and wasted little time getting on the board. The Vols needed just five plays to cover 75 yards, the final 55 coming on a 55-yard touchdown strike from Hendon Hooker to Jalin Hyatt. Chase McGrath added the extra point and Tennessee led 7-0 with 13:33 to play in the first quarter.

Kentucky went three-and-out on its first possession and was forced to punt. UT took over on its own 37 yard line. The Vols were penalized three times on their next drive and would be forced to punt as well.

The Cats would fare much better on their second drive. Kentucky converted on third down when Levis connected with Dane Key for eight yards. Then, on the next play, Levis lofted a pretty pass to tight end Jordan Dingle down the left sideline for 24 yards. UK would get inside the red zone on the back of Rodriguez. On second-and-goal from the three, Rodriguez went up the middle and into the end zone for the score. However, the PAT was blocked and Tennessee still led 7-6 with 4:44 left in the first.

Tennessee would answer on its next drive. As the first quarter ended, with the Vols leading 7-6, UT was inside the UK five yard line.

On the first play of the second quarter, Princeton Fant scored a two-yard touchdown on a run up the middle. McGrath missed the PAT and the Vols led 13-6 with 14:56 left in the half.

Kentucky would go three-and-out on its next possession and would punt, giving the Vols the ball back on their own 23 with 13:54 left in the half.

UT would extend the lead on that possession, covering 77 yards in eight plays, ending with a one-yard touchdown rush by Jaylen Wright. McGrath added the PAT and the Vols led 20-6 with 11:12 to play in the first half.

Kentucky's next drive had a number of productive plays, including a 15-yard rush from Rodriguez, a 16-yard completion from Levis to JuTahn McClain and an 12-yard completion from Levis to Jordan Dingle.

The Cats would get into the Tennessee red zone and, on fourth-and-one from the UT 16, Levis went up the middle on a quarterback sneak to extend the drive. But on third and seven from the UT 12, Levis' pass for Dane Key caromed into the air, and Tennessee's Juwan Mitchell intercepted it and returned it to the Kentucky 45 yard line with 4:29 to play in the half.

The UK defense would make an important stop on the next possession, forcing the Vols into a three-and-out and a punt. The Cats would take over at their own two yard line with 2:49 to play in the half.

The Cats would get out of the shadow of their own goal posts on a 16-yard run up the middle by McClain. But Kentucky would be forced to punt and the punt was nearly blocked and went just 18 yards. The Vols took over at their own 35 with 37 seconds left in the half.

Tennessee would take advantage of the late possession when Hooker hit Hyatt on a 31-yard touchdown pass with 22 seconds left in the half. McGrath added the PAT and the Vols led 27-7, which would be the halftime score.

The Vols would outscore the Cats 17-0 in the second half to beat Kentucky for the second straight season.

SCORING SUMMARY

Kentucky	6	0	0	0	-	6
Tennessee	7	20	10	7	-	44

1st 13:33 TENN - #11 J.Hyatt 55 yd pass from #5 H.Hooker (#40 C.McGrath kick), 5-75, 01:27 0-7
 1st 04:44 UK - #24 C.Rodriguez Jr. 3 yd rush (#96 M.Ruffolo kick blocked), 9-71, 04:45 6-7
 2nd 14:56 TENN - #88 P.Fant 2 yd rush (#40 C.McGrath kick missed), 15-75, 04:48 6-13
 2nd 11:12 TENN - #20 J.Wright 1 yd rush (#40 C.McGrath kick), 8-77, 02:42 6-20
 2nd 00:22 TENN - #11 J.Hyatt 31 yd pass from #5 H.Hooker (#40 C.McGrath kick), 2-35, 00:15 6-27
 3rd 08:57 TENN - #40 C.McGrath 29 yd FG, 10-29, 03:38 6-30
 3rd 03:58 TENN - #5 H.Hooker 8 yd rush (#40 C.McGrath kick), 5-58, 01:31 6-37
 4th 07:47 TENN - #2 J.Small 13 yd pass from #5 H.Hooker (#40 C.McGrath kick), 1-13, 00:06 6-44

TEAM STATISTICS

	UK	UT
First Downs	14	19
Rush Att./Net Rush	36/107	40/177
Passing C/A/I	16/27/3	19/25/0
Offensive Plays	63	65
Total Offense	205	422
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	0/0
Penalties/Yards	5/31	6/50
Punts/Average	6/39.2	3/42.7
Third-Down Conv.	2 of 13	5 of 12
Time of Possession	20:38	39:22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

UT - Small 21-78, Wright 7-73-1, Hooker 10-23-1, Fant 1-2-1, Sampson 1-1
 UK - Rodriguez Jr. 15-64-1, Wright 8-33, McClain 4-20, Beckwith 3-13, Levis 5-(-22)

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

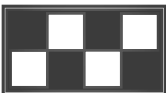
UT - Hooker 19-25-0-245-3
 UK - Levis 16-27-3-98-0

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

UT - McCoy 6-54, Hyatt 5-138-2, Tillman 4-22, Small 2-17-1, Fant 1-11, Warren 1-3
 UK - Dingle 4-44, Robinson 4-11, McClain 3-15, Brown 2-12, Key 1-8, Harris 1-7, Wright 1-1

TACKLES

UT - Mitchell 8, Flowers 6, Banks 6, Beasley 5, Harrison 5
 UK - Jackson 14, Lovett 8, Wallace 6, Smith 5, Childress 5



2022 GAME REVIEWS

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RV/#24 KENTUCKY 21, MISSOURI 17

NOV. 5, 2022 • COLUMBIA, MO. FAUROT FEILD/MEMORIAL STADIUM (61,047)



Will Levis passed for three touchdowns, including what turned out to be the game winner in the fourth quarter, as No. 24 Kentucky held off Missouri 21-17 at Faurot Field/Memorial Stadium.

Chris Rodriguez Jr. rushed 29 times for 112 yards in the game, while freshman Dane Key caught four passes for 53 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including the game winner.

Kentucky (6-3, 3-3 SEC) got a big effort from its defense in the victory. The Cats held the Tigers to 232 yards of total offense, including just 89 yards on the ground. Trevin Wallace led the Cats' defensive attack with nine tackles, including a sack and three tackles for loss.

Missouri (4-5, 2-4) took the opening kickoff but the Kentucky defense forced the Tigers backwards on three plays and forced an early punt.

Kentucky wasted no time getting into Missouri territory, as Levis connected with Barion Brown for a 39-yard reception. Then, on a third-and-11, Levis hit Jordan Dingle for a 17-yard gain. A 12-yard rush by Rodriguez got the Cats to the Missouri four. Levis was sacked two plays later but on the following play, the UK quarterback hit Key over the middle for a nine-yard Kentucky touchdown. Matt Ruffolo added the PAT and the Cats grabbed an early 7-0 lead.

Missouri would drive into Kentucky territory on its next possession but the Cats defense got the stop, The Tigers would get a 44-yard field goal from Harrison Mevis to cut the UK lead to 7-3 with 5:17 to play in the first quarter.

Kentucky appeared ready to answer on its next drive, getting into Missouri territory on another Levis-to-Dingle connection. But the UK drive would stall and Ruffolo would miss a 43-yard field goal attempt and the score remained 7-3 with 1:23 left in the first quarter.

The Tigers would go three-and-out on their final possession of the first quarter, then a short punt gave Kentucky the ball on their own 47, just before the end of the period, which ended with UK ahead 7-3.

Kentucky would punt on its next possession, with Colin Goodfellow pinning the Tigers inside their own five. The Tigers would drive to near midfield before quarterback Brady Cook fumbled and UK's Jordan Wright recovered at the Missouri 43.

The Cats would get one first down but could not advance any further, forcing a 47-yard field goal attempt from Ruffolo. But the kick, into the wind, came up just short and the score remained 7-3.

Missouri could do nothing with its next possession, which saw Wallace have a sack and two other tackles. The Tigers would punt and UK took over at its own 11 with 4:55 left in the half.

Kentucky would go three-and-out on its next possession and would punt the ball back to the Tigers. Missouri would take over at the UK 47 yard line. The Tigers would face a fourth-and-one and Cook tried to sneak up the middle, but JJ Weaver would make the stop and the Cats took over at their own 38.

The Cats would punt on the ensuing possession, and Missouri would take a knee to close the half, which ended with UK holding a 7-3 advantage.

Kentucky got the first possession of the second half and was unable to do anything with it. The Cats punted, then Missouri attempted to do the same, but Missouri punter Jack Stonehouse lost the grip on the ball, then tried to run for the first down, coming up short and giving the Cats the ball at the MU 34.

UK would get into the red zone and would get on the doorstep of the goal line when Levis connected with Tayvion Robinson for an 18-yard completion to the Missouri one. Two plays later, Levis found Dingle wide open in the end zone for a one-yard score. Ruffolo added the PAT and the Cats led 14-3 with 5:47 left in the third.

The teams would exchange punts before Missouri put together one of its best drives of the day. The Tigers got deep into Kentucky territory as the third quarter ended with UK leading 14-3.

As the fourth quarter started, the Tigers were at the UK two yard line. It took four chances, but on fourth-and-goal from the one, Cook kept it around left end for the Tigers' first touchdown of the day. The Tigers would go for two, but Cook's pass sailed high and the try was no good, leaving UK with a 14-9 lead with 13:09 to play.

Kentucky would punt on its next possession and Missouri would strike again. The Tigers drove into UK territory, then Cook scrambled for a 20-yard touchdown, giving Missouri its first lead of the game. The Tigers went for two and Cook connected with Tauskie Dove in the back of the end zone, giving Missouri a 17-14 lead with 8:07 to play.

The ensuing kickoff was a short one, and UK took over at its own 42. The Cats got a 19-yard completion from Levis to Key, then a three-yard rush by Rodriguez, a play that also had a 15-yard Missouri penalty for a horse collar tackle, getting the Cats into scoring range.

The Cats appeared to score on a pass from Levis to Brown, but the play was called back due to a holding penalty. Two plays later, Rodriguez went around left end, but as he stretched for extra yardage, he appeared to fumble. However, a replay review overturned the call and Kentucky retained possession. Kentucky would take advantage of its second chance when Levis hit Dane Key for a 22-yard touchdown to give UK the lead back. Ruffolo added the PAT and the Cats led 21-17 with 5:18 left in the game.

On the next Missouri possession, the UK defense did what it had done the majority of the day, limiting the Tigers to virtually nothing, then forcing a punt. This one gave the Cats the ball at their own 35 with 4:13 to play.

Kentucky could do nothing with the possession and was forced to punt. But the snap went over Goodfellow's head. The fifth-year senior scrambled back to pick up the ball at the two, then kicked it away and was hit by a Missouri defender, resulting in a roughing the punter penalty that gave UK an automatic first down with 2:25 to play.

From there, the Cats would run the clock down under a minute before punting (this time with backup Wilson Berry) the ball back to the Tigers with 38 seconds left. Missouri would not be able to move the ball and the Cats held on for the victory.

SCORING SUMMARY

Table with 5 columns: Team, TDs, FGs, PATs, Total Points. Kentucky: 7 TDs, 0 FGs, 7 PATs, 21 Points. Missouri: 3 TDs, 0 FGs, 0 PATs, 17 Points.

- 1st 09:33 UKY - #6 D.Key 9 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 8-71, 03:42 7-0
1st 05:17 MIZ - #92 H.Mevis 44 yd FG, 9-49, 04:16 7-3
3rd 05:47 UKY - #85 J.Dingle 1 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 8-34, 04:01 14-3
4th 13:09 MIZ - #12 B.Cook 1 yd rush (#11 B.Banister pass from #12 B.Cook failed), 9-52, 03:53 14-9
4th 08:07 MIZ - #12 B.Cook 20 yd rush (#1 T.Dove pass from #12 B.Cook), 7-64, 03:16 14-17
4th 05:18 UKY - #6 D.Key 22 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 6-58, 02:46 21-17

TEAM STATISTICS

Table comparing UK and MIZZ statistics: First Downs (15 vs 12), Rush Att./Net Rush (41/82 vs 34/89), Passing C/A/I (13/19/0 vs 189/27/0), Total Offense (252 vs 232), Fumbles/Lost (0/0 vs 2/2), Penalties/Yards (12/84 vs 7/71), Punts/Average (7/39.0 vs 4/40.0), Third-Down Conv. (6 of 16 vs 2 of 13), Time of Possession (31:05 vs 28:55).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)
MIZZ - Schrader 21-65, Cook 8-17-2, Burden 2-9, Stonehouse 1-3, Lovett 1(-)4
UK - Rodriguez Jr. 28-112, Wright 1-5, Smoke 3-2, Brown 1(1-)1, Levis 7(-)36

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)
MIZZ - Cook 18-26-0-143-0
UK - Levis 13-19-0-170-3

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)
MIZZ - Burden 6-60, Banister 5-47, Schrader 4-1, Miller 1-25, Butts 1-10, Young 1-0
UK - Brown 4-54, Key 4-53-2, Dingle 3-35-1, Robinson 1-18, Kattus 1-10

TACKLES
MIZZ - Coleman 9, Bailey 7, Carlies 6, Williams 5
UK - Wallace 9, Jackson 8, Weaver 6, Phillips 6, Ajan 4



2022 GAME REVIEWS

10

VANDERBILT 24, RV/#24 KENTUCKY 21

NOV. 12, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY.
KROGER FIELD (57,474)

Chris Rodriguez Jr. rushed for 162 yards and two touchdowns, but Vanderbilt scored a late touchdown to upset No. 24 Kentucky 24-21 at Kroger Field.

Kentucky (6-4, 3-4 SEC) got the ground game going, behind Rodriguez, rushing for 213 yards on 31 carries. However, UK was not able to do much through the air. Quarterback Will Levis completed just 11 of 23 through the air for 109 yards, no touchdowns and an interception.

Defensively, D'Eryk Jackson and Justin Rogers led the way with nine tackles each while JJ Weaver had seven stops.

Vanderbilt (4-6, 1-5) received the opening kickoff but on the second play from scrimmage, Mike Wright connected with Will Sheppard. However, Sheppard was hit by UK's JJ Weaver, who caused a fumble that was recovered by Kentucky's Carrington Valentine. The Cats would take over at the VU 30.

The Cats were not able to do anything with the ensuing possession and were forced to try a 47 yard field goal by Matt Ruffolo, who split the uprights to give Kentucky a 3-0 lead with 13:22 still remaining in the first quarter.

Vanderbilt would answer on its next drive. Wright would scramble, break loose in the middle of the field, and race 59 yards for a touchdown. Joseph Bulovas would add the point after and the Commodores would lead 7-3 with 11:54 still to play in the first.

Kentucky would use a nice mix of run and pass on its next drive to advance into Vandy territory. Levis connected with Tavvion Robinson on a 25-yard strike to get the Cats into scoring position. However, the drive would stall and the Cats would settle for a 27-yard field goal by Ruffolo, drawing Kentucky within a point, 7-6, with 3:33 left in the first quarter.

The first quarter would come to a close with Vanderbilt driving past midfield, holding a 7-6 lead. But as the second period got underway, Wright was intercepted by UK's Keidron Smith in the end zone, giving the Cats possession at their own 20 with 13:41 to play in the half.

Kentucky would put together a nice drive on the following possession. Levis connected with a pair of former Frederick Douglass High School receivers to get the Cats into VU territory. Levis hit Dane Key for 29 yards and, two plays later, Levis connected with Dekel Crowdus for 15 yards, getting UK to the Vandy 30.

The Cats would get inside the VU 10 on a Rodriguez six-yard rush. But on third and seven from the Vandy nine, Levis was sacked and the Cats would be forced to try a 37-yard field goal. But Ruffolo's kick was blocked and the Commodores maintained a 7-6 lead with 7:23 left in the half.

The teams would exchange punts and the first half would end on a failed Hail Mary pass by Vanderbilt. But the 'Dores would lead 7-6 at the break.

Kentucky got the first possession of the second half but, after gaining one first down, the Cats were forced to punt. Vandy took the ensuing possession and, leaning on the run, took the ball into UK territory. Ray Davis had a 45-yard rush to get the 'Dores to the UK three yard line. Three plays later, Davis went up the middle and into the end zone for a touchdown. Bulovas added the PAT and Vanderbilt led 14-6 with 7:47 left in the third quarter.

Needing a scoring drive, Kentucky went to the ground. UK got a 23-yard rush from Rodriguez, then two yards, and a 15-yard penalty against Vanderbilt, on a rush by JuTahn McClain. Later in the drive, the Cats faced a fourth-and-six from the VU 28 when Levis hit Robinson for an 11-yard gain and a new set of downs.

Kentucky was unable to move the ball from that point and the Cats would settle for a 39-yard Ruffolo field goal to cut the deficit to 14-9 with 3:30 left in the third period. That would be the score at the end of the third.

Early in the fourth, with Vanderbilt driving, the 'Dores went for it on fourth down, but Wright was chased down by Trevin Wallace and came up short, giving the Cats the ball at their own 34 with 14:13 to play.

The Cats would go to the ground game on the ensuing drive. Rodriguez rushed for 18 yards, then five yards. McClain went for 28 yards to get the Cats to the Vanderbilt 15. Two plays later, Rodriguez rushed left for 10 yards, getting the Cats to the Vandy five.

Two plays later, Rodriguez went up the middle and into the end zone for the Cats' first touchdown of the day and the 31st of Rodriguez's career. The Cats would go for two, but Levis would be sacked. But Kentucky led 15-14 with 11:14 to play.

Vandy would answer with an impressive drive. The Commodores would go 67 yards in 12 plays, but the Cats' defense would hold, forcing a 26-yard Bulovas field goal, which was good, giving VU a 17-15 lead with 5:22 to play.

The lead would not last for long. On Kentucky's first play from scrimmage on its next drive, Rodriguez went through the middle and down the left sideline for a 72-yard touchdown rush, giving UK a 21-17 lead. The Cats again would go for two and, after a pass interference call gave UK a second chance, McClain went up the middle but did not score, keeping the score 21-17 with 5:03 to play.

Vanderbilt would not go away. The Commodores got a 40-yard completion from Wright to Quincy Skinner to get inside the UK 10. Two plays later, Wright hit Sheppard on an eight-yard touchdown pass with 32 seconds to play. Bulovas added the PAT and Vandy led 24-21.

Kentucky would get one final possession but Levis' heave down the field was intercepted as time expired.

SCORING SUMMARY

Vanderbilt	7	0	7	10	-	24
Kentucky	6	0	3	12	-	21

1st 13:22 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 47 yd FG, 4-0, 00:56 0-3

1st 11:54 VANDY - #5 M.Wright 59 yd rush (#36 J.Bulovas kick), 3-75, 01:28 7-3

1st 03:33 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 27 yd FG, 15-66, 08:21 7-6

3rd 07:47 VANDY - #2 R.Davis 1 yd rush (#36 J.Bulovas kick), 10-81, 06:05 14-6

3rd 03:42 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 39 yd FG, 10-51, 03:57 14-9

4th 11:14 UK - #24 C.Rodriguez Jr. 5 yd rush (pass from #7 W.Levis failed), 7-66, 02:59 14-15

4th 05:22 VANDY - #36 J.Bulovas 26 yd FG, 12-67, 05:52 17-15

4th 05:03 UK - #24 C.Rodriguez Jr. 72 yd rush (#17 J.McClain rush failed), 1-72, 00:11 17-21

4th 00:32 VANDY - #14 W.Sheppard 8 yd pass from #5 M.Wright (#36 J.Bulovas kick), 12-80, 04:26 24-21

TEAM STATISTICS

	VU	UK
First Downs	18	16
Rush Att./Net Rush	44/264	31/213
Passing C/A/I	12/23/1	11/23/1
Offensive Plays	67	54
Total Offense	448	322
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	2/2
Penalties/Yards	7/71	5/50
Punts/Average	1/39.0	2/35.0
Third-Down Conv.	11 of 17	4 of 12
Time of Possession	33:15	26:45

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

VU - Davis 26-129-1, Wright 11-126-1, Smith 5-5, McGowan 2-4

UK - Rodriguez Jr. 18-162-2, McClain 6-55, T. Robinson 1-12

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

VU - Wright 12-23-1-182-1

UK - Levis 11-23-1-109-0

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

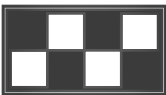
VU - Sheppard 5-88-1, Skinner Jr. 3-55, Bresnahan 2-26, Smith 1-14-1, Davis 1-1

UK - T. Robinson 5-49, Kattus 2-10-1, Key 1-29, Crowdus 1-15, McClain 1-7, Brown 1 (-1)

TACKLES

VU - Taylor 6, Worship 5, Barr 5

UK - Rogers 9, Jackson 9, Weaver 7, Lovett 6, Wallace 6



2022 GAME REVIEWS

11

#1/1 GEORGIA 16, KENTUCKY 6

NOV. 19, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY.
KROGER FIELD (61,022)



Freshman Barion Brown caught 10 passes for 145 yards and a touchdown but Kentucky fell to top-ranked Georgia 16-6 at Kroger Field.

Quarterback Will Levis connected on 20 of 31 through the air for 206 yards and a touchdown, with one interception. Chris Rodriguez Jr. rushed 17 times for 51 yards.

The UK defense was stout all day long, allowing just 363 yards to the nation's top-ranked team and holding the 'Dogs to less than half of their season scoring average. Jordan Wright led the way with 10 tackles for the Cats and

Zion Childress had nine.

Kentucky got the ball first, but had to start at its own four yard line. The Cats appeared to be on their way to a punt when Levis connected with Barion Brown on a 31-yard completion on third and 11. The Cats would get additional first downs on a rush by Rodriguez and a 13-yard completion from Levis to freshman tight end Josh Kattus. However, on a fourth and one from the Georgia 31, the Bulldogs stuffed Rodriguez and took over with 9:10 to play in the first quarter.

On its first possession, Georgia drove deep into Kentucky territory before the UK defense got a stop in the red zone. The Bulldogs got on the board on a 27-yard field goal by Jack Podlesny to take a 3-0 lead with 2:56 to play in the first.

Kentucky would get a pair of first downs on its next possession and would face a third and long as the first quarter ended, with Georgia leading 3-0.

The drive would continue and the Cats would get into the red zone. But on third and 12 from the Georgia 18 yard line, Levis was intercepted by Georgia's Kelee Ringo in the end zone, thwarting the scoring opportunity. Ringo returned to interception to the Georgia 47, where the Bulldogs took over with 8:43 left in the half.

Georgia would take advantage of the good field position, again getting deep into UK territory. But, as they did before, the UK defense held and forced a 24-yard field goal, which Podlesny converted, giving the Bulldogs a 6-0 advantage with 3:40 left in the half.

Kentucky went three-and-out on its next possession and Georgia got the ball back with 2:03 to play in the half. The Bulldogs would run the two-minute offense and get into UK territory, ultimately settling for another Podlesny field goal, this one from 37 yards, as the half ended with the Bulldogs leading 9-0.

Georgia took the first possession of the second half and go to near midfield, but Stetson Bennett's pass was intercepted by Jordan Lovett and the Cats took over at their own 11. However, the Cats were not able to do anything with the possession and were forced to punt.

The Bulldogs would cash in on the next possession. Georgia would cover 58 yards in eight plays, capped by a nine-yard touchdown rush from Kenny McIntosh. Podlesny added the PAT and Georgia led 16-0 with 6:22 left in the third quarter.

Kentucky would stop Georgia on the one yard line on its next drive, then would march 99 yards in nine plays, ending when Levis hit Brown with an eight-yard touchdown pass with 9:52 remaining. The Cats went for two, but the pass missed and Georgia held a 16-6 lead.

The Cats would stop the Dogs, then would get the ball back. UK got deep into Georgia territory but Matt Ruffolo missed a 38-yard field goal with 4:17 to play.

SCORING SUMMARY

Georgia	3	6	7	0	-	16
Kentucky	0	0	0	6	-	6

- 1st 04:03 UGA - #96 J.Podlesny 27 yd FG, 13-58, 05:07 3-0
- 2nd 03:40 UGA - #96 J.Podlesny 24 yd FG, 10-47, 05:03 6-0
- 2nd 00:00 UGA - #96 J.Podlesny 37 yd FG, 11-56, 02:03 9-0
- 3rd 06:22 UGA - #6 K.McIntosh 9 yd rush (#96 J.Podlesny kick), 8-58, 03:50 16-0
- 4th 09:52 UK - #2 B.Brown 8 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#2 B.Brown pass from #7 W.Levis failed), 9-99, 05:02 16-6

TEAM STATISTICS

	UGA	UK
First Downs	20	17
Rush Att./Net Rush	46/247	25/89
Passing C/A/I	13/39/1	20/31/1
Offensive Plays	65	56
Total Offense	363	295
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	1/0
Penalties/Yards	4/55	3/12
Punts/Average	2/45.5	3/46.7
Third-Down Conv.	6 of 12	3 of 11
Time of Possession	30:02	29:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

UGA - McIntosh 19-143-1, Edwards 14-50, Milton 6-31, Bennett 5-25
UK - Rodriguez Jr. 17-51, Levis 5-26, McClain 3-12

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

UGA - Bennett 13-19-1-116-0
UK - Levis 20-31-1-206-1

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

UGA - McConkey 3-28, Blaylock 2-38, McIntosh 2-19, Bowers 2-10, Rosemy-Jacksaint 2-10, Bell 1-7, Edwards 1-4
UK - Brown 10-145-1, McClain 5-1, Kattus 2-29, Key 2-23, Dingle 1-8

TACKLES

UGA - Mondon Jr. 11, Starks 8, Dumas-Johnson 8
UK - Wright 10, Childress 9, Valentine 8, Wallace 8, Jackson 8



2022 GAME REVIEWS

12

KENTUCKY 26, LOUISVILLE 13

NOV. 26, 2022 • LEXINGTON, KY.
KROGER FIELD (58,727)



Chris Rodriguez Jr. rushed 24 times for 120 yards as Kentucky beat No. 25 Louisville 26-13 at Kroger Field.

Rodriguez, playing in his final home game, broke the UK record for 100-yard rushing games, eclipsing the mark for the 20th time in his illustrious career. It was the fifth time this season that Rodriguez has rushed for at least 100 yards.

Fellow senior Will Levis was efficient on Saturday, connecting on 11 of 19 through the air for 188 yards and a pair of touchdowns, one to Barion Brown and another

to Dane Key.

The UK defense was stout on this day, holding Louisville to just 309 yards of total offense in the game, which is a season low for the Cards.

Kentucky (7-5) got the first possession but the Cats went three-and-out and were forced to punt. Louisville took over at its own 24 yard line. The Cards got one first down on their initial possession before punting the ball back to UK.

The Cats would get on the board on their second possession of the game. The big play was a 70-yard completion from Levis to freshman tight end Josh Kattus, getting the Cats to the Louisville 13 yard line. From there, Rodriguez would gain 11 yards, getting UK to the two. Then, Levis went in for the score, but the play was called back due to an illegal formation on the Cats.

But a couple of plays later, Levis connected with another freshman, wide receiver Dane Key, on an eight-yard touchdown pass. Matt Ruffolo added the point after and the Cats led 7-0 with 7:46 to play in the first period.

The Cards took the next possession deep into UK territory. But on fourth and one from the UK 13, Jacquez Jones stopped Louisville's Jawhar Jordan short of the first down, giving the ball back to UK.

Kentucky took the ensuing possession and, early in the second quarter, Ruffolo booted a 43-yard field goal, giving the Cats a 10-0 lead with 12:48 left in the half.

The UK defense came up big on the next Louisville drive. JJ Weaver, the Louisville native, sacked U of L quarterback Brock Domann, caused a fumble and was able to secure the loose ball on the Louisville six yard line.

However, the Cats were unable to do much with the possession. UK would settle for a 29-yard field goal from Ruffolo, and the Cats would take a 13-0 lead with 10:28 to play in the half.

Later in the second quarter, the Cards would get on the board. Louisville went 64 yards in 12 plays, capped by a six-yard touchdown run from quarterback Malik Cunningham. James Turner made the extra point and UK's lead was trimmed to 13-7 with 37 seconds left in the half. That would be the halftime score.

Louisville (7-5) got the first possession of the second half, but the Cards were unable to do much and were forced to punt. Kentucky took the ensuing possession into U of L territory, covering 40 yards in 10 plays and ending with a 35-yard field goal from Ruffolo, giving UK a 16-7 advantage with 8:43 left in the third quarter.

On Louisville's next drive, quarterback Malik Cunningham was intercepted by UK linebacker Trevin Wallace, who returned the pick to the Louisville 16 yard line with 7:58 to go in the third.

Kentucky would convert on the miscue. On the third play following the turnover, Levis hit Barion Brown on a fade pattern in the corner of the end zone for a touchdown. Ruffolo added another PAT and the Cats led 23-7 with 6:35 to play in quarter number three. That would be the score at the end of three quarters.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Cats were again in Louisville territory but were stopped. Ruffolo came on again and nailed a 40-yard field goal, marking his career high in field goals in one game, as the Cats took a 26-7 lead with 12:06 left in the game.

On the ensuing drive, Louisville would cut into the UK lead. The Cards marched 75 yards in 10 plays and got a 27-yard touchdown pass from Dohmann to Tyler Hudson. Dohmann then rushed for a two-point conversion but came up short and the UK lead was 26-13 with 7:03 to play.

SCORING SUMMARY

Louisville	0	7	0	6	-	13
Kentucky	7	6	10	3	-	26

1st 07:46 UK - #6 D.Key 8 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 5-86, 02:49 0-7

2nd 12:48 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 43 yd FG, 9-62, 04:46 0-10

2nd 10:28 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 29 yd FG, 4-5, 00:58 0-13

2nd 00:37 UL - #3 M.Cunningham 6 yd rush (#32 J.Turner kick), 12-64, 03:21 7-13

3rd 08:43 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 35 yd FG, 10-40, 04:12 7-16

3rd 06:35 UK - #2 B.Brown 3 yd pass from #7 W.Levis (#96 M.Ruffolo kick), 3-16, 01:23 7-23

4th 12:06 UK - #96 M.Ruffolo 40 yd FG, 12-60, 07:17 7-26

4th 07:03 UL - #0 T.Hudson 27 yd pass from #19 B.Domann (#19 B.Domann rush failed), 10-75, 05:03 13-26

TEAM STATISTICS

	UL	UK
First Downs	19	17
Rush Att./Net Rush	37/164	42/158
Passing C/A/I	17/27/2	11/19/0
Offensive Plays	64	61
Total Offense	309	346
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	5/57	9/56
Punts/Average	4/44.5	3/42.7
Third-Down Conv.	4 of 12	3 of 11
Time of Possession	27:15	32:45

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING (ATT.-YD.-TD)

UL - Jordan 22-145, Turner 7-33, Cunningham 5-4-1, Domann 3-(-18)

UK - Rodriguez Jr. 24-120, McClain 10-50, Levis 5-(-10)

PASSING (COMP-ATT-INT-YARDS-TD)

UL - Domann 14-21-1-129-1, Cunningham 3-6-1-16-0

UK - Levis 11-19-0-188-2

RECEIVING (REC-YARDS-TD)

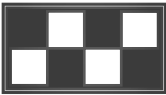
UL - Hudson 6-83-1, Turner 5-20, Ford 3-29, Smith 2015, Huggins-Bruce 2-(-2)

UK - Brown 4-44-1, Key 3-37-1, Kattus 2-66, Jo. Dingle 1-18, Lewis 1-13

TACKLES

UL - Griffin 9, Montgomery 9, Brownlee 8, Sanogo 7

UK - Lovett 7, Smith 7, Weaver 7, Wright 7, Wallace 7



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME KENTUCKY ...

Scored 40 points: 52 at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021
 Scored 50 points: 52 at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021
 Scored 60 points: 62 vs. New Mexico State, Sept. 17, 2016
 Scored 70 points: 77 vs. Texas El-Paso, Sept. 7, 2002
 Scored 80 points: 83 vs. North Dakota, Nov. 18, 1950
Shut Out an Opponent: vs. Youngstown State (31-0), Sept. 17, 2022
Shut Out an Opponent in the 1st half: vs. Youngstown State, Sept. 17, 2022
 Shut out an SEC Opponent in the 1st half in consecutive games: at Georgia, Oct. 19, and vs. Missouri, Oct. 26, 2019
Did Not Allow an Offensive Point: vs. Youngstown State, Sept. 17, 2022 (31-0 win)
 Game is scoreless at the half: at Georgia, Oct. 19, 2019
Shut Out an Opponent in the 2nd half: vs. Youngstown State, Sept. 17, 2022
Scored a TD on first series: at Missouri, Nov. 5, 2022
 Scored on first play from scrimmage of game: at Louisville, Nov. 26, 2016
Had 25 First Downs: 26 vs. Youngstown State, Sept. 17, 2022
 Had 30 First Downs: 35 vs. Tennessee, Nov. 6, 2021
 Had 250 yards rushing: 362 at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021
 Had 300 yards rushing: 362 at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021
 Had 400 yards rushing: 408 vs. Ole Miss, Oct. 3, 2020
 Had 500 yards rushing: 517 vs. Louisville, Nov. 30, 2019 (SCHOOL RECORD)
 Had consecutive 400-yard rushing games: 401 at Vanderbilt (11/16/19), 462 vs. UT Martin (11/23/19) and 517 vs. Louisville (11/30/19)
 Had below 50 yards rushing: 48 vs. Florida, Sept. 28, 2013
Had 300 yards passing: 303 vs. Northern Illinois, Sept. 24, 2022
 Had 400 yards passing: 459 vs. New Mexico State, Nov. 20, 2021
 Had below 50 yards passing: 47 at Missouri, Oct. 24, 2020
 Had 300 yards rushing and passing: (381/311) vs. New Mexico St., Sept. 17, 2016
 Had 500 yards total offense: 511 at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021
 Had 600 yards total offense: 707 vs. New Mexico State, Nov. 20, 2021
 Had 700 yards total offense: 707 vs. New Mexico State, Nov. 20, 2021
 Had below 200 yards total offense: 179 at Alabama, Nov. 21, 2020
Held opp. below 100 yards rushing: 89 at Missouri, Nov. 5, 2022
Held opp. below 50 yards rushing: 22, vs. Mississippi State, Oct. 15, 2022
 Held opp. below 100 yards passing: 70, vs. ULM, Sept. 4, 2021
Held opponent below 200 yards total offense: 192 vs. Youngstown State, Sept. 17, 2022
 Held opp. below 100 yards total offense: 87 vs. ULM, Sept. 4, 2021
 Had 10 or more tackles for loss: 14.0 vs ULM, Sept. 4, 2021
 Had six or more sacks: 6.0 vs. ULM, Sept. 4, 2021
 Recorded a safety: vs. UT Martin, Nov. 23, 2019
 Recorded zero penalties: vs. Auburn, Oct. 17, 2009
Had a player with 30 rush attempts: 31 by Chris Rodriguez Jr. vs. Mississippi State, Oct. 15, 2022
Had a player rush for 100 yards: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (120), vs. Louisville, Nov. 26, 2022
 Had two players rush for 100 yards: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (121) and Will Levis (113) at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021
 Had three players rush for 100 yards: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (133), Terry Wilson (129), A.J. Rose(117) vs. Ole Miss; Oct. 3, 2020 (ONLY TIME AT UK)
 Had 2 players rush for 175 yards or more: Benny Snell (192) and Boom Williams (182) vs. Missouri, Oct. 29, 2016
 Had 2 players rush for 100 yards or more in consecutive games: Chris Rodriguez Jr. and Lynn Bowden Jr. at Vanderbilt (11/16/19); Bowden and A.J. Rose vs. UT Martin (11/23/19), Bowden and Rodriguez Jr. vs. Louisville (11/30/19)
Had a player rush for 100 yards in consecutive games: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (112) at Missouri, Nov. 5, 2022 and (162), vs. Vanderbilt, Nov. 12, 2022
 Had a player rush for 100 yards in three consecutive games: Chris Rodriguez Jr., 119 vs. New Mexico State, Nov. 20, 2021; 121 at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021 and Chris Rodriguez Jr. (107), vs. Iowa (Citrus Bowl), Jan. 1, 2022)
 Had player rush for 100 yards in four consecutive games: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (2021)
 Had player rush for 100 yards in five consecutive games: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (2021)
 Had a true freshman rush for 100 yards: 152 by Benny Snell Jr. vs. Austin Peay, Nov. 19, 2016
 Had a player rush for 200 yards: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (207) vs. Missouri, Sept. 11, 2021
 Had 4 players with 50+ yards rushing in the same game: 4 vs. UT Martin, Nov. 23, 2019
 Had a player with 3 rushing touchdowns: 4 by Will Levis at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021
 Had a player with 50 pass attempts: 60 by Maxwell Smith, vs. WKU, Sept. 15, 2012
 Had a player with 60 pass attempts: 60 by Maxwell Smith, vs. WKU, Sept. 15, 2012
 Had a player with 30 pass completions: 31 by Will Levis, vs. Tennessee,

Nov. 6, 2021
Had a player with 300 passing yards: 303 by Will Levis, vs. Northern Illinois, Sept. 24, 2022
 Had a player with 400 passing yards: 419 by Will Levis, vs. New Mexico State, Nov. 20, 2021
 Had 2 players pass for 100 yards: Maxwell Smith (109), Jalen Whitlow (105) vs. Louisville, Sept. 14, 2013
Had a player with 3 or more touchdowns passes: 3 by Will Levis, at Missouri, Nov. 5, 2022
 Had a player with 2 passing touchdowns and 2 rushing touchdowns: Patrick Towles, vs. Mississippi State, Oct. 25, 2014
Had a player with 10+ receptions: 10 by Barion Brown vs. Georgia, Nov. 19, 2022
Had a player with 100 yards receiving: 145 by Barion Brown, vs. Georgia, Nov. 19, 2022
 Had a player with consecutive 100-yard receiving games: Wan'Dale Robinson, 2 (vs. ULM, Sept. 4, 2021; vs. Missouri, Sept. 11, 2021)
 Had a player with three consecutive 100-yard receiving games: Wan'Dale Robinson, 3 (vs. ULM, Sept. 4, 2021; vs. Missouri, Sept. 11, 2021; vs. Chattanooga, Sept. 18, 2021)
Had 2 players with 100 yards receiving: 147 by Tavvion Robinson and 102 by Barion Brown, vs. Northern Illinois, Sept. 24, 2022
 Had a player with 1,000 receiving yards in a season: 1334, Wan'Dale Robinson (2021)
Had a true freshman with receiving TDs in each of first three collegiate games: Dane Key, 2022
Had a player with TD receptions in at least three straight games: (3) Dane Key, 2022
 Had a player with 3 touchdown receptions: 3 by C.J. Conrad vs. New Mexico State, Sept. 17, 2016
 Had a player with 100 rushing and 100 receiving yards in the same game: Rafael Little (132 rushing, 114 receiving) vs. Vanderbilt, Nov. 11, 2006
 Had a 100-yard passer and a 100-yard rusher in the same game: Terry Wilson (151 passing, 129 rushing) vs. Ole Miss, Oct. 3, 2020
 Had a 100-yard rusher and a 100-yard receiver in the same game: Chris Rodriguez Jr. (107 rush) and Wan'Dale Robinson (170 receiving), vs. Iowa (Citrus Bowl), Jan. 1, 2022
 Had a player score a TD by rushing and receiving in the same game: Chris Rodriguez Jr. vs. Iowa (Citrus Bowl), Jan. 1, 2022
 Had a player throw a TD pass and score a rushing and receiving TD in the same game: Randall Cobb vs. Auburn, Oct. 9, 2010
 Had a player throw at least two TD passes and score a rushing TD in consecutive games: Patrick Towles in 2015
 Had a player throw a TD pass, score a receiving TD and score on a punt return for a TD in the same game: Randall Cobb vs. WKU, Sept. 11, 2010
Had a player return a kickoff for a TD: Barion Brown (100 yards) vs. Miami (Ohio), Sept. 3, 2022
 Had a player return a punt for a TD: Josh Ali (74 yards) at Mississippi State, Oct. 30, 2021
Had a player return an interception for a TD: Keidron Smith, 65 yards, at Florida, Sept. 10, 2022
 Had a player recover/return a fumble for a TD: Jordan Wright, vs. Virginia Tech (Belk Bowl), 28 yards, Dec. 31, 2019
 Had two defensive TDs in the same game: Kelvin Joseph (INT) and Jamin Davis (INT) at Tennessee, Oct. 17, 2020
 Had a player recover two fumbles in one game: Jordan Wright vs. South Carolina, Dec. 5, 2020
Had a player block a punt: Martez Thrower vs. Youngstown State, Sept. 17, 2022
 Had a player block a field goal: Josh Paschal vs. Florida, Oct. 2, 2021
 Had a player block a PAT: Lonnie Johnson Jr. vs. Eastern Kentucky, Sept. 9, 2017
 Had a player return a blocked FG for a TD: Trevin Wallace (76 yards) vs. Florida, Oct. 2, 2021
 Had a player return a blocked punt for a TD: Andrew Hopewell (6 yards), vs. Arkansas, Nov. 1, 2006
 Had a player score a TD on a fake field goal: Joe Mansour (25 yards), vs. Florida, Sept. 28, 2013
Had a field goal of 50 yards or more: Matt Ruffolo (50 yards) at Miami (Ohio), Sept. 3, 2022
 Had a punt of 70 yards or more: Colin Goodfellow (70 yards) at Miss. State, Oct. 30, 2021
 Played an overtime game: vs. Ole Miss, Oct. 3, 2020 - (L, 41-42)
 Won an overtime game: vs. ECU, Oct. 3, 2015 - (W, 34-27)
 Won a game on the last play of regulation as time expired: 15-14 at Missouri, Oct. 27, 2018 (2-yard TD pass)





WHEN WAS THE TIME THE OPPONENT ...

Scored 40 points: 44 by Tennessee, Oct. 29, 2022

Scored 50 points: 63 by Alabama, Nov. 21, 2020

Scored 10 or less points: 0 by Youngstown State, Sept. 17, 2022

Shut Out Kentucky: 0-21 by Georgia, Oct. 19, 2019

Shut Out Kentucky in 2nd half: by Tennessee, Oct. 29, 2022

Rushed for 300 yards: 331 by Georgia, Nov. 3, 2018

Passed for 300 yards: 316 by Tennessee, Nov. 6, 2021

Had 500 yards of total offense: 562 by Louisville, Nov. 25, 2017

Recorded a safety: Ole Miss, Oct. 1, 2022 (intentional grounding in end zone)

Blocked a Kentucky punt: Tennessee, Oct. 29, 2022

Blocked a Kentucky field goal: Vanderbilt, Nov. 12, 2022

Blocked a Kentucky PAT: at Tennessee, Oct. 29, 2022

Had a player with 30 rush attempts: 37, Larry Rountree (Missouri, 126 yards), Oct. 24, 2020

Had a player with 100 yards rushing: 145, Jawhar Jordan (Louisville), Nov. 26, 2022

Had a player with 200 yards rushing: 210, Kevin Harris (South Carolina), Dec. 5, 2020

Had a player with 100 yards rushing: 129, Ray Davis (Vanderbilt) and 126, Mike Wright (Vanderbilt) Nov. 12, 2022

Had a player with 40 pass attempts: 51 by Connor Bazalak (Missouri), Sept. 11, 2021

Had a player with 25 pass completions: 25 by Will Rogers (Miss. State), Oct. 15, 2022

Had a player with 300 yards passing: 316 by Hendon Hooker (Tennessee, Nov. 6, 2021)

Had two players with 100 yards passing: 174 by Feleipe Franks and 126 by Kyle Trask (Florida), Sept. 14, 2019

Had a player with 10 pass receptions: 10, Tyler Badie (Missouri, 88 yards), Sept. 11, 2021

Had a player with 100 yards receiving: 138, Jalin Hyatt (Tennessee, 5 catches), Oct. 29, 2022

Had a player with 200 yards receiving: 216 by Demarcus Robinson (Florida), Sept. 13, 2014

Had two players with 100 yards receiving: 111, Korey Robertson and 103, Quez Watkins (Southern Miss), Sept. 2, 2017

Had a player return a kickoff for a TD: Evan Berry (UT), 100 yards, Oct. 31, 2015

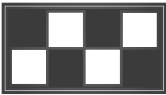
Had a player return a punt for a TD: Kadarius Toney (UF), 50 yards, Nov. 28, 2020

Had a player return a blocked FG for a TD: Neiko Thorpe (69 yards) vs. Auburn, Oct. 17, 2009

Had a player return a blocked punt for a TD: Chris Rainey (23 yards) vs. Florida, Sept. 26, 2009

Had a player return an interception for a TD: Emmanuel Forbes (Miss. State), 59 yards, Oct. 15, 2022

Had a player return a fumble for a TD: Trevor Brohard (New Mexico State), 25 yards, Nov. 20, 2021



INDIVIDUAL/TEAM RECORDS - CAREER

Most Career Wins By A Head Coach, School History

1.	66	Mark Stoops (2013-Present)
2.	60	Paul "Bear" Bryant (1946-1953)
3.	47	Fran Curci (1973-1981)
4.	41	Jerry Claiborne (1982-1989)
	41	Blanton Collier (1954-1961)
6.	39	Rich Brooks (2003-2009)

Most Career Home Wins By A Head Coach, School History

1.	46	Mark Stoops (2013-present)
2.	33	Paul Bryant (1946-53)
3.	32	Jerry Claiborne (1982-89)
4.	29	Fran Curci (1973-81)
	29	Blanton Collier (1954-61)

Rushing Yardage, Career

#	Player	Years	Att	Yards	Avg.	TD
1.	Benny Snell Jr.	2016-18	737	3,873	5.3	48
2.	Sonny Collins	1972-75	777	3,835	4.9	26
3.	Chris Rodriguez Jr.	2018-present	592	3,644	6.2	32
4.	Moe Williams	1993-95	618	3,333	5.4	26
5.	Rafael Little	2004-07	580	2,996	5.2	16
6.	Mark Higgs	1984-87	532	2,892	5.4	25
7.	George Adams	1981-84	638	2,648	4.2	25
8.	Derrick Locke	2007-10	518	2,618	5.1	22
9.	"Boom" Williams	2014-16	366	2,511	6.9	18
10.	Artose Pinner	1999-2002	438	2,105	4.8	17
11.	A.J. Rose	2017-20	341	1,971	5.8	13
12.	Marc Logan	1983-86	389	1,769	4.5	11
13.	Derrick Ramsey	1975-77	446	1,764	3.9	25
14.	Anthony White	1996-99	364	1,758	4.8	11
15.	Jojo Kemp	2013-16	338	1,709	5.1	19
16.	Rodger Bird	1963-65	397	1,699	4.2	21
17.	Derek Homer	1997-2000	353	1,689	4.8	11
18.	Ivy Joe Hunter	1985-88	361	1,687	4.7	19
19.	Bill Leskovar	1949-51	324	1,664	5.1	9
20.	Steve Campassi	1972-75	370	1,609	4.3	8
21.	Kavosiey Smoke	2018-present	291	1,583	5.4	11
22.	Raymond Sanders	2010-13	340	1,542	4.5	11
23.	Al Baker	1986-90	378	1,534	4.1	15
24.	Lynn Bowden Jr.	2017-19	206	1,530	7.4	13
25.	Mike Fanuzzi	1971-74	344	1,484	4.3	16

Avg. Per Rushing Attempt, Career (min. 200 attempts)

#	Player	Years	Average per rush
1.	Lynn Bowden Jr.	2017-19	7.43 (206/1530)
2.	Boom Williams	2014-16	6.91 (366/2511)
3.	C. Rodriguez Jr.	2018-present	6.16 (592/3644)
4.	A.J. Rose	2017-2020	5.78 (341/1971)
5.	Randall Cobb	2008-10	5.76 (228/1313)
6.	Kavosiey Smoke	2018-present	5.44 (291/1583)
7.	Mark Higgs	1984-87	5.43 (532/2892)
8.	Moe Williams	1993-95	5.39 (618/3333)
9.	Benny Snell Jr.	2016-18	5.26 (737/3873)
10.	Rafael Little	2004-07	5.17 (580/2996)

Most Touchdowns Scored, Career

#	Player	Years	Total TDs
1.	Benny Snell Jr.	2016-18	48
2.	Randall Cobb	2008-10	37
3.	Chris Rodriguez Jr.	2018-present	35
4.	Craig Yeast	1995-98	32

Rushing Touchdowns, Career

#	Player	Years	TD
1.	Benny Snell Jr.	2016-18	48
2.	Chris Rodriguez Jr.	2018-present	32
3.	Moe Williams	1993-95	26
	Sonny Collins	1972-75	26
5.	Mark Higgs	1984-87	25
	George Adams	1981-84	25
	Derrick Ramsey	1975-77	25

Consecutive Games with a Rushing TD (since 1985)

1.	Benny Snell Jr. (2017)	6
2.	Chris Rodriguez Jr. (2020-2021)	5
	Stanley "Boom" Williams (2016)	
	Artose Pinner (2002)	

100-Yard Rushing Games, Career

1.	Chris Rodriguez Jr., 2018-present	20
2.	Benny Snell Jr., 2016-18	19
3.	Sonny Collins, 1972-75	18
4.	Rafael Little, 2004-07	13
	Moe Williams, 1993-95	13

150-Yard Rushing Games, Career

1.	Benny Snell Jr., 2016-18	7
	Sonny Collins (1972-75)	7
3.	Moe Williams (1993-95)	6
4.	Lynn Bowden Jr. (2017-19)	4
	Mark Higgs (1984-87)	4
6.	Chris Rodriguez Jr. (2018-present)	3
	Rafael Little (2004-07)	3

Most Passing Touchdowns, Career

1.	Andre' Woodson (2004-07)	79
2.	Jared Lorenzen (2000-03)	78
3.	Tim Couch (1996-98)	74
4.	Babe Parilli (1949-51)	50
5.	Will Levis (2021-present)	43
6.	Mike Hartline (2007-10)	38

Most Passing Yards, Career

1.	Jared Lorenzen (2000-03)	10,354
2.	Andre' Woodson (2004-07)	9,360
3.	Tim Couch (1996-98)	8,435
4.	Mike Hartline (2007-10)	5,680
5.	Bill Ransdell (1983-86)	5,564
6.	Will Levis (2021-present)	5,233
7.	Patrick Towles (2012, 2014-15)	5,099

Most 300-yard Passing Games, Career

1.	Tim Couch (1996-98)	20
2.	Jared Lorenzen (2000-03)	15
3.	Andre' Woodson (2004-07)	7
4.	Will Levis (2021-present)	6

Most Victories as Starting QB, Career (starting lineups available since 1993)

1.	Andre' Woodson (2004-07)	19
2.	Will Levis (2021-present)	17
	Terry Wilson (2018-20)	17



INDIVIDUAL/TEAM RECORDS - CAREER

Most Game-Winning Drives in 4th Quarter/OT, Career (since 1955)

7	Andre' Woodson (2004-07)	
5	Stephen Johnson (2016-17)	
	Bill Ransdell (1983-86)	
4	Will Levis (2021-22)	
	Mike Hartline (2007-10)	
	Freddie Maggard (1989-91)	
	Rick Norton (1963-65)	
	Jerry Woolum (1960-62)	

Most Rushing Touchdowns Among QBs, Career (min. 200 passing att.)

1.	Derrick Ramsey (273 pass att.), 1975-1977	25
2.	Mike Fanuzzi (219 pass att.), 1971-1974	16
3.	Shane Boyd (479 pass att.), 2001-2004	13
	Pookie Jones (504 pass att.), 1991-1993	13
5.	Jared Lorenzen (514 pass att.), 2000-2003	12
6.	Will Levis (636 pass att.), 2021-present	11
	Terry Wilson (520 pass att.), 2018-2020	11

Most Points Scored, Career

1.	Austin MacGinnis (72fg/143pat), 2014-17	359
2.	Lones Seiber (49fg/158pat), 2006-09	305
3.	Benny Snell Jr. (48td/1-2pt), 2016-18	290
4.	Joey Worley (57fg/75pat), 1984-87	246
5.	Matt Ruffolo (42fg/119pat), 2017-22	245
6.	Seth Hanson (35fg/127pat), 1997-98, 2000-01	232
7.	Taylor Begley (36fg/118pat), 2002-05	226
	Randall Cobb (37td/2pat), 2008-10	226
9.	Chris Rodriguez Jr. (35td), 2018-22	210
10.	Craig Yeast (32 td), 1995-98	192

Most Field Goals Made, Career

1.	Austin MacGinnis (2014-17)	72
2.	Joey Worley (1984-87)	57
3.	Lones Seiber (2006-09)	49
4.	Matt Ruffolo (2021-2022)	38

Best Field Goal Percentage, Career (min. 10 made)

Player	Pct.	Made/Att	Years	
1	Joe Mansour	.857	12/14	2010-13
2.	Marc Samuel	.824	14/17	1997, 1999
3.	Austin MacGinnis	.791	72/91	2014-17
	Matt Ruffolo	.778	42/54	2018-present

Most Consecutive Field Goals Made

1.	Austin MacGinnis (2017)	11
	Austin MacGinnis (2014-15)	11
2.	Taylor Begley (2005)	9
	Matt Ruffolo (2021-2022)	9

300-Tackle Club, Career (at UK)

1.	Jim Kovach (1974-78)	521
2.	Chris Chenault (1985-88)	482
3.	Jeff Kremer (1984-87)	475
4.	Marty Moore (1990-93)	462
5.	John Grimsley (1980-83)	437
6.	Kevin McClellan (1980-83)	416
7.	Wesley Woodyard (2004-07)	395
8.	Jerry Blanton (1974-77)	389
9.	Randy Holleran (1987-90)	379
10.	Danny Trevathan (2008-11)	374
11.	Richard Jaffe (1976-79)	350
12.	Brian Williams (1982-1985)	350

13.	Tom Ehlers (1972-74)	349
14.	Darryl Bishop (1971-73)	348
15.	Larry Smith (1983-86)	342
16.	Tom Ranieri (1972-75)	329
17.	Art Still (1974-77)	327
18.	Keith Martin (1980-83)	319
19.	Mike Edwards (2015-18)	318
20.	DeAndre Square (2018-22)	302

Tackles For Loss, Career

#	Player	Years	TFL
1.	Oliver Barnett	1986-89	43
2.	Josh Allen	2015-18	41
3.	Josh Paschal	2017-21	37
	Bud Dupree	2011-14	37
	Vincent Burns	2002-04	37
	Marlon McCree	1997-2002	37
7.	Danny Trevathan	2008-11	32.5
8.	Jeremy Jarmon	2006-08	30
9.	Jamar Watson	2017-20	28.5
	Jordan Wright	2018-present	23.5

Most Pass Breakups, Season

13	Eric Kelly, 1999
	Gary Willis, 1990
12	Trevard Lindley, 2006
11	Trevard Lindley, 2008
	Trevard Lindley, 2007
	David Johnson, 1987
	Jeremy Bowie, 2001

10 Carrington Valentine, 2022

Touchdown Receptions by a Freshman

1.	Dane Key, 2022	6
2.	Barion Brown, 2022	4
3.	Jordan Dingle, 2022	3
	Tommy Cook, 2001	3
	Derek Abney, 2000	3

Seasons with Two or More Victories Over Ranked (AP) Opponents

Wins	Season (Record)	Opponent Ranks
4	1976 (4-3)	#15, #16, #19, #20
3	2018 (3-1)	#12, #14, #25
	1977 (3-0)	#4, #16, #17
	1951 (3-2)	#11, #12, #19
2	2022 (2-2)	#12, #16
	2021 (2-1)	#10, #17
	2020 (2-4)	#18, #23
	2007 (2-4)	#1, #9
	1955 (2-0-1)	#8, #17
	1953 (2-0-1)	#12, #20
	1950 (2-1)	#1, #17



KROGER FIELD

On game day, Kroger Field often becomes the third-largest city in Kentucky.



- Since its opening in 1973, Kentucky has played 325 games within the friendly confines of newly-named Kroger Field. UK has a 182-141-4 record (.563), 46-25 (.648) under Mark Stoops.
- UK set a new Kroger Field attendance record when 63,543 fans packed the stadium for the Nov. 3, 2018 game vs. No. 6 Georgia.
- Two of the top five crowds in Kroger Field history came in 2018.
- UK announced its first sellout since 2015 when 62,945 fans attended the Florida game on Sept. 23, 2017.
- Since the 1999 expansion, UK has averaged 60,261 fans per game and ranked in the nation's top 30 teams in attendance in 16 of the last 18 seasons. Both the single game and season attendance record has been broken in recent years. *Note: Kroger Field capacity was limited to 12,000 fans per game in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions
- The stadium footprint is named C.M. Newton Grounds at Kroger Field in honor of the former UK Director of Athletics.

KROGER FIELD

Commonwealth Stadium was renamed to Kroger Field in May of 2017. The agreement--which is between Kroger and JMI Sports, UK's multimedia rights partner--begins at approximately \$1.85 million annually with a term of up to 12 years. With the partnership, Kroger becomes the Official Fuel Partner of the University of Kentucky and the Official Grocery Partner of Move-In at UK while also providing additional engagement opportunities with

UK students. Per the agreement, Kroger is also the Official Nutrition and Pharmacy Partner of UK Athletics.

Kroger Field was transformed into a state-of-the-art facility after a \$126-million reinvention which was completed prior to the 2015 season. The project was handled by HNTB. The outside of the stadium underwent a dramatic external facelift, receiving a modern look, but one that remained uniquely Kentucky. Inside, the capacity of Kroger Field was reduced over the course of the two-year project to approximately 61,000, but the value of all remaining seats were increased, from the top of the upper deck to front-row seats at midfield. Concourses were revamped and widened throughout the stadium with improved concessions, restrooms and security. Players and coaches reaped the benefits of the new Kroger Field as well, as home-team facilities were built, and a multi-purpose recruiting room hosts future Wildcats on their on-campus visits.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Seating Capacity: 61,000, including the Commonwealth Suites

Playing Field: UK switched from natural grass to synthetic turf for the 2015 season. Other SEC schools with a turf surface are: Arkansas, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and Missouri. The end zones and team sideline areas feature a checkerboard pattern in alternating shades of blue. It was designed to mimic the pattern of Secretariat's silks, which has been part of the football uniforms for five seasons. The school's new interlocking "UK" logo is positioned in the center of the field.

Video Boards: Two new 10 mm LED video boards were installed in the summer of 2022 by Formetco Sports. The interior seating bowl also has LED ribbon boards.

Sound System: Sportsound system delivers pounding bass energy, smooth mid- and high-range frequencies, and high-impact entertainment. Components of the sound system include a main speaker cluster behind the end zone, under-balcony speakers and concourse speakers.

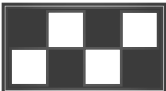
GAME DAY EXPERIENCES

The "Cat Walk" on Talbott Todd Way: With the unveiling of the new \$45 million Kentucky Football Training Facility in August of 2016, the headquarters of the program moved next door to Kroger Field. Therefore, the Cat Walk was moved to Talbott Todd Way. The Cat Walk typically begins outside Gate 1 two hours and 15 minutes prior to kickoff, and the team proceeds past Gate 1 and between Kroger Field and Nutter Field House. It was dedicated to former Wildcat Talbott Todd (1963-65) who passed away from ALS in August of 2017 and was an avid supporter of the program. From Talbott Todd Way the team walks to the locker room in the Joe Craft Kentucky Football Training Facility.

Lift Them Up: A unique partnership with Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky (TMMK), the Kentucky College of Engineering and the Kentucky Children's Hospital was launched in 2019 that brings special guests to the Cat Walk as the Kentucky football team arrives at Kroger Field. A specially built push cart vehicle provides a Kentucky Children's Hospital patient the chance to both accompany the Wildcats on the Cat Walk and attend a game at Kroger Field. A new patient is chosen by the Kentucky Children's Hospital each week to participate.

TOP ATTENDANCES FOR KROGER FIELD

1.	63,543	Georgia, 2018
2.	63,407	Auburn, 2015
3.	63,380	EKU, 2015
4.	63,081	South Carolina, 2018
5.	63,076	Florida, 2019
6.	63,040	Florida, 2015
7.	62,945	Florida, 2017
8.	62,933	UL Lafayette, 2015
9.	62,512	Louisville, 2015

**HEAD COACH MARK STOOPS / 10TH SEASON / IOWA, 1989**

"I think Mark Stoops is the best program builder in all of college football right now."

-- Tom Luginbill, ESPN National Recruiting Director and on-air game analyst, in December 2021

The 2022 season has marked yet another year of achievement for Coach Mark Stoops and the Kentucky football program.

When the Wildcats take the field today, it will extend a school-record streak of seven-consecutive bowl games, all under Stoops. Kentucky reached the postseason by posting a 7-5 record, the sixth-consecutive season (not including the Covid-shortened 2020 season) that UK has won at least seven games.

Stoops has personal milestones as well as he completes his 10th year at Kentucky, longest term of any coach in school history. The Wildcats' victory at Florida in September was Stoops' 61st win, breaking the school record of 60 held by Paul "Bear" Bryant.

Called "the best program builder in all of college football" a year ago by ESPN analyst Tom Luginbill, Stoops' success hasn't come easily.

Inheriting a program that was 2-10 the year before he arrived, Stoops' rebuilding efforts took time. Two games into the 2016 season his record was 12-26, but the program took off from there and the coach has engineered a 54-32 (.628) mark since.

In addition to this season's achievements, a partial accounting of Stoops' exploits features:

- Four straight bowl wins – the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1, 2022, the 2020 Gator Bowl, the 2019 Belk Bowl and the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1, 2019 – first time in school history that UK won four straight bowls
- A school-record 20-game win streak against non-conference competition, currently the longest active streak in the nation (2018-present)
- First win at Tennessee since 1984 (2019)
- First New Year's Day Bowl win since 1951 (2018 season)
- First 10-win season since 1977 (2018)
- First SEC Coach of the Year since 1983 (2018)
- First final poll ranking since 1984 (2018)
- First bowl win since 2008 (2018)
- First win vs. Florida since 1986 (2018)
- First bowl appearance since 2010 (2016)

Several of Stoops' players have also won All-America accolades, along with honors such as the Bronko Nagurski Award, Chuck Bednarik Award, Paul Hornung Award, Ronnie Lott Trophy, Ray Guy Award, Danny Wuerffel Trophy, Jason Witten Man of the Year, Pop Warner Award, Academic All-America and National Good Works Team.

Off the field, Stoops has been active in fundraising and events for the UK Children's

Mark Stoops has 66 wins in the Blue and White, surpassing the school record of 60 set by Paul "Bear" Bryant.

Under Stoops, 22 players have been drafted in the NFL, including 13 defensive players.



STOOPS AND CO. MAKING A HIT IN RECRUITING

In nine seasons at the helm of the Kentucky football program, head coach Mark Stoops and his staff have been making noise on the recruiting trail. Kentucky's 10 classes under Stoops have ranked in the top 50 by all four major recruiting services. Below is a look at UK's recruiting success under Stoops and Co.

Kentucky's Signing Day class for 2022, at the time of this writing, is UK's highest-rated class in the available history of recruiting rankings. (Note: these rankings are based on UK's 20 signees, 19 high school and one junior college, and do not include four-year college transfers Tashawn Manning and Tavvion Robinson.)

Outlet	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Rivals	#29	#17	#35	#29	#26	#30	#30	#20	#45	#10
ESPN	#36	#20	#43	#34	#30	#36	#36	#23	#40	#13
247Sports	#41	#23	#38	#34	#29	#38	#34	#22	#39	#11

Hospital and he was named Honorary Coach of the 2022 National Good Works Team.

The bountiful crop of victories and honors are the fruit of the last six seasons, but the harvest didn't come easily. Arriving in 2013, taking over a team that had gone 2-10 the season before, it took three years of plowing, planting and growing before the results came.

Stoops earned his first bowl game as head coach in 2016, when the Wildcats overcame an 0-2 start to go 7-3 down the stretch and advance to the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl. UK duplicated seven wins in 2017, playing in the Franklin-American Mortgage Music City Bowl.

Led by linebacker Josh Allen, the National Defensive Player of the Year, and Benny Snell Jr., the school's all-time leading rusher, the 2018 squad went 10-3. It was UK's best season in 41 years, topped by a win over Penn State in the VRBO Citrus Bowl. It was only the third 10-win season in school history.

In addition, the 2018 campaign featured a win at Florida -- the Wildcats' first victory over the Gators in 32 years -- resulting in UK being named the National Team of the Week by the Football Writers Association of America. The regular season concluded with a 56-10 win at in-state rival Louisville, the largest margin of victory in the history of the Governor's Cup series.

UK was No. 11 in the final USA Today coaches' poll and No. 12 in the final Associated Press tabulation, the school's first appearance in the final rankings since 1984. The 2018 season also continued a remarkable trend -- since Stoops took over as coach of the Cats in 2013, UK was the only school in the nation that tied or improved its win total in six straight seasons.

CollegeFootballNews.com listed Stoops as the best coaching performance of the season and he was named Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year by The Associated Press, Athlon Sports and the league coaches.

The 2019 season was one of the most unusual in school history. A succession of injuries decimated the quarterbacks and Stoops turned to wide receiver Lynn Bowden Jr. to man the QB position. Running the ball almost exclusively, UK went 6-2 down the stretch and closed the season with four straight wins, topped by

a dramatic come-from-behind Belk Bowl win over Virginia Tech when Bowden threw the game-winning touchdown pass with only 15 seconds remaining.

Stoops followed with the Covid-shortened 2020 season that was capped by a Gator Bowl win over No. 23 North Carolina State.

The momentum continued in 2021 with another 10 win season -- the second under Stoops and only the fourth in school history -- capped by a dramatic come-from-behind win over Iowa in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl.

How has Stoops accomplished all of this? The coach would tell you that there's been nothing magical about the process.

True to his blue-collar roots in Youngstown, Ohio, the methodical advancement made by Stoops' teams is a reflection of the coach's rock-steady work ethic, tireless recruiting, and ability to adapt.

Stoops came to Kentucky from Florida State, where he was defensive coordinator from 2010-12. He inherited a unit ranked 108th in the nation in total defense and turned it into one of the nation's best. In the 2012 season, the Seminoles were second in the nation in total defense, allowing 254.1 yards per game, and sixth nationally in scoring defense at 14.7 points per game. Playing well against the run and the pass, FSU was third in the country in rushing defense and led the nation in pass defense. FSU led the ACC in seven defensive categories. Stoops also coached the defensive backs under head coach Jimbo Fisher.

Eight Seminoles on defense earned 2012 All-ACC honors, including four first-team selections, highlighted by one of the nation's top defensive end duos in Bjoern Werner and Cornellius Carradine, who combined for 24 sacks and 31 tackles for loss. Werner was a finalist for the 2012 Bronko Nagurski Award as the National Defensive Player of the Year and was among the national leaders in sacks with 13. Stoops also coached cornerback Ronald Darby to ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year. The Seminoles' prowess was a continuation of the 2011 season, when Stoops' defenders led the nation in fewest yards allowed per carry (2.3), ranked fourth in the nation in total defense (275 yards per game), second in rushing defense (82.7

ypg), fourth in scoring defense (15.1 points per game), and eighth in tackles for loss (8.6 per game) and quarterback sacks (3.1 per game). FSU led the ACC in eight defensive categories.

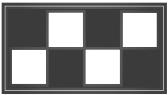
Stoops overhauled the Florida State defense in 2010, his first season as defensive coordinator. The Seminoles gave up 19.6 points per game, third-best in the ACC and 20th nationally. FSU ranked 42nd nationally in total defense that season; in contrast, the team was 108th nationally in total defense and 94th in scoring defense in 2009, the year before Stoops' arrival. FSU improved its overall defense by more than 80 yards per game, primarily by limiting opponents to 75 fewer rushing yards per game. The Seminoles ranked third in the nation in quarterback sacks and were 21st in tackles for loss. In the secondary, Stoops coached Xavier Rhodes to ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year honors and National Defensive Freshman of the Year accolades. During Stoops' three seasons, FSU went 10-4, 9-4 and 12-2, including wins over South Carolina in the 2010 Chick-fil-A Bowl, Notre Dame in the 2011 Champs Sports Bowl and Northern Illinois in the 2013 Orange Bowl.

Stoops was defensive coordinator and DBs coach at Arizona from 2004-09, working for his brother, Mike, who was head coach of the Wildcats. During Mark's time there, Arizona's records improved steadily, going 3-8, 3-8, 6-6, 5-7, 8-5 and 8-5. The Wildcats advanced to the Las Vegas Bowl and Holiday Bowl during the last two years.

Stoops inherited an Arizona unit that was 109th in the nation in total defense and 107th in scoring defense in 2003, the year before he arrived. By the end of his term at Arizona, the Wildcats ranked in the nation's top 25 in total defense his final two seasons and ranked as high as 33rd in scoring defense.

Mark and Mike are also brothers of Bob Stoops, who spent 18 years as the Oklahoma head coach and has been elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. The eldest Stoops brother, Ron Jr., is retired after coaching at Youngstown State. Mark and Mike have reunited in Lexington, as Mike has joined the UK staff as inside linebackers coach.

Prior to Arizona, Mark Stoops coached the defensive backs three years at Miami (Fla.). The 2001 national champion Hurricanes led the nation in pass efficiency defense, scoring defense and turnover margin. That team also



established a school record with 27 interceptions and 45 total takeaways.

Stoops' 2002 secondary led the nation in pass defense and pass efficiency defense. Despite having to replace all four starters in the defensive backfield, the 2003 team led the nation in pass defense. In his three seasons, Miami went 35-3, including the 12-0 Rose Bowl title campaign, plus appearances in the Fiesta and Orange bowls. Ten Miami defensive backs who played at least one season under Stoops were eventually selected in the National Football League draft – seven in the first round.

Stoops got his first experience in leading a defense as co-defensive coordinator at Houston in the 2000 season. He coached the secondary at Wyoming from 1997-99 and the Cowboys notched three straight winning seasons. A highlight of his time there was a school-record 24 interceptions in the '97 season. His first full-time coaching job was in 1996 at South Florida, helping USF in the start-up of its program before the Bulls had their first kickoff in '97.

Stoops has recruited and developed numerous outstanding defensive backs, many of whom went on to National Football League careers. Among the notables are Antoine Cason and Michael Johnson at Arizona, Miami's Philip Buchanon, Kelly Jennings, Brandon Meriweather, Ed Reed, Antrel Rolle, Mike Rumph and Sean Taylor and Wyoming's Brian Lee.

Stoops was raised in Youngstown, Ohio. As did brothers Bob and Mike, Mark played in the secondary at the University of Iowa for Hall of Fame coach Hayden Fry. He participated in four bowl games as a player. Fry hired Stoops as a graduate assistant coach at Iowa in the 1990 and '91 seasons. The Hawkeyes won the 1990 Big Ten title and played in the Rose Bowl, duplicating feats Stoops also achieved as a player. Stoops went on to coach four years in high school before entering the collegiate ranks.

Stoops has two sons, Will and Zack.

STOOPS VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Table with 2 columns: Opponent and Record. Lists various college football teams and their win-loss records against Stoops' teams, including a total record of 66-58.

STOOPS' PROGRAM RECORDS

Most Wins By A Head Coach, School History

- 1. 66 Mark Stoops (2013-Present)
2. 60 Paul "Bear" Bryant (1946-1953)
3. 47 Fran Curci (1973-1981)
4. 41 Jerry Claiborne (1982-1989)
41 Blanton Collier (1954-1961)
6. 39 Rich Brooks (2003-2009)
7. 32 Harry Gamage (1927-1933)
8. 26 Bill Curry (1990-1996)

Most Wins By A Head Coach At Kroger Field

- 1. 46 Mark Stoops (2013-Present)
2. 33 Paul "Bear" Bryant (1946-1953)
3. 32 Jerry Claiborne (1982-1989)
4. 29 Fran Curci (1973-1981)
5. 25 Rich Brooks (2003-2009)

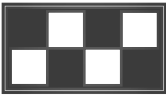


THE MARK STOOPS COACHING FILE

Year	School	Position	W-L	SEC	Bowl
1990	Iowa	Graduate Assistant	8-4		Rose
1991	Iowa	Graduate Assistant	10-1-1		Holiday
1992-95	Nordonia HS	Defensive Backs			
1996	South Florida	Defensive Backs	0-0		
1997	Wyoming	Defensive Backs	7-6		
1998	Wyoming	Defensive Backs	8-3		
1999	Wyoming	Defensive Backs	7-4		
2000	Houston	Co-Defensive Coord., Safeties	3-8		
2001	Miami (Fla.)	Defensive Backs	12-0		Rose
2002	Miami (Fla.)	Defensive Backs	12-1		Fiesta
2003	Miami (Fla.)	Defensive Backs	11-2		Orange
2004	Arizona	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	3-8		
2005	Arizona	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	3-8		
2006	Arizona	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	6-6		
2007	Arizona	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	5-7		
2008	Arizona	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	8-5		Las Vegas
2009	Arizona	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	8-5		Holiday
2010	Florida State	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	10-4		Chick-fil-A
2011	Florida State	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	9-4		Champs Sports
2012	Florida State	Defensive Coordinator, DBs	12-2		Orange
2013	Kentucky	Head Coach	2-10	0-8	
2014	Kentucky	Head Coach	5-7	2-6	
2015	Kentucky	Head Coach	5-7	2-6	
2016	Kentucky	Head Coach	7-6	4-4	TaxSlayer
2017	Kentucky	Head Coach	7-6	4-4	Music City
2018	Kentucky	Head Coach	10-3	5-3	Citrus
2019	Kentucky	Head Coach	8-5	3-5	Belk
2020	Kentucky	Head Coach	5-6	4-6	TaxSlayer Gator
2021	Kentucky	Head Coach	10-3	5-3	Vrbo Citrus
2022	Kentucky	Head Coach	7-5	3-5	Music City
Overall	Head Coach		66-58	32-50	

STOOPS' NFL DRAFT PICKS

Name	Year	Rd	Pick	Overall	Team
Avery Williamson	2014	5	11	151	Titans
Bud Dupree	2015	1	22	22	Steelers
Za'Darius Smith	2015	4	23	122	Ravens
Josh Forrest	2016	6	15	190	Rams
Josh Allen	2019	1	7	7	Jaguars
Lonnie Johnson	2019	2	22	54	Texans
Mike Edwards	2019	3	35	99	Bucs
Benny Snell Jr.	2019	4	19	122	Steelers
George Asafo-Adjei	2019	7	18	232	Giants
Lynn Bowden Jr.	2020	3	16	80	Raiders
Logan Stenberg	2020	4	15	121	Lions
Jamin Davis	2021	1	19	19	Washington
Kelvin Joseph	2021	2	12	44	Cowboys
Quinton Bohanna	2021	6	8	192	Cowboys
Brandin Echols	2021	6	16	200	Jets
Landon Young	2021	6	22	206	Saints
Phil Hoskins	2021	7	3	232	Panthers
W. Robinson	2022	2	11	43	Giants
Josh Paschal	2022	2	14	46	Lions
Luke Fortner	2022	3	1	65	Jaguars
Darian Kinnard	2022	5	2	145	Chiefs



STOOPS YEAR-BY-YEAR

2013 – Won 2, Lost 10

26	WKU*	35	Nashville	Aug 31
41	Miami (Ohio)	7	Lexington	Sept 7
13	Louisville	27	Lexington	Sept 14
7	Florida*	24	Lexington	Sept 28
28	South Carolina*	35	Columbia	Oct 5
7	Alabama*	48	Lexington	Oct 12
22	Mississippi State*	28	Starkville	Oct 24
48	Alabama State *	14	Lexington	Nov 2
17	Missouri	48	Lexington	Nov 9
6	Vanderbilt	22	Nashville	Nov 16
17	Georgia*	59	Athens	Nov 23
13	Tennessee*	27	Lexington	Nov 30

246 **374**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Avery Williamson and game captains

2014 – Won 5, Lost 7

59	UT Martin	14	Lexington	Aug 30
20	Ohio	3	Lexington	Sept 6
30	Florida* (3 OT)	36	Gainesville	Sept 13
17	Vanderbilt	7	Lexington	Sept 27
45	South Carolina*	38	Lexington	Oct 4
48	ULM	14	Lexington	Oct 11
3	LSU*	41	Baton Rouge	Oct 18
31	Mississippi State	45	Lexington	Oct 25
10	Missouri	20	Columbia	Nov 1
31	Georgia	63	Lexington	Nov 8
16	Tennessee	50	Knoxville	Nov 15
40	Louisville	44	Louisville	Nov 29

350 **375**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Javess Blue, Alvin "Bud" Dupree, Za'Darius Smith, Jordan Swindle

2015 – Won 5, Lost 7

40	UL Lafayette*	33	Lexington	Sept 5
26	South Carolina*	22	Columbia	Sept 12
9	Florida*	14	Lexington	Sept 19
21	Missouri*	13	Lexington	Sept 26
34	Eastern Ky. (OT)*	27	Lexington	Oct 3
27	Auburn*	30	Lexington	Oct 15
16	Mississippi State*	42	Starkville	Oct 24
21	Tennessee*	52	Lexington	Oct 31
3	Georgia	27	Athens	Nov 7
17	Vanderbilt	21	Nashville	Nov 14
58	Charlotte*	10	Lexington	Nov 21
24	Louisville	38	Lexington	Nov 28

296 **329**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Farrington Huguenin, Josh Forrest, Patrick Towles, Jordan Swindle, Melvin Lewis, A.J. Stamps

2016 – Won 7, Lost 6

35	Southern Miss*	44	Lexington	Sept 3
7	Florida	45	Gainesville	Sept 10
62	New Mexico St.	42	Lexington	Sept 17
17	South Carolina*	10	Lexington	Sept 24
6	Alabama*	34	Tuscaloosa	Oct 1
20	Vanderbilt	13	Lexington	Oct 8
40	Mississippi State*	38	Lexington	Oct 22
35	Missouri	21	Columbia	Oct 29
24	Georgia*	27	Lexington	Nov 5
36	Tennessee	49	Knoxville	Nov 12
49	Austin Peay	13	Lexington	Nov 19
41	Louisville	38	Louisville	Nov 26

390 **407**
TAXSLAYER BOWL
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Jon Toth, Courtney Miggins, Courtney Love, Jeff Badet, Jojo Kemp, Marcus McWilson

2017 – Won 7, Lost 6

24	Southern Miss	17	Hattiesburg	Sept 2
27	Eastern Ky.	16	Lexington	Sept 9
23	South Carolina*	13	Columbia	Sept 16
27	Florida*	28	Lexington	Sept 23
24	Eastern Mich.	20	Lexington	Sept 30
40	Missouri*	34	Lexington	Oct 7
7	Mississippi State	45	Starkville	Oct 21
29	Tennessee*	26	Lexington	Oct 28
34	Ole Miss	37	Lexington	Nov 4
44	Vanderbilt	21	Nashville	Nov 11
13	Georgia	42	Athens	Nov 18
17	Louisville	44	Lexington	Nov 25

FRANKLIN AMERICAN MORTGAGE MUSIC CITY BOWL
23 Northwestern **24** Nashville **Dec 29**
332 **367**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Mike Edwards, Nick Haynes, Stephen Johnson, Courtney Love, Garrett Johnson, Charles Walker

2018 – Won 10, Lost 3

35	Central Michigan	20	Lexington	Sept 1
27	Florida*	16	Gainesville	Sept 8
48	Murray State	10	Lexington	Sept 15
28	Mississippi State*	7	Lexington	Sept 22
24	South Carolina*	10	Lexington	Sept 29
14	Texas A&M (OT)*	20	College Station	Oct 6
14	Vanderbilt*	7	Lexington	Oct 20
15	Missouri	14	Columbia	Oct 27
17	Georgia	34	Lexington	Nov 3
7	Tennessee	24	Knoxville	Nov 10
34	Middle Tennessee	23	Lexington	Nov 17
56	Louisville*	10	Louisville	Nov 24

VRBO CITRUS BOWL
27 Penn State **24** Orlando **Jan 1**
346 **219**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Josh Allen, George Asafo-Adjei, C.J. Conrad, Kash Daniel, Mike Edwards, Benny Snell Jr.

2019 – Won 8, Lost 5

38	Toledo	24	Lexington	Aug 31
38	Eastern Michigan*	17	Lexington	Sept 7
21	Florida*	29	Lexington	Sept 14
13	Mississippi State	28	Starkville	Sept 21
7	South Carolina*	24	Columbia	Sept 28
24	Arkansas*	20	Lexington	Oct 12
0	Georgia*	21	Athens	Oct 19
29	Missouri*	7	Lexington	Oct 26
13	Tennessee*	17	Lexington	Nov 9
38	Vanderbilt	14	Nashville	Nov 16
50	UT Martin	7	Lexington	Nov 23
45	Louisville	13	Lexington	Nov 30

BELK BOWL
37 Virginia Tech **30** Charlotte **Dec 31**
353 **251**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Lynn Bowden Jr., Kash Daniel, Logan Stenberg, Terry Wilson, Josh Paschal

2020 – Won 5, Lost 6

13	Auburn	29	Auburn	Sept 26
41	Ole Miss (OT)	42	Lexington	Oct 3
24	Mississippi State*	2	Lexington	Oct 10
34	Tennessee	7	Knoxville	Oct 17
10	Missouri	20	Columbus	Oct 24
3	Georgia	14	Lexington	Oct 31
38	Vanderbilt	35	Lexington	Nov 14
3	Alabama	63	Tuscaloosa	Nov 21
10	Florida	34	Gainesville	Nov 28
41	South Carolina*	18	Lexington	Dec 5

TAXSLAYER GATOR BOWL
23 North Carolina St. **21** Jacksonville **Jan 2**
240 **285**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Josh Ali, Quinton Bohanna, Yusuf Corker, Max Duffy, Drake Jackson, Josh Paschal, DeAndre Square, Boogie Watson, Terry Wilson and Landon Young

Due to COVID 19, 2020 was a 10-game SEC-only schedule

2021 – Won 10, Lost 3

45	ULM	10	Lexington	Sept 4
35	Missouri*	28	Lexington	Sept 11
28	Chattanooga	23	Lexington	Sept 18
16	South Carolina*	10	Columbia	Sept 25
20	Florida*	13	Lexington	Oct 2
42	LSU*	21	Lexington	Oct 9
13	Georgia	30	Athens	Oct 16
17	Mississippi State*	31	Starkville	Oct 30
42	Tennessee*	45	Knoxville	Nov 6
34	Vanderbilt*	17	Nashville	Nov 13
56	New Mexico State	16	Lexington	Nov 20
52	Louisville*	21	Louisville	Nov 27

VRBO CITRUS BOWL
20 Iowa **17** Orlando **Jan 1**
COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Josh Ali, Yusuf Corker, DeAndre Square, Luke Fortner, Marquan McCall, Will Lewis, Josh Paschal and Chris Rodriguez Jr.

* indicates night game

2022 – Won 7, Lost 5

37	Miami (Ohio)*	13	Lexington	Sept 3
26	Florida*	16	Gainesville	Sept 10
31	Youngstown State	0	Lexington	Sept 17
31	Northern Illinois*	23	Lexington	Sept 24
19	Ole Miss	22	Oxford	Oct. 1
14	South Carolina*	24	Lexington	Oct. 8
27	Mississippi State	17	Lexington	Oct. 15
44	Tennessee*	6	Knoxville	Oct. 29
21	Missouri	17	Columbia	Nov. 5
21	Vanderbilt	24	Lexington	Nov. 12
6	Georgia	16	Lexington	Nov. 19
13	Louisville	26	Lexington	Nov. 26

COACH: Mark Stoops
CAPTS: Will Lewis, Jordan Wright, Chris Rodriguez Jr., Deandre Square, JJ Weaver, Jacquez Jones, and Kenneth Horsey

* indicates night game





ASSISTANT COACHES



FRANK BUFFANO

SAFETIES/ CO-SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR

Frank Buffano was hired in March of 2020 after serving seven years as the director of football operations at UK. He assists Chris Collins with the defensive backs and works primarily with the safeties. In 2022, he also was the co-special teams coordinator.

Prior to Kentucky, Buffano was a secondary coach and linebackers coach at Youngstown State. He began his career at Arizona under Mike Stoops, serving as a defensive graduate assistant coach his last two seasons after three years of working as a video graduate assistant with the Wildcats.

2008-09	Defensive Grad Assistant	Arizona
2010	Secondary	Youngstown State
2011-12	Linebackers	Youngstown State
2020	Safeties	Kentucky
2021-2022	Safeties/Co-Special Teams Coordinator	Kentucky



CHRIS COLLINS

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Chris Collins enters his second season at Kentucky coaching the defensive backs. Collins was hired in June of 2021 after four seasons as the safeties coach at Georgia State. He helped the Panthers advance to a bowl game in three of his four seasons.

Collins was a four-year letter winner and two-year captain as a safety and outside linebacker at Western Carolina from 2006-09. He finished his career with 303 tackles, 19 tackles for loss, nine forced fumbles and five pass breakups.

2011-12	Defensive Assistant	Western Carolina
2013-14	Secondary / Special Teams Coordinator	Catawba
2015	Defensive Graduate Assistant	Appalachian State
2016	Assistant Linebackers Coach	Western Carolina
2017-18	Assistant Safeties Coach	Georgia State
2019-20	Assistant Safeties Coach / Recruiting Coordinator	Georgia State
2021-present	Kentucky	Defensive Backs



JAY BOULWARE

RUNNING BACKS/SPECIAL TEAMS

Jay Boulware is the newest member to Kentucky's coaching staff. Hired on Dec. 12, 2022, he brings a plethora of success to the Commonwealth as he has more than 25 years of coaching experience and has been a part of 16 teams that advanced to bowl games. Most recently, he served as an offensive intern in the National Football League for the Pittsburgh Steelers, working specifically with the running backs, including UK's all-time leading rusher, Benny Snell Jr.

Before the Steelers, he served as the associate head coach for special teams and tight ends coach at Texas, his alma mater, helping the No. 19 Longhorns finish 7-3 overall and capture the Alamo Bowl title in 2020.

He also spent seven years at Oklahoma, working under then-head coach Bob Stoops from 2013-16 and Lincoln Riley from (2017-19) and had stints at Auburn, Utah, Stanford, Arizona and Northern Illinois.

Boulware was an offensive lineman at Texas before entering the coaching ranks.

1994-95	Student Assistant	Texas	Sun ('94), Sugar ('95)
1996	Graduate Assistant	Texas	Fiesta ('96)
1997-2000	Tight Ends/Co-Offensive Line	Northern Illinois	
2001-03	Tight Ends/Running Backs/Offensive Line	Arizona	
Summer of 2004	NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Program	San Francisco 49ers	
2004	Running backs	Stanford	
2005-06	Tight Ends/Co-Special Teams	Utah	Emerald ('05), Armed Forces ('06)
2007-08	Running Backs/Special Teams	Iowa State	
2009-12	Tight Ends/Special Teams	Auburn	Outback ('09), BCS Championship ('10), Chick-fil-A ('11)
2013-19	Running Backs/Special Teams	Oklahoma	Sugar ('13), Russell Athletic ('14), Orange ('15), Sugar ('16), Rose ('17), Orange ('18), Peach ('19)
Summer of 2014	NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Program	New Orleans Saints	
2020	Assoc. Head Coach/Tight Ends/Special Teams	Texas	Alamo ('20)
2021	Offensive Intern	Pittsburgh Steelers	



VINCE MARROW

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/TIGHT ENDS/RECRUITING COORDINATOR

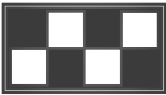
Vince Marrow, aka the "Big Dawg," enters his 10th season at Kentucky, currently handling the duties of associate head coach/tight ends coach/recruiting coordinator/NFL liaison.

Marrow's tight ends have been a big factor in UK producing six consecutive seasons of 2,000 or more rushing yards with at least one 1,000-yard rusher in five of those (Stanley "Boom" Williams -2016; Benny Snell Jr., - 2017, 2018; Lynn Bowden - 2019; Chris Rodriguez Jr. - 2021). Marrow also has been instrumental in UK signing nine straight top-50 recruiting classes, including the highest-rated class in UK history in 2021.

Marrow had a professional playing career as a member of NFL rosters on five teams, including Buffalo, Carolina, New York Jets, Chicago and San Francisco. After his NFL days ended, Marrow played for the Frankfurt Galaxy of NFL Europe in 1998, earning all-league honors with 32 receptions for 345 yards. He also played for the Orlando Rage in the XFL in 2001.

He began his collegiate playing career at Youngstown State before transferring to Toledo. Marrow played two seasons at Toledo, earning second-team All-MAC honors in 1991 before being drafted by the Bills in 1992.

2005-06	Tackles, Tight Ends	Berlin (NFL Europe)
2006-07	Tackles, Tight Ends	Rhein (NFL Europe)
2008	Tight Ends	Toledo
2009	Head Coach	Holland HS
2010	Tight Ends	Omaha (United Football League)
2011-12	Graduate Assistant / Tight Ends	Nebraska
2013	Tight Ends	Kentucky
2014-18	Tight Ends, Recruiting Coordinator	Kentucky
2019-present	Associate Head Coach/Tight Ends	Kentucky



ANWAR STEWART

DEFENSIVE LINE

Former Wildcat Anwar Stewart was named the defensive line coach at Kentucky in January of 2020. He returned to the Bluegrass after one season as the defensive line coach at Appalachian State.

Stewart is quite familiar with the Kentucky football program after playing linebacker/defensive end from 1996-99 under head coaches Bill Curry and Hal Mumme and having served as a student assistant and defensive assistant under head coach Mark Stoops from 2017-18.

During his playing days at Kentucky, he totaled 64 tackles, including nine tackles for loss and eight sacks, playing both linebacker and defensive end.

2014	Defensive Quality Control	Montreal Alouettes
2015	Defensive Ends	Montreal Alouettes
2016	Defensive Line	Montreal Alouettes
2017-18	Defensive Assistant	Kentucky
2019	Defensive Line	Appalachian State
2020-present	Defensive Line	Kentucky



MIKE STOOPS

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

Mike Stoops, a 35-year collegiate coaching veteran who is the brother of head coach Mark Stoops, was named the inside linebackers coach in January of 2022. He replaced Jon Sumrall, who was named the head coach at Troy.

Mike Stoops most recently was at Florida Atlantic where he spent the 2021 season as the defensive coordinator and safeties coach. Prior to that, he spent two seasons (2019 and 2020) at Alabama as an analyst on Nick Saban's staff, highlighted by the 2020 national championship. He also was the assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Oklahoma from 2012-18 and was the head coach at Arizona from 2004-11. He had a first term at Oklahoma from 1999-2003, including the 2000 national championship season.

1987	Graduate Assistant	Iowa
1988-91	Volunteer Assistant	Iowa
1992-95	Defensive Ends	Kansas State
1996	Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Ends	Kansas State
1997	Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Backs	Kansas State
1998	Asst. Head Coach/Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Backs	Kansas State
1999-2003	Asst. Head Coach/Co-Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Backs	Oklahoma
2004-11	Head Coach	Arizona
2012-14	Asst. Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator/Defensive Backs	Oklahoma
2015-18	Asst. Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator/Outside Linebackers	Oklahoma
2019-20	Quality Control	Alabama
2021	Defensive Coordinator/Safeties	Florida Atlantic
2022-present	Inside Linebackers	Kentucky



BRAD WHITE

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/ OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

Brad White is in his fifth season at Kentucky as the outside linebackers coach and fourth as the Cats' defensive coordinator. He was elevated to the DC position by head coach Mark Stoops in February of 2019.

White came to Kentucky after spending six years at the outside linebackers coach with the Indianapolis Colts.

A graduate of Wake Forest, White started at linebacker and finished his playing career with 227 tackles, 19.0 tackles for loss, 4.0 sacks and eight passes defended, while starting 34-of-35 games played. White was a three-time Academic All-ACC selection and was named to the 2004 CoSIDA Academic All-District III team.

2007-08	Defensive Graduate Assistant	Wake Forest
2009	Safeties	Murray State
2010-11	Inside Linebackers	Air Force
2012-13	Defensive Quality Control	Indianapolis (NFL)
2014	Assistant Linebackers	Indianapolis (NFL)
2015-17	Outside Linebackers	Indianapolis (NFL)
2018	Outside Linebackers	Kentucky
2019-present	Defensive Coordinator/Outside Linebackers	Kentucky



SCOTT WOODWARD

WIDE RECEIVERS

Scott Woodward is in his second season as the wide receivers coach.

Before coming to the Bluegrass, Woodward spent two seasons as a quality control coach at Pittsburgh. From 2015-18, he served as the tight ends coach at his alma mater, Massachusetts, and also served as an offensive analyst and worked with the quarterbacks and receivers.

Prior to UMass, had coaching stints at Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham (2013-15) and Westfield State (2010-13).

Woodward was a four-year letterman at quarterback for Massachusetts and played for the Minutemen's 2006 team that finished as the Division I-AA National Championship national runner-up.

2010-12	Offensive Graduate Assistant	Westfield State
2013-14	Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks	Fairleigh Dickinson
2015	Graduate Assistant/Wide Receivers	Massachusetts
2016	Offensive Analyst/Quarterbacks	Massachusetts
2017	Quarterbacks	Massachusetts
2018	Tight Ends	Massachusetts
2019-20	Offensive Quality Control	Pittsburgh
2021-present	Wide Receivers	Kentucky



ZACH YENSER

OFFENSIVE LINE

Zach Yenser was named the new offensive line coach at Kentucky in February of 2022 after three seasons as the assistant offensive line coach with the San Francisco 49ers.

Yenser, originally from Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at his alma mater Troy University in 2007, working with special teams and the offensive linemen under former Wildcat and beloved UK assistant coach John Schlarman.

As a player at Troy, Yenser earned a starting spot at center from 2003-06. In 2006, as a senior team captain, he helped the Trojans win the Sun Belt Conference and the New Orleans Bowl, and was named a First-Team All-Sun Belt selection.

2007	Graduate Assistant - Offensive Line/Special Teams	Troy
2008	Offensive Line	Henderson State
2009	Offensive Line	Colquitt County High School
2010-11	Graduate Assistant - Offensive Line	Louisiana Tech
2012	Assistant Offensive Line	Louisiana Tech
2013-14	Offensive Line	California
2015-17	Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator	Kansas
2018	Offensive Quality Control	Southern Methodist
2019-21	Assistant Offensive Line	San Francisco 49ers
2022-present	Offensive Line	Kentucky



2022 GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

OFFENSIVE STARTERS

	TE/WR	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	WR	WR/TE	WR/TE	RB	QB
vs Miami (OH)	Jo. Dingle	Wohlabaug	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	T. Robinson	Key	Cummings	Smoke	Levis
at Florida	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	T. Robinson	Kattus	Bates	Smoke	Levis
vs Youngstown	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Wilson	Flax	T. Robinson	Upshaw	Key	Smoke	Levis
vs NIU	Bates	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	T. Robinson	Key	Brown	Smoke	Levis
at Ole Miss	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	Magwood	Bates	Key	C. Rodriguez	Levis
vs South Carolina	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Buford	Brown	Bates	Key	C. Rodriguez	Sheron
vs Miss State	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	Key	Bates	Kattus	C. Rodriguez	Levis
at Tennessee	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	T. Robinson	Bates	Key	C. Rodriguez	Levis
at Missouri	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	Brown	Bates	Key	C. Rodriguez	Levis
vs Vanderbilt	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	T. Robinson	Upshaw	Key	C. Rodriguez	Levis
vs Georgia	Jo. Dingle	Buford	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	Brown	T. Robinson	Key	C. Rodriguez	Levis
vs Louisville	Jo. Dingle	Horse	Burton	Cox	Manning	Flax	Brown	Kattus	Key	C. Rodriguez	Levis

DEFENSIVE STARTERS

	CB	DE	NG	DT	SLB/DT	WLB	MLB	NICK/LB	SS	FS	CB
vs Miami (OH)	Valentine	Rybka	Rogers	Oxendine	Weaver	Square	J. Jones	D. Jackson	Ajian	Geiger	Phillips
at Florida	Valentine	Rybka	Rogers	Oxendine	Weaver	Square	J. Jones	J. Wright	Ajian	Geiger	K. Smith
vs Youngstown	Valentine	J. Wright	Walker	Oxendine	Weaver	Square	J. Jones	Wallace	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
vs NIU	Valentine	Rybka	Rogers	Walker	Afari	Square	J. Jones	J. Wright	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
at Ole Miss	Valentine	Walker	Rogers	Oxendine	Afari	Square	J. Jones	J. Wright	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
vs South Carolina	Valentine	Oxendine	Rogers	Walker	Hayes	Square	D. Jackson	J. Wright	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
vs Miss State	Valentine	Oxendine	Rogers	Walker	Afari	Square	D. Jackson	J. Wright	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
at Tennessee	Valentine	Oxendine	Rogers	Walker	Weaver	Square	D. Jackson	Phillips	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
at Missouri	Valentine	Rybka	Rogers	Walker	Weaver	Wallace	D. Jackson	J. Wright	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
vs Vanderbilt	Valentine	Rybka	Rogers	Walker	Weaver	Wallace	D. Jackson	Phillips	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith
vs Georgia	Valentine	Rybka	Rogers	Walker	Weaver	Wallace	D. Jackson	J. Wright	Childress	Lovett	K. Smith
vs Louisville	Valentine	Rybka	Rogers	Walker	Weaver	Wallace	D. Jackson	J. Wright	Ajian	Lovett	K. Smith



2022 SCORING DRIVE ANALYSIS

GAME-BY-GAME SCORING DRIVES

Game	Plays/Yards	Qtr./Clock	Res.	Scoring Play
MU	5/79	1/2:03	TD	Bates 6 yd pass from Levis
MU	5/16	2/1:46	FG	Ruffolo 34 yd field goal
MU	10/77	2/2:04	FG	Ruffolo 25 yd field goal
MU	-	3/14:47	TD	Brown 100 yd kick return
MU	2/8	3/00:04	TD	Magwood 8 yd pass from Levis
MU	6/17	3/2:55	FG	Ruffolo 50 yd field goal
MU	9/84	4/5:12	TD	Key 1 yd pass from Levis
FLA	2/67	2/11:36	TD	Key 55 yd pass from Levis
FLA	3/6	2/1:22	TD	Levis 1 yd rush
FLA	11/69	3/6:35	FG	Ruffolo 24 yd field goal
FLA	-	3/3:25	TD	K. Smith 65 yd interception return
FLA	7/16	4/1:24	FG	Ruffolo 26 yd field goal
YSU	8/35	2/13:34	TD	Levis 1 yd rush
YSU	8/77	2/6:10	TD	Key 3 yd pass from Levis
YSU	9/71	2/1:34	TD	C. Lewis 2 yd pass from Levis
YSU	8/67	3/8:36	TD	Smoke 7 yd rush
YSU	8/70	4/4:54	FG	Ruffolo 22 yd field goal
NIU	16/75	1/00:48	TD	Brown 15 yd pass from Levis
NIU	4/98	2/5:08	TD	T. Robinson 69 yd pass from Levis
NIU	3/75	3/00:58	TD	Brown 70 yd pass from Levis
NIU	7/36	3/3:04	FG	Ruffolo 49 yd field goal
NIU	11/78	4/8:46	TD	T. Robinson 40 yd pass from Levis
MISS	2/15	1/0:00	TD	C. Rodriguez Jr. 10 yd rush
MISS	9/70	2/1:23	TD	T. Robinson 5 yd pass from Levis
MISS	8/49	3/6:22	TD	Jo. Dingle 17 yd pass from Levis
SC	7/56	2/8:30	TD	Jo. Dingle 16 yd pass from Sheron
SC	16/75	4/2:39	TD	McClain 10 yd pass from Sheron
MSU	5/55	2/00:04	FG	Ruffolo 28 yd field goal
MSU	8/56	3/11:34	FG	Ruffolo 37 yd field goal
MSU	8/76	3/4:10	TD	R. Lewis 3 yd pass from Levis
MSU	7/80	4/11:43	TD	C. Rodriguez Jr. 16 yd rush
MSU	5/75	4/3:03	TD	C. Rodriguez Jr. 7 yd rush
TENN	9/71	1/4:44	TD	C. Rodriguez Jr. 3yd rush
MIZZ	9/71	1/9:33	TD	Key 9 yd pass from Levis
MIZZ	8/34	3/5:47	TD	Jo. Dingle 1 yd pass from Levis
MIZZ	6/58	4/5:18	TD	Key 22 yd pass from Levis
VAN	4/0	1/13:22	FG	Ruffolo 47 yd field goal
VAN	15/66	1/3:33	FG	Ruffolo 27 yd field goal
VAN	10/51	3/3:30	FG	Ruffolo 39 yd field goal
VAN	7/66	4/5:22	TD	C. Rodriguez Jr. 5 yd rush
VAN	1/72	4/5:03	TD	C. Rodriguez Jr. 72 yd rush
UGA	9/99	4/9:52	TD	Brown 8 yd pass from Levis
UL	5/86	1/2:49	TD	Key 8 yd pass from Levis
UL	9-62	2/12:48	FG	Ruffolo 43 yd field goal
UL	4/5	2/10:28	FG	Ruffolo 29 yd field goal
UL	10-40	3/8:43	FG	Ruffolo 35 yd field goal
UL	3-16	3/6:35	TD	Brown 3 yd pass from Levis
UL	12-60	4/12:06	FG	Ruffolo 40 yd field goal

GAME-BY-GAME TD DRIVES

Yds	TD	Drive	Poss. Time	TDs	Plays	TDs
0-9	2	2	00:00-00:59	5	8	5
10-19	2	2	01:00-01:59	4	16	4
20-29			02:00-02:59	5	33	5
30-39	2	2	03:00-03:59	3	21	3
40-49	1	1	04:00-04:59	4	32	4
50-59	2	2	05:00-05:59	6	51	6
60-69	3	3	06:00-06:59	1	11	1
70-79	13	13	07:00-07:59			
80-89	3	3	08:00-08:59	2	23	2
90-99	2	2	09:00-09:59			
Total	26	26	10:00-10:59			
			11:00-11:59			
			12:00-12:59			
			13:00-13:59			
			14:00-14:59			

GAME OPENING DRIVES

Game	KENTUCKY		OPPONENT	
	Res/Pts	Yds	Res/Pts	Yds
vs. Miami (Ohio)	TD/7	79	TD/7	75
at Florida	Punt/0	-2	Punt/0	18
vs. Youngstown State	Punt/0	23	Punt/0	9
vs. Northern Illinois	TD/7	75	TD/7	75
at Ole Miss	Punt/0	10	Punt/0	31
vs. South Carolina	Fumble/0	-8	TD/7	2
vs. Mississippi State	Punt/0	43	Punt/0	16
at Tennessee	Punt/0	0	TD/7	75
at Missouri	TD/7	71	Punt/0	-7
vs. Vanderbilt	FG/3	0	FUM/0	15
vs. Georgia	Downs/0	66	FG/3	58
vs. Louisville	Punt/0	9	Punt/0	17
Total/Avg	24/2.0	366/30.5	31/2.6	384/32.0

2ND HALF OPENING DRIVES

Game	KENTUCKY		OPPONENT	
	Res/Pts	Yds	Res/Pts	Yds
vs. Miami (Ohio)	TD/7	8	FUM/0	6
at Florida	Punt/0	1	Punt/0	-7
vs. Youngstown State	TD/7	71	Downs/0	42
vs. Northern Illinois	TD/7	75	Punt/0	4
at Ole Miss	Punt/0	5	Punt/0	5
vs. South Carolina	Punt/0	19	TD/7	75
vs. Mississippi State	FG/3	56	TD/7	75
at Tennessee	Punt/0	-17	FG/3	29
at Missouri	Punt/0	28	Downs/0	9
vs. Vanderbilt	Punt/0	16	TD/7	81
vs. Georgia	Punt/0	0	INT/0	25
vs. Louisville	FG/3	40	Punt/0	6
Total/Avg	27/2.3	297/24.8	24/2.0	352/29.3

DRIVE ANALYSIS

Game	Total Drive	TD	FG	MFG	P	TO	4DN
vs. Miami (Ohio)	9	3	3	0	2	1	0
at Florida	12	2	2	1	5	1	0
vs. Youngstown State	11	4	1	0	3	3	0
vs. Northern Illinois	10	4	1	0	3	1	0
at Ole Miss	10	3	0	1	2	2	1
vs. South Carolina	11	2	0	1	6	2	0
vs. Mississippi State	10	3	2	1	1	2	0
at Tennessee	11	1	0	0	6	3	1
at Missouri	12	3	0	2	7	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	9	2	3	1	2	1	0
vs. Georgia	8	1	0	1	3	1	2
vs. Louisville	10	2	4	0	3	0	0
Totals	123	26	16	8	43	17	4





2022 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Game	Score	First Downs	Time of Possession	Rushing (No-Yds-TD)	Passing (Cmp-Att-Int-Yds-TD)	Total Offense (Plays-Yds-TD)	3rd Down Conversions	Fumbles-Lost
KENTUCKY	37	20	28:07	26-50-0	21-32-1-303-3	58-353-3	2-8	0-0
vs. Miami (Ohio)	13	17	31:53	32-111-1	22-32-179-0	64-290-1	3-14	2-1
KENTUCKY	26	17	33:24	38-70-1	13-24-1-202-1	62-272-2	4-13	1-0
at Florida	16	12	26:36	30-136-1	14-35-2-43-0	65-279-1	4-16	1-0
KENTUCKY	31	26	38:10	36-103-2	27-35-2-377-2	71-480-4	6-11	4-1
vs. Youngstown State	0	9	21:50	22-58-0	9-24-1-134-0	46-192-0	0-10	0-0
KENTUCKY	31	18	33:49	35-103-0	18-26-0-303-4	61-406-4	10-16	2-1
vs. Northern Illinois	23	14	26:11	33-128-1	14-26-0-199-2	59-327-3	6-15	0-0
KENTUCKY	19	17	36:53	37-108-1	18-24-0-220-2	61-328-3	7-14	3-2
at Ole Miss	22	19	23:07	39-186-2	15-29-1-213-0	68-399-2	7-14	1-0
KENTUCKY	14	18	31:05	36-121-0	15-27-1-178-2	63-299-2	3-12	1-1
vs. South Carolina	24	15	28:55	42-179-2	14-19-1-177-1	61-356-3	6-14	0-0
KENTUCKY	27	24	39:22	48-239-2	19-25-1-239-1	73-478-3	6-15	1-1
vs. Mississippi State	17	13	20:38	10-22-0	25-37-1-203-1	47-225-1	3-11	0-0
KENTUCKY	6	14	35:11	36-107-1	16-27-3-98-0	63-205-1	2-13	0-0
at Tennessee	44	19	24:49	40-177-3	19-25-0-245-3	65-422-6	5-12	0-0
KENTUCKY	21	15	28:55	41-82-0	13-19-0-170-3	60-252-3	6-16	0-0
at Missouri	17	12	31:05	34-89-2	18-26-0-143-0	60-232-2	2-13	2-2
KENTUCKY	21	16	26:45	31-213-2	11-23-1-109-0	54-322-2	4-12	0-0
vs. Vanderbilt	24	18	33:15	44-264-2	12-23-1-184-1	67-448-3	11-17	1-1
KENTUCKY	6	17	29:58	25-89-0	20-31-1-206-1	56-295-1	3-11	0-0
vs. Georgia	16	20	30:02	46-247-1	13-19-1-116-0	65-363-1	6-12	0-0
KENTUCKY	26	17	32:45	42-158-0	11-19-0-188-2	61-346-2	3-11	0-0
vs. Louisville	13	19	27:15	37-164-1	17-27-2-145-1	64-309-2	4-12	2-1

GAME-BY GAME RUSHING

(No-Yds-TD)	Beckwith	Jefferson	Levis	McClain	Robinson	Rodriguez Jr.	Smoke	L. Wright
vs. Miami (Ohio)	0-0-0	2-10-0	1/-18/0	6-16-0	0-0-0	DNP	7-32-0	3-10-0
at Florida	0-0-0	INJ	7/-12/1	INJ	4-11-0	DNP	14-80-0	11-27-0
vs. Youngstown State	2-8-0	INJ	9-7-1	INJ	1-5-0	DNP	18-66-1	5-21-0
vs. Northern Illinois	0-0-0	INJ	9/-10-0	3-15-0	0-0-0	DNP	12-85-0	9-14-0
at Ole Miss	0-0-0	INJ	9/-19-0	5-21-0	1-5-0	19-72-1	2-6-0	0-0-0
vs. South Carolina	0-0-0	INJ	INJ	3-19-0	0-0-0	22-126-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Mississippi State	0-0-0	INJ	4-7-0	9-30-0	INJ	31-197-2	2-6-0	0-0-0
at Tennessee	3-13-0	INJ	5/-22/0	4-20-0	0-0-0	15-64-1	0-0-0	8-33-0
at Missouri	0-0-0	INJ	7/-36/0	INJ	0-0-0	29-112-0	3-2-0	1-5-0
vs. Vanderbilt	0-0-0	INJ	6/-16/0	6-55-0	0-0-0	18-162-2	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Georgia	0-0-0	INJ	5-26-0	3-12-0	0-0-0	17-51-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Louisville	0-0-0	INJ	5/-10/0	10-50-0	INJ	24-120-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

GAME-BY GAME RECEIVING

(Rec-Yds-TD)	Bates	Brown	Cummings	Jo. Dingle	Harris	Key	Magwood	McClain	Robinson	Rodriguez	Kattus	Upshaw	L. Wright
vs. Miami (Ohio)	1-6-1	3-45-0	0-0-0	2-11-0	1-15-0	4-53-1	1-8-1	0-0-0	6-136-0	DNP	0-0	0-0-0	1-13-0
at Florida	1-11-0	1/-2/0	0-0-0	2-29-0	0-0-0	3-83-1	2-47-0	INJ	1-0-0	DNP	0-0-0	2-34-0	1-0-0
vs. Youngstown State	2-46-0	5-56-0	0-0-0	0-2-0	1-58-0	6-90-1	0-0-0	INJ	6-66-0	DNP	0-0-0	2-16-0	0-0-0
vs. Northern Illinois	2-7-0	4-102-2	0-0-0	1-19-0	0-0-0	2-15-0	0-0-0	1-5-0	7-147-2	DNP	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-8-0
at Ole Miss	2-10-0	2-81-0	0-0-0	3-30-1	0-0-0	2-28-0	1-18-0	1-7-0	4-16-1	3-40-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. South Carolina	2-19-0	2-6-0	0-0-0	1-16-1	1-10-0	2-22-0	2-37-0	1-10-1	1-27-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Mississippi State	0-0-0	7-62-0	0-0-0	1-2-0	0-0-0	1-31-0	1-4-0	3-48-0	INJ	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
at Tennessee	0-0-0	2-12-0	0-0-0	4-44-0	1-7-0	1-8-0	0-0-0	3-15-0	4-11-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0
at Missouri	0-0-0	4-54-0	0-0-0	3-35-1	0-0-0	4-53-2	0-0-0	INJ	1-18-0	0-0-0	1-10-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Vanderbilt	0-0-0	1/-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-29-0	0-0-0	1-7-0	5-49-0	0-0-0	2-10-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Georgia	0-0-0	10-145-1	0-0-0	1-8-0	0-0-0	2-23-0	0-0-0	5-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	2-29-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Louisville	INJ	4-44-1	0-0-0	1-14-0	0-0-0	3-37-1	0-0-0	0-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	2-76-0	0-0-0	0-0-0





GAME-BY-GAME PASSING

(Cmp-Att-Int-Yds-TD)	Sheron	Levis
vs. Miami (Ohio)	0-0-0-0-0	21-32-1-303-3
at Florida	0-0-0-0-0	13-24-1-202-1
vs. Youngstown State	0-0-0-0-0	27-35-2-377-2
vs. Northern Illinois	0-0-0-0-0	18-26-0-303-4
at Ole Miss	0-0-0-0-0	18-24-0-220-2
vs. South Carolina	15-27-1-178-2	INJ
vs. Mississippi State	2-2-0-9-0	17-23-1-230-1
at Tennessee	0-0-0-0-0	16-27-3-98-0
at Missouri	0-0-0-0-0	13-19-0-170-3
vs. Vanderbilt	0-0-0-0-0	11-23-1-109-0
vs. Georgia	0-0-0-0-0	20-31-1-206-1
vs. Louisville	0-0-0-0-0	11-19-0-188-2

GAME-BY-GAME PUNTING

(No-Yds-Avg-LG-In20)	Berry	Goodfellow
vs. Miami (Ohio)	0-0-0-0-0	2-70-35.0-47-0
at Florida	0-0-0-0-0	5-194-38.8-44-1
vs. Youngstown State	0-0-0-0-0	3-125-41.7-50-2
vs. Northern Illinois	0-0-0-0-0	3-139-46.3-60-1
at Ole Miss	0-0-0-0-0	2-103-51.5-60-1
vs. South Carolina	0-0-0-0-0	5-200-40.0-47-2
vs. Mississippi State	0-0-0-0-0	1-42-42.0-42-1
at Tennessee	0-0-0-0-0	6-235-39.2-46-1
at Missouri	1-35-35.0-35-1	6-238-39.7-50-2
vs. Vanderbilt	2-70-75.0-40-2	INJ
vs. Georgia	3-140-46.7-53-0	INJ
vs. Louisville	3-128-42.7-47-1	INJ

GAME-BY-GAME FIELD GOALS

FG Made (Miss)	Poore	Ruffolo
vs. Miami (Ohio)	-	3 (0)
at Florida	-	2 (1)
vs. Youngstown State	-	1 (0)
vs. Northern Illinois	-	1 (0)
at Ole Miss	-	0 (1)
vs. South Carolina	-	0 (1)
vs. Mississippi State	-	2 (1)
at Tennessee	-	-
at Missouri	-	0 (2)
vs. Vanderbilt	-	3 (1)
vs. Georgia	-	0 (1)
vs. Louisville	-	4 (0)

GAME-BY-GAME DEFENSIVE LINE (Tackles-Tackles-For-Loss-Sacks)

Game	Dinkins	Hayes	Oxendine	Rogers	Rybka	Saunders	Walker
vs. Miami (Ohio)	0-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	4-0-0
at Florida	0-0-0	1-0-0	4-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	3-1-0
vs. Youngstown	1-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	DNP	2-0.5-0.5	3-0.5-0
vs. Northern Illinois	0-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
at Ole Miss	0-0-0	DNP	2-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	3-0-0
vs. South Carolina	0-0-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
vs. Miss. State	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-0.5-0
at Tennessee	3-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	4-0-0	4-1-1	0-0-0	3-0-0
at Missouri	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-0.5-0	1-0.5-0.5	0-0-0	1-0-0	3-0.5-0.5
vs. Vanderbilt	1-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	9-0-0	1-0-0	2-0.5-0	4-0-0
vs. Georgia	2-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	6-0-0	3-0-0	5-0-0	6-0-0
vs. Louisville	1-1-1	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	4-0-0	INJ	6-1-0.5

GAME-BY-GAME LINEBACKERS (Tackles-Tackles-For-Loss-Sacks-Pass Breakups)

Game	D. Jackson	J. Jones	Square	Thrower	K. Wade	Wallace	Weaver	J. Wright
vs. Miami (Ohio)	5-0-0-0	3-1.5-1-0	7-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	3-0-0-1	DNP	5-1-1-1	DNP
at Florida	3-0-0-0	7-0-0-0	6-0-0-1	2-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	9-0-0-0	6-2.0-1.0-0
vs. Youngstown State	0-0-0-0	4-0-0-1	2-0-0-1	1-0-0-0	3-0.5-0.5	2-0-0-0	1-0.5-0	4-2-0-0
vs. Northern Illinois	0-0-0-0	12-0-0-0	6-0-0-1	0-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	INJ	6-0-0-0
at Ole Miss	3-1-0-1	5-0-0-0	11-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	2-1-0-0	INJ	8-1-0-1
vs. South Carolina	6-2.0-0-0	INJ	9-1.5-1-0	0-0-0-0	1-1.0-0-0	2-0-0-0	4-0.5-0-0	7-2.0-0-0
vs. Miss. State	5-0-0-1	INJ	11-0.5-0-0	INJ	0-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	1-0-0-0	2-1.00-0-2
at Tennessee	14-0.5-0-0	INJ	3-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	6-0-0-0	2-1.0-1-0	4-0.5-0-0
at Missouri	8-0-0-0	INJ	INJ	0-0-0-0	1-1-0-0	9-2.5-1.0-0	6-1-0-0	1-0-0-0
vs. Vanderbilt	9-0.5-0-0	INJ	INJ	1-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	6-1-1-0	7-0-0-0	3-0.5-0-0
vs. Georgia	8-0-0-0	INJ	INJ	2-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	8-0-0-0	2-0-0-0	10-0-0-0
vs. Louisville	2-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	3-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	7-1-0.5	7-1-1-1	7-0.5-0-0

GAME-BY-GAME DEFENSIVE BACKS (Tackles-Pass Breakups-Int.)

Game	Afari	Ajian	Childress	Geiger	Hairston	Lovett	Phillips	K. Smith	Valentine
vs. Miami (Ohio)	6-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	4-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	5-1-0	4-0-0	5-1-0
at Florida	0-0-0	5-0-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	0-0-0	7-0-0	3-0-0	1-1-1	5-3-0
vs. Youngstown State	5-0-0	3-0-0	0-0-0	INJ	2-0-0	3-1-0	3-0-0	1-1-0	0-2-1
vs. Northern Illinois	3-0-0	2-0-0	4-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	5-0-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
at Ole Miss	2-0-0	4-1-0	3-1-0	INJ	0-0-0	2-1-0	3-0-0	6-0-0	3-0-0
vs. South Carolina	1-0-0	4-0-0	2-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	5-0-0	1-0-0	4-1-0	4-0-0
vs. Miss. State	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	4-0-0	0-0-0	2-0-0	6-0-0
at Tennessee	0-0-0	1-0-0	5-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	8-0-0	4-0-0	5-0-0	3-0-0
at Missouri	0-0-0	4-0-0	0-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	3-0-0	6-1-0	3-1-0	3-1-0
vs. Vanderbilt	0-0-0	4-1-0	0-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	6-0-0	0-0-0	5-0-1	4-1-0
vs. Georgia	0-0-0	INJ	9-0-0	INJ	0-0-0	7-0-1	2-0-0	4-0-0	8-0-0
vs. Louisville	1-0-0	0-0-0	5-1-0	INJ	0-0-0	7-0-1	1-0-0	7-0-0	6-1-0





2022 GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

TURNOVERS

Opponent	FORCED BY KENTUCKY					FORCED BY OPPONENT			
	Fum	Int	Tot	Margin	UK Pts Off	Fum	Int	Tot	Opp Pts Off
vs. Miami (Ohio)	1	0	1	0	7	0	1	1	0
at Florida	0	2	2	1	14	0	1	1	7
vs. Youngstown State	0	1	1	-2	0	1	2	3	0
vs. Northern Illinois	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	1	7
at Ole Miss	0	0	0	-2	0	2	0	2	0
vs. South Carolina	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	7
vs. Mississippi State	0	1	1	-1	0	1	1	2	7
at Tennessee	0	0	0	-3	0	0	3	3	7
at Missouri	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	1	1	2	+1	3	0	1	1	0
vs. Georgia	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
vs. Louisville	1	2	3	+3	10	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	6	9	15	-2	34	6	11	17	38

KENTUCKY BIG PLAYS

Opponent	RUSHING					PASSING				SPECIAL TEAMS	
	15+	20+	30+	40+	50+	20+	30+	40+	50+	Block	Return for TD
vs. Miami (Ohio)	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	1	1
at Florida	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	1
vs. Youngstown State	2	1	0	0	0	6	1	1	1	0	0
vs. Northern Illinois	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	3	2	0	0
at Ole Miss	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
vs. South Carolina	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Mississippi State	2	1	1	1	0	5	4	1	1	0	0
at Tennessee	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	4	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	0
vs. Louisville	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	24	6	1	2	1	36	19	11	6	1	2

OPPONENT BIG PLAYS

Opponent	RUSHING					PASSING				SPECIAL TEAMS	
	15+	20+	30+	40+	50+	20+	30+	40+	50+	Block	Return for TD
vs. Miami (Ohio)	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Youngstown State	2	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0
vs. Northern Illinois	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0
at Ole Miss	3	2	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0
vs. South Carolina	3	2	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0
vs. Mississippi State	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1 (INT)
at Tennessee	2	2	2	0	0	3	3	1	1	1	0
at Missouri	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	3	3	2	2	1	3	2	1	0	1	0
vs. Georgia	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
vs. Louisville	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	19	5	5	1	26	12	5	3	4	1

DRIVE CHART STATISTICS

Opponent	No.	Avg Plays	Avg Yds	For TD	Avg Plays	Avg Yds
vs. Miami (Ohio)	9	6.7	39.2	3	5.3	57.0
at Florida	12	5.2	22.7	2	2.5	36.5
vs. Youngstown State	11	6.5	43.6	4	8.3	62.5
vs. Northern Illinois	10	5.9	32.7	3	7.3	59.0
at Ole Miss	10	6.1	32.8	3	6.8	44.3
vs. South Carolina	11	4.7	27.2	2	11.5	65.5
vs. Mississippi State	10	7.3	47.8	3	6.7	77.0
at Tennessee	11	5.7	18.6	1	9.0	71.0
at Missouri	12	5.0	21.0	3	7.3	54.3
vs. Vanderbilt	9	6.0	35.8	2	2.0	69.0
vs. Georgia	8	7.0	36.9	1	9.0	99.0
vs. Louisville	10	6.1	34.6	2	4.0	51.0



2022 EXPLOSIVE PLAYS

RUNS 15+

Smoke
 18 yards
 15 yards
 27 yards
 3 rush., 60 yards, 20.0 avg., 1 TD

Levis
 24 yards
 1 rush, 24 yards, 24.0 avg.

McClain
 17 yards
 16 yards
 28 yards
 16 yards
 4 rush, 77 yards, 19.3 avg.

Cummings
 23 yards
 1 rush, 23 yards, 23.0 avg.

Rodriguez Jr.
 18 yards
 20 yards
 47 yards
 16 yards*
 16 yards
 15 yards
 25 yards
 23 yards
 18 yards
 72 yards*
 15 yards
 15 yards
 20 yards
 13 rush, 319 yards, 24.5 avg., 2 TD

Sheron
 15 yards
 1 rush, 15 yards, 15.0 avg.

Wright
 15 yards
 1 rush, 15 yards, 15.0 avg.

Total: 24 rush for 534 yards, 22.3 avg, 3 TD

RECEIVING 20+

Robinson
 45 yards
 41 yards
 22 yards
 69 yards*
 40 yards*
 27 yards
 25 yards
 7 rec., 269 yards, 38.4 avg., 2 TD

Brown
 38 yards
 70 yards*
 30 yards
 51 yards
 33 yards
 39 yards
 31 yards
 42 yards
 47 yards
 21 yards
 10 rec., 411 yards, 41.1 avg. 1 TD

Key
 55 yards*
 23 yards
 29 yards

31 yards
 22 yards*
 29 yards
 6 rec., 189 yards, 31.5 avg. 2 TD

Magwood
 25 yards
 22 yards
 26 yards
 3 rec., 73 yards, 24.3 avg. 0 TD

Upshaw
 22 yards
 1 rec., 22 yards, 22.0 avg. 0 TD

Bates
 23 yards
 23 yards
 2 rec., 46 yards, 23.0 avg. 0 TD

D. Harris
 58 yards
 1 rec., 58 yards, 58.0 avg. 0 TD

C. Lewis
 20 yards
 1 rec., 20 yards, 20.0 avg.

McClain
 31 yards
 1 rec., 31 yards, 31.0 avg.

R. Lewis
 21 yards
 1 rec., 21 yards, 21.0 avg.

Crowdus
 50 yards
 1 rec., 50 yards, 50.0 avg.

Jo. Dingle
 24 yards
 1 rec., 24 yards, 24.0 avg.

Kattus
 70 yards
 1 rec., 70 yards, 70.0 avg.

Total: 32 rec. for 1151 yards, 36.0 avg., 5 TD

KICK RETURNS 30+

Brown
 100 yards*
 85 yards
 54 yards
 3 return, 239 yards, 79.7 avg., 1 TD

Total: 3 return for 239 yards, 79.7 avg, 1 TD

PUNT RETURNS 20+

Robinson
 23 yards
 1 return, 23 yards, 23.0 avg., 0 TD

Total: 1 return for 23 yards, 23.0 avg., 0 TD

DEFENSIVE RETURNS 20+

K. Smith - 23 yards (fumble)
 K. Smith - 65 yards (INT)*
 C. Valentine - 21 yards (fumble)
 Lovett - 34 yards (INT)

Total: 4 returns for 143 yards, 35.8 avg., 1 TD

UK LONG PLAYS (20+) BY THE NUMBERS

20+ Plays By Yards	No.	TD
100+	1	1
90-99	1	1
80-89	1	0
70-79	3	2
60-69	2	2

50-59	5	0
40-49	6	1
30-39	11	0
20-29	28	1
TOTAL	55	8

20+ Plays By Type	No.	TD
Rushing	4	1
Passing	37	4
Punt returns	1	0
Kick returns (30+)	3	1
Interceptions	2	1
Fumble returns	2	0
TOTAL	55	8

OPPONENT BIG PLAYS

Total:	
Run (15+)	27 for 699 yds
Receiving (20+)	24 for 860 yds
Kick Returns (30+)	1 for 42 yds
Punt Returns (20+)	1 for 30 yds
Defensive Returns (20+)	3 for 152 yds
TOTAL: 55 for 1,741 yards (31.7 avg.)	



CATS ON THE MAP

The 2022 Football roster is comprised of 17 different states and Australia



Alabama (6)

Birmingham	Lucas Padgett
Clanton	Kory Albert
Fairfield	Kobi Albert
Florence	Dee Beckwith
Huntsville	Kahlil Saunders
Tuscaloosa	Jacquez Jones

Delaware (2)

Bridgeville	Noah Matthews
Middletown	Tomiwa Durojaiye

Florida (5)

Apopka	Tashawn Manning
Fort Lauderdale	Jordan Wright
Miami	Sam Anaefe
Sanford	Kenneth Horsey
West Palm Beach	Jarard Mosely Keidron Smith

Georgia (7)

Atlanta	Andre Stewart
Columbus	Josh Jones
Dublin	D'Eryk Jackson
Jesup	Trevin Wallace
Union Grove	Taj Dodson
Rochelle	Martez Thrower
Sugar Hill	Dylan Gary

Illinois (1)

Lake Forest	Jai Williams
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Kentucky (33)

Belfry	Isaac Dixon
Bowling Green	Jordan Dingle Justice Dingle Vito Tisdale

Danville

Eminence	Abelardo Reza
Jackson	Braxton Eiserman
Lexington	Jager Burton Dekel Crowdus Jr. Trey Dennis Dane Key Jack Monday
Louisville	Alex Bascom Richard Bascom Izayah Cummings Kiyaunta Goodwin Jordan Morrow Elijah Reed Jackson Schulz Jack Varga J.J. Weaver Lavell Wright
Nicholasville	Eli Cox
Paintsville	Grant Bingham
Radcliff	Isaiah Beasley Jordan Lovett Octavious Oxendine
Richmond	Dillon Wheatley
Science Hill	Jase Bruner
Somerset	Kaiya Sheron
Stamping Ground	Jonathan Berry
Upton	Clay Perry

Louisville

Cole Lanter
Jackson Smith

Nicholasville

William Nalty

Louisiana (1)

Metairie	William Nalty
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Michigan (6)

Detroit	Deondre Buford Jeremy Flax Justin Rogers DeAndre Square Deone Walker
West Bloomfield	Maxwell Hairston

Mississippi (3)

Horn Lake	Josai Hayes
Lake Cormorant	Cade Degraw
Tylertown	Jordan Anthony

New Mexico (1)

Rio Rancho	Londyn Craft
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New York (1)

Bronx	Ramon Jefferson
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Ohio (18)

Cincinnati	Alex Afari Brenden Bates Darrion Henry-Young Josh Kattus Chris Oats Brandon White Quintin Wilson
Centerville	Matt Ruffolo
Cleveland	Colin Goodfellow
Columbus	Jamarius Dinkins
Fairfield	JuTahn McClain
Ironton	Angelo Washington
Lima	Keaton Upshaw
Mansfield	Tyrell Ajjan
Mason	Paul Rodriguez
Stow	David Wohlabaugh Jr.
Youngstown	Luke Fulton Sean O'Horo

Pennsylvania (1)

Pittsburgh	Tyrese Fearbry
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South Carolina (4)

Anderson	Andru Phillips Chance Poore
Columbia	Jalen Geiger Jordan Robinson

Tennessee (5)

Dickson	Tre'vonn Rybka
Nashville	Barion Brown
Spring Hill	Brady Pierce Destin Wade Keaten Wade

Texas (5)

Austin	Nik Hall
Fort Worth	Edward McKee Josh Terrell
Houston	Zion Childress
Southlake	Deuce Hogan

Virginia (1)

Virginia Beach	Tayvion Robinson
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AUSTRALIA (1)

Maribyrnong	Wilson Berry
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2022 SOCIAL MEDIA ROSTER

Name	Twitter	Instagram
Alex Afari	AlexAfari8	afari_2
Tyrell Ajian	_tyrellajian	_tyrellajian
Kobi Albert	e_jakobi	kobialbert11
Kory Albert	rm_kory	rm.kory
Sam Anaele	Ebukasammie	samanaele91
Jordan Anthony	jordananthony_6	dareal.6ix
Alex Bascom	BascomAlexander	alexander_bascom
Richard Bascom	rbascom12345	richard_bascom
Brenden Bates	BatesBrenden	brenden_bates_
Isaiah Beasley	isaiahbeasleyy	isaiahbeasleyy
Dee Beckwith	beckwith2	2beck_
Jonathan Berry	j_berry64	J_berry10
Wilson Berry	Wilsonberry61	n/a
Grant Bingham	GrantBingham2	grant_bingham65_
Barion Brown	BarionBrown	ba7ion
Jase Bruner	Jasebruner1	bruner.1
Deondre Buford	Deondrebufford56	n/a
Jager Burton	Jager_burton	jagerburton
Zion Childress	ZionChildress	freechamp
Eli Cox	Elicox59	elicox75
Londyn Craft	n/a	n/a
Dekel Crowdus	n/a	dekel.crowdus
Izayah Cummings	IzayahCummings	izayahcummings
Cade Degraw	DegrawCade	c_degraw46
Trey Dennis	Trey3dennis	treywdennis
Justice Dingle	Justicedingle21	justicedingle52
Jordan Dingle	Jordandingle21	jordandingle21
Jamarius Dinkins	Spider55k	spideroffthatdawg
Isaac Dixon	isaac_dixon3	isaac.dixon_3
Taj Dodson	Superman29306	tmt_taj
Tomiwa Durojaiye	TomiwaDurojaiye	bigtomi_
Braxton Eiserman	Eiserman46	braxtonsladeeiser-man
Tyrese Fearbry	FearbryTyrese	tyrese_42
Jeremy Flax	FlaxNotFlex	biggflax
Luke Fulton	Lukefulton_11	lfulton.10
Dylan Gary	Dylangary23	dylangary19
Jalen Geiger	jalengeiger	jalengeiger
Colin Goodfellow	goodfellowcolin	colingoodfellow
Kiyaunta Goodwin	K_Goodwin2022	kiyauntagoodwin
Maxwell Hairston	Mhairston22	mhairston22
Nik Hall	nikolashall6	the_nh70
Josaih Hayes	josaihhayes	josaihhayes
Darrion Henry-Young	darrion_henry	iamdhenry
Deuce Hogan	n/a	deucehogan
Kenneth Horsey	Work_horse68	kennethhorsey68
D'Eryk Jackson	Derykjackson4	derykjackson
Ramon Jefferson	Jefferson1Ramon	ramonjefferson26
Jacquez Jones	ESPN_jac	quezjones10
Josh Jones	almightybugg	bu_gg
Josh Kattus	Jkattus	joshkattus84
Dane Key	DaneKey6	dane6k_
Cole Lanter	coelanterr	coelanterr
Jordan Lovett	Jordan_Lovett1	n/a
Tashawn Manning	tashawn544	tae_boogie56
Noah Matthews	_noahhhhhh	n/a
JuTahn McClain	JuTahn	jutahn
Edward McKee	emckee33	emckee2
Jack Monday	JackHMonday	jack_monday7

Jarard Mosely	jarardmosely	jarardmosely
William Nalty	NaltyW	nalty38
Sean O'Horo	sean_ohoro	seanohoro6
Chris Oats	ChristopherOats	chrisoats22
Octavious Oxendine	Octaviousoxend1	octavi8us
Lucas Padgett	Lucas_padgett71	lucas_padgett58
Clay Perry	Clayperry12	clay.perry_
Andru Phillips	AndruPhillips	druPhillips_
Brady Pierce	brady_pierce13	bradypierce_13
Chance Poore	Chance_poore16	chance_poore12
Elijah Reed	E_Reed2022	eli._reed24
Abelardo Reza	RezaAbelardo	a.reza1614
Tayvion Robinson	RobinsonTayvion	tayvionrobinson
Jordan Robinson	n/a	jayyrob_
Chris Rodriguez Jr	Crod_jr	Crod_jr
Paul Rodriguez	PaulRod67	paul.rodriguez67
Justin Rogers	AllAmerican52JR	allamerican_jr
Matt Ruffolo	n/a	matthew_ruffolo
Tre'vonn Rybka	trevonnrybka	trevonnrybka
Kahlil Saunders	Kahlil_Saunders	theofficial_kahlil
Jackson Schulz	JacksonSchulz9	Jackson_schulz_
Kaiya Sheron	Kaiyasher0n2	kaiyasher0n
Keidron Smith	KeidronS	_keibo
Jackson Smith	jacksonsmithh27	jackson.smith14
DeAndre Square	d_square10	_deandresquare
Andre Stewart	andrestewartOS	thetrueuno
Tae Tae Crumes	FyflgTaeTae	ttc.82
Josh Terrell	n/a	joshterrell_
Martez Thrower	ThrowerMartez	_martezthrower
Vito Tisdale	vitotisdale7	ykvito
Carrington Valentine	Run_carri7	Carringtonvalentine
Jack Varga	Jack_varga22	jackvarga22
Destin Wade	Destinwade1	destin.wade
Keaten Wade	keatenwade	keatenwade
Deone Walker	deonewalker51	deonewalker51
Trevin Wallace	WallaceTrevin	wallacetrevin
Angelo Washington	AngeloW200425	angelowashington25
J.J. Weaver	jjtimeee	jjtimee
Dillon Wheatley	Wheatley_dillon	dillonwheatley
Brandon White	Bwhite3	brandonw6ix
Jai Williams	JaiWilliams_9	jaiwilliams_
Quintin Wilson	Q_wil42	quintin_wilson
David Wohlabaugh	WohlabaughDavid	david_wohlabaugh
Jordan Wright	JayyDubb15	jaydub15
La'Ve'll Wright	Lavell3421	vell.wright



2022 PLAYER BIOGRAPHIES

Breakdown by Class

Super Seniors (11)

Tyrell Ajian
Londyn Craft *
Colin Goodfellow *
Ramon Jefferson *
Jacquez Jones
Tashawn Manning
William Nalty
Matt Ruffolo
Keidron Smith
DeAndre Square
David Wright

Seniors (13)

Alex Bascom
Richard Bascom
Brenden Bates *
Cade Degraw
Justice Dingle
Braxton Eiserman
Kenneth Horsey
Jordan Morrow
Chance Poore
Tayvion Robinson
Jack Varga
Dillon Wheatley
Quintin Wilson

Juniors (17)

Kory Albert *
Isaiah Beasley
Jase Bruner
Eli Cox
Izayah Cummings
Taj Dodson
Jeremy Flax
Luke Fulton
Jalen Geiger *
Josaih Hayes
D'Eryk Jackson
JuTahn McClain
Octavious Oxendine
Clay Perry
Justin Rogers
Vito Tisdale *
J.J. Weaver

Sophomores (15)

Sam Anaele
Jonathan Berry
Deondre Buford
Zion Childress
Trey Dennis *
Darrion Henry-Young
Deuce Hogan
Josh Jones *
Lucas Padgett
Andru Phillips
Jordan Robinson
Tre'Vonn Rybka
Martez Thrower
Trevin Wallace
Jai Williams

r-Freshmen (12)

Wilson Berry
Jager Burton
Dekel Crowdus Jr.
Jordan Dingle
Jamarius Dinkins
Maxwell Hairston
Jordan Lovett
Paul Rodriguez
Kahlil Saunders *
Kaiya Sheron
David Wohlabaugh
La'Vell Wright

Freshmen (31)

Alex Afari Jr.
Kobi Albert
Jordan Anthony
Grant Bingham
Barion Brown
Isaac Dixon
Tomiwa Durojaiye
Tyrese Fearby
Dylan Gary
Kiyaunta Goodwin
Nikolas Hall
Josh Kattus
Dane Key
Cole Lanter *
Noah Matthews
Edward McKee *
Jarard Mosely
Jack Monday
Sean O'Horo
Brady Pierce
Elijah Reed
Abelardo Reza
Jackson Schulz
Jackson Smith
Andre Stewart *
Josh Terrell
Destin Wade
Keaten Wade
Deone Walker
Angelo Washington
Brandon White

* Out of the bowl game with injury



3

ALEX
AFARI JR.

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-2 • 203 • Freshman-HS
Cincinnati, Ohio (Lakota West)

2022 (Freshman)

- Has played in all 12 games with three starts
- Has totaled 21 tackles, 3.0 tackles for loss, one sack and one quarterback hurry
- Charted his first collegiate sack in the season opener vs. Miami Ohio ... Totaled six tackles in his debut and also shared a tackle for loss in addition to the sack
- Led UK with five tackles in the win over Youngstown State ... Also had a tackle for loss
- Earned his first collegiate start and recorded three tackles in the win over Northern Illinois

High School

- Rated a four-star by Rivals, 247Sports and on3.com
- 247sports ranked him as the No. 214 overall player in the nation and No. 9 athlete
- Ranked as the No. 34 cornerback in the nation and No. 12 player in Ohio by Rivals
- on3 had him No. 25 nationally and No. 12 in Ohio
- Named first-team Division I All-Ohio by the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association and first-team All-City Division I by the Southwest Ohio Football Coaches Association in 2021 after leading the Firebirds to an 11-2 overall record
- Had 60 tackles and six touchdowns as a senior
- Helped Lakota West win the Greater Miami Conference as a junior with 16 tackles and pair of interceptions, one for a touchdown
- Earned first -team All-Conference, All-Southwest Ohio and All-State honors
- Coached by Tom Bolden
- Participated in the Under Armour All-American camp last summer
- Also a two-year letter winner in basketball as a small forward
- Selected UK over Michigan State and Cincinnati

Personal

- Last name rhymes with "safari"
- Born in Pordenone, Italy
- Son of Mary Acheamong who originated from Ghana
- Has two brothers, David and Sam
- Brother, David, is Lakota West's second all-time leading rusher who played two seasons at Miami (Ohio) before transferring to Northern Colorado in 2022
- Major is pre-communication

Alex Says

- His nickname is "A2"
- He chose Kentucky because of the people

- Three words to describe him are humble, respectful, and funny
- The one thing most people don't know about him is that he speaks fluent Twi (a dialect of the Akan language spoken in southern and central Ghana)
- His favorite family recipe that he likes to eat and make is jollof rice

AFARI'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	INT	QBH	Blk
2022	DB	12-3	21	1.0-5	3.0-10	0/0	0	0	1	0
Totals	12-3	21	1.0-5	3.0-10	0/0	0	0	0	1	0

AFARI'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	INT	QBH	Blk
vs. Miami (OH)	6	1.0-5	1.5-7	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	5	0-0	1.0-2	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss*	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State*	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	2	0-0	0.5-1	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. UofL	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1	0
Totals	21	1.0-5	3.0-10	0/0	0	0	1	0

AFARI'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 6, vs. Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022
Sacks: 1.0, vs. Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022
Tackle for loss: 1.5, vs. Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022 (7 yards)
Quarterback hurry: 1, vs. Louisville, Nov 26, 2022



6

TYRELL
AJIAN

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-0 • 193 • %Senior-4L
Mansfield, Ohio (Madison Comprehensive)

2022 - %Super Senior

- Elected to return for a sixth year, taking advantage of the NCAA's ruling to grant an extra year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Four-year letter winner who has played in 60 career games with 34 starting assignments
- Has totaled 152 tackles, 11 pass breakups, four interceptions, three forced fumbles, 1.5 TFLs and 1.0 sack in his career
- Started in 11 games played this season
- Did not play vs. Georgia with injury



- Has 31 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, 1.0 sacks, two pass breakups and a team-high tying two forced fumbles this season
- One of his forced fumbles came in the season opener vs. Miami Ohio ... Also had three tackles
- Got a season-high five tackles in the win at Florida
- His second forced fumble happened vs. South Carolina ... Added four tackles and his first career sack

2021 - Senior

- Saw action in all 13 games with 11 starts at safety
- Totaled 46 tackles, four pass breakups and one of UK's nine interceptions
- Had a career-high tying eight tackles and a career-best two pass breakups in the win over No. 10/9 Florida
- Had a 95-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter vs. UTC ... Marked his first collegiate score and the fourth interception of his career ... Tied for the third-longest interception return in school history and the longest since David Johnson's 95-yard TD return at Cincinnati in 1986 ... Marked the longest UK interception return in Commonwealth Stadium/Kroger Field history
- Led the Wildcats with a career-high eight tackles vs. Missouri

2020 - Junior

- Started at safety in 10 of 11 games played
- Totaled 48 tackles, an interception, a forced fumble, a PBU and a blocked kick
- Blocked a field goal attempt in the second quarter vs. No. 23 NC State in the Gator Bowl, the first blocked kick of his career and UK's second blocked field goal of the season, also Jamin Davis vs. Georgia
- Made a career-high seven tackles vs. the Wolfpack
- Had his third career interception in the win over No. 18 Tennessee

2019 - Sophomore

- Played in 12 games with two starting assignments (Florida and Miss. State) at safety
- Totaled 17 tackles, an interception and a PBU
- Recorded a career-high tying three tackles vs. Vanderbilt, Eastern Michigan and at South Carolina
- In his first career start, had two tackles and an interception vs. Florida, his second career INT
- Dean's List (Fall 2019)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2018 - r-Freshman

- Saw action in all 13 games
- Finished the season with 10 tackles, three PBUs and one INT
- Made his first career interception and also had a pass breakup in Kentucky's 28-7 win over Mississippi State ... With MSU threatening to tie the game early in the fourth quarter, his third-down pass breakup forced a punt ... On the next possession, with MSU again threatening to tie, he intercepted a pass and returned it 35 yards ... His long return set up a touchdown run on the next play, giving UK a two-TD lead
- Recorded two tackles vs. Murray State, his first career action

2017 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- Combination athlete in high school, playing defensive back, wide receiver and quarterback
- Four-star prospect by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
- Rivals ranks him the No. 10 overall prospect in the state of Ohio and the No. 23 athlete in the class of 2017
- ESPN has him as the No. 8 safety in the country
- Four-year letter winner and three-year starter for Coach Jamie Masi at Madison Comprehensive
- First-team OCC All-Conference and honorable mention second-team All-Northwest Ohio in 2016 after averaging 9.0 tackles per game
- Nominated for the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl
- Had three interceptions and 54 tackles as a junior, along with 783 receiving yards, 551 rushing yards and 19 touchdowns
- OCC Offensive Player of the Year and first-team Offense All-Northwest Ohio in 2015
- Also excelled on the basketball court, becoming a member of Madison's 1,000-point club during his senior season
- Chose Kentucky over Michigan, Michigan State, and West Virginia

Personal

- Name is pronounced "Ajian (A-Gin)"
- Born in Ashland, Ohio
- Son of Nikki Ajian and Burton Hester
- Graduated in May of 2022 with a degree in family science and a minor in coaching ... Currently working on a second degree in communication with a minor in sociology

Tyrell Says

- His nickname is "Ty"
- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home
- One word to describe him on the field is "ball hawk"
- The one thing he's looking forward to this season is continuing what the guys started last year
- When he played football as a kid he pretended to be Terrell Owens

AJIAN'S CAREER STATISTICS										
Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	INT	PBU	Blk	
2018	S	13-0	10	0-0	0-0	0/0	1-35	3	0	
2019	S	12-2	17	0-0	0-0	0/0	1-22	1	0	
2020	S	11-10	48	0-0	0-0	1/0	1-0	1	1	
2021	S	13-11	46	0-0	0-0	0/0	1-95	4	0	
2022	S	11-11	31	1.0-10	1.5-11	2/0	0	2	0	
Totals		60-34	152	1.0-10	1.5-11	3/0	4-152	11	1	

AJIAN'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	INT	QBH	Blk
vs. Miami OH*	3	0-0	0-0	1/0	0	0	0	0
at Florida*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU*	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	0	0
vs. USC*	4	1.0-10	1.0-10	1/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. St.*	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee*	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	4	0-0	0.5-1	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vandy*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	0	0
vs. Georgia			DNP					
vs. UofL	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	1.0-10	1.5-11	2/0	2	0	0	0

AJIAN'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	INT	QBH	Blk
vs. ULM*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Missouri*	8	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. UTC*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1-95	0	0
at USC*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Florida*	8	0-0	0-0	0/0	2	0	0	0
vs. LSU*	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	0	0
at Georgia*	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Miss. State*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
NMST*	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Louisville	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa*	7	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	0	0
Totals	39	0-0	0-0	0/0	4	1-95	0	0

AJIAN'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	INT	QBH	Blk
at Auburn*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Ole Miss*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	0	0
at Tennessee*	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1	0	0
at Missouri	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt*	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
at Alabama*	3	0-0	0-0	1/0	0	0	0	0
at Florida*	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
vs. NC State*	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1
Totals	48	0-0	0-0	1/0	1	1	0	1

AJIAN'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC	PBU	INT	QBH
vs. Toledo	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. Eastern Michigan	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. Florida*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	1-22	0
at Miss. State*	2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
at South Carolina	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. Arkansas	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
at Georgia			DNP				
vs. Missouri	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0





AJIAN'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

vs. Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. UT Martin	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. Louisville	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. Va. Tech	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Totals	17	0-0	0-0	0	1	1-22	0

AJIAN'S 2018 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC	PBU	Int.	QBH
vs. Central Mich.	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. Murray State	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0-0	0
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1-35	0
vs. South Carolina	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
at TAMU	1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
at Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
vs. MTSU	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
at Louisville	1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
vs. Penn State	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Totals	10	0-0	0-0	0	3	1-35	0

AJIAN'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 8, twice, last vs Florida, Oct 2, 2021
Sacks: 1, vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022 (10 yards)
Tackles for loss: 0.5, at Missouri, Nov. 5, 2022 (1 yard)
Blocked kicks: 1, vs NC State, Jan 2, 2021
Interceptions: 1, 4x, last vs UTC, Sept 18, 2021 (1-95)
Forced Fumble: 1, 3x, last vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022
Pick Six: 1, at UTC, Sept 13, 2021 (95)
Pass breakups: 2, vs Florida, Oct 2, 2021



16

KOBI
ALBERT

DEFENSIVE BACK

5-11 • 185 • Freshman-HS
Fairfield, Ala. (Fairfield Prep)

2022 - Freshman

- Has seen action in nine career games (Youngstown State, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Miss. State, Tennessee, Missouri, Vanderbilt, Georgia and Louisville)
- Got his first career tackle vs. the Vols
- Recorded his first kickoff return at Missouri for one yard

High School

- Considered one of the 20 best athletes in America
- A four-star recruit who ranked as the No. 12 prospect in the state of Alabama according Rivals and the No. 20 "athlete" in the nation

- 247Sports Composite lists him as the No. 17 athlete in the state and No. 21 nationally in his position
- A two-way player, who lined up at wide receiver and defensive back at Fairfield Prep for head coach Keon Handley
- Totaled 12 touchdowns in 2021, helping Fairfield to a 7-4 record
- Also made 31 tackles and snagged four interceptions
- As a junior, caught 30 passes for 555 yards and eight touchdowns
- Additionally, returned five kickoffs for 147 yards and a TD and made 29 tackles on defense
- Also an excellent basketball player
- Chose UK over Auburn, Maryland and Michigan

Personal

- Born in Annapolis, Maryland
- Son of Orlita Albert-Lacy and Bernardus Lacy
- Siblings are Bernardus Jr. Lacy, Braelyn Lacy and Kory Albert
- Older brother, Kory, is a member of the UK football team as well

Kobi Says

- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home
- One word to describe him on the field is "exciting"
- One thing people don't know about him is that he can do a back flip
- When he played football as a kid he pretend to be Super Man
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a sports analyst



27

KORY
ALBERT

LINEBACKER

6-3 • 215 • Junior-Tr
Clanton, Ala. (UAB/Chilton County)

High School/Previous Schools

- Two-year letterman and starter at Chilton County High School for head coach Tal Morrison
- Played defensive back and linebacker for the Tigers
- An all-round athlete ... Also a three-year letterwinner as a point guard and small forward on the basketball team and a two-year letterwinner as a catcher and center fielder on the baseball team
- After high school, attended Shelton State (Spring '19), New Mexico Junior College (Fall, '20), Alabama (2020) and UAB (Spring '21, Spring '22) before transferring to UK for the fall of 2022

Personal

- Born in Birmingham, Alabama
- Son of Orlita Albert-Lacy and Bernardus Lacy
- Siblings are Bernardus Jr. Lacy, Braelyn Lacy and Kobi Albert

- Younger brother, Kobi, is a freshman DB on the team as well
- Major is pre-finance

Kory Says

- His nickname is "Kory," derived from his real name Al'Koryan
- He chose Kentucky because UK gave him an opportunity
- After football, his dream job would be acting or in front of a camera in some capacity
- Three words to describe him are intellectual, charismatic and smooth
- The best advice he's ever received is "live in the moment"



91

SAM
ANAELE

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-4 • 287 • Sophomore-SQ
Lagos, Nigeria (McDougle Technical Institute)

2022 - Sophomore

- Missed the first seven games dealing with an injury
- Got his first action of the season at Tennessee and also saw action vs. Louisville

2021 - r-Freshman

- Played in three games vs. ULM, Louisville and Iowa
- Got a career-high two tackles, including 1.0 tackle for loss vs. the Cards
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Moved to defensive end from outside linebacker

2020 - Freshman

- Redshirt season as an outside linebacker
- Mid-year enrollee in Jan. 2020
- Saw action in one game vs. South Carolina
- 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Four-star recruit by 247Sports Composite and Rivals rankings
- Ranked the No. 96 overall player in the class by Rivals and the No. 5 weakside defensive end
- The No. 16 player in talent-rich state of Florida according to Rivals
- Selected to the 2020 Under Armour All-America Game
- Has been timed at 4.9 in the 40-yard dash
- Had 38 total tackles, 19 tackles for loss and seven sacks as a senior at McDougle Technical Institute Preparatory
- Coached by Norman Richards
- Picked Kentucky over Miami, South Florida, Florida, Colorado and others

Community Cats

- Real Men Read (2021) – Volunteered to read to a group of first graders at Yates Elementary three times during the season



- Volunteered at Brenda Cowan Elementary (2020)

Personal

- Named is pronounced Sam "ah-NEL-lee"
- Born in Lagos, Nigeria
- Son of Steven Anaele
- Began athletic career on the basketball court and has only been playing football five years
- Majoring in communication

Sam Says

- His nickname is "Bax"
- He chose Kentucky so he could to play football at the highest level and get a high-level education
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to work in business management/communications
- One way to describe him on the field is "hard-nosed"
- His hidden talent is writing

ANAELE'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	Blks	Int	FF/FR	QBH
2020	OLB	1-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0/0	0
2021	DE	3-0	2	1.0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0/0	0
2021	DE	2-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0/0	0
Totals	6-0	2	1.0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	0/0	0

ANAELE'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF/FR	Blks	Int	QBH
at Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. UofL	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0

ANAELE'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF/FR	Blks	Int	QBH
vs. ULM	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
at Louisville	2	1.0-2	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	2	1.0-2	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0

ANAELE'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF/FR	Blks	Int	QBH
vs. USC	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0

ANAELE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 2, at Louisville, Nov 27, 2021
 Tackles for loss: 1.0, at Louisville, Nov 27, 2021 (2 yards)



13

JORDAN ANTHONY

WIDE RECEIVER

5-9 • 155 • Freshman-HS
Tylertown, Miss (Tylertown)

2022 (Freshman)

- Set to be a two-sport athlete at Kentucky in football and track & field
- Won the U-20 National Track 200-meter title with a personal-record 20.34 seconds, defeating a decorated field of college sprinters at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon in June of 2022
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Youngstown St.

High School

- A four-star recruit by on3.com, one of the top 75 wide receivers nationally and the No. 12 recruit in Mississippi
- A three-star recruit who ranks as the No. 15 prospect in the state of Mississippi according to the 247Sports and is the No. 44 "athlete" in the nation in the class of 2022
- Helped the Chiefs finish the regular season 10-0 as a senior and advance to the Mississippi High School Athletic Association 3A South Football Playoffs
- Totaled 27 receptions for 525 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior
- Also played safety on defense and serving as the team's primary punt returner
- Averaged 23.4 yards per reception and posted a 40 percent touchdown rate
- Coached by Eddie Waites
- On the track, the speedster was deemed the "fastest high schooler in the world" after finishing with a 10.14 in the 100- and 20.34 in the 200-meters at the U20 Championship in April of 2022
- Named to the 2021 Boys High School All-America Team, the first Mississippi winner since Calvin Smith in 1979, by Track & Field News
- Won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.21 seconds at The Outdoor Nationals Presented by Nike at the University of Oregon
- Runner-up in the 200 in 20.57 seconds the same day, just eight-hundredths of a second behind the winner
- Both times were high school records for the state of Mississippi
- Also won the Class 3A 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Mississippi high school state championships Named Gatorade Mississippi Track and Field Athlete of the Year in 2021 and 2022
- Other honors include Adidas Indoor National Champion, Nike Hayward Outdoor National Champion, Adidas Boost Boston Champion and 3A State Champion
- Signed with UK over Ole Miss, Memphis, Houston and Boston College

Community Cats

- Visited Kentucky Children's Hospital (2022)

Personal

- Born in Palmdale Landcaster, California
- Son of Carvah Magee and the late Robert Jones
- Has four siblings, Ja'Kobi Magee, Journee Jones, Daunique Shields and Derrick Bowie

Jordan Says

- He chose Kentucky because of his relationship with the coaching staff
- In 10 years he hopes to be a professional football player and an Olympian
- What motivates him to work hard is everything he learned from his dad who has passed away in 2021
- Three words to describe him are fast, funny, and outgoing
- One thing he will never do again is run a 400-meter race



63

ALEX BASCOM

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-5 • 264 • Senior-SQ
Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)

2022 - Senior

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Junior

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2021)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Three-year letter winner for head coach Kevin Wallace
- Started at defensive end and helped lead the Tigers to 9-4 record as a senior, totaling 54 tackles and 7.0 sacks
- Named All-District as a senior
- Helped St. Xavier go 12-3 and finish as state runner up in 2017
- Also a two-year letter winner as a forward on the basketball team
- Member of the National Honor Society and was named to the President's List for excelling in the classroom
- Chose Kentucky over Butler, Jacksonville, and Louisville

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky



- Son of Theresa and Rich Bascom
- Has a twin brother, Richard, also on the team
- Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in business administration

Alex Says

- He chose Kentucky because he's been a fan his whole life and he liked the coaching staff
- After his football career, he would like to be a financial advisor
- Three words to describe him are respectable, reliable, and funny
- The best advice he's ever received is "always remember, things get better"
- The person he admires the most is his grandpa because he's always been able to make him laugh



64

RICHARD
BASCOM

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-5 • 269 • Senior-SQ
Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)

2022 - Senior

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Junior

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Three-year letter winner at Saint Xavier under head coach Kevin Wallace
- Started at defensive end and helped lead the Tigers to 9-4 record as a senior, totaling 68 tackles and 7.0 sacks
- Named All-State honorable mention and was a member of the *Courier Journal's* All-Metro Louisville football team as a senior
- Helped St. Xavier go 12-3 and finish as state runner up in 2017
- Also played basketball for two seasons
- Member of the National Honor Society
- Chose Kentucky over Butler, Jacksonville and Louisville

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky
- Son of Theresa and Rich Bascom
- Has a twin brother, Alex, also on the team
- Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in business administration

Richard Says

- He chose Kentucky because he wanted to experience the highest level of football
- After his football career, he would like to be an investment banker
- His sports hero is Justin Thomas because he's from Louisville and he's one of the greatest to ever play golf
- The three people he would invite to his fantasy dinner are Robert Herjavec, Donald Trump, and LeBron James
- The best advice he's ever received is "do what you think is right, not what others think is right"



80

BRENDEN
BATES

TIGHT END

6-5 • 264 • Senior-3L
Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)

2022 - Senior

- Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List
- Has seen action in 45 career games with 13 starting assignments
- Has totaled 22 career receptions for 183 yards and two scores
- Has played in 11 games with seven starts this season
- Did not play vs. Louisville with injury
- Has 10 receptions (fifth-highest on the team) for 99 yards and one score this season
- Hauled in his second-career touchdown on a six-yard reception in the first quarter vs. Miami (Ohio), his only reception of the game
- Had two catches for a career-best 47 yards in the win over Youngstown State

2021 - Junior

- Played in all 13 games with six starts in 2021
- Had 11 receptions for 70 yards (5.4) and one score
- Earned his first career start vs. ULM and also started vs. Missouri, LSU, Tennessee, Louisville and Iowa
- Caught a season-high tying two passes at No. 1 Georgia and vs. Tennessee
- Caught his first collegiate touchdown with a four-yard catch vs. ULM
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Played in six games in 2020
- Missed five games with injury
- Made his first collegiate catch, a 14-yarder in the third quarter, vs. Mississippi State

2019 - r-Freshman

- Saw action in 13 games, mostly on special teams

2018 - Freshman

- Saw action in two games
- Redshirt season

- First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- One of the nation's top-20 tight ends by Rivals
- Noted for his receiving ability, a difficult skill to find among tight ends in the high school ranks
- Caught 17 passes for 305 yards with 11 touchdowns as a senior at Archbishop Moeller in Cincinnati
- Totaled 250 yards receiving on 14 catches with five scores as a junior
- Two-time first-team All-Greater Catholic League selection
- Accepted an invitation to the 2018 Team USA Under-19 National Team for International Bowl IX
- Coached by John Rodenberg
- Three-year letter winner in track in the 200-meters and discus throw and was a power forward/center for two seasons on the basketball team
- Was a member of the Improv Club
- Received offers from the SEC, Big Ten, Big 12 and Atlantic Coast Conference, including schools such as Vanderbilt, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, West Virginia, Louisville and Pittsburgh

Personal

- Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Son of Doug and Kelly Bates
- Has two siblings, Morgan and Doug Jr.
- Comes from a family of athletes as father played football at Indiana, mother played volleyball at Morehead State, brother, Doug, played tight end at Toledo, sister, Morgan currently plays lacrosse at Cincinnati and grandfather, Gene Neff, played basketball at Kentucky under Coach Adolph Rupp from 1951-52
- Graduated in August with a degree in consumer economics and family financial counseling ... Is working on a second degree in communication

Brenden Says

- His nickname is "Batesy"
- Most people don't know that he is extremely good at the worm
- A muscular Will Ferrell or Chris Pratt would play him in a movie about his life
- If he could only eat three foods for the rest of his life he would choose spicy chicken sandwiches, carrots with ranch, and Philly cheese steaks
- The best part of being a Kentucky Wildcat is meeting great people and being a part of something special

BATES' CAREER STATISTICS							
Year	Pos.	G-GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
2018	TE	2-0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2019	TE	13-0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2020	TE	6-0	1	14	14.0	0	14
2021	TE	13-6	11	70	5.4	1	15
2022	TE	11-7	10	99	9.9	1	23
Totals		45-13	22	183	8.3	2	23





BATES' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Rec., Yds., TD, Long. Rows include vs. Miami Ohio, at Florida*, vs. YSU, vs. NIU*, at Ole Miss*, vs. USC*, vs. Miss. State*, at Tennessee*, at Missouri*, vs. Vanderbilt, vs. Georgia, vs. UofL, and Totals.

BATES' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Rec., Yds., TD, Long. Rows include vs. ULM*, vs. Missouri*, vs. UTC, at South Carolina, vs. Florida, vs. LSU*, at Georgia, at Miss. State, vs. Tennessee*, at Vanderbilt, vs. NMST, at Louisville*, vs. Iowa*, and Totals.

BATES' 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Rec., Yds., TD, Long. Rows include at Auburn, vs. Ole Miss, vs. Mississippi State, at Tennessee, at Missouri, vs. Georgia, vs. Vanderbilt, at Alabama, at Florida, vs. South Carolina, vs. NC State, and Totals.

BATES' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Receptions: 2, 7x, last vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022
Receiving yards: 46, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022 (2 receptions)
Long reception: 23, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022
Receiving touchdowns: 1, twice, last vs Miami Ohio, Sept 22, 2022



98
ISAIAH
BEASLEY

DEFENSIVE LINE

5-11 • 263 • Junior-SQ
Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)

2022 - Junior

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team
Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team
Dean's List (Fall 2020)
2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Three-year letter winner and two-year starter for head coach Brent Thompson at North Hardin High School
Helped lead the Trojans to a 13-1 overall record in 2019 and take the region and district championship before advancing to the KHSAA Class 6-A state semifinals
Voted team captain and totaled 39 tackles, 5.0 sacks, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries as a senior
Earned Select Preps Player of the Year and was a first-team All-Area selection by The News-Enterprise
Also a member of the baseball team
An excellent student who earned a 4.0 grade point average and was named first-team All-Academic by the KHSAA all four years of high school
Selected as a 2018 University of Kentucky Rising Scholar
Earned a certificate of nomination for the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists Award of Excellence
Nominated for Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders
Active in community service, helping build house frames for the homeless and serving breakfast to senior citizens
Member of the High School Ministry, the Pep Club and DECA
High school teammates with fellow Wildcats Darren Green and Oxtavious Oxendine
Chose Kentucky over Western Kentucky, Kentucky Wesleyan, and Liberty

Personal

- Born in Burglengenfeld, Germany
Son of Roderick and Tammy Beasley
Has one brother, Alex
Major is psychology

Isaiah Says

- His nickname is "Beaz"

- His dream job is to be a psychiatrist
One thing people may not know about him is that he writes left-handed and throws right-handed
His sports hero is Aaron Donald because he has proven that no matter your size as a defensive lineman, you can dominate and be successful
One word to describe him is "consistent"



21
DEE
BECKWITH

WIDE RECEIVER

6-5 • 230 • Sophomore-Tr
Florence, Ala. (Tennessee/Florence)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has played in three games this season (Youngstown State, Tennessee and Missouri)
Saw his first action at UK in the win over Youngstown State ... Had two carries for eight yards
Got a career-high three carries for 13 yards at No. 3 Tennessee

2021 - r-Freshman (Tennessee)

- Saw action in two games at Kentucky (11/05) and vs. South Alabama (11/20)
Had one carry for 2 yards vs. South Alabama

2020 - Freshman (Tennessee)

- Redshirt season
Played in the final three games of the season on special teams while also seeing limited action at running back
Had one carry in season finale vs. No. 5 Texas A&M (12/19)
Saw first action at running back, logging two career carries for 24 yards in win at Vanderbilt (12/12)
Ran over defenders on both carries against the Commodores
Made collegiate debut against No. 6 Florida (12/5), seeing action on special teams

High School

- A versatile player who starred at Florence High School, playing quarterback, running back and receiver
As a senior, totaled 1,055 rushing yards, 589 passing yards and 526 receiving yards to go along with 27 total touchdowns
A first-team All-State honoree who was a finalist for 7A Back of the Year and rated the No. 7 player in Alabama on the ASWA Super 12 All-State team
Led Florence to a 7-5 record and the second round of the 2019 Class 7A playoffs, helping the Falcons to their first playoff win in five years
2019 Times Daily (Florence, Ala.) Player of the Year for Class 4A-7A
A multi-sport athlete who also ran track and played basketball



Personal

- Born in Florence, Alabama
- Son of Dave and Carolyn Beckwith
- Has two brothers, Camryn and Dave
- Brother, Camryn, also played football at Tennessee for one season

Dee Says

- His nickname is "Dee"
- He chose Kentucky because of his relationship with Coach Stoops and he liked the city of Lexington
- One word to describe him on the field is "versatile"
- One thing most people don't know about him is that his real name is Damarcus
- After his football career he would like to be diesel mechanic; he is currently building his own custom truck

BECKWITH'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G-GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2020	3-0	3	25	8.3	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
2021	3-0	1	2	2.0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
2022	3-0	5	21	4.2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	8-0	9	48	5.3	0	12	0	0	0	0	0

BECKWITH'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
vs. YSU	2	8	0	5	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	3	13	0	7	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	5	21	0	7	0	0	0	0

BECKWITH'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
at Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. South Ala.	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

BECKWITH'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
vs. Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	2	24	0	12	0	0	0	0
vs. Texas A&M	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	25	0	12	0	0	0	0

BECKWITH'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Rush attempts: 3, at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022
Rush yards: 24, at Vanderbilt, Dec 12, 2021 (2 carries)
Long rush: 12, at Vanderbilt, Dec 12, 2021



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JONATHAN BERRY

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-5 • 284 • Sophomore-SQ
Stamping Ground, Ky. (Scott County)

2022 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Three-year letter winner and two-year starter at left tackle for head coach Jim McKee at Scott County High School
- Named second-team All-State by the Associated Press in 2020 after helping lead the Cardinals to a 9-1 record with more than 2,000 yards rushing and one of the state's top ground attacks
- As a junior, helped the Cardinals' offense generate 3,736 yards of rushing offense and finish with a 10-2 record and an appearance in the 6th District finals
- Member of the 6A state runner-up team in 2018
- Chose Kentucky over Georgetown College and University of the Cumberlands

Personal

- Born in Georgetown, Kentucky
- Son of Kevin and Melissa Berry
- Siblings are Alexandra and Daniel
- Brother, Daniel, was an offensive lineman at the University of the Cumberlands from 2014-17
- Major is sociology

Jonathan Says

- His nickname is "Berry"
- He chose Kentucky because he wanted to play for his home state school
- His dream job is to be a U.S. Marshal
- Besides football, he's also good at fishing
- The three famous people he would invite to his fantasy dinner are his great grandfather, Vin Diesel and "Stone Cold" Steve Austin



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WILSON BERRY

PUNTER

6-4 • 208 • Freshman-RS
Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Starting punter in the last three regular-season games vs. Vanderbilt, Georgia and Louisville after Colin Goodfellow's season-ending injury at the end of the Missouri game
- Got his first punt of the season in the fourth quarter at Missouri, a 35-yarder, for injured Colin Goodfellow
- Had his best game as a Wildcat against No. 1 Georgia, punting three times for a 46.7-yard average ... Boomed a career-long 53-yarder in the third quarter
- Had three punts for a 42.7-yard average, including a 39-yarder to the one-yard line late in the game in the win over Louisville
- Now has nine punts for 373 yards for a 41.4 average and four inside the 20-yard line

2021 - Freshman

- Had four punts for 148 yards (37.0) with one punt inside the 20-yard line in two games played
- Missed a majority of the season with a back injury
- Had two punts for 71 yards (35.5) in the season opener vs. ULM, his first collegiate action
- Also had two punts for a 77 yards (38.5) vs. Missouri
- Mid-year enrollee in January 2021

High School / Australian Rules Football

- Following in the footsteps of UK's two previous Aussie punters – Matt Panton (2017) and Max Duffy (2018-20), the 2019 Ray Guy Award winner as the nation's best punter
- Comes to UK from the auspices of ProKick Australia
- 247sports rated him as the No. 3 player out of Australia and the No. 7 punter in the 2020 recruiting class
- Coached by Nathan Chapman and John Smith at ProKick
- Following high school, played three years of Australian rules football for Essendon's team in the Victorian Football League
- Prior to footy, attended Maribyrnong College, previously known as Maribyrnong High School, that specializes in sports

Community Cats

- God's Pantry (2022) - Volunteered to pack food bags for a food drive

Personal

- Born in Ballarat, Victoria
- Son of Jason and Louise Berry
- Has three brothers, Jordan, Lachlan and Oscar
- Has one son, Leo, born in July of 2022





- Older brother, Jordan, played football at Eastern Kentucky and is currently the punter for the Minnesota Vikings ... Younger brother, Oscar, currently plays basketball at the University of North Florida
- Majoring in kinesiology
- Currently 23 years old (birthday is in June)
- While playing footy, held down a part-time job at Grill'd, a restaurant known for preparing healthy hamburgers ... Started as a waiter before being promoted to the kitchen as a cook and then as an assistant manager

Wilson Says

- His nickname is "Bangers"
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a physical therapist
- One word to describe him on the field is "silky"
- To calm butterflies before a game he watches Max Duffy highlights
- The best advice he's ever received is "life's uncertain, eat dessert first"

BERRY'S CAREER STATISTICS									
Year	G	Punts	Yds.	Avg.	TBs	FC	Inside 20	Long	50+
2021	2	4	148	37.0	0	4	1	39	0
2022	4	9	373	41.4	0	3	4	53	1
Totals	6	13	521	40.1	0	7	5	53	1

BERRY'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME					
Opponent	Punts	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Inside 20
at Missouri	1	35	35.0	35	1
vs. Vanderbilt*	2	70	35.0	40	2
vs. Georgia*	3	140	46.7	53	0
vs. UofL*	3	128	42.7	47	1
Totals	9	521	40.1	53	4

BERRY'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME					
Opponent	Punts	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Inside 20
vs. ULM*	2	71	35.5	39	1
vs. Missouri*	2	77	38.5	39	0
Totals	4	148	37.0	39	1

BERRY'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS
Punts: 3, twice, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Punt Yards: 140, vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022
Single-game Avg: 46.7, vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022
Long Punt: 53, vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022
Tackles: 1, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022



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GRANT BINGHAM

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-5 • 318 • Freshman-HS Johnson County, Ky. (Johnson Central)

2022-Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2022

High School

- A four-star recruit, considered a top-300 college football prospect in the country
- Listed as the No. 3 overall recruit in the Commonwealth via 247Sports and on3.com
- Helped lead Johnson Central to a 51-5 overall record during his four-year prep career, learning under the tutelage of the late and beloved head coach Jim Matney, who passed away in October after complications due to COVID-19
- Named the 2021 4A District 8 Player of the Year after leading the Eagles to a runner-up finish in the 4A KHSAA state championship title race
- Helped JCHS rush for 4,564 yards during the 2021 season
- Named to the Lexington Herald-Leader "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top seniors in Kentucky
- Kentucky Sports Radio 2021 All-State Football Team
- Member of Johnson Central's 2019 Class 4A state championship team that went 15-0
- Earned Football University (FBU) Freshman All-America honors in 2018
- Also an excellent tennis player
- Along with doubles partner Brayden Pickle, the duo advanced to Johnson Central's first regional team tennis championship match
- Member of the 2021 regional championship team
- Excelled in the classroom, carrying a 4.0 grade point average
- Received over 20 offers but ultimately chose UK over Notre Dame, Michigan and Miami

Personal

- Born in Frankfort, Kentucky
- Son of Robyn and Carl Bingham
- Has one brother, Ethan
- Major is pre-integrated strategic communication

Grant Says

- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a real estate firm CEO
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he plays tennis
- Three words to describe him are caring, motivated, and hardworking
- The best advice he's ever received is "eat or be eaten"
- If he could create a holiday he would celebrate milk and everyone would be required to drink at least one glass of milk. It would be called "MilkMas"



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BARION BROWN

WIDE RECEIVER

6-1 • 166 • Freshman-HS Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)

2022 - Freshman

- College All-True Freshman Team (PFF)
- Third-Team Freshman All-American (CNF)
- Fourth-Team All-American (Phil Steele)
- True Freshman All-American (On3.com)
- Freshman All-SEC Team (Coaches)
- Second-Team All-SEC - KR (Phil Steele)
- Fourth-Team All-SEC -WR (Phil Steele)
- Midseason True Freshman All-American (247 Sports and On3.com)
- SEC co-Freshman of the Week (10/3)
- SEC Special Teams Player of the Week (9/5)
- SEC co-Freshman of the Week (9/26)
- First Wildcat to win a SEC weekly award three times in a single season since Lynn Bowden Jr. in 2019
- Ranks second in the SEC and 24th nationally in combined kick returns (452)
- Has played in all 12 games with six starting assignments
- Has a team-best 45 catches for 604 yards, averaging 13.4 ypr with four scores (second-highest) this season
- His four touchdowns receiving are the second-most touchdown receptions by a freshman in program history ... Teammate Dane Key holds the record with six
- Holds the freshman records for most receiving yards in a season with 604 and most pass receptions in a season with 45
- Caught 10 passes for 145 yards, season highs in both categories, vs. No. 1 Georgia ... Also caught UK's lone touchdown, an 8-yard aerial in the fourth quarter ... The 10 catches were the most by a UK freshman since Chad Scott had 10 vs. South Carolina in 2000 ... The 145 yards were the second-most by a Wildcat freshman, Garrett Johnson had 154 at Florida in 2014 ... The 145 yards also were the second-most for a Wildcat vs. a No. 1-ranked team (Rick Kestner had 185 in the win vs. Ole Miss in 1964)
- Caught seven passes for 62 yards in the win over Mississippi State
- Accounted for a career-best 245 all-purpose yards with only five touches at Ole Miss ... Caught two passes for 81 yards, including a 51-yard catch-and-run that put UK in scoring position on the last possession ... Also had three kickoff returns for 164 yards, an average of 54.7 yards ... His 164 kickoff return yards set a new single-game freshman record ... In the first quarter, he set up a touchdown with an 85-yard kickoff return ... Earned SEC co-Freshman of the Week honors
- Caught four passes for 102 yards and his first two UK receiving touchdowns in his first career start vs. Northern Illinois ... Had a 70-yard catch-and-run for





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JASE BRUNER

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER



6-2 • 235 • Junior-SQ
Science Hill, Ky. (Somerset)

2022 - Junior

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Four-year letter winner and starter at linebacker, safety, running back, fullback, and tight end for head coach Robbie Lucas at Somerset High School
- Had a team-high 121 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss, one forced fumble, two recovered fumbles, and one interception on defense in 2019
- Offensively, charted 434 yards rushing on 55 carries with five touchdowns, in addition to 10 catches for 169 yards
- Helped the Briar Jumpers win the 2019 District 4 championship, the Region 2 championship, and the Class 2A State championship
- Also won the 2018 District and Region championship
- Earned the 2019 *Commonwealth Journal* Defensive Player of the Year and was on the *Lexington Herald-Leader's* "Best of the Bluegrass" team
- Twice named honorable mention on *The Associated Press* All-State team (2018, 2019)
- Three-time first-team All-Conference player (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Named the 2018 AA District 7 Player of the Year
- Also played baseball and basketball
- Earned a spot on the 2020 12th Region All-Tournament Team and 47th All-District Team as a center
- Excelled in the classroom as a member of the National Honor Society
- Was a Kentucky Governor's Scholar, Rogers Scholar, and Rogers Explorer
- Chose Kentucky over Louisville, Centre, and Furman

Personal

- Born in Somerset, Kentucky
- Son of John and Beth Bruner
- Siblings are Grace, Kate, Jack, and Josh
- Comes from a family of athletes as dad, John, was a tight end at Centre College; mother, Beth, was a cheerleader at Transylvania; grandfather, Jack Bruner, was a four-sport athlete in basketball, baseball, track, and golf at Union College; uncle, Teel Bruner, played basketball and football at Transylvania; aunt, Rachel Gaynor, was a basketball

BROWN'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos	G-GS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	KR	Yds	TD	PR	Yds	TD
2022	WR	12-6	45	604	13.4	4	15	424	1	4	19	0
Totals		12-6	45	604	13.4	4	15	424	1	4	19	0

BROWN'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Rec	Yds	TD	Long	Att	Yds	TD	Long	Avg
vs. Miami OH	3	45	0	38	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	1	-2	0	0	1	3	0	3	3.0
vs. YSU	5	56	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU*	4	147	2	70	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	2	81	0	51	0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC*	2	6	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	7	62	0	33	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee*	2	12	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	4	54	0	39	1	-1	0	0	-1.0
vs. Vanderbilt	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	10	145	1	47	0	0	0	0	0
vs. UofL*	4	44	1	21	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	45	604	4	70	2	2	0	3	1.0

BROWN'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME CONT.

Opponent	KR	Yds	Avg	Long	TD	PR	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
vs. Miami	2	121	60.5	100	1	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	1	1	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	3	164	54.7	85	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	11.0	11	0
vs. Miss. St	1	17	17.0	17	0	2	8	4.0	5	0
at UT	2	26	13.9	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vandy	3	56	18.7	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	2	25	12.5	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. UofL	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	3.0	13	0
Totals	15	424	28.3	100	1	7	28	4.0	13	0

BROWN'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Receptions: 10, vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022
Receiving yards: 145, vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022 (10 receptions)
Receiving touchdowns: 2, vs Northern Illinois, Sept 24, 2022
Long reception: 70, vs Northern Illinois, Sept 24, 2022
Rush attempts: 1, twice, last at Missouri, Nov 5, 2022
Rush yards: 3, at Florida, Sept 10, 2021 (1 carry)
Long rush: 3, at Florida, Sept 10, 2021
Rushing TDs: n/a
Kick returns: 3, at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022
Kick return yards: 164, at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022
Long return: 100, vs Miami Ohio, Sept 22, 2022
Kick return touchdowns: 1, vs Miami Ohio, Sept 22, 2022 (100 yards)
Punt returns: 3, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Punt return yards: 11, vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022
Long punt return: 13, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
All purpose yards: 245, at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022

a touchdown in the third quarter that is his longest of the season ... Named SEC co-Freshman of the Week (9/26), his second SEC honor this season

- Just the second UK freshman with 100 yards and two receiving touchdowns in the same game, also Garrett Johnson at Florida in 2014
- Named SEC Special Teams Player of the Week (9/5) after scoring his first career touchdown on a 100-yard kickoff return out of halftime in his collegiate debut vs. Miami (Ohio) ... Became the first UK player to score on a kickoff return and a 100-yard kickoff return since Derrick Locke vs. Louisville on Sept. 19, 2009 ... Marked the 19th time in program history that a UK player has scored on a kickoff return ... 15 players have accomplished the feat ... Six Wildcats have had 100-yard KO returns, done a total of seven times (Derrick Locke twice) ... First UK freshman with a kickoff return touchdown since Kio Sanford in 1994 ... Also caught three passes for 45 yards
- Had his first career rush for three yards and one catch in the win at Florida

High School

- A five-star prospect who ranked as high as the No. 2 wide receiver nationally and No. 2 prospect in Tennessee by on3.com
- The all-around athlete played several positions for head coach Tony Brunetti at Pearl-Cohn High School, including quarterback, running back, receiver, defensive back and kick returner during his senior season
- Earned the Tennessee Titans Class 4A Mr. Football Award
- Finished his senior year with 897 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns on 59 carries
- Also caught 22 passes for 303 yards and three scores
- Defensively, had 24 tackles with two for loss
- Helped lead the Firebirds to an 11-2 overall record with a second-place finish in Class 4A Region 5
- Selected to the All-American Bowl's East roster
- Also excelled on the track and field team as a back-to-back state Tennessee state champion in the 100- and 200-meter dash
- Is Pearl-Cohn's record holder in both events
- His 10.49 second time in the 100-meters in spring of 2021 is the third-fastest TSSAA state meet time since 1985, in any class
- Named Track Player of the Year
- Chose Kentucky over Alabama, TCU and LSU

Personal

- Name is pronounced "BEAR-ee-ON"
- Born in Nashville, Tennessee
- Son of Shomika Brown and Barry Moore
- Has one brother, Erion

Barion Says

- His nickname is "B7"
- He chose Kentucky because he just loved everything about it
- One word to describe him on the field is "unbelievable"
- Other than playing football, his dream job is to become a coach
- If he could eat one meal for the rest of his life it would be pizza





player at Western Kentucky; aunt, Margaret Brown, ran track at Centre; aunt, Martha Breeding, played basketball at Transylvania; cousin Jake Bruner, played basketball at the College of Idaho

Jase Says

- His nickname is "Bronko"
• He chose Kentucky because he was born in Kentucky and has been a Wildcat his whole life
• His dream job is to be a dermatologist
• The best advice he's ever received is "don't argue with ignorance"
• The three famous people he would invite to his fantasy dinner Adam Sandler, Jon Gruden, and Ronald Reagan



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DEONDRE BUFORD

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-3 • 312 • Sophomore-SQ
Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has seen action in all 12 games with two starts
• Earned his first career start at right tackle vs. South Carolina and also started against No. 1 Georgia

2021 - r-Freshman

- Saw action in two games (New Mexico State and Louisville)

2020 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
• Mid-year enrollee
• 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Four-star recruit by 247 Sports Composite rankings
• A Detroit News Blue Chip top-10 recruit
• Ranked the No. 24 offensive tackle in the 2020 class and No. 7 prospect in Michigan by 247Sports
• Coached by Tyrone Spencer
• Helped Detroit King win two Division 2 state titles in his four-year career
• Led Detroit King to the Detroit Public School League championship title in 2019, finishing with an 11-3 overall record
• Named to the Detroit News All-State First Team
• Earned Offensive Lineman of the Year in 2019 by Detroit PSJ
• Earned the highest offensive GPA as a junior
• Picked Kentucky over Missouri and Pittsburgh, Purdue and Arizona and held offers from Auburn, LSU, Penn State, Tennessee and Miami

Community Cats

- Volunteered to pack food for God's Pantry (2020)

Personal

- Born in Detroit

- Son of Sianena Taylor
• Siblings are Andre, Adrianna, and Damondre
• Major is family science

Deondre Says

- Nickname is "Deon"
• He chose Kentucky because he loves the university, the coaches, and the SEC
• The thing he looks forward to the most this season is learning, growing, and dominating
• His hidden talent is art
• Three words to describe him on the field are physical, smart, and dominant



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JAGER BURTON

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-4 • 301 • Freshman-RS
Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Freshman All-SEC Team
• First Wildcat offensive lineman to earn Freshman All-SEC honors since Logan Stenberg in 2016
• Recorded his first collegiate start at left guard and has remained in that starting spot in all 12 regular-season games

2021 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
• Saw action in four games (ULM, New Mexico State, Louisville and Iowa)
• Mid-year enrollee

High School

- A four-star offensive lineman who was rated as one of the nation's top-10 offensive guard prospects by 247, Rivals and ESPN
• The No. 1 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals and 247sports
• The No. 66 national prospect by 247sports and No. 200 nationally by Rivals
• An all-around talent known for his combination of athleticism, footwork, playing intensity and notable strength for a high school player
• Winner of the 2020 Paul Hornung Award, chosen by the Louisville Quarterback Club, as the top high school player in Kentucky ... Only the third offensive lineman to win the award
• Named Co-Mr. Football in the state of Kentucky in 2020 by The Associated Press ... First Lexington player and first offensive lineman to take the honor since its inception in 1986
• Selected to the prestigious All-American Bowl, held annually in San Antonio, Texas
• A four-year letter winner and three-year starter for head coach Brian Landis and Nathan McPeek
• A two-way player who played both offensive tackle and defensive end
• Helped Frederick Douglass finish 7-2 as a senior, reaching the Class 5A state semifinals

- Anchored a line that helped the Broncos average 38.7 points and 323 yards per game
• As a defensive lineman, had a 33-yard interception return for a touchdown against Ballard
• Named first-team all-state by the AP, Louisville Courier-Journal and Kentucky Sports Radio
• Named to the Lexington Herald-Leader "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top seniors in KY
• Named a finalist for the 2020 Sports Illustrated All-America team
• As a junior, helped lead the Broncos to a 14-1 record and state runner-up position in Class AAAAA
• Earned a spot on the Courier Journal's All-State First Team in 2019 as well
• In his four-year prep career, Fredrick Douglass totaled a 44-6 overall record
• Chose Kentucky over Alabama, Clemson, Ohio State and Oregon
• Was an academic honor roll student
• Also lettered one season as a midfielder in lacrosse

Personal

- Named pronounced same as "jagger"
• Born in Lexington, Kentucky
• Son of Teresa and Jeff Burton
• Has one brother, Drayden Burton
• Dad, Jeff, played football at Morehead State
• Major is pre-communication

Jager Says

- His nickname is "Moose"
• Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to own his own restaurant
• One word to describe him on the field is "aggressive"
• The person he most admires is his dad because he made him a man
• He chose Kentucky because it was home and he wanted to help continue building this program



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ZION CHILDRESS

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-0 • 191 • Sophomore-Tr
Houston, Texas (Texas State/New Caney)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has played in all 12 games with his first career start coming against No. 1 Georgia
• Has totaled 31 tackles, 2.0 tackles for loss, a sack and two pass breakups this season
• Had a season-high nine tackles in his starting debut against top-ranked Georgia
• Followed that performance with five tackles, his first career sack and a PBU in the win over Louisville
• Appeared in 24 games with 14 starts in two seasons at Texas State



2021 - r-Freshman (Texas State)

- Played in all 12 of the Bobcats' games with eight starting nods
- Tallied 74 tackles (41 solo), 1.5 tackles for loss, an interception, five pass breakups and two forced fumbles
- Ranked 17th in the Sun Belt in total tackles, 10th in the conference in solo tackles, and third on the team in tackles
- Was one of three Bobcats to intercept a pass, tied for second on team in forced fumbles and third on the team in pass breakups

2020 - Freshman (Texas State)

- Played in 12 games with six starts at nickel back
- Recorded 61 tackles to tie for fifth among team leaders
- Ranked third on the team with 35 solo stops
- Broke up four passes and recovered a fumble against SMU
- Recorded a career-best nine tackles at No. 11-ranked BYU
- Tallied seven stops at Georgia Southern
- Had six tackles against SMU and Boston College

High School

- Three-star prospect out of Houston's New Caney High School where he starred as the school's quarterback for two years and wide receiver for two years
- Two-time District 9-5A-I Overall Most Valuable Player
- Two-time First-Team All-State
- Montgomery County Player of the Year
- Ran for nearly 3,000 yards and had 21 touchdown passes as a senior
- Also was a four-year letter winner in basketball and track & field

Personal

- Born in Houston, Texas
- Son of Cynthia and Deric Childress
- Has two siblings, Deric Jr. and C'Nai
- Cousins R.J. Jackson (WR) and Marcus Jackson (QB) played college football at LSU and TCU, respectively
- Major is pre-communication

Zion Says

- His nickname is "Champ"
- He chose Kentucky because it offered him the best opportunity to fulfill his dreams
- One word to describe him on the field is "ballhawk"
- Three words to describe him are smart, passionate, and caring
- His favorite family recipe to make and eat is gumbo

CHILDRESS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
2020*	S	12-6	61	0-0	0.5-0	0/1	0	0	4
2021*	S	12-8	74	0-0	1.5-7	2/0	1	1	5
2022	S	12-1	31	1.0-10	2.0-12	0/0	0	0	2
at UK		12-1	31	1.0-10	2.0-12	0/0	0	0	2
Totals		36-15	166	1.0-10	4.0-19	2/1	1	1	11

*at Texas State

CHILDRESS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
vs. Miami OH	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Florida	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	4	0-0	1.0-2	0/0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
vs. USC	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	9	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Uofl.*	5	1.0-10	1.0-10	0/0	0	0	1
Totals	31	1.0-10	2.0-12	0/0	0	0	2

CHILDRESS' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME (TEXAS STATE)

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
vs. Baylor*	7	0-0	1.0-0	1/0	1	0	0
at FIU*	8	0-0	0-0	1/0	0	0	0
vs. UIW*	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1-0	0
at Eastern Mich.*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. South Alabama	6	0-0	0.5-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Troy	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
at Georgia St.	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Louisiana	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
vs. ULM*	11	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
vs. Ga. Southern*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	2
at Coastal Carolina*	9	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Arkansas St.*	10	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	74	1.5-7	0-0	2/0	1	1-0	5

CHILDRESS' 2020 GAME-BY-GAME (TEXAS STATE)

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
vs. SMU	6	0-0	0-0	0/1	0	0	0
vs. UTSA	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
at ULM	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Boston College	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Troy*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at South Alabama*	5	0-0	0.5-0	0/0	0	0	1
vs. BYU*	9	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
vs. Louisiana	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Appalachian St.*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
at Ga. Southern*	7	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Arkansas State	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Coastal Carolina*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	61	0-0	0.5-0	0/1	0	0	4

CHILDRESS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 11, vs ULM, Nov 6, 2021
Tackle for loss: 1.0, 3x, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (10 yards)
Sacks: 1.0, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (10 yards)
Fumble Caused: 1, twice, last vs. FIU, Sept 11, 2021
Fumble Recovery: 1, SMU, Sept 5, 2020
Pass breakups: 2, vs Georgia Southern, Nov 13, 2021
Interceptions: 1, vs. UIW, Sept 18, 2021



75

ELI COX

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-4 • 298 • Junior-2L
 Nicholasville, Ky. (West Jessamine)

2022 - Junior

- Outland Trophy Watch List
- Comeback Player of the Year Award Watch List
- Starting center in all 12 regular-season games

2021 - Sophomore

- Midseason All-American (ESPN, AP)
- Started at right guard in the first nine games of the season before suffering a season-ending hand injury vs. Tennessee
- Named SEC Co-Offensive Line Player of the Week in helping UK pile up 330 rushing yards in the win over LSU ... Played every offensive snap and graded at 91 percent ... Led the offensive line with seven knockdown blocks and had 15 blocks at the point of attack, including Will Levis' quarterback sneak for a touchdown ... Did not have any missed assignments and did not allow any quarterback sacks or pressures
- Earned his first career start vs. ULM
- Recovered a fumble in the end zone vs. Missouri, giving him his first career score
- Also recovered a fumble at South Carolina

2020 - r-Freshman

- Back up at left guard behind Kenneth Horsey
- Saw action in eight games
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. UT Martin
- Mid-year enrollee

High School

- A three-star recruit by 247sports.com and Rivals.com
- Ranked as the No. 14 Kentucky prospect in the class of 2019 by 247Sports
- Has the versatility to play at either offensive guard or tackle
- Has been instrumental in West Jessamine improving its win total each season of his prep career
- Named to the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl watch list
- Represented West Jessamine at the Louisville vs. Bluegrass Senior All-Star Game
- Coached by John Gilliam
- Chose UK over Cincinnati, Marshall, Ohio and Toledo

Community Cats

- Volunteered at Rosewood Elementary (2020)





- Volunteered at LexCity Church and Florence Baptist Church (2020)
- Volunteered for a weekend of service in Harlan County, Ky., with other UK student-athletes, where he worked with nonprofit organizations Willing Hearts and Club 180 Ministry, and also helped the Harlan County Youth Football League with various projects
- Participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Men's Conference at Southland Christian (2020)

Personal

- Born in Nicholasville, Kentucky
- Son of John and Katherine Cox
- Siblings are Avery and Ellie
- Graduated in May of 2022 with a degree in integrated strategic communication with a business minor ... Currently working on a second degree in media arts studies
- One of three representatives for UK football on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) for the second straight year (2021-22) ... Also elected to the SEC Football Leadership Council

Eli Says

- He chose Kentucky because he wanted to represent his state
- His hidden talent is his photoshop skills
- His dream job is to go into sports broadcasting
- One word to describe him on the field is "aggressive"
- If he could create a holiday he would call it "National Super Bowl Monday" and everyone would have the day off after the Super Bowl



35

LONDYN CRAFT

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-0 • 200 • Senior-Tr
Albuquerque, N.M. (Mississippi State/IMG Academy)

2022 - %Senior

- Came to Kentucky as a graduate transfer
- Spent four seasons at Mississippi State, seeing action in 20 career games with eight starts
- Began his career as a walk-on with the Bulldogs in 2017
- Out for the season with a knee injury

2021 - Senior (Mississippi State)

- Saw limited action due to injury

2020 - Junior (Mississippi State)

- Appeared in 10 games with eight starts
- One of 26 Bulldogs to make their first career start in 2020
- Tied for No. 89 nationally and No. 7 in the SEC in fumbles recovered (1)
- Made his first career start at LSU and had four tackles
- Picked up his first career fumble recovery at Arkansas in the second quarter, preventing the

Razorbacks from scoring at the goal line ... Added two tackles

- Finished with a career-high seven tackles at Georgia and recorded his first career tackle for loss, ending with 1.5

2019 - Sophomore (Mississippi State)

- Saw action in six games
- Recorded first career tackle at Arkansas

2018 - r-Freshman (Mississippi State)

- Appeared in two contests
- Made collegiate debut vs. Stephen F. Austin

2017 - Freshman (Mississippi State)

- Redshirt season

High School

- Prepped at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida under head coach Kevin Wright
- As a senior, recorded 44 tackles and 1.0 tackle for loss and collected two pass break-ups
- Made one fumble recovery and ran 47 yards for a touchdown
- As a junior, made 44 tackles

Personal

- Son of India and Douglas Craft
- Father, Douglas, played college football at Southern and went on to play seven seasons (1993-99) in the Canadian Football League and saw time with the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and Indianapolis Colts
- Graduated from Mississippi State in May of 2021 with a degree in youth development and family studies ... Currently working on a undergraduate certificate in business

Londyn Says

- He chose Kentucky because of the coaching staff and he loved the city of Lexington
- Most people don't know that he's been growing out his hair for five years
- Three words to describe him are calm, cool, and collected
- What motivates him to work hard are his parents and because he wants to be legendary one day
- The best advice he's ever received is "gain control of your money or the lack of it will control you"

CRAFT'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
2018*	DB	2-0	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
2019*	DB	6-0	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
2020*	DB	10-8	56	0-0	1.5-3	0/1	0	0	2
2021*	DB	2-0	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals		20-8	57	0-0	1.5-3	0/1	0	0	2

*at Mississippi State

CRAFT'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
vs. LSU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Texas A&M	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0

CRAFT'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
at LSU*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Arkansas*	2	0-0	0-0	0/1	0	0	0
at Kentucky*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Texas A&M*	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Alabama*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt			DNP				
at Georgia*	7	0-0	1.5-3	0/0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Auburn*	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Missouri*	8	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Tulsa*	10	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	2
Totals	56	0-0	1.5-3	0/1	0	0	2

CRAFT'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
at Louisiana	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Kansas State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. LSU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Arkansas	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Abilene Christian	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0

CRAFT'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 10, vs Tulsa, Dec 31, 2020
Tackle for loss: 1.5, at Georgia, Nov 21, 2020 (3 yards)
Fumble Recovery: 1, vs Arkansas, Oct 3, 2020
Pass breakups: 2, vs Tulsa, Dec 31, 2020



3

DEKEL CROWDUS

WIDE RECEIVER

5-10 • 171 • Freshman-RS
Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Has seen action in nine games and has four catches for 82 yards
- Got his first collegiate catch and totaled two receptions for 17 yards in the win over Youngstown State
- Had one catch for a career-long 50 yards in the win over Mississippi State

2021 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
- Suffered a knee strain in August that did not require surgery

High School

- 247sports ranks him as a four-star prospect, the No. 3 prospect in Kentucky, No. 51 receiver and No. 300 overall player nationally



- Three-star recruit by Rivals and rated the No. 4 player in Kentucky and No. 74 receiver nationally
- Known for his high-end speed and explosiveness who has drawn comparisons in some circles to the NFL's Brandin Cooks
- Frederick Douglass coach Nathan McPeck: "He is track fast but he translates that to the field. If he touches the ball five times he could score five touchdowns ... He's not as big as Lynn (Bowden) but he can do some of those things."
- Finished with 91 receptions for 1,505 yards and 22 touchdowns in his prep career
- In 2020, named second-team All-State by the AP and the *Louisville Courier-Journal* after totaling 25 catches for 331 yards and nine touchdowns
- Averaged 13.0 yards per catch
- Named to the *Lexington Herald-Leader* "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top seniors in Kentucky
- Owns the school record for career touchdown receptions (14 before 2020) and in a season 11 (2018), as well as career receiving yards and yards in a season (831, 2018)
- In 2018, had 37 receptions for 831 yards
- Selected the hometown Wildcats over a top 10 that included Louisville, Ohio State, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, Baylor, South Carolina and Virginia Tech

Personal

- Name pronounced "da-KEL CROWD-us"
- Born in Lexington, Kentucky
- Son of Shonda Minnifield
- Siblings are Shania Lyvers and Shylah Lyvers
- Uncle, Frank Minnifield, was a defensive back for the Cleveland Browns from 1984-92 and was a four-time pro-bowler; cousin, Chase Minnifield, played for the Washington Football Team from 2012-14
- Major is undeclared

Deke! Says

- His nickname is "Kel"
- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home
- His dream job is to own his own gym and be a personal trainer
- One word to describe him on the field is "unpredictable"
- Besides football, he's also good at drumming, basketball and soccer

CROWDUS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
2022	WR	9-0	4	82	20.5	0	50
Totals		9-0	4	82	20.5	0	50

CROWDUS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
vs. YSU	2	17	0	12
vs. NIU	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	0	0	0	0
vs. USC	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	1	50	0	50
at Tennessee	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	1	15	0	15

vs. Louisville	0	0	0	0
Totals	4	82	0	50

CROWDUS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Receptions: 2, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022
 Receiving yards: 50, vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022 (1 reception)
 Receiving TDs: n/a
 Long reception: 50, vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022



8

IZAYAH
CUMMINGS

TIGHT END

6-3 • 240 • Junior-2L
Louisville, Ky. (Male)

2022 - Junior

- Has seen action in all 12 games with one starting assignment vs. Miami (Ohio)
- Had his first career rush for 23 yards at Ole Miss

2021 - Sophomore

- Moved from wide receiver to tight end during fall camp
- Played in all 13 games with two starting assignments (Missouri and Georgia) ... Got his first career start vs. Missouri
- Totaled 14 receptions (fourth on the team) for 195 yards (third on the team) and three scores
- Averaged 13.9 yards per catch
- Caught two passes for 27 yards, including a 22-yard TD at Vanderbilt
- Set career highs with four catches for 75 yards against Tennessee, including the second touchdown catch of his career
- Caught three passes for 22 yards at No. 1 Georgia
- Caught his first collegiate touchdown pass, a 31-yard play in the fourth quarter, vs. UTC
- Caught first career pass for seven yards in the season opener vs. ULM
- Dean's List (Fall 2021)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Freshman

- Saw action in nine games (Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Missouri, Georgia, Vanderbilt, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina)
- Charted first career tackle on special teams in the win over South Carolina
- 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Three-star prospect by all three major recruiting services
- A top-10 prospect in the state of Kentucky and rated the No. 86 wide receiver by 247Sports
- Named Kentucky Football Coaches Association 6A Player of the Year
- Candidate for Kentucky's Mr. Football award
- Named to the 2019 Class of the Commonwealth by the *Lexington Herald-Leader*
- First-team All-State by the *Courier-Journal*

- Three-year starter who finished his career with 109 receptions for 1,965 yards and 27 touchdowns
- Had a team-high 57 receptions for 1,100 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2019, helping the Bulldogs go 14-1 overall
- Named Class 6A Player of the Year by the Kentucky Football Coaches Association
- Helped Male advance to back-to-back appearances in the Class 6A State Championship
- Won the title in 2018
- Combined for 23 receiving TDs in his last two seasons of football
- Ranked fifth in Class 6A in receiving yards and sixth in receptions despite playing three fewer games than the state leader
- Coached by Chris Wolfe
- Averaged nearly 20 yards per reception and 96.0 yards per game
- Ranked in the top 20 of all class levels in receptions and receiving yards
- Has a 38-inch vertical leap
- Also an honor-roll student and participated in track and basketball
- Chose Kentucky over Louisville, Indiana, Purdue, Virginia, Cincinnati, Missouri and others

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky
- Son of Andra and Natasha Cummings
- Has two sisters, Mia and Nia
- Major is pre-management
- One of three representatives for UK football on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Izayah Says

- He chose Kentucky because it was close to home and because of his relationship with the coaches
- Three words to describe him are smart, quiet, and talented
- The best advice he's ever received is "someone right now is working to take your spot"
- His dream job is to own his own business and help out the next generation
- Besides football, he's also good at playing basketball and video games

CUMMINGS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long	Att	Yds	Long	Avg
2020	WR	9-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	TE	12-2	14	195	13.9	3	31	0	0	0	0
2022	TE	11-1	0	0	0	0	0	1	23	0	23
Totals		34-3	14	195	13.9	3	31	1	23	0	23

CUMMINGS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Rec	Yds	TD	Long	Att	Yds	Long
vs. Miami OH*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	0	0	0	0	1	23	23
vs. USC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0





CUMMINGS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 8 columns: Opponent, Rec, Yds, TD, Long, and 3 unlabeled columns. Rows include vs. Georgia, vs. Louisville, and Totals.

CUMMINGS' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 5 columns: Opponent, Rec, Yds, TD, Long. Rows include vs. ULM, vs. Missouri*, vs. UTC, at South Carolina, vs. Florida, vs. LSU, at Georgia*, at Miss. State, vs. Tennessee, at Vanderbilt, vs. NMST, at Louisville, vs. Iowa, and Totals.

CUMMINGS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Receptions: 4, vs Tennessee, Nov 6, 2021
Receiving yards: 75, vs Tennessee, Nov 6, 2021 (4 receptions)
Receiving TDs: 1, 3x, last at Vanderbilt, Nov 13, 2021
Long reception: 31, vs UTC, Sept, 18, 2021
Rush attempts: 1, at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022
Rush yards: 23, at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022 (1 carry)
Long rush: 23, at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022
Rushing TDs: n/a
Tackles: 1, vs USC, Dec 5, 2020



46

CADE
DEGRAW
LONG SNAPPER

5-11 • 213 • Senior-2L
Lake Cormorant, Miss. (Lake Cormorant)

2022 - Senior

- Starting long snapper for the third straight season

2021 - Junior

- Starting long snapper who saw action in all 13 games

2020 - Sophomore

- Served as the team's long snapper after the graduation of four-year starter Blake Best
Saw action in all 10 games
Charted one tackle

2019 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Four-year starter and letter winner as a long snapper and defensive end for the Gators

- Rated as a 4.5-star prospect by Rubio Long Snapping
Earned first-team All-State and All-Conference in both his junior and senior seasons
Elected team captain as a senior
Also was a two-year letter winner in archery
Excelled in the classroom as he was a member of the National Honor Society and was a Graduate of Distinction
Played for head coach Nick Nester

Community Cats

- Participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Men's Conference at Southland Christian (2020)

Personal

- Born in Memphis, Tennessee
Son of Alisha and Dominic Degraw
Has one brother, Brandon
Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in management

Cade Says

- He chose Kentucky because he loved the environment
His hidden talent is being able to play the guitar
His hobbies are hunting and fishing
Chewing gum and listening to music helps him stay focused before a game
The best advice he's ever received is "don't look back, there's nothing back there to go after"



34

TREY
DENNIS
WIDE RECEIVER

5-8 • 150 • Sophomore-SQ
Lexington, Ky. (Sayre)

2021 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Played just one season of high school football as a senior in 2020
Earned a starting spot at slot receiver for head coach Chad Pennington at Sayre
Recorded 62 receptions for 776 yards and 11 scores in a COVID-shortened season
Helped lead the Spartans to an 8-1 overall record which included an undefeated regular season
Named All-State honorable mention by the Louisville Courier-Journal
Earned first-team All-City honors by the Lexington Herald-Leader
Also a three-time letter winner in basketball at point guard for the Spartans
Member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes

- Chose Kentucky over scholarship offers from Center, Hanover and Georgetown College

Personal

- Born in Lexington, Ky.
Son of Harold and Donna Dennis
Dad, Harold, was a wide receiver at Kentucky from 1994-96
Siblings are Jasmine and Kylee
Major is kinesiology

Trey Says

- His nickname is "T.D."
He chose Kentucky because he wanted to continue the legacy his dad started
His dream job is to work in the medical field
The best advice he's ever received is "time never stops, so seize the moment"
Three words to describe him are outgoing, kind and assertive



85

JORDAN
DINGLE

TIGHT END

6-4 • 236 • Freshman-RS
Bowling Green, Ky. (Bowling Green HS)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Freshman All-SEC Team
Honorable Mention Freshman All-American (CFN)
Has played in all 12 games with 11 starts
Has totaled 19 catches (fourth-highest on the team) for 214 yards (fourth-highest) and three scores this season
Recorded two catches for 11 yards in his first collegiate start in the season opener vs. Miami (Ohio)
Caught three passes for 30 yards and a score at Ole Miss ... Hauled in a 17-yard touchdown pass to tie the game in the third quarter, his first career collegiate scoring reception
Hauled in the second score of his career on a 16-yard touchdown pass from Kaiya Sheron vs. South Carolina
Had career highs with four catches for 44 yards at No. 3 Tennessee ... Caught a season-long 24-yard pass for a first down on UK's first touchdown drive of the game
Had three receptions for 35 yards and a touchdown in the win over Missouri ... His receiving TD in the third quarter marked the third TD receiving of his career, which ties Derek Abney (2000) and Tommy Cook (2001) for the second-most touchdowns receiving by a freshman in program history

2021 - Freshman

- Saw action in four games (ULM, Miss. State, Vanderbilt, NMST)
Totaled two catches for 54 yards



- Caught first career pass for 31 yards in the season opener vs. ULM
- Dean's List (Fall 2021)

Community Cats

- Volunteered with the Kentucky Children's Hospital at the Barbasol mini golf event (2021)
- Volunteered for the My New Kentucky Home Special Olympics event (2021)

High School

- A four-star prospect by ESPN and a three-star recruit by Rivals and 247sports
- Ranked the No. 5 player in the state and a top-25 tight end nationally by Rivals and 247sports
- Four-year letter winner and starter for head coach Mark Spader
- Caught 41 passes for 515 yards (12.6 ypc) with two touchdowns in helping lead Bowling Green to the 2020 Class AAAA state championship with a 10-2 overall record
- Caught five passes, ran for a touchdown, and had a quarterback sack in the state finals win
- 2020 4th Region AD Association Player of the Year
- Named to the *Lexington Herald-Leader* "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top seniors in Kentucky
- Named first-team All-State by the *Courier Journal* and AP as a senior
- Named a preseason All-America candidate by Sports Illustrated
- Named honorable mention All-State by the *Courier Journal* as a junior after catching 35 passes for 474 yards and five TDs
- Three-sport athlete who also was a four-year letter winner in basketball and a three-year letter winner in track and field (shot put and hurdles)
- Led Bowling Green to the 2020 4th region title and an elite eight appearance in basketball
- High school teammate of current UK safety Vito Tisdale
- Chose Kentucky over Purdue, Vanderbilt, Virginia Tech and Ohio State
- Member of the National Honor Society
- Excelled in the classroom with a 4.0 GPA

Personal

- Born in Manning, South Carolina
- Son of Tonya and Justice Dingle
- Younger brother of teammate Justice Dingle
- Major is clinical leadership and management

Jordan Says

- His nickname is "The Professor"
- He chose Kentucky because it had a great family feeling
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a CEO of a hospital
- Three words to describe him are hardworking, trustworthy, and intelligent
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he likes to ride four-wheelers

DINGLE'S CAREER STATISTICS							
Year	Pos.	G-GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
2021	TE	4-0	2	54	27.0	0	31
2022	TE	12-11	19	214	11.3	3	24
Totals		16-11	21	268	12.8	3	31

DINGLE'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME					
Opponent	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long	
vs. Miami OH*	2	11	0	11	
at Florida*	2	29	0	19	
vs. YSU*	0	2	0	2	
vs. NIU	1	19	0	19	
at Ole Miss*	3	30	1	17	
vs. USC*	1	16	1	16	
vs. Miss. State*	1	2	0	2	
at Tennessee*	4	44	0	24	
at Missouri*	3	35	1	17	
vs. Vanderbilt*	0	0	0	0	
vs. Georgia*	1	8	0	8	
vs. Uofl.*	1	18	0	18	
Totals	19	214	3	24	

DINGLE'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME					
Opponent	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long	
vs. ULM	1	31	0	31	
at Miss. State	0	0	0	0	
at Vanderbilt	0	0	0	0	
vs. NMST	1	23	0	23	
Totals	2	54	0	31	

DINGLE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS
Receptions: 4, at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022
Receiving yards: 44, at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022 (4 receptions)
Receiving TDs: 1, 3x, last at Missouri, Nov 5, 2022
Long reception: 31, vs ULM, Sept 4, 2021



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JUSTICE
DINGLE II

FULLBACK

6-3 • 267 • Senior-SQ
 Bowling Green, Ky. (Georgia Tech/
 Bowling Green HS)

2022 - Senior

- Moved from outside linebacker to fullback in the spring
- Has seen action in 31 career games (19 at Ga Tech, 12 at UK)
- Has played in eight games this season
- Had first career catch for a career-best 10 yards in the win over Youngstown State

2021 - Junior

- Transferred to Kentucky after three seasons at Georgia Tech ... Totaled eight career tackles, three fumble recoveries and a tackle for loss at Ga Tech
- Played in four games (ULM, NMST, Louisville and Iowa) and had 1 tackle
- Mid-year enrollee

2020 - Sophomore (Georgia Tech)

- Played in four games, recording one tackle

2019 - r-Freshman (Georgia Tech)

- Made 11 appearances, including his first college start at defensive end in the home opener against South Florida (Sept. 7)
- The Yellow Jackets' top ball hawk, led the team with three fumble recoveries
- Also finished with six tackles (five solo) on the season, including an 8-yard sack

2018 - Freshman (Georgia Tech)

- Redshirted as a true freshman but saw action in four games, vs. Alcorn State (Sept. 1), at USF (Sept. 8), at Pitt (Sept. 15) and vs. Clemson (Sept. 22) and recorded one tackle at USF
- One of 13 true freshmen in 2018 to see game action for the Yellow Jackets

High School

- Rated as a four-star prospect by Rivals coming out of high school
- No. 2-ranked player in his class in the state of Kentucky and the No. 18-ranked inside linebacker in the nation, according to Rivals
- Listed as the nation's No. 16-ranked inside linebacker by ESPN
- Two-time all-state honoree
- Two-time first-team all-district selection
- Nominated for Army All-America Game, Dick Butkus Award (national high school Linebacker of the Year) and Kentucky's Mr. Football award as a senior
- Selected to participate in Kentucky/Tennessee Border Bowl, Kentucky Best of Bluegrass all-star game and Army All-American Combine
- Helped lead Bowling Green to state championship as a junior in 2016
- Two-time team captain
- Honor roll student
- Coached by Kevin Wallace
- Played first two prep seasons at Oakland H.S. in Murfreesboro, Tenn. (coached by Kevin Creasy and Tommy McDaniel)
- Helped lead Oakland to a pair of district championships as a freshman and sophomore (2014 and 2015)
- Also lettered in track and field and basketball

Personal

- Born in Manning, South Carolina
- Son of Tonya and Justice Dingle
- Older brother of signee Jordan Dingle
- Has a daughter, Nova Reign Dingle
- Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in communication

Justice Says

- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a sports commentator
- One word to describe him on the field is "beast"
- Besides playing football, he's also good at riding dirt bikes
- He chose Kentucky because it's home and UK will help develop him into a better player and man
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he's country





JU. DINGLE'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, Pos., G-GS, Tackles, Sacks-Yds., FC/FR, Rec., Yds., TD, Long. Rows include 2018-2022 and totals.

*at Georgia Tech

JU. DINGLE'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Att., Yds., TD, Long, Rec., Yds., TD, Long. Rows include games vs. Miami OH, Florida, YSU, NIU, Ole Miss, USC, Miss. State, Tennessee, and totals.

JU. DINGLE'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FC/FR, QBH, Int. Rows include games vs. ULM, NMST, Louisville, Iowa, and totals.

JU. DINGLE'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME (GT)

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FC/FR, QBH, Int. Rows include games vs. Louisville, Clemson, Boston College, Notre Dame, and totals.

JU. DINGLE'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME (GT)

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FC/FR, QBH, Int. Rows include games vs. Clemson, South Florida, The Citadel, Temple, North Carolina, Duke, Miami (FL), Pittsburgh, Virginia, Virginia Tech, NC State, Georgia, and totals.

JU. DINGLE'S 2018 GAME-BY-GAME (GT)

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FC/FR, QBH, Int. Rows include games vs. Alcorn State, UCF, Pitt, Clemson, and totals.

JU. DINGLE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 2, at Duke, Oct 12, 2019
Sacks: 1, vs Georgia, Nov 30, 2019
Fumble recoveries: 1, 3x, last vs Georgia, Nov 30, 2019
Receptions: 1, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022
Receiving yards: 1, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022 (1 reception)
Long reception: 10, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022



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JAMARIUS DINKINS

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-5 • 280 • Freshman-RS
Columbus, Ohio (Walnut Ridge)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Has seen action in eight games and has eight tackles, a sack and a tackle for loss
Charted a career-high three tackles at No. 3 Tennessee
Got his first career tackle for loss in the win over Louisville

2021 - Freshman

- Played in three games (ULM, Georgia, NMST)
Saw his first collegiate action vs. ULM and charted a tackle and a half sack

High School

- Rated a three-star recruit by 247sports and Rivals
Rated a top 25 recruit in talent-rich Ohio and a top 35 strongside defensive end nationally
Four-year starter on the defensive line for head coach Byron Mattox
Named Central District D-II Defensive Player of the Year after totaling 43 tackles, 12 tackles-for-loss, eight sacks and four forced fumbles in 2020
Helped Walnut Ridge win the Columbus City League Championship title
Also helped the Scots advance to the second round of the Division II, Region 7 playoffs and finish 6-3 after going 11-1 and advancing to a regional semifinal in 2019
Ohio MaxPreps All-State Second Team honors
Named First-Team Division II All-Ohio by the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association
Chose Kentucky over Michigan State

Personal

- First name is pronounced "ja-MAR-ee-us"
Born in Columbus, Ohio
Son of Juanita Dinkins

- Siblings are James Polk-Dinkins and Akilah Stewart
Major is pre-media arts and studies

Jamarius Says

- His nickname is "Spider"
He chose Kentucky because it was the best fit
One thing most people don't know about him is that he's a sleep walker
Three words to describe him are funny, loud, and energetic
The best advice he's ever received is "keep God first"

DINKINS' CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, Pos., G-GS, Tackles, Sacks-Yds., TFL-Yds., FC/FR, INT, PBU. Rows include 2021, 2022, and totals.

DINKINS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FC/FR, QBH, Int. Rows include games vs. Miami (Ohio), YSU, Miss. State, Tennessee, Missouri, Vanderbilt, Georgia, UofL, and totals.

DINKINS' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FC/FR, QBH, Int. Rows include games vs. ULM, Georgia, NMST, and totals.

DINKINS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 3, at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022
Sacks: 0.5, vs. ULM, Sept 4, 2021
Tackles for loss: 1.0, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (1 yard)



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ISAAC DIXON

RUNNING BACK

5-11 • 201 • Freshman-HS
Belfry, Ky. (Belfry)

2022 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team



High School

- Five-year letterwinner and four-year starter at Belfry High School under the guidance of head coach Philip Haywood
- Reclassified to the incoming Class of 2022 after using Kentucky's free COVID year
- As a super senior in 2021, swept the Kentucky Mr. Football Awards from both the Kentucky Football Coaches Association and the Associated Press, while also being named to the All-State First Team Offense
- Ranked third in the state with 1,986 yards rushing, averaging 10.1 yards on 196 carries, while scoring 29 touchdowns ... Also caught three passes for 184 yards receiving and three more touchdowns ... Added 46 total tackles, a team-high four interceptions and one touchdown on defense in 2021
- In the 2021 3A State Championship game, rushed for 376 yards and five touchdowns, including a game-winning, 62-yard run with less than five minutes to play in Belfry's 33-28 win over Paducah Tilghman
- Helped the Pirates to the 2019 3A State Championship title and, after beginning the season 0-5, led the Pirates to the 2021 3A State Championship title
- Named a 2019 and 2020 All-State Honorable Mention
- Also ran track and field for two years and played basketball for one year at Belfry High School

Personal

- Born in Belfry, Kentucky
- Son of Brigitte Dixon
- Has two brothers, Billy and Stephen, and two sisters, Micah and Shannon
- Major is business management

Isaac Says

- One word to describe himself on the field is "exciting"
- Besides football, one other thing he is good at is bowling
- His favorite thing about football is the sound of the fans
- What motivates him is seeing his growth and development
- The best piece of advice he has received is, "You can do anything for one minute"



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TAJ
DODSON
SAFETY

6-1 • 203 • Junior-1L
Union City, Ga. (Creekside)

2022 - Junior

- Has seen in action in eight games this season due to injury and has one tackle at No. 3 Tennessee

2021 - Sophomore

- Saw action in 11 games and totaled six tackles and a pass breakup

- Recorded a career-best two tackles at Louisville
- Got his first career PBU vs. New Mexico State

2020 - r-Freshman

- Played in five games and had two tackles
- Missed six games with injury
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
- Had three total tackles in three games played
- Had a fumble recovery vs. Florida
- Mid-year enrollee

High School

- A consensus three-star recruit by all the major recruiting services
- Coached by Region 5-6A Coach of the Year Maurice Dixon
- Had 19 returns for 737 yards and two touchdowns, including a 92-yard score
- Named first-team All-Region 5-6A after totaling 86 tackles, 12 PBUs, two interceptions, one sack and once forced fumble in 2018
- Also had seven catches for 106 yards
- Excelled in track and field, earning All-Region 1A State Track honors in 2016 and 2017 as a sprinter and high jumper
- Ran a personal best 10.78 in the 100-meter dash
- Chose UK over Syracuse, Louisville, and Ole Miss

Personal

- First name is pronounced the same as Taj Mahal
- Born in Atlanta, Georgia
- Son of Terika Dodson and Alex Chapman
- Siblings are India Paulk and Kyle Davis
- Member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity
- Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in communication

Taj Says

- He chose Kentucky because it's a family vibe
- One word to describe him on the field is "calm"
- After his football career he would like to be a stock broker
- The three famous people he would invite to his fantasy dinner are Nipsey Hussle, Kobe Bryant, and Donald Trump
- If he could create a holiday he would call it "National Chicken Wing Day" and everyone would get free chicken wings

DODSON'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tackles	Sacks-Yds.	TFL-Yds.	FC/FR	INT	PBU
2019	S	3-0	3	0-0	0-0	0/1	0	0
2020	S	5-0	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
2021	S	11-0	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1
2022	S	8-0	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
Totals		27-0	12	0-0	0-0	0/1	0	1

DODSON'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
vs. Miami OH	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. UofL	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0

DODSON'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
vs. ULM	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at South Carolina	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. LSU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Georgia	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Mississippi St.	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
at Louisville	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1

DODSON'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.
at Auburn	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
vs. Ole Miss	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
vs. Mississippi St.	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
at Tennessee	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
vs. NC State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
Totals	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0

DODSON'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FC/FR	QBH	Int.
vs. Toledo	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
vs. Eastern Mich.	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
vs. Florida	1	0-0	0-0	0/1	0	0
Totals	3	0-0	0-0	0/1	0	0

DODSON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 2, at Louisville, Nov 27, 2021
Fumble Recovery: 1, vs Florida, Sept 14, 2019
Pass breakup: 1, vs New Mexico State, Nov 20, 2021





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TOMIWA
DUROJAIYE

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-4 • 255 • Freshman-HS
Middletown, Del. (Middletown)

2022-Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January of 2022
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Miami (Ohio) ... Also played against Youngstown State

High School

- Rated a three-star by both Rivals and 247sports
- Ranked as the No. 42 strongside defensive end in the nation and top player in the state of Delaware by Rivals
- First-Team All-State selection as both a junior and senior
- Named the 2021 Delaware 3A Defensive Player of the Year by the Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association after helping Middletown claim the 2021 DIAA Class 3A title
- Totaled 58 tackles, 25.5 tackles for loss, 10.0 sacks, two forced fumbles and two pass breakups
- In a shortened eight-game season in 2020, charted 45 tackles, 19.5 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks, helping his team to a 7-1 record and conference championship, while finishing as state runner-up
- Coached by Zach Blum
- Named to the Honor Roll as a senior
- Picked Kentucky over Michigan, South Carolina, Arkansas, Missouri and others

Personal

- Name is pronounced "TOE-mee-wah Durr-oh-JI-yay"
- Born in Philadelphia
- Son of Theresa and Bayo Durojaiye
- Dad originated from Nigeria
- Siblings are Ayomi, Grace and Maxwell
- Major is undecided

Tomiwa Says

- His nickname is "Big Tomi"
- He chose Kentucky because it gave him the best opportunity to play in the NFL and help him reach his full potential
- After football, his dream job is to be a collegiate coach
- One word to describe him on the field is "passionate"
- Besides playing football, he's also very good at making breakfast food



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BRAXTON
EISERMAN

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-1 • 226 • Senior-SQ
Jackson, Ky. (Breathitt County)

2021 - Senior

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Junior

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2021)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Four-year letter winner and three-year starter for head coach Kyle Moore, playing linebacker and center
- Totaled 107 tackles, 12.0 TFL and six sacks as a senior
- Also lettered four years in track and field as a discus thrower
- Named salutatorian of his graduating class
- President of SkillsUSA a career and technical student organization and Technology Student Association, an organization that helps develop skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics as well as business education ... Also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Community Cats

- Participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Men's Conference at Southland Christian (2020)

Personal

- Born in Lexington, Ky.
- Son of Lea and Al Eiserman
- Has one brother, Zach
- Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in art studio

Braxton Says

- His nickname is "Diesel" because he runs over people like a diesel
- His dream job is to be an architect and design houses
- One word to describe him on the field is "determined"
- When he played football as a kid he pretended he was Jack Lambert
- His favorite movie is Remember the Titans



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TYRESE
FEARBRY

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

6-5 • 227 • Freshman-HS
Pittsburgh, Pa. (Perry Traditional Academy)

2022 - Freshman

- Has seen action in two games Miami (Ohio) and Youngstown State
- Charted his first career tackle in the win over Youngstown State

High School

- Rated a four-star by Rivals, 247sports and on3.com
- Rated by 247 as the No. 138 overall player in the nation and No. 12 edge rusher
- Ranked the No. 18 weakside defensive end by Rivals, while on3.com had him No. 13 as an edge player and the No. 3 prospect in talent-rich Pennsylvania
- Played both wide receiver and edge rusher for head coach Darnell "Pepsi" Farrow
- Considered one of the top pass-rushing recruits in the state
- Named to one of the Top 10 Defensive Ends by the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League in 2021
- In a shortened five-game season in 2020, totaled 10 catches for 94 yards and a touchdown, while averaging 5.8 tackles and 1.0 sacks per game
- Also participated in basketball, track and volleyball during high school
- Ran a time of 11.63 in the 100-meters and had a season-best long jump of 19 feet, 2 inches as a junior
- Posted a time of 23.99 seconds in the 200-meter dash and finished in third place at the 2021 City League track and field championships
- Picked Kentucky over Auburn, Penn State and Pittsburgh

Personal

- Name is pronounced Tyreese "FEAR-bree"
- Born in Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Son of Terrance Fearbry, Leslie Fearbry and Brandi White
- Has nine siblings
- Major is undecided

Tyrese Says

- His nickname is "Reese"
- He chose Kentucky because of the winning culture
- Three words to describe him are tall, goofy, and funny
- Besides playing football, he is also very good at cooking
- His favorite family recipe to make and eat is yams



FEARBRY'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos	G-GS	Tkls	TFL-Yds	Sacks-Yds	FF/FR	PBU	QBH	INT	Blk
2022	OLB	2-0	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0
Totals		2-0	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0	0

FEARBRY'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Yds	Sacks-Yds	FF	FR	INT	PBU	QBH	Blk
vs. Miami OH	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida*	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FEARBRY'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 1, vs Youngstown, Sept 17, 2022



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JEREMY FLAX

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-6 • 328 • Junior-SQ
Detroit, Mich. (Independence CC/Robichaud)

2022 - Junior

- Earned his first collegiate start at offensive tackle vs. Miami Ohio and has stayed in that starting position
- Has played and started in 11 games
- Did not see action vs. South Carolina with injury

2021 - r-Sophomore

- Saw action in 11 of 13 games

2020 - Sophomore

- Redshirt season
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Vanderbilt and also played vs. South Carolina

High School/JUCO

- Considered a four-star recruit by Rivals
- 247Sports listed him as the top JUCO offensive tackle and the No. 8 overall JUCO prospect
- Rivals rated him as the No. 2 offensive tackle prospect nationally and the 20th overall JUCO prospect
- Three-year starter at Dearborn Heights Robichaud for head coach Jason Malloy
- Played both sides of the ball and recorded 40 tackles, 10 TFL, two sacks and a forced fumble as a defensive lineman during his senior season
- Earned a spot on The Free Press' All-West Prep Football Team
- Also played basketball
- Signed with UK over Auburn and Texas Tech

Community Cats

- Dressed up as Santa Clause and gave out gifts to kids for the Woodhill Community Center Holiday Party (2021)

Personal

- Born in Detroit
- Son of Sandra Flax
- Has one brother, Isaiah
- Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in community leadership and development

Jeremy Says

- His nickname is "Big Jerm"
- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home and family
- After his football career he would like to be a coach
- Three words to describe him are funny, caring, and strong
- If he could eat three foods for the rest of his life he would choose pizza, soul food, and eggs



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LUKE FULTON

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-4 • 225 • Junior-SQ
Youngstown, Ohio (Michigan State/
Cardinal Mooney)

2022 - Junior

- Has seen action on special teams in five games ... Missed six games with injury

2021 - Sophomore

- Saw in 10 of 13 games on special teams
- Mid-year enrollee in January of 2021

2020 - r-Freshman (Michigan State)

- Did not play in 2020

2019 - Freshman (Michigan State)

- Redshirt season
- Played in one game and was named Scout Team Special Teams Player of the Week vs. Rutgers

High School

- A four-star linebacker who came out of traditional powerhouse Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio
- Ranked among the best players in Ohio by 247Sports (No. 9), Rivals.com (No. 15) and ESPN.com (No. 19)
- Listed as one of the top overall prospects in the nation by 247Sports (No. 280) and one of the top overall prospects in the Midwest (No. 51) by ESPN.com
- Three-year starter for head coach P.J. Fecko
- Cardinals' leading tackler as a junior and senior
- Totaled 98 tackles, 16.0 TFL and three sacks in 2018 as a senior
- Named to the 2018 Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association All-State Third Team in Division IV
- Two-time Ohio All-Northeast Inland District First-Team selection
- Named to the Butkus Award preseason watch list as one of the top 50 linebackers in the country
- Landed a spot on the WKBN Big 22 list

- Honorable mention all-state choice by OPSWA (Division IV) as a junior in 2017 after recording 135 tackles, including six sacks, and eight forced fumbles
- An all-around athlete who also participated in basketball, basketball and track at Mooney
- Excellent in the classroom as he was a member of the National Honor Society and ranked in the top 10 in his class with over a 4.00 GPA
- Named the WYTV "33 Student-Athlete of the Week" on Sept. 13, 2018
- Chose UK over Cincinnati, N.C. State and West Virginia

Personal

- Born in Youngstown, Ohio
- Son of Tina and Jeff Fulton
- Has two younger brothers, Jack and Cole
- Dad, Jeff, played baseball at Pitt
- Majoring in pre-management

Luke Says

- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a sports agent
- He chose Kentucky because of his strong relationships with the coaching staff
- In one sentence he describes Coach Stoops as "not only a great coach but a great man"
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he can play the piano
- The best advice he's ever received is "no one cares, work harder"



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DYLAN GARY

WIDE RECEIVER

6-4 • 198 • Freshman-HS
Sugar Hill, Ga. (North Gwinnett)

2022 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Two-year letterwinner and one-year starter at North Gwinnett High School under head coach Bill Stewart
- As a starter at wide receiver his senior season, averaged 16.2 yards per reception and 49.9 yards per game, making 37 catches for 600 yards and five touchdowns through 12 games in 2021
- That same season, he was named to the All-County Team and the 8A All-Region Offensive First Team in football
- Was also a three-year varsity basketball player and two-year track athlete at North Gwinnett
- Named a 2022 8A All-Region First Team selection in basketball
- Aided in the North Gwinnett basketball team's three straight regional championship titles and two



straight Georgia High School Association (GHS) Elite 8 appearances

Personal

- Born in Sugar Hill, Georgia
Son of Willie and Sam Gary
Has two sisters, Victoria and Averie
Comes from a family of athletes as dad, Willie, played defensive back at Kentucky from 1997-01 ... Was a 1997 Freshman All-America First Team selection by The Sporting News and a team captain in 2000 ... Went on to play for the St. Louis Rams in 2001 ... Mom, Sam, ran track at Tennessee from 1998-2002, competing in the 100-, 200- and 400-meters
Major is communication

Dylan Says

- One thing most people don't know about him is he likes to watch anime
He chose Kentucky because of the great campus
One word to describe himself on the field is "tough"
His sports hero is his dad because he's a hard worker
In just a few words, he would describe head coach Mark Stoops as "pretty funny"



4

JALEN GEIGER

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-1 • 197 • Junior-2L
Columbia, S.C. (Spring Valley)

2022 - Junior

- Changed jersey number from No. 34 to No. 4
Named to the SEC Community Service Team
AFCA Good Works Team nominee
Wuerffel Trophy nominee
Had a career-high tying four tackles in the season opener vs. Miami Ohio
Had three tackles vs. Florida before leaving the game with a season-ending knee injury that required surgery

2021 - Sophomore

- Played in all 13 games with two start starts (Vanderbilt and Louisville)
Totaled 18 tackles, a tackle for loss, a quarterback hurry, a pass breakup and an interception for a touchdown
In his first collegiate start at Vanderbilt, made his first collegiate interception and returned it 31 yards for a touchdown
Got a career-high four tackles at Louisville
Playing in front of his hometown fans at South Carolina, made two tackles, including one for loss ... TFL came on USC's final possession and helped forced a field goal

2020 - r-Freshman

- Saw in action in six games (Georgia, Vanderbilt, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and NC State) and totaled three tackles
Had a career-high two tackles at Alabama and also charted a tackle vs. NC State

2019 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
Saw action in three games (Missouri, Vanderbilt and UT Martin)
Charted his first pass breakup in the win at Vanderbilt and got a tackle vs. UT Martin
First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- A three-star defensive back by 247Sports.com
Considered the No. 9 overall recruit and No. 2 corner in the state of South Carolina by Rivals.com
Competed in the 82nd Annual Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and finished with four tackles
Recorded 71 tackles, including 60 solo, eight PBUs, and three interceptions as a senior
Named defensive back MVP
Two-time All-State First Team selection
Helped the Vikings finish 11-2 with a playoff berth as a junior in 2017
Coached by Robin Bacon
Transferred to Spring Valley after playing two seasons at Cardinal Newman
Also a talented basketball player
Chose UK over South Carolina, Virginia, and UNC

Community Cats

- Mentor at Liberty Elementary (2021 - present) - growing up in a military family, Jalen attended six different schools from kindergarten through 12th grade and knows a thing or two about what it feels like to be the new kid in class and how hard it can be to make new friends. Because of his background, Jalen has a passion for helping elementary school-age kids so they don't feel alone. He uses his platform as a football player to help kids in need and in 2021, found a mentorship opportunity at Liberty Elementary in Lexington, Kentucky. He visited the school on several occasions, playing with the kids and talking to them about learning and trusting their teachers. He plans to use his platform in 2022 to spread a message about anti-bullying and being kind.
Real Men Read (2021) - Volunteered to read to a group of first graders at Yates Elementary three times during the season
Citrus Bowl Volunteer Project (2021) - Volunteered to mentor children in the Orlando area at an amusement park ... Paired up with one of the students and began a friendship with him and talked to him about the importance of school because he was not doing well in the classroom
Belk Bowl Volunteer Project (2020) - Volunteered to pack food bags for people in the Charlotte area with food and/or home insecurities in the community
God's Pantry (2020) - Volunteered to pack food bags for food insecurity elementary students in the Lexington area to take home for the weekends
Lighthouse Ministries (2020) - Volunteered to prepare, clean and serve meals to the homeless

Personal

- Last name is pronounced "GI-ger"
Born in Columbia, South Carolina
Son of Tony and Ramona Geiger
Tony was a Chief Warrant Officer (CW3) in the Army for 21 years with five combat deployments, while mom, Ramona, retired as a First Sergeant (E-8) after 25 years of service with three combat deployments in the Army
Siblings are Eriq and Ja'nia
Brother, Eriq, played football at Bowling Green from 2009-12
Major is health, society and populations

Jalen Says

- He chose Kentucky because of the great coaching staff and the family feel
Most people don't know he lived in Korea from age 5 to 9
The people he admires most are his parents because of their work ethic
Three words to describe him are humble, quiet, and competitive
His favorite thing about football is competing against the best in big games

GEIGER'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, G-GS, Tackles, Sacks-Yds, TFL-Yds, FF/FR, INT, QBH, PBU. Rows for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and Totals.

GEIGER'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, PBU. Rows for vs. Miami OH*, at Florida*, and Totals.

GEIGER'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, INT, QBH, PBU. Rows for vs. ULM, vs. Missouri, vs. UTC, at South Carolina, vs. Florida, vs. LSU, at Georgia, at Miss. State, vs. Tennessee, at Vanderbilt*, vs. NMST, at Louisville*, vs. Iowa, and Totals.

GEIGER'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, PBU. Rows for vs. Georgia, vs. Vanderbilt, and at Alabama.





GEIGER'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

at Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
vs. South Carolina	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
vs. NC State	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
Totals	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0

GEIGER'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FF/FR	QBH	PBU
vs. Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1
vs. UT Martin	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0
Totals	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1

GEIGER'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 4, twice, last vs Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022
Tackles for loss: 1, at South Carolina, Sept 25, 2021 (6 yards)
Pass breakup: 1, twice, last vs Iowa, Jan 1, 2022
Quarterback hurry: 1, vs ULM, Sept 4, 2021
Interceptions: 1, at Vanderbilt, Nov 13, 2021 (1-31)
Pick Six: 1, at Vanderbilt, Nov. 13, 2021 (31)



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COLIN GOODFELLOW

PUNTER

6-2 • 225 • %Senior-2L
 Cleveland, Ohio (Saint Ignatius)

2022 - %Super Senior

- Ray Guy Award Watch List for nation's top punter
- Burlsworth Trophy nominee
- Semifinalist for the Campbell Trophy Watch List, premier scholar-athlete award
- Preseason Fourth-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Elected to return for a sixth year, taking advantage of the NCAA's ruling to grant an extra year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Has seen action in 21 career games
- Has 77 punts for a total of 3,413 yards (44.3)
- Has 32 punts for 1,328 yards (41.5) in nine games this season
- Had a season-high six punts for 238 yards at Missouri ... Made a game-saving play late in the game to help preserve Kentucky's win ... With UK clinging to a 21-17 lead and 2:34 remaining, the Wildcats faced 4th-and-4 at their own 41-yard line .. The punt snap went over his head, he raced back to the five-yard line and -- in one motion -- scooped the bouncing ball, whirled and punted while being hit hard by a Missouri player, drawing a roughing-the-punter penalty. Instead of Missouri taking over the UK 35-yard line, the Wildcats kept the ball with a first down and ran out all but 38 seconds of the clock
- Suffered a season-ending knee injury vs. Missouri

2021 - Senior

- Second-team CoSIDA Academic All-American
- First-team CoSIDA Academic All-District
- Dean's List (Fall 2021)

- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Ray Guy Award Watch List (nation's best punter)
- Ranked third in the SEC in punting with a 45.94 average in 10 games
- Had the second-highest season average for punting in school history
- Had 35 punts for 1,608 yards with a long of 70
- Kicked three times for a 53.7-yard average at Mississippi State ... Second straight game he had a career-long 70 yarder, becoming the first player in school history to have two punts of at least 70 yards during his career
- Punted seven times for a 51.1-yard average at No. 1 Georgia, including the two longest of his career -- a 63-yarder in the second quarter, followed by a 70-yarder in the third quarter
- Made his first appearance of the season vs. UTC and punted four times for a 50.5-yard average, including two that were inside the opponent 20-yard line
- Punted three times a 45.7-yard average, including two punts inside the 20-yard line vs. LSU ... LSU did not have any punt return yardage and the Tigers' average starting yard line following his punts was its own 15

2020 - Senior

- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Starting punter vs. Vanderbilt and Alabama and totaled 10 punts for 477 yards with a 47.7 yards per punt average
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Vanderbilt, punting three times for a 46.3-yard average, and there were no return yards
- Punted seven times for 48.3 yards per kick at Alabama ... Nailed a career-long 55-yarder and placed two inside the 20

2019 - Junior

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Dean's List (Fall 2019)

2018 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Dean's List (Fall 2018)

2017 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2017)

High School

- Three-year letter winner and starter at punter for St. Ignatius in Cleveland
- Averaged 41.1 yards per punt as a senior, helping the Wildcats finish 13-2
- Kept nine punts inside the 20-yard line and allowed only three touchbacks
- Also handled kickoffs, sending 61-of-87 to the end zone
- Named to Cleveland.com's 2016 all-star football team
- Was a two-time first-team All-County and two-time All-State selection
- Coached by Chuck Kyle
- Also a two-year letter winner as a guard on the basketball team
- Member of the National Honor Society

- 1st Honors (2016 and 2015), 2nd Honors (2014 and 2013)
- Chose Kentucky over Penn State and Pittsburgh

Community Cats

- Teamed up with kicker Matt Ruffolo to form a fundraiser "Kicks for Kids" with a goal of raising \$25,000 for the 25th anniversary of the Kentucky Children's Hospital. The money will be donated to Child Life Program which provides essential support and coping services for pediatric patients and their families who are seeking care at the hospital. The child life specialists incorporate play into a patient's hospital stay to help the child understand a medical procedure on their level or take their mind off of the difficult situations they are facing. To donate: <https://bit.ly/KCHKicksforKids>
- Volunteered with God's Pantry each Monday, picking up and delivering crates of food (2021)
- Volunteered each Friday of the school year to help younger nursing students work on their first aid skills (2021)
- Helped make blankets for Project Linus-Home, a non-profit organization which provides handmade blankets to children in need (2020)

Personal

- Born in Cleveland, Ohio
- Son of Kathy and Don
- Siblings are Alex, Christina, Eric, and Julianne
- Father, Don, played basketball at Case Western and sister, Christina, played soccer at Duquesne
- Graduated summa cum laude in May of 2021 with a nursing degree and is currently working on a second degree in kinesiology and health promotion

Colin Says

- His nickname is "Goody"
- He chose Kentucky because it would allow him to study nursing and play football
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be a certified registered nurse anesthetist
- When he played football as a kid he pretended to be Phil Dawson
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he's in nursing school

GOODFELLOW'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G	Punts	Yds.	Avg.	TBs	FC	Inside 20	Long	50+
2020	2	10	477	47.7	2	3	1	55	3
2021	10	35	1608	45.9	6	9	12	70	10
2022	9	32	1328	41.5	1	17	11	60	5
Totals	21	77	3413	44.3	9	29	24	70	18

GOODFELLOW'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Punts	Yds.	Avg.	Long	Inside 20
vs. Miami OH*	2	70	35.0	47	0
at Florida*	5	194	38.8	44	1
vs. YSU*	3	125	41.7	50	2
vs. NIU*	3	139	46.3	60	1
at Ole Miss*	2	103	51.5	53	1
vs. USC*	5	200	40.0	47	2
vs. Miss. State*	1	42	42.0	41	1
at Tennessee*	6	235	39.2	46	1





GOODFELLOW'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 6 columns: Opponent, Punts, Yds., Avg., Long, Inside 20. Rows for Missouri* and Totals.

GOODFELLOW'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 6 columns: Opponent, Punts, Yds., Avg., Long, Inside 20. Rows for UTC*, South Carolina*, Florida*, LSU*, Georgia*, Miss. State*, Tennessee*, Vanderbilt*, NMST*, Louisville*, Iowa* and Totals.

GOODFELLOW'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 6 columns: Opponent, Punts, Yds., Avg., Long, Inside 20. Rows for Vanderbilt* and Alabama* and Totals.

GOODFELLOW'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Punts: 7, twice, last at Georgia, Oct 16, 2021
Punt Yards: 353, at Georgia, Oct 16, 2021
Single-game Avg: 53.7, at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021
Long: 70, twice, last at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021



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KIYAUNTA GOODWIN

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-8 • 351 • Freshman-HS
Louisville, Ky. (Charleston {Ind.})

2022 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2022
• Preseason True Freshman All-American (ESPN)
• Has seen action on special teams in all 11 games

High School

- A five-star recruit who is ranked as the top offensive tackle in the nation and No. 1 recruit from Indiana
• Ranked the No. 2 offensive tackle and No. 13 overall player in the 2022 class by 247Sports
• Ranked as the No. 5 offensive tackle and No. 30 player based on ratings of multiple recruiting services
• Listed as the state of Indiana's No. 2 recruit by Rivals

- Played at Holy Cross in Louisville, Kentucky as a freshman and was named to the MaxPreps Freshman All-America team
• Transferred to Ballard High School in Louisville as a sophomore before ending his prep career at Charlestown High School in Indiana
• Coached by Jason Hawkins at Charlestown ... Hawkins said of Goodwin, "He's got a great attitude and he's fun to be around. His work ethic is really good. He practices hard and when he gets to the game he can move. He looks like a semi and runs like a Camaro."
• Selected to play in the 2022 All-American Bowl
• Had more than 60 scholarship offers but ultimately chose Kentucky over Alabama, Michigan State and Texas A&M

Personal

- Name is pronounced "key-ON-tay"
• Born in Louisville, Kentucky
• Son of Kim Durham
• Major is undecided

Kiyaunta Says

- His nickname is "K.G."
• He chose Kentucky because it's home and he loved the people and the program
• Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be in real estate
• Most people don't know that he can play four musical instruments (trombone, clarinet, base clarinet and trumpet) and is learning a fifth (guitar)
• Three words to describe him are protector, caring, and selfless



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MAXWELL HAIRSTON

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-1 • 185 • Freshman-RS
West Bloomfield, Mich. (West Bloomfield)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Has played in 11 games this season and has two tackles
• Got a career-best two tackles in the win over Youngstown State

2021 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- Rated a three-star prospect by 247sports
• Ranked the No. 19 prospect in Michigan and No. 65 cornerback nationally by 247sports
• A two-way player at defensive back and wide receiver for head coach Ron Bellamy
• Voted team captain as a senior
• Totaled 23 tackles, 16 pass breakups, three interceptions and three forced fumbles on defense and 500 receiving yards and eight scores on offense in 2020

- Led the Lakers to the 2020 Division I state championship title
• Named first-team All-State by the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News
• Named to the All-Oakland Athletic Association Team in 2020
• Helped West Bloomfield to a 10-2 record as a junior in 2019
• Picked Kentucky over offers from Arkansas, Minnesota, Purdue, Rutgers, Virginia Tech
• Also lettered in track and basketball
• Honor roll student
• Member of the school's choir

Personal

- Born in West Bloomfield, Michigan
• Son of Robin and Marvin Hairston
• Has three older siblings Alexandria, Madison, and Marvin
• Cousin Jaylin Bannerman played football two seasons at UK; cousin, Taiwan Jones, played football at Michigan State and with the New York Jets; cousin Lyndsey Hairston played basketball at Michigan State and later in the NBA and overseas
• Major is undecided

Maxwell Says

- His nickname is "Mad Max"
• Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a businessman or coach
• He chose Kentucky because he saw an opportunity he couldn't resist
• One thing most people don't know about him is that he can sing
• One word to describe him on the field is "greedy"

HAIRSTON'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with 10 columns: Year, Pos., G-GS, Tackles, Sacks, TFL, FF/FR, INT, PBU, QBH. Rows for 2022 and Totals.

HAIRSTON'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 9 columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL, FF/FR, PBU, Int-Yds, QBH. Rows for Miami, Florida, YSU, NIU, Ole Miss, USC, Miss. St., UT, Missouri, Vandy, UofL and Totals.

HAIRSTON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 2, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022



50 DARRION HENRY-YOUNG DEFENSIVE LINE

6-4 • 255 • Sophomore-Tr Cincinnati, Ohio (Ohio State/Princeton HS)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has played in four games this season (Youngstown State, South Carolina, Tennessee and Louisville)
Saw his first action at UK vs. Youngstown State and recorded a tackle and a career-high tying sack

2021 - r-Freshman (Ohio State)

- Played in two games for the Buckeyes vs. Tulsa and Akron

2020 - Freshman (Ohio State)

- Redshirt season
Played in two games for the Buckeyes vs. Nebraska in the season opener and against Rutgers
Charted his first career sack vs. Nebraska

High School

- Ranked as the No. 2 player in the state of Ohio and the No. 16 defensive tackle prospect in the nation by 247Sports as a high school senior in class of 2020
A four-star prospect ranked in the Top 150 nationally
Also a Rivals100 recruit
Earned first-team All-Ohio and was a member of the Southwest Ohio Football Coaches Association Division I first team in 2019
Led the Greater Miami Conference with 8.5 sacks as a junior in 2018
Played at Princeton for coach Mike Daniels

Personal

- Born in Cincinnati
Son of Denetia Henry and Olen Young
Siblings are Olivia, O'rienne and Olen
Major is pre-social work

Darrion Says

- His nickname is "D-Hen"
He chose Kentucky because of the opportunities it provides
Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to work with struggling youth
One word to describe him on the field is "relentless"
Hobbies include bowling, paintball and playing basketball

HENRY-YOUNG'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, G-GS, Tackles, TFL-Yds, Sacks-Yds, PBU, FF, FR, QBH. Rows for 2020*, 2021*, 2022, and Totals.

*at Ohio State

HENRY-YOUNG'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tkls, TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int, QBH. Rows for vs. YSU, vs. South Carolina, at Tennessee, and Totals.

HENRY-YOUNG'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tkls, TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int, QBH. Rows for vs. Tulsa, vs. Akron, and Totals.

HENRY-YOUNG'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tkls, TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int, QBH. Rows for vs. Nebraska, vs. Rutgers, and Totals.

HENRY-YOUNG'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 1, twice, last vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022
Tackles for loss: 1.0, twice, last vs Youngstown St., Sept 17, 2022 (4 yds)
Sacks: 1.0, twice, last vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022 (4 Yards)



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DEUCE HOGAN

QUARTERBACK

6-4 • 205 • Sophomore-Tr Southlake, Texas (Iowa/ Grapevine Faith Christian)

2022 - Sophomore

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2022
Saw action vs. Miami (Ohio) and at Florida

2021 - r-Freshman (Iowa)

- Saw action vs. Maryland

2020 - Freshman (Iowa)

- Redshirt season

High School

- Coming out of high school was rated by 247Sports as the 15th-best pro-style quarterback in the nation in the Class of 2020

- Four-year letter winner and three-time team captain for his dad and head coach Kris Hogan at Faith Christian Academy
Threw for an impressive 8,192 yards and completed 52.8 percent of his pass attempts, with 100 career touchdown passes and 30 interceptions
Holds school records for career wins, touchdowns, yards, and completions
Led the Lions to the state playoffs four straight years, winning state title as a freshman and reaching semifinals as a senior
Helped the Lions compile a four-year prep record of 36-11
Earned all-state and all-district honors as a senior
Earned all-district as a sophomore and junior
Named Newcomer of the Year as a freshman

Personal

- Given name is Kristopher Joseph Hogan II
Born in Grapevine, Texas
Son of Kris and Amy Hogan
Siblings are Zeke and Jerilyn
Major is community and leadership development

Deuce Says

- His nickname is "Deuce"
He chose Kentucky because of the great people, great coaches and the NFL offense
Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a pastor or high school football coach
One thing most people don't know about him is that he can play the guitar and the piano
Three famous people he would invite to dinner are Jesus, Tim Tebow and Paul "Bear" Bryant

HOGAN'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, G-GS, Rush, Yds, TD, Lg, Comp, Att, Int, Pct, Yds, TD, Lg. Rows for 2021*, 2022, UK, and Totals.

*at Iowa

HOGAN'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Comp.-Att.-Int., Yds, TD, Long, Rush, Yds, TD, Long. Rows for vs. Miami OH, at Florida, and Totals.



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KENNETH HORSEY

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-3 • 304 • Senior-3L Sanford, Fla. (Sanford Seminole)

2022 - Senior (Team Captain)

- Elected one of seven team captains



- Preseason Second-Team All-SEC (Coaches)
- Preseason Second-Team All-SEC (Media)
- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Preseason HM All-America (Pro Football Network)
- Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List
- Has played in 36 career games with 32 straight starting assignments
- Did not play vs. Georgia

2021 - Junior

- Started in all 13 games
- Key cog on the "Big Blue Wall" who has been recognized for the Joe Moore Award, given to the nation's top offensive line, four straight seasons, including finalists in 2021
- One of 11 FBS players named to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team for his volunteer work with the American Heart Association
- Received the Central Kentucky American Heart Association's Finn Collier Service Award for his volunteer work in helping spread heart health awareness
- Named to the SEC Community Service Team
- Wuerffel Trophy Watch List
- Named to UK's Frank G. Ham Society of Character

2020 - Sophomore

- One of the three winners of the 2020 Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award ... Honored after having open-heart surgery in 2018 and returning to start on the offensive line for UK
- Started in eight games played in 2020
- Earned first career start at left guard in the season opener vs. Auburn
- Did not dress vs. Vanderbilt, Florida or South Carolina

2019 - r-Freshman

- Saw action in four games at left guard (Eastern Michigan, Vanderbilt, UT Martin and Virginia Tech)

2018 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- Rated a three-star recruit by 247Sports and Rivals
- Ranked as the No. 58 offensive guard in the nation
- Helped lead his team to a 9-3 record and district championship as a senior
- Coached by Don Stark
- Also a two-year letter winner in the shot put
- Excelled in the classroom as he touted a 3.6 GPA and scored 1220 on his SAT
- Chose Kentucky over Mississippi State, South Florida and Central Florida

Community Cats

- Has become an advocate for heart health after having open heart surgery in 2018
- Participated in American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day (2020 and 2021)
- Participated in the 2021 Central Kentucky Heart Walk Digital Experience (2021)
- Coordinated and planned a hands-only CPR training for the UK Football team and staff (2021)
- Helped plan a Hands-Only CPR media availability on June 14 that promoted Hands-Only CPR awareness to the media for CPR Awareness Month (2021)
- Spoke at Central Kentucky Heart Walk kick-off event (2020)

- Spoke at UK Healthcare Heart Walk kick-off event (2020)
- Dedicated his 2020 football season to Finn Collier, a seven-year-old who lost his life to heart disease
- Volunteered at Brenda Cowan Elementary and Cassidy Elementary (2020)

Personal

- Born in Orlando, Florida
- Son of Shari and Ken Horsey
- Siblings are Kenyese Horsey and Ora-Monet Hughes
- Graduated on December 17, 2021 with a degree in communication ... Currently working on a master's degree in social work

Kenneth Says

- He chose to play football at UK because he loved the school on his visit and wanted to play in the SEC
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be a football coach
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he participated in martial arts for 14 years and had open-heart surgery in April of 2018
- If he had a hashtag to describe himself it would be #68wave



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D'ERYK
JACKSON

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-1 • 241 • Junior-2L
Dublin, Ga. (West Laurens)

2022 - Junior

- Has played in all 12 games with eight starting assignments, seven straight
- Leads the team with 63 tackles
- Also has 4.0 tackles for loss (third-highest) and two pass breakups this season
- Got his first career tackle for loss and pass breakup at Ole Miss
- Charted a career-high 2.0 tackles vs. South Carolina
- Had five tackles and a PBU in the win over Mississippi State
- Led the Wildcats with a career-high 14 tackles, including four solo stops and one-half tackle for loss at No. 3 Tennessee
- Had at least eight tackles in three of his last four games

2021 - Sophomore

- Suffered a torn Achilles tendon in spring practice on April 10, 2021 ... Had surgery on April 13 and was expected to miss the entire season ... Instead, returned to full practice activity on Oct. 28 and saw his first action of the season at Vanderbilt on Nov. 13
- Saw action in four games with one starting assignment vs. Iowa in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl, his first career start
- Totaled 18 tackles, a quarterback hurry and his second career interception

- Had seven tackles (tied for third on the team) and an interception vs. Iowa in the Citrus Bowl
- In his third game back, totaled a team and career-high eight tackles in the win over Louisville
- Charted three tackles and his first career quarterback hurry vs. New Mexico State
- Named to SEC Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2020
- Played in nine games and totaled four tackles and one interception for a five-yard return
- Did not see action at Alabama or at Florida
- Earned his first career tackle at Auburn
- Snagged his first career interception on the final play of the game vs. Mississippi State
- 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Three-star prospect by all three major recruiting services
- Rated the No. 47 inside linebacker in the country by 247Sports
- Three-time All-Region 2AAAA selection
- Led the team in tackles three straight seasons as a starter
- Tallied 129 total tackles, 12.0 tackles for loss, nine sacks, four quarterback hurries and an interception as a senior, earning Region 2AAAA Defensive Player of the Year by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- Had 96 tackles, 14 TFL and four sacks as a junior
- West Laurens Defensive Player of the Year as a junior
- Two-time Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Junior All-Star Game participant
- Ranked 20th in the state of Georgia among all classifications in total tackles
- Helped lead the Raiders to the Region 2AAAA championship title
- Coached by Kagan McClain
- Also played power forward on the basketball team
- Chose Kentucky over Mississippi State, Ole Miss and Purdue

Community Cats

- Participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Men's Conference at Southland Christian (2020)
- Visited sick children at Kentucky Children's Hospital (2020)

Personal

- First name pronounced "dee-ERIC"
- Born in Dublin, Georgia
- Son of Shamika and Eric Jackson
- Has one sister, Dezhune
- Major is pre-communication

D'Eryk Says

- He chose Kentucky because it felt like family
- When he played football as a kid, he pretended to be Ray Lewis
- One word to describe him on the field is "physical"
- His favorite movie is *Friday*
- His sports hero is Ray Lewis



JACKSON'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, Pos, G-GS, Tackles, Sacks, TFL, FF/FR, INT, PBU, QBH. Rows for 2020, 2021, 2022, and Totals.

JACKSON'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL, FF/FR, PBU, Int-Yds, QBH. Rows for various opponents and Totals.

JACKSON'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL, FF/FR, PBU, Int-Yds, QBH. Rows for various opponents and Totals.

JACKSON'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL, FF/FR, PBU, Int-Yds, QBH. Rows for various opponents and Totals.

JACKSON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 14, at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022
Tackles for loss: 2.0, vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022 (5 yards)
Interceptions: 1, twice, last vs Iowa, Jan 1, 2022
Quarterback hurry: 1, vs New Mexico State, Nov 20, 2021
Pass breakups: 1, twice, last vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022



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RAMON
JEFFERSON

RUNNING BACK

5-10 • 215 • Senior-Tr
The Bronx, N.Y. (Sam Houston State/
Garden City CC/Maine/Truman)

2022 - %Senior

- Missed the season with a knee injury suffered in the opening series vs. Miami Ohio
The former FCS All-American was one of the top rushers in the FCS last two seasons at Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas and had a long and winding road to Lexington ... Began his football career at Maine where he was coached under former UK offensive coordinator Liam Coen ... Transferred to Garden City Community College in Kansas for one season and then transferred to Sam Houston State for two seasons
Had two carries for 10 yards in the season opener vs. Miami Ohio before being sidelined with injury

2021 - Senior (Sam Houston State)

- Amassed 1,907 yards on 299 carries in 22 games in two seasons
Helped the Bearkats win the FCS Championship during the spring of 2021
For the '21 spring season, was named All-Southland Conference second team after rushing for 752 yards (sixth in the FCS) with seven touchdowns
Averaged 75.2 yards per game and had three rushes of over 30 yards, making him the first Bearkat since 2017 with multiple 30-yard rushes in the same season
In the fall season, rushed for 1,155 yards and had 13 touchdowns
Named an Associated Press FCS second-team All-American
First-team All-Western Athletic Conference

2020 - Junior (Sam Houston State)

- FCS postponed its 2020 season due to COVID-19

2019 - Sophomore (Garden City CC)

- Named to the All-Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference second team offense after rushing for 994 yards and 13 scores in 11 games
His rushing yardage and rushing TDs were each second in the KJCC
Did not lose a fumble in 168 carries for the season

2018 - r-Freshman (Maine)

- Saw action in 12 games with seven starting assignments for the Black Bears
Totaled 1,037 rushing yards on 182 carries with eight touchdowns
Averaged 86.4 yards per game and 5.7 yards per carry
Notched six receptions for 50 yards and a touchdown

- Helped lead Maine to the semifinals of the FCS playoffs
Named the Thurlow Cooper Offensive Rookie of the Year

2017 - Freshman (Maine)

- Redshirted season
Coached by under former UK offensive coordinator Liam Coen

High School

- Shined at Harry S Truman High School where he was a two-time all-conference, two-time all-city, NYSSWA all-state selection
Helped lead Harry S Truman to back-to-back PSAL Bowls
Amassed an impressive 5,456 total yards and 52 career touchdowns

Personal

- Born in The Bronx, New York
Son of Dawn Jones and Wayne Jefferson
Graduated from Sam Houston State in May of 2022 with a degree in humanities and social sciences ... Currently working on a second degree in community and leadership development
Chose Kentucky over West Virginia, Tennessee and Eastern Michigan

Ramon Says

- His nickname is "X"
He chose Kentucky because of the winning culture and the tradition
One thing most people don't know about him is that he can play the saxophone
His dream job is to own his own private sports performance business
One thing he will never do again is drink Ensure before a workout

JEFFERSON'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, G-GS, Att., Yds., Avg., TD, LG, Rec., Yds., Avg., TD, LG. Rows for 2018+, 2020*, 2021*, 2022, UK, and Totals.

+ at Maine
*at Sam Houston State

JEFFERSON'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Att., Yds., TD, Long, Rec., Yds., TD, Long. Rows for vs. Miami OH and Totals.

JEFFERSON'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME (SAM HOUSTON STATE)

Table with columns: Opponent, Att., Yds., TD, Long, Rec., Yds., TD, Long. Rows for various opponents and Totals.





JA. JONES' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, PBU, Int. Rows include vs. Miami OH*, at Florida*, vs. YSU*, vs. NIU*, at Ole Miss*, vs. USC, vs. Miss. State, at Tennessee, at Missouri, vs. Vanderbilt, vs. Georgia, vs. UofL, and Totals.

JA. JONES' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, PBU, Int. Rows include vs. ULM*, vs. Missouri*, vs. UTC*, at USC*, vs. Florida*, vs. LSU*, at Georgia*, at Miss. State*, vs. Tennessee*, at Vanderbilt*, vs. NMST*, at Louisville*, vs. Iowa, and Totals.

JA. JONES' 2020 GAME-BY-GAME (OLE MISS)

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, PBU. Rows include vs. Florida*, at Kentucky*, vs. Alabama, at Arkansas*, vs. Auburn*, at Vanderbilt*, vs. South Carolina*, vs. Mississippi St.*, at LSU*, vs. Indiana*, and Totals.

JA. JONES' 2019 GAME-BY-GAME (OLE MISS)

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, PBU. Rows include at Memphis, vs. Arkansas, vs. SLU*, vs. Cal*, at Alabama*, vs. Vanderbilt*, at Missouri*, vs. Texas A&M, and Totals.

Summary table for 2022 game-by-game stats: at Auburn*, vs. New Mexico St.*, vs. LSU*, at Mississippi St., Totals.

JONES' 2018 GAME-BY-GAME (OLE MISS)

Table with columns: Opponent, Tackles, Sacks, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, PBU. Rows include vs. Texas Tech, vs. Southern Ill.*, vs. Alabama, vs. Kent State, at LSU, vs. ULM, vs. Arkansas, vs. Auburn, vs. South Carolina, at Texas A&M, at Vanderbilt, vs. Mississippi St., and Totals.

JA. JONES' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 18, at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021
Tackles for loss: 1.5, vs Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022
Sacks: 1.0, twice, last vs Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022
Forced fumbles: 2, vs SLU, Sept 14, 2019
Fumble recoveries: 1, vs Tennessee, Nov 6, 2021
Quarterback hurries: 2, at LSU, Dec 19, 2020
Pass breakups: 2, vs Missouri, Sept 11, 2021
Interceptions: 1, twice, last at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022 (0 yards)



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JOSH JONES

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-6 • 325 • Sophomore-SQ
Columbus, Ga. (Central-Phenix City, Ala.)

2022 - Sophomore

- Missed the season with injury

2021 - r-Freshman

- Practiced with the team

2020 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
• 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Three-star prospect by all three major recruiting services
• Rated the No. 32 overall prospect in the state of Alabama for the Class of 2020
• Four-year starter who helped Central advance to the Alabama 7A state championship game in 2019 and finish with a 12-2 record

- Named to the 33rd annual Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Football Game roster
• Two-time first-team Class 7A All-State selection
• Led the Red Devils to a state title in 2018 after defeating Thompson in the Super Seven Championship game, finishing 14-0
• Coached by Jamey DuBose
• Had 14 Division I offers before choosing UK over LSU

Personal

- Born in Columbus, Georgia
• Son of Quinnta and Deforest Jones
• Has one brother, Joseph Jones
• Major is consumer economics and family financial counseling

Josh Says

- Nickname is "Bugg"
• He chose Kentucky because of the coaching staff and it's a great place
• One thing most people don't know about him is that he's quiet
• His sports hero is LeBron James
• Besides being good at football, he's also a good basketball player



84

JOSH KATTUS

TIGHT END

6-4 • 232 • Freshman-HS
Cincinnati, Ohio (Arch Bishop Moeller)

2022 - Freshman

- Has seen action in 11 games with three starts
• Has totaled seven catches for 125 yards, averaging 17.8 yards per reception
• Has had at least one reception in four straight games
• Had two receptions for a career-high 76 yards in the win over Louisville ... Had a career-long, 70-yard catch on Kentucky's second drive of the game, setting the Wildcats up for their first touchdown of the game
• Got his first collegiate start and playing time at Florida ... Also started vs. Mississippi State and against Louisville

High School

- A three-star recruit who ranks as a top 50 tight end nationally by Rivals
• Ranked as the No. 26 recruit in Ohio by Rivals and No. 30 by 247Sports
• Had 42 catches for 553 yards and one score for head coach Mark Elder at Archbishop Moeller High School in 2021
• Helped the Crusaders win the Division 1 Region and finish in the state semifinals
• Two-time Greater Catholic League (GCL) Tight End of the Year
• Two-time All-GCL First Team member
• Two-time All-City and All-Region First Team





- OHSAA Division 1 First-Team All-State
- Named Max Preps Division 1 First-Team All-State
- Earned Southwest Ohio Football Coaches Association All-City Division 1 First Team
- In eight games in an abbreviated COVID-19 season in 2020, he had 23 catches for 288 yards and four touchdowns
- Reunites with former Moeller standouts at UK, tight end Brenden Bates and defensive back Carrington Valentine
- Also a three-year letter winner as a power forward in basketball
- Chose UK over Michigan, Northwestern, Louisville and Cincinnati

Community Cats

- Volunteered to at the Kentucky Children's Hospital, visiting with the kids and playing games (2022)

Personal

- Name is pronounced Josh "KAT-us"
- Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Son of Lisa and Eric Kattus
- Has two younger brothers, Tucker and Justin
- Dad, Eric Kattus, was a tight end at Michigan from 1982-85 and went on to a seven-year career in the NFL, playing six years with the Cincinnati Bengals and one with the New York Jets
- Major is undecided

Josh Says

- Nickname is "Big Katt"
- He chose Kentucky because he loved the coaching staff and it felt like home
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he is a great pickleball player
- Three words to describe him are enthusiastic, leader, and loyal
- The best advice he's ever received is "work hard even when no one is watching"

KATTUS' CAREER STATISTICS							
Year	Pos.	G-GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
2022	TE	11-3	7	125	17.9	0	70
Totals		11-3	7	125	17.9	0	70

KATTUS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME					
Opponent	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long	
at Florida*	0	0	0	0	
vs. YSU	0	0	0	0	
vs. NIU	0	0	0	0	
at Ole Miss	0	0	0	0	
vs. USC	0	0	0	0	
vs. Miss. State*	0	0	0	0	
at Tennessee	0	0	0	0	
at Missouri	1	10	0	10	
vs. Vanderbilt	2	10	0	8	
vs. Georgia	2	29	0	16	
vs. UofL	2	76	0	70	
Totals	7	125	0	70	

KATTUS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS	
Receptions: 2, 3x, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022	
Receiving yards: 125, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (2 rec.)	
Receiving TDs: n/a	
Long reception: 70, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022	



6

DANE
KEY

WIDE RECEIVER

6-3 • 194 • Freshman-HS
Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)

2022 - Freshman

- Honorable Mention Freshman All-American (CFN)
- Midseason True Freshman All-American (247 Sports)
- Has started in 11 of 12 games played this season
- Has 31 catches for 472 yards (third-highest on the team) and a team-high six scores
- Set a new UK single-season freshman record for touchdown receptions with six
- Recorded a TD catch in the first three games of his collegiate career, the first Wildcat to do so since La'Rod King in 2011
- Caught four passes for 53 yards and his first career touchdown, on a one-yard catch, in his college debut vs. Miami (Ohio) ... Became the first true freshman to start the opener at wide receiver since Keenan Burton in 2003
- Hauled in three passes for 83 yards and a touchdown in the win at Florida ... Caught a career-long 55-yard scoring pass
- Had season highs with six catches for 90 yards in the win over Youngstown State, including a three-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter
- Caught four passes for 53 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winner, in Kentucky's 21-17 win at Missouri

High School

- Consensus four-star prospect
- The top prospect in Kentucky as rated by 247sports and ESPN
- One of the nation's top 40 wide receivers and top 250 overall prospects by both services
- Paul Hornung Award winner as the Kentucky Player of the Year, selected by the Louisville Quarterback Club
- Class 5A Player of the Year as picked by the Kentucky Football Coaches Association
- Named to the Lexington Herald-Leader "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top seniors in Kentucky
- Had 959 receiving yards and nine touchdowns as a senior
- Two-time first-team all-state selection by The Associated Press, Louisville Courier-Journal and Kentucky Sports Radio as junior and senior
- Caught 37 passes for 625 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior, plus a kickoff return for a TD
- Helped lead team to a 34-5 record during his final three seasons, with trips to the Class AAAAA state finals as a senior and sophomore
- Coached by Nathan McPeck
- Also a centerfielder on the baseball team three seasons
- Earned Academic Freshman of the Year

- Reunites at UK with Frederick Douglass teammates Dekel Crowdus and Jager Burton
- Chose UK over Oregon, South Carolina and Michigan

Personal

- Born in Lexington, Kentucky
- Son of Donte' and Nicole Key
- Has one brother, Devon
- Father, Donte', was a UK linebacker/defensive end from 1992-95, who was National Defensive Player of the Week for his performance in the 1994 inaugural Governor's Cup game vs. Louisville
- Brother, Devon, played at Western Kentucky and with the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs
- Major is pre-management

Dane Says

- Nickname is "Ace"
- He chose Kentucky because it's home
- One thing most people don't know about him is he is a good skateboarder
- His sports hero is his brother because he taught him how to love the game and how to play it like it should be played
- Three words to describe him are determined, ambitious, and athletic

KEY'S CAREER STATISTICS							
Year	Pos.	G-GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
2022	WR	12-11	31	472	15.2	6	55
Totals		12-11	31	472	15.2	6	55

KEY'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME					
Opponent	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long	
vs. Miami OH*	4	53	1	45	
at Florida	3	83	1	55	
vs. YSU*	6	90	1	29	
vs. NIU*	2	15	0	9	
at Ole Miss*	2	28	0	14	
vs. USC*	2	22	0	13	
vs. Miss. State*	1	31	0	31	
at Tennessee*	1	8	0	8	
at Missouri*	4	54	2	39	
vs. Vanderbilt*	1	29	0	29	
vs. Georgia*	2	23	0	12	
vs. UofL*	3	37	1	15	
Totals	31	472	6	55	

KEY'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS	
Receptions: 6, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022	
Receiving yards: 90, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022 (6 receptions)	
Receiving TDs: 2, at Missouri, Nov 5, 2022	
Long reception: 55, at Florida, Sept 10, 2022	





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COLE LANTER

WIDE RECEIVER

5-11 • 179 • Freshman-HS Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)

2022 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January of 2022
- Practiced with the team

High School

- Accepted a preferred walk-on position after a stellar high school career at Boyle County High School
- Four-year letter winner and three-year starter at slot receiver
- Helped the Rebels compile an impressive 52-3 overall record during his four seasons as he combined for 2,253 receiving yards and 35 receiving touchdowns
- As a senior, led Boyle County with 78 catches for 1,288 yards and 21 receiving touchdowns, averaging 85.9 receiving yards per game ... Also had 28 carries for 227 rushing yards and four touchdowns
- His 21 receiving touchdowns and 78 receptions led the state and were school records
- His 1,288 receiving yards ranked second in the state
- Also had two punt return touchdowns and playing defensive back, charted 32 tackles and two interceptions
- Totaled 27 touchdowns and helped Boyle County finish 14-1 and win its 10th state championship, including second in a row, by defeating Johnson Central in the 2021 Class 4A championship
- Played for head coach Justin Haddix
- Named first-team All-State by the Courier-Journal
- Named to the Lexington Herald-Leader's Class of the Commonwealth team
- Finalist for the Kentucky Football Coaches Association's Mr. Football award
- As a junior, had 38 catches for 647 yards and nine scores and 18 rushes for 123 yards and one score
- Also had 20 tackles in helping the Rebels win the 2020 state championship
- Member of the 2019 Class 4a State Runner-up team
- Competed in track in 2021, participating in the 100 and 200-meters, 4x100-meter and 4x200-meter relay
- Excellent student as he carried a 4.0 grade point average throughout his prep career
- Named Academic All-American by scoutSmart
- Chose Kentucky over scholarship offers from Eastern Kentucky and Murray State

Community Cats

- Volunteered to pack meals for those in need in Africa at Grace Christian Church (2022)

Personal

- Born in Lexington, Kentucky
- Son of Tim and Johnna Lanter
- Siblings are Reed, Trey, Cook, Hunter and Lexi
- Comes from a family of athletes as cousin Tod Lanter, was a walk-on on the Kentucky basketball team from 2012-2015 and his uncle, Bo, played basketball at Kentucky from 1979-82
- Major is pre-finance

Cole Says

- His nickname is "Glenny" (first name is Glendon)
- He chose Kentucky because it's home and he grew up bleeding blue
- His dream job is to be a director of player development
- The best advice he's ever received is "pray continually"
- Three words to describe him are leader, caring and determined



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CONNOR LONG

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

6-3 • 220 • Sophomore-SQ East Lansing, Mich. (East Lansing)

2022 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- A dual-sport standout (football and track & field) at East Lansing High School
- Two-year starter at outside linebacker for head coach Bill Feraco
- Helped the Trojans win three straight Capital Area Activities Blue Conference championship titles
- Led the conference with 65 tackles, 15 sacks and three fumble recoveries in nine games as the Trojans finished 8-1 in a COVID-shortened 2020 season
- Earned first-team All-Conference, All-Region and All-State as a senior
- Selected to play in the 2020 Xenith Senior All-Star Game and the 2021 Offense-Defense All-American Bowl
- Also an all-state performer in track in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash
- Choose to play football at UK over scholarship offers to run track
- Member of the National Society of High School Scholars and the Black Student Union
- Chose Kentucky over Michigan State

Community Cats

- Volunteered to pack meals for charity (2022)
- Volunteered with My New Kentucky Home

Personal

- Born in Lansing, Michigan
- Son of Octavis and Lynette Long
- Has one sister, Nia
- Father, Octavis, was a wide receiver at Michigan State from 1995-97, while his mother, Lynette ran track for the Spartans
- Major is African American and Africana studies

Conner Says

- He chose Kentucky because of the coaches, the fanbase and it's a great program
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be a lobbyist
- Besides football, he's also good at track and public speaking
- One word to describe him on the field is "relentless"
- His sports hero is Lebron James



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JORDAN LOVETT

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-2 • 202 • Freshman-RS Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Honorable Mention Freshman All-American (CFN)
- Has seen action in all 12 games, starting the last 10
- Second on the team in tackles with 59 tackles
- Also has two pass breakups, two interceptions, a quarterback hurry and 1.5 tackles for loss
- Had three tackles and a his first career PBU in his first collegiate start vs. Youngstown St.
- Recorded seven tackles in the win over Florida
- Charted his first career tackle for loss against South Carolina
- Got a career-high eight tackles at No. 3 Tennessee
- Totaled seven tackles and generated his first career interception vs. No. 1 Georgia
- Got six tackles and a 36-yard interception return in the win over Louisville
- Marked the second straight interception of his career after intercepting a pass against top-ranked Georgia

2021 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2021
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. ULM and recorded one tackle at safety
- Redshirt season

High School

- Three-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals.com and 247sports.com
- Rated as high as the No. 38 safety nationally by 247 and No. 4 prospect in the commonwealth of Kentucky
- Rangy defensive back with an interesting progression in high school
- Did not play safety until his junior season, then made 15 interceptions and 21 tackles in his



- first campaign at the position ... Ranked second nationally in interceptions
- Ranks second in KSHAA history for interceptions in a single season (15 in 2019)
 - Tied for third in KSHAA history for interceptions in a game with four vs. Barren County (11/8/19)
 - Followed that with another impressive season as a senior, totaling 60 tackles and three interceptions for 55 total yards
 - Named first-team all-state, the AP, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and Kentucky Sports Radio in 2020
 - Helped take North Hardin to a 9-1 record and a berth in the state quarterfinals in 2020
 - As a junior, earned first-team all-state honors from The Associated Press and *Louisville Courier-Journal*
 - Helped lead North Hardin HS to a 13-1 record, reaching the state semifinals in Class AAAAAA in 2019
 - High school teammates of current UK defensive lineman Octavious Oxendine and fellow signee La'Ve'll Wright
 - Coached by Brent Thompson
 - Also a two-year letter winner in basketball
 - Named academic all-state as a junior
 - Chose Kentucky over Cincinnati, Louisville, Missouri and West Virginia

Personal

- Born in Atlanta, Georgia
- Son of Tameka Herriot and Rodney Lovett
- Mom, Tameka, is a Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army
- Siblings are Caleb Walls and Lex Lovett
- Major is undecided

Jordan Says

- His nickname is "J Love"
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a coach
- He chose Kentucky because it was the best fit for him
- Besides playing football, he's also good at basketball, video games and swimming
- One word to describe him on the field is "lit"

LOVETT'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls.	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	QBH	Int.	PBH
2021	DB	1-0	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
2022	DB	12-10	59	0-0	1.5-3	0/0	1	2-34	2
Totals		13-10	60	0-0	1.5-3	0/0	1	2-34	2

LOVETT'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. Miami Ohio	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU*	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU*	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss*	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
vs. USC*	5	1.0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State*	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1
at Tennessee*	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt*	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1-0	0
vs. Uofl.*	6	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0	1-34	0
Totals	59	1.5-3	0-0	2	0	0	2-34	1

LOVETT'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. ULM	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0

LOVETT'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 8, at Florida, Oct 29, 2022
Tackles for loss: 1.0, vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022 (2 yards)
Pass breakups: 1, twice, last at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022
Interception: 1, twice, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (34 yards)
Quarterback hurry: 1, vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022



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TASHAWN MANNING

OFFENSIVE LINE

**6-4 • 330 • %Senior-Tr
 Apopka, Fla. (Auburn/Wekiva)**

2022 - %Super Senior

- Came to Kentucky as a graduate transfer/Super Senior after spending five seasons at Auburn (2017-2021)
- Played in 30 career games with 14 starting assignments for the Tigers
- Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List
- Mid-year enrollee
- Now has played in 41 career games with 25 starts, including 11 games at UK this season
- Did not see action vs. Youngstown State with injury

2021 - Senior (Auburn)

- Saw action in 12 of Auburn's 13 games, earning three starts vs. Mississippi State, South Carolina and Alabama
- Graded as the team's best run blocker in 2021 by Pro Football Focus

2020 - Junior (Auburn)

- Earned a starting role in all 11 games
- Named to the SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Sophomore (Auburn)

- Played in five games at left guard vs. Oregon, Kent State, Mississippi State, Arkansas and Samford

2018 - r-Freshman (Auburn)

- Saw action in two games at left guard vs. Alabama State and Liberty

2017 - Freshman (Auburn)

- Redshirt season
- Moved from defensive tackle to offensive guard

High School

- A three-star athlete ranked by 247 Sports and ESPN as a top 75 defensive tackle coming out of high school
- All-Conference defender for Coach Kenard Lang at Wekiva High School
- 2015 Florida Class 8A first-team All-State

- Central Florida All-Star Game invite
- Also threw the shot put and discus

Personal

- Name is pronounced "TAY-shawn"
- Born in Charleston, West Virginia
- Son of Nakia and Curtis Manning
- Has one sister, Eboni
- Comes from a family of athletes as his mother played basketball and father played football at Marshall
- Graduated from Auburn in December of 2020 with an interdisciplinary studies degree emphasizing business, leadership and sports coaching ... Received a graduate certificate on Dec. 16, 2022 in sport, fitness and recreation management
- During his senior year of high school, was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia ... After eight months of chemotherapy, he was declared cancer-free on July 10, 2016

Tashawn Says

- His nickname is "Boogie"
- He chose Kentucky because he felt the love from the coaches and staff, and Coach Stoops is all about his players
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to own his own urban big man clothing store
- One word to describe him on the field is "dominant"
- The best advice he's ever received is "the only two things you can control are your effort and attitude"



55

NOAH MATTHEWS

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

**6-5 • 244 • Freshman-HS
 Bridgeville, Del. (Woodbridge)**

2022 - Freshman

- Has seen action in three games
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Miami Ohio
- Also played vs. Youngstown State and at Ole Miss

High School

- A three-star prospect by all the major recruiting sites
- Two-way player who saw action at defensive end and tight end for head coach Marvin Dooley
- Earned first-team All-State, All-District selection and the 2A Defensive Lineman of the Year by the Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association
- Named one of Delaware's top 44 players and was given a 2021 Delaware Mini Max award by The Maxwell Football Club
- Voted team captain as a senior and totaled 70 tackles, including 43 solo ... Also had 10 sacks and forced eight quarterback hurries
- Led the Blue Raiders to a 12-1 record and a berth in the D1AA Class AA state championship game in 2021





- Also a three-year letter winner as a small forward on the basketball team
- Chose Kentucky over Illinois

Personal

- Born in Seaford, Delaware
- Son of Christel Matthews
- Mom, Christel, threw the discus at Delaware State from 1992-96
- Uncle, Aaron Matthews, played basketball at Villanova and Delaware State
- Major is undecided

Noah Says

- He chose Kentucky because of the culture and the down to earth people
- The one thing most people don't know about him is that he loves the stock market
- One word to describe him on the field is "relentless"
- Besides football, he's also good at swimming
- His sports hero is Aaron Donald because he's not the biggest but he works the hardest and is the most dominant



17

JUTAHN
MCCLAIN

RUNNING BACK

5-9 • 201 • Junior-2L
Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)

2022 - Junior

- Has seen action in 29 career games
- In nine games this season, has 49 carries for 238 yards (third-most on the team) and 15 receptions for 93 yards and a score
- Due to injury, missed the first two games and also did not play at Missouri
- Had a 10-yard TD reception in the fourth quarter, his first score of the season, vs. South Carolina
- Totaled three catches for a season-best 48 yards in the win over Mississippi State ... Also had 30 yards rushing, giving him a career-high 78 all-purpose yards
- Caught a career-high five passes vs. No. 1 Georgia
- Had a career-high tying 10 carries for 50 yards in the win over Louisville

2021 - Sophomore

- Had 34 rushes for 165 yards and six receptions for 42 yards and a score in nine games played in 2021
- Averaged 4.9 yards per carry
- Set career highs at Vanderbilt with 10 carries for 69 yards, averaging 6.9 per carry
- Also had 10 carries vs. Iowa in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl
- Caught a season-high two passes and had a season-high four rushes at No. 1 Georgia
- Saw his first action of the season vs. Florida
- Scored his first collegiate touchdown in the win over LSU, a 25-yard TD reception in the fourth quarter

2020 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January, 2020
- Played in all 11 games
- Totaled 16 carries for 62 yards, also had one kick return for 26 yards and two tackles
- Had a career-high seven carries for 23 yards in the win over Tennessee
- Charted a tackle in his first collegiate game at Auburn

High School

- Four-star prospect by ESPN
- Three-star prospect by 247Sports
- Rated the No. 8 all-purpose back by 247Sports
- In three seasons at Fairfield, rushed for 4,406 yards and 53 touchdowns while catching 48 passes for 680 yards and seven scores
- As a senior, rushed for 1,947 yards and 21 touchdowns
- Voted 2019 Offensive Player of the Year and First-Team Offense on the Division I All-Ohio team as voted on by the Ohio Prep Writers Association
- In 2018, he totaled 1,754 yards with 25 touchdowns in addition to catching 24 passes for 415 yards and five scores and returning a kick-off 92 yards for a touchdown
- Coached by Jason Krause
- Krause said, "Not only does he have that high-class level of speed that you've got to have to play in the Power Five, but he gets to that top speed in two or three steps. He's a guy that can go the distance any time he touches it."
- Chose Kentucky over Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, Michigan, Michigan State and Nebraska
- Also was a four-year letter winner as a sprinter and long jumper on the track team

Community Cats

- Volunteered at Brenda Cowan Elementary (2020)

Personal

- First name pronounced "juh-TAWN"
- Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Son of Qulita Glover and Robert McClain
- Siblings are Juwan Glover, Qiersten McClain, and Jumahl McClain
- Major is community and leadership development

Jutahn Says

- His nickname is "Tahn"
- He chose Kentucky because he loves it
- His hidden talent is doing back flips
- The thing he looks forward to the most this season is growing mentally, physically, and creating bonds
- One word to describe him on the field is "patient"

MCCLAIN'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G-GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2020	11-0	16	62	3.9	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
2021	9-0	34	175	3.9	0	22	6	42	7.0	1	25
2022	9-0	49	238	4.9	0	28	15	93	6.2	1	31
Totals	29-0	99	465	4.7	0	28	21	135	6.4	2	31

MCCLAIN'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
vs. Miami OH	6	16	0	6	0	0	0	0
at Florida					DNP			
vs. YSU					DNP			
vs. NIU	3	15	0	9	1	5	0	5
at Ole Miss	5	21	0	17	1	7	0	7
vs. USC	3	19	0	11	1	10	1	10
vs. Miss. State	9	30	0	15	3	48	0	31
at Tennessee	4	20	0	16	3	15	0	8
at Missouri					DNP			
vs. Vanderbilt	6	55	0	28	1	7	0	7
vs. Georgia	3	12	0	9	5	1	0	6
vs. UofL	10	50	0	16	0	0	0	0
Totals	49	238	0	28	15	93	1	31

MCCLAIN'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
vs. Florida	0	0	0	0	1	-4	0	0
vs. LSU	1	5	0	5	1	25	1	25
at Georgia	4	12	0	9	2	12	0	9
at Mississippi St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee	1	16	0	16	1	2	0	2
at Vanderbilt	10	69	0	22	0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	2	2	0	3	1	7	0	7
at Louisville	6	33	0	10	0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa	10	28	0	10	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	175	0	22	6	42	1	25

MCCLAIN'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
at Auburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Ole Miss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	1	17	0	17	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	7	23	0	7	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	4	7	0	7	0	0	0	0
at Alabama	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	1	9	0	9	0	0	0	0
vs. South Carolina	1	6	0	6	0	0	0	0
vs. NC State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	16	62	0	17	0	0	0	0

MCCLAIN'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Rush attempts: 10, 3x, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Rush yards: 69, at Vanderbilt, Nov 13, 2021 (10 carries)
Long rush: 28, vs Vanderbilt, Nov 12, 2022
Reception: 5, vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022
Receiving yards: 48, vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022
Receiving touchdowns: 1, twice, last vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022
Long reception: 31, vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022
Tackles: 1, twice, last vs NC State, Jan 2, 2021
Kick returns: 1, vs NC State, Jan 2, 2021
Kick return yards: 26, vs NC State, Jan 2, 2021
All-purpose yards: 78, vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022





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EDWARD
MCKEE

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-1 • 206 • Freshman-HS
For Worth, Texas (IMG Academy)**2022 - Freshman**

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Spent his first two years at All Saints' Episcopal School under head coach Aaron Beck, before becoming a two-year starter his junior and season years at IMG Academy under head coach Kyle Brey
- As a sophomore at All Saints', he helped his team reach the 2020 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Semifinals
- As a two-year starter at IMG Academy, he helped guide his teams to an 8-4 record his junior season and an 11-1 record his senior season
- During his senior season at IMG Academy, he made 58 tackles and nine sacks, to go with three forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries
- Also played baseball his freshman year at All Saints'
- Two-year member of the National Honor Society his freshman and sophomore years- at All Saints'
- Picked Kentucky over Miami, TCU, South Florida, Montana and Coastal Carolina

Personal

- Born in Fort Worth, Texas
- Son of Jason and Ro Rynd
- Has four brothers, Walker and Jackson Rynd and Miller and Henry McKee
- Brother, Walker, played wide receiver at Ole Miss in 2016
- Major is communication

Edward Says

- His nickname is "ED"
- One thing most people don't know about him is hunting is his passion
- His dream job is to own a big business
- One word to describe himself on the football field is "amped"
- His sports hero is Lawrence Taylor "The Goat"



83

JACK
MONDAY

TIGHT END

6-1 • 227 • Freshman-HS
Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Catholic)**2022 - Freshman**

- Mid-season enrollee in January of 2022
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Youngstown St.

High School

- Accepted a preferred walk-on position after an excellent prep career at Lexington Catholic High School
- Three-year starter at tight end and linebacker for head coach Nigel Smith
- Had 36 catches for 439 yards and eight touchdowns in helping lead the Knights to a 9-3 record in 2021
- Also totaled 78 tackles, including six tackles for loss and one interception as a senior
- Named to the Class 4A, District 5 All-District First Team
- Excelled in the classroom, earning first-team all-state academic honors three straight seasons
- Was a member of the Knights' baseball team as a junior
- Chose Kentucky over Centre College and Vanderbilt

Community Cats

- Volunteered with My New Kentucky Home (2022)

Personal

- Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Son of Eric and Sybil Monday
- Has one brother, Hampton
- Major is undecided

Jack Says

- He chose Kentucky because of the great people and because it's home
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to coach or work on Wall Street
- Three words to describe him are "quiet, hard-working and smart"
- His sports hero is Drew Brees because he's a Saints fan
- Person he most admires is his dad because of his work ethic



54

JORDAN
MORROW

LONG SNAPPER

6-1 • 226 • Senior-SQ
Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)**2022 - Senior**

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Junior

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Versatile player who saw action at linebacker, H-back, tight end and long snapper
- Lettered two years and was the team's starting long snapper as a junior and senior
- Helped the Tigers total a 38-14 overall record during his prep career, including a 12-3 mark as a junior
- Played for head coach Kevin Wallace
- Won a regional Emmy award by the Ohio Valley Broadcasting Association for broadcasting with a public service announcement on texting and driving
- Chose Kentucky over Louisville and Central Michigan

Community Cats

- Participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Men's Conference at Southland Christian (2020)

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky
- Son of Jeff and Julie Morrow
- Dad, Jeff, played football at Kent State and is the current director of player personnel for the Carolina Panthers
- Graduated Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in sport communication with a minor in coaching

Jordan Says

- He chose Kentucky because it was home away from home and the best fit for him
- His dream job is to work in an NFL front office
- Three words to describe him are reliable, respectful, and loyal
- The best advice he's ever received is "you can't control how tall you are or how fast you are but you can control your attitude, effort, and preparation"
- The three people he would invite to his fantasy dinner are Walter Camp, Luke Kuechly, and Emilia Clarke



47

JARARD MOSELY

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-2 • 185 • Freshman-HS
West Palm Beach, Fla. (Cardinal Newman)

2022 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Played and started just one year of high school football at wide receiver at Cardinal Newman High School
- Coached by Jack Daniels
- As a senior in 2021, helped guide the Crusaders to a 9-4 record with 640 yards receiving and five touchdowns
- A star on the basketball court before deciding to focus on football ... four-year letterwinner on the Cardinal Newman basketball team, eclipsing 1,000 career points on Senior Night on Feb. 1, 2022
- Also excelled in the classroom and the community as a four-year honor roll student with over 100 hours of community service
- Chose Kentucky over Tennessee State

Personal

- Born in Riviera Beach, Florida
- Son of Keith and Marsha Mosely
- Has one brother Jordan and one sister Keiana
- Major is biomedical engineering
- Cousin, Terry Jackson, played running back at Florida (1995-99) before being drafted in the fifth round of the 1999 NFL Draft to the San Francisco 49ers where he spent seven seasons

Jarard Says

- His nickname is "Rod"
- One thing most people don't know about him is he likes to play golf and if money were no option he'd play golf all day, every day
- One way to describe himself on the field is, "a diamond in the rough"
- The best advice he has ever received is to bet on yourself
- His sports hero is LeBron James because of his accomplishments off the court



38

WILLIAM NALTY

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-0 • 220 • %Senior-2L
Metairie, La. (Metairie Park Country Day)

2022 - Super Senior

- Elected to return for a sixth year, taking advantage of the NCAA's ruling to grant an extra year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Has played in 22 career games for Kentucky, seven this season

2021 - Senior

- Saw action in all 13 games, seeing most of his playing time on special teams
- Got a fumble recovery vs. New Mexico State and his first career tackle at Louisville
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Junior

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Sophomore

- Saw his first collegiate action vs. UT Martin
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2018 - r-Freshman

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2017 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- Three-year letter winner and starter at linebacker for head coach Joe Chango at Metairie Park Country Day
- Totaled 63 tackles, including 10 sacks as a senior, helping the Cajuns compile a 9-4 overall record
- Also had one forced fumble and a fumble recovery
- Earned All-District honors
- Member of the United States Saddle Seat Team who captured the Gold Medal in the 2014 US Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup
- Also a member of the junior team from 2012-13
- Competed in his first equestrian show at the age of five
- Chose UK over North Carolina

Personal

- Born in Metairie, Louisiana
- Son of Donald J. Nalty Jr. (dad) and Holly (mom); and James Nichols (stepdad)
- Dad, Donald, played football at Tulane from 1982-86
- Graduated on December 17, 2021 with degrees in marketing and management ... Graduated with a third degree in communication in May of 2022 and is working on a master's degree in sport leadership

William Says

- His nickname is "Nalty"
- He chose Kentucky because it's a great area with great people
- When he's not on the field he enjoys riding horses and meeting new people
- One word to describe him on the field is "determined"
- The best advice he's ever received is "don't count the days, make the days count"



22

CHRIS OATS

LINEBACKER

6-3 • 232 • Senior-2L
Cincinnati, Ohio (Winton Woods)

2021 - Senior

- Missed the season due to a medical issue
- Please visit 22oatsstrong.org for more information

2020 - Junior

- Missed the season due to a medical issue

2019 - Sophomore

- Played in 12 of UK's 13 games, with two starting assignments (Miss. State and Missouri)
- Did not see action vs. UT Martin
- Totaled 46 tackles (fifth on the team)
- Also had 2.5 tackles for loss, one PBU and one forced fumble
- Had five tackles, including two for loss (a career high), in the win over Virginia Tech in the Belk Bowl
- Led the team with eight tackles (six solo) and also caused a crucial fumble in Kentucky's 29-7 win over Missouri
- Spearheaded a defense that held Missouri to season lows of seven points and 289 yards total offense ... On 4th-and-1 from the UK 49, Oats' tackle knocked loose a fumble that was recovered by the Wildcats ... Two of his eight tackles came on third down, one forcing a punt and the other preceding a UK stop on fourth down
- Also totaled a career-high eight tackles at South Carolina
- Had seven tackles and 0.5 TFL at Georgia
- Started vs. Mississippi State and had five tackles
- Had five tackles in the season opener vs. Toledo
- Sat out the first half of the Eastern Michigan game ... Had one tackle in the second half

2018 - Freshman

- Totaled 27 tackles, 3.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks, a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries in 13 career games
- Posted a career-high five tackles and had his second quarterback sack of the season at Louisville
- Earned his first collegiate start at Texas A&M, charting his first collegiate sack in the second quarter ... Ended the game with four tackles, including 1.5 for loss



- Also had four tackles in the win over South Carolina
- Made the game-clinching fumble recovery on the final play of the VRBO Citrus Bowl win over Penn State
- Recorded his first career tackle in the win over No. 14 Mississippi State

High School

- Four-star linebacker by all the major recruiting services
- Ranked the No. 22 outside linebacker in the 2018 class by 247sports
- Led Winton Woods to a 13-2 overall record and an appearance in the Division II state championship game as a senior
- Coached by Andre Parker
- Named the Division II Defensive Player of the Year and first-team All-Ohio by the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association
- Totaled 79 tackles during the regular season and in five playoff games, had 60 tackles, including three interceptions and two touchdowns
- Also a four-year letter winner in basketball as a center
- Chose Kentucky over Ole Miss, Oklahoma, Michigan State and Ohio State

Personal

- Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Son of Kemberly Gamble
- Siblings are Aliyah, Ke'airra, Kelain, Willie and Mikele
- Major is community and leadership development

Chris Says

- His nickname is "Deuce Deuce"
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be a sports analyst
- Three words to describe him are kind-hearted, hardworking, and determined
- One thing people might not know is he likes to play the piano
- One sentence to describe Coach Stoops is "he wants the best out of his players"

OATS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls.	TFL-Yds.	Sacks-Yds.	PBU	FF/FR	QBH
2018	LB	13-1	27	3.0-11	2.0-9	0	1/2	0
2019	LB	12-2	46	2.5-4	0-0	1	1/0	0
Totals		25-3	73	5.5-15	2.0-9	1	2/2	0



8

OCTAVIOUS
OXENDINE

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-1 • 281 • Junior-2L
Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)

2022 - Junior

- Comeback Player of the Year Award Watch List
- Has started in seven of 12 games played this season and has 20 tackles, three quarterback hurries and 0.5 tackles for loss
- Had two tackles in the opener vs. Miami (Ohio), his first game back after knee surgery from last season
- Recorded four tackles and a career-high two quarterback hurries in the win at Florida

2021 - Sophomore

- Played in six games with three starts before a knee injury vs. LSU sidelined him for the remainder of the season
- Named SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Week after charting three tackles, including the first two quarterback sacks of his career (-16 yards), in Kentucky's 42-21 win over LSU
- Totaled 15 tackles, 3.5 tackle for loss, 2.0 sacks and quarterback hurry in six games
- Made three tackles, including the first two quarterback sacks of his career, good for 16 yards of loss, in the win over LSU
- Made his first collegiate start at South Carolina and had two tackles
- Also started against Florida and had three tackles and a tackle for loss in the win
- Charted a career-high five tackles and one tackle for loss in the season opener vs. ULM
- Got his first quarterback hurry vs. UTC

2020 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2020
- Redshirt season
- Played in three games (Mississippi State, Tennessee and Alabama)

High School

- Four-star prospect by Rivals
- Considered one of the top recruits from Kentucky and a top-25 defensive tackle in the country for the class of 2020
- Named to the Kentucky All-State first team
- Named to the 2019 Class of the Commonwealth by the Lexington Herald-Leader
- Produced 62 tackles, including 17 tackles for loss
- Also recovered two fumbles, one for a 25-yard touchdown during his senior season
- Important piece of North Hardin's defense, who finished the season 13-1 and won the region and district championship before advancing to the KHSAA Class 6-A state semifinals
- Played for head coach Brent Thompson
- High school teammate of fellow Wildcat Isaiah Beasley
- Picked the Wildcats over Tennessee and Texas

Community Cats

- Participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Men's Conference at Southland Christian (2020)
- Volunteered at LexCity Church (2020)
- Volunteered to pack food for God's Pantry (2020)
- Volunteered at William Wells Brown Elementary (2020)

Personal

- Born in Fort Polk, Louisiana
- Son of Mary and Kirk Oxendine
- Dad, Kirk, is a retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class
- Major is pre-social work

Octavious Says

- His nickname is "Ox" or "Double O"
- He chose Kentucky because it's a great school and he loves the people
- His hidden talent is drawing
- His dream job is to be a NFL business owner
- Hobbies are drawing and fishing

OXENDINE'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls	TFL-Yds.	Sacks-Yds.	PBU	FF/FR	QBH
2020	DE	3-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0
2021	DE	6-3	15	3.5-21	2.0-16	0	0/0	1
2022	DE	12-7	20	0.5-1	0-0	0	0/0	3
Totals		21-10	35	4.0-22	2.0-16	0	0/0	4

OXENDINE'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF/FR	PBU	Int.	QBH
vs. Miami OH*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
at Florida*	4	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	2
vs. YSU*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	1	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. USC*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State*	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
at Tennessee*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
at Missouri	1	0.5-1	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	2	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	1
vs. Georgia	1	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. UofL	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	20	0.5-1	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	3

OXENDINE'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF/FR	PBU	Int.	QBH
vs. ULM	5	1.0-5	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. UTC	2	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	1
at USC*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Florida*	3	.5-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. LSU*	3	2.0-16	2.0-16	0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	15	3.5-21	2.0-16	0	0/0	0	0	1

OXENDINE'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF/FR	PBU	Int.	QBH
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
at Alabama	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0-0	0-0	0	0/0	0	0	0





OXENDINE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 5, vs ULM, Sept 4, 2021
Tackles for loss: 1.0, vs ULM, Sept 4, 2021 (5 yards)
Quarterback hurries: 2, at Florida, Sept 10, 2022



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LUCAS
PADGETT
OFFENSIVE LINE

6-4 • 306 • Sophomore-SQ
Birmingham, Ala. (La Cueva - N.M.)

2022 - Sophomore

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team
- 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico for his senior season but only played in three games due to a COVID-shortened 2020
- Prior to moving to New Mexico, was a two-year starter at center for head coach Ben Bergusen at Homewood High School in Birmingham, Alabama
- Rated one of the top 10 centers in Alabama for the spring of 2020 by Playmakers Elite Sports
- Named second-team 6A All-State in 2019 by the Alabama Sports Writers Association
- Earned a spot on the 2019 All-South Metro Team
- Named to the Over The Mountain Journal's All-OTM High School Football Team in 2019
- Participated in the 2021 Blue-Grey All-American Bowl
- An all-around athlete who also lettered in basketball (center) and track & field (shot put)
- National Honor Society

Community Cats

- Packed meals for countries struggling with starvation with Grace Christian Meal Pack (2022)
- Volunteered with My New Kentucky Home Special Olympics event (2021)

Personal

- Born in Salt Lake City, Utah
- Son of Scott and Cynthia Padgett
- Siblings are Logan and Layla
- Comes from a family of athletes as father, Scott, played basketball at Kentucky from 1995-99, helping the Wildcats advance to two Final Fours, including a national title in 1998 ... Went on to play eight years in the pros ... Mom, Cynthia, was a four-year letter winner on UK's volleyball team from 1994-97 ... Older brother, Logan, currently plays basketball at Shelton State Community College
- Major is undecided

Lucas Says

- He chose Kentucky because it has great academic programs and he likes the culture around the entire athletic department
- After football, his dream job is to be a coach
- Three words to describe him are smart, funny, and calm
- The best advice he's ever received is "don't change who you are to impress others"
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he's a huge superhero fan



55

CLAY
PERRY

LONG SNAPPER

6-0 • 193 • Junior-1L
Upton, Ky. (Central Hardin)

2022 - Junior

- Has seen action in 10 games this season

2021 - Sophomore

- Saw action in 12 games as the long snapper
- Team did not punt in the Tennessee game
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Three-year starter at Central Hardin High School for head coach Tom Mattingly as a long snapper and outside linebacker
- Finished with 45 tackles, including 6.0 tackles for loss, in helping Central Hardin go 9-3 and finish in the second round of the 2019 Class 6A playoffs
- Earned first-team All-District as a senior
- Excellent in the classroom as an honor roll student all four years of high school
- Also on the track and field team
- Earned Ray Guy Prokicker.com Top Prospect Award as a long snapper

Personal

- Born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky
- Son of Ginger and Matthew Perry
- Comes from a family of athletes as father, Matthew, played football at Western Kentucky, uncle, Mark Perry, played football at Northwestern, uncle, Todd Perry, is a former Wildcat who played from 1988-92 and went on to an 11-year career in the NFL with the Chicago Bears (eight years) and the Miami Dolphins (three years) as a guard
- Major is pre-management

Clay Says

- He chose Kentucky because it's close to home, it has an amazing campus and college life, and his family members attended UK
- After football, his dream job is to be a surveyor

- One thing most people don't know about him is that his first name is Remington
- Three words to describe him are hard-working, dedicated, and witty
- Besides playing football he also loves to fish



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ANDRU
PHILLIPS
DEFENSIVE BACK

6-0 • 190 • Sophomore-1L
Mauldin, S.C. (Mauldin)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has played in all 12 games with three starts
- Has totaled 30 tackles, 1.5 TFL and five PBUs (tied for second on the team)
- Earned his first career start and five tackles and a pass break up in the win over Miami (Ohio) in the season opener
- Had four tackles and a career-high two PBUs against No. 3 Tennessee
- Totaled a career-best six tackles in the win over Missouri, including his first career TFL (1.5) and a PBU

2021 - r-Freshman

- Played in nine games and had three tackles (one each vs. Georgia, New Mexico State and Iowa)

2020 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee
- Redshirt season
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Mississippi State and also played vs. Vanderbilt, Florida and South Carolina
- Got his first career tackle vs. the Gamecocks

Community Cats

- Volunteered to read to students at Yates Elementary on four different occasions (2022)

High School

- Three-star recruit who has been rated the No. 8 overall player in South Carolina by 247Sports and Rivals
- As a senior, had 38 total tackles, eight pass breakups, two interceptions and a fumble recovery under head coach Harris Cabaniss
- Earned 5A first-team All-State by the South Carolina Football Coaches Association
- Selected to the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas



- Also a three-year letter winner in track and field as a triple jumper, ranking No. 1 nationally in 2020
- Two-time All-State and three-time All-Region selection for the triple jump
- Won the 2019 spring state championship title with a jump of 49'4"
- Picked Kentucky over Tennessee, Virginia Tech, Louisville, N.C. State and Georgia

Community Cats

- Volunteered at Catholic Action Center (2020)
- Volunteered to pack food at God's Pantry (2020)
- Participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Men's Conference at Southland Christian (2020)

Personal

- Born in Birmingham, Alabama
- Son of Carlos and LaTonya Phillips
- Siblings are C.J., Ben and Shelby
- Comes from a family of athletes as father, Carlos, played linebacker at Kentucky under Jerry Claiborne; mom, LaTonya, was a standout athlete at Danville High School; brother, C.J., played football at Morehead State in 2015
- Originally from Louisville, Kentucky
- Major is pre-integrated strategic communication

Andru Says

- His nickname is "Dru"
- He chose Kentucky because it's felt like home
- One word to describe him on the field is "explosive"
- When he played football as a kid, he pretended to be Tyrann Mathieu
- The thing he looks forward to the most this season is making plays

PHILLIPS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G-GS	Tackles	Sacks-Yds.	TFL-Yds.	FF/FR	QBH	PBU	Int.
2020	4-0	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
2021	9-0	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
2022	12-3	30	0-0	1.5-3	0/0	0	5	0
Totals	25-3	34	0-0	1.5-3	0-0	0	5	0

PHILLIPS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FF/FR	QBH	PBU	Int.
vs. Miami OH*	5	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1	0
at Florida	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	1	0
at Ole Miss	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. USC	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Tennessee*	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	2	0
at Missouri	6	0-0	1.5-3	0/0	0	1	0
vs. Vanderbilt*	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. UofL	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	30	0-0	1.5-3	0/0	0	5	0

PHILLIPS' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FF/FR	QBH	PBU	Int.
vs. Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. LSU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Georgia	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	1	0-0	0-0	1/0	0	0	0
at Louisville	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0

PHILLIPS' 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL	FF/FR	PBU	Int-Yds	QBH
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. USC	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	1	0-0	0.0	0/0	0	0	0

PHILLIPS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 6, at Missouri, Nov 5, 2022
Tackles for loss: 1.5, at Missouri, Nov 5, 2022 (3 yards)
Pass breakups: 2, vs Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022



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**BRADY
PIERCE**

DEFENSIVE BACK

**6-0 • 181 • Freshman-HS
Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)**

2022 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Hails from Spring Hill, Tennessee where he lettered four years for Coach Brian Coleman at Summit High School
- Summit went 41-4 his final three seasons and were the 2020 5A state champion
- Was a two-time all-state and three-time all-region selection
- An all-around player who saw action at safety, receiver, punter, holder and quarterback
- Scored 20 total touchdowns, rushed for 430 yards, had 1,100 receiving yards
- Also made 137 tackles and had five INTs
- Was a three-sport athlete, also playing basketball and baseball
- Has played with fellow UK teammates Destin and Keaton Wade since he was 6-years old
- Picked UK over Ole Miss, Tennessee and WKU

Personal

- Born in Nashville, Tennessee
- Son of Chris and Andrea Pierce
- Siblings are Andrew and Dillon
- Comes from a family of athletes as father, Chris, was a punter/kicker at Southern Miss (1994-96); mother, Andrea, was a softball player (second base) at Notre Dame (1992-96); Brother, Andrew, is currently a defensive back at Mount St. Joseph

Brady Says

- His nickname is "BP"
- He chose Kentucky because of the coaching staff
- One word to describe him on the field is "hungry"
- His hobbies including fishing, kayaking, playing basketball, baseball and swimming
- One thing he will never try again is sour cream



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**CHARLEY "CHANCE"
POORE**

KICKER

**6-2 • 221 • Senior-3L
Anderson, S.C. (Westside High School)**

2022 - Senior

- Handles kickoffs for the Wildcats and is the holder on field goals

2021 - Junior

- Has a streak of three straight made FGs
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Named Special Teams Player of the Week after his performance vs. Vanderbilt ... Enjoyed a perfect day, making a 28-yard field goal on the final play of the first half, along with all five extra points
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - r-Freshman

- Hit 5-of-9 field goals with a career long of 46 vs. Toledo
- Hit 24-of-26 extra points
- Totaled 39 points
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2018 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
- Saw action in three games, his first collegiate game was at Missouri
- Hit 2-of-4 field goal attempts

High School

- Rated as the No. 1 punter/kicker in the 2018 class by Prokicker.com
- Named South Carolina 5A Specialist of the Year after hitting 8 of 11 field goals and 26 of 27 PATs as a senior
- Prokicker.com's Rick Sang said "A very talented athlete who dominates his position and has





shown great work ethic. He is already capable of launching NFL caliber kickoffs and punts"

- As a junior, converted 16 of 20 field goals with a long of 48, made all 44 extra-point attempts and had 63 percent of his kickoffs go for touchbacks
- Earned the top prospect award for 2017 at the Ray Guy Prokicker.com Kicking Camp
- Selected to play in the prestigious Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas game, pitting the top seniors from North and South Carolina against one another
- Member of two regional title teams coached by Scott Earley
- Also a lettered in soccer and tennis
- Picked Kentucky early and never really considered other offers

Community Cats

- Volunteer speaker at Cardinal Valley Rehabilitation Hospital (2020)

Personal

- Born in Anderson, South Carolina
- Son of Lewis and Jodi Poore
- Siblings are Kara Poore and Kinsley Bailey
- Major is consumer economics and family financial counseling

Chance Says

- Nickname is "Chance"
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be a mortgage broker
- The person who has most influenced him in life is his dad because he pushed him to be the man he is today
- The three people he would invite to his fantasy dinner are LeBron James, Alex Caruso and Adam Sandler
- His sports hero is Chandler Catanzaro

POORE'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	FG	Points	Long FG
2018	2-4	9	34
2019	5-9	39	46
2020	1-1	8	28
Totals	8-14	56	46

POORE'S FIELD GOALS BY DISTANCE

Year	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total	Long
2018	0-0	0-0	2-3	0-0	0-1	2-4	34
2019	0-0	1-1	1-2	4-6	0-0	6-10	46
Totals	0-0	1-1	3-5	4-6	0-1	8-14	46

POORE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Points scored: 8, 3x, last at Vanderbilt, Nov 14, 2020
Points by kicking: 8, 3x, last at Vanderbilt, Nov 14, 2020
Field goals made: 1, 8x, last at Vanderbilt, Nov 14, 2020
Field goal attempts: 2, 3x, last at Mississippi State, Sept 21, 2019
Longest field goal: 46, vs Toledo, Aug 31, 2019
Consecutive FGs made: 3, Nov. 9 vs. Tennessee - Present



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ELIJAH REED

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-3 • 183 • Freshman-HS
Louisville, Ky. (Pleasure Ridge Park)

2022 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January of 2022
- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Youngstown State and also saw action vs. Vanderbilt

High School

- Has an intriguing story on his development into a Division I college prospect ... Originally a senior wide receiver during the 2020 season, the shortened Covid season limited his opportunities and he decided to return in 2021 for a "super senior" year ... Moved to cornerback in '21, and his length and speed put him into D-I prospect territory at the new position
- Consensus three-star prospect by ESPN, 247sports.com, and Rivals.com
- One of the top-10 prospects in Kentucky by all three services
- The No. 75 cornerback nationally by ESPN and No. 81 nationally as rated by 247sports
- Played at Pleasure Ridge Park High School in Class AAAAAA, the largest classification in Kentucky
- Chosen honorable mention for the Lexington Herald-Leader "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top seniors in Kentucky
- Has a friendship with current UK cornerback Carrington Valentine, a factor which played in role in his selection of the Wildcats
- In addition to Kentucky, recruiting finalists were Utah and Purdue, with consideration to West Virginia, Louisville, and Illinois

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky
- Son of Brittney Webb and Demetric Reed
- Has one sister, Kiley
- Major is pre-communication

Elijah Says

- His nickname is "Eli"
- He chose Kentucky because it was close to home, it felt right and the coaching staff develops its players
- One thing people might not know about him is that his favorite food is Hamburger Helper
- One word to describe him on the field is "passionate"
- His hidden talent is playing ping pong



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JORDAN ROBINSON

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-4 • 202 • Sophomore-Tr
Columbia, S.C. (Livingstone College/Westwood)

2022 - Sophomore

- Saw his first action at UK vs. Youngstown State and also saw action vs. Vanderbilt

2021 - Freshman (Livingstone College)

- Started in all 10 games as a true freshman for Livingstone College, a Division II school located in Salisbury, N.C.
- Played his first full season as a defensive back, a position he moved to as a high school senior
- Recorded 26 tackles, two interceptions and six pass breakups for the Blue Bears
- Chose Kentucky over Appalachian State and Oregon State

High School

- Originally played wide receiver in high school before moving to defensive back to start his senior year
- Played in only four games and totaled two interceptions in 2020 before COVID-19 shut down the season ... Earned a spot on the All-Region team
- Named Westwood's best defensive back award
- Did not play as a junior due to a broken collarbone
- Played his freshman season at Lower Richland HS before transferring to Westwood
- Also an honor roll student

Personal

- Born in Columbia, South Carolina
- Son of Daysha and Donnell Robinson
- Siblings are Logan and McKenzie
- Major is pre-communication

Jordan Says

- His nickname is "J-Rob"
- He chose Kentucky because of the opportunity to play in the SEC and he loved the city of Lexington
- One word to describe him on the field is "fearless"
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be a sports analyst
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he can play the drums



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TAYVION ROBINSON

WIDE RECEIVER

5-11 • 187 • Senior-Tr
Virginia Beach, Va. (Virginia Tech/Cox)

2022 - Senior

- Transferred to Kentucky after three seasons at Virginia Tech
- Mid-year enrollee in January of 2022
- Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List
- Has played in 46 career games with 43 starts
- Had a streak of catching a pass in 35 consecutive games ... Ended vs. No. 1 Georgia on Nov. 19
- Did not play vs. Mississippi State or Louisville with injury
- Has 148 career receptions for 2,025 yards and 11 touchdowns (10 receiving, one punt return TD) ... Also has 56 punt returns for 592 yards
- Has two 100-yard games in his career, both at UK
- Set career highs with seven catches for 147 yards and two touchdowns in the win over Northern Illinois ... His 69-yard catch-and-run in the second quarter was the longest play of his collegiate career and his first touchdown at Kentucky
- Caught a career-high-tying six passes for 136 yards in his UK debut vs. Miami Ohio ... Most receiving yards for any Wildcat in his first game at UK (the previous record was Wan'Dale Robinson's 125 yards in the 2021 season opener ... Tied for the third-most in a season opener by a Wildcat
- Eclipsed 100 receiving yards in the first half of his Kentucky debut (five catches for 123 yards)
- Playing the previous three seasons at Virginia Tech, his previous career bests were six catches for 98 yards
- Had a career-high four rushing attempts at Florida
- Preseason Second-Team All-SEC, PR (Phil Steele)
- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Coaches)
- Preseason Third-Team All-SEC, WR (Phil Steele)

2021 - Junior (Virginia Tech)

- Started in all 12 games
- Led the Hokies in receptions (44) and receiving touchdowns (5) and was second on the team in receiving yards (559)
- Also the Hokies' primary punt returner, averaging 13.67 yards and returning one punt for a 60-yard touchdown
- Ended the regular season ranking third in the FBS with 328 punt return yards
- His 13.7-yard punt return average ranked fifth in the nation
- Named ACC Co-Specialist of the Week (9/27) after racking up 140 all-purpose yards, including a 60-yard return for a touchdown vs. Richmond
- Earned ESPN All-ACC Midseason Team honors

2020 - Sophomore (Virginia Tech)

- Started in all 11 games

- Team's leading receiver with 38 catches for 592 yards ... Ranked second on the squad with three TD catches
- Also returned 10 punts for a total of 21 yards and rushed the ball seven times for 48 yards
- Recorded a season-high five passes for 42 yards vs. Miami
- Tied a season-high with five receptions for a career-best 98 yards, including a 60-yard TD vs. Virginia

2019 - Freshman (Virginia Tech)

- Played in all 11 games with seven starts as a true freshman
- Tied for second on the squad with 31 receptions, good for 404 yards with a long catch of 71 yards with one TD
- Named to the PFF College All-Freshman Team as a punt returner, was the highest-graded true freshman punt returner (83.0) in the nation and the eighth-highest overall among players with at least 10 punt returns
- Led Tech with 13 punt returns for 185 yards (14.2 avg.) with a long of 35 yards
- Also rushed the ball 11 times for 139 yards
- Started in the Belk Bowl vs. Kentucky, posting two catches for 18 yards, an 11-yard punt return and a five-yard run

High School

- A four-star prospect coming out of Frank W. Cox High School
- Rated the No. 6 player in Virginia in the Class of 2019 by Rivals
- Rated No. 12 and No. 16 by 247Sports and ESPN, respectively
- Ranked the No. 17 athlete by Rivals, No. 37 by 247Sports and No. 54 by ESPN
- Played quarterback, running back and receiver on offense
- Four-year starter for head coach Bill Stachelski
- Accounted for 1,635 yards – 539 passing, 1,096 rushing – and 21 touchdowns as a senior
- Defensively, returned three interceptions for touchdowns and returned a punt for a score as a defensive pack
- Two-time conference champion
- Also a four-year starter at point guard for the basketball team

Personal

- Name is pronounced "TAY-vee-on"
- Born in Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Son of Naiya and Chris Pernell
- Has one brother, Darrien
- Major is pre-communication

Tayvion Says

- His nickname is "Tay" and "Sweet Feet"
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be a coach
- One thing people might not know about him is he that he's very funny
- One word to describe him on the field is "dynamic"
- Listening to Alicia Keys helps calms his nerves before a game

ROBINSON'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long	PR	Yds.	Long	TD
2019*	WR	13-13	31	404	13.0	1	71	13	185	35	0
2020*	WR	11-11	38	592	15.6	3	60	10	21	19	0
2021*	WR	12-12	44	559	12.7	4	61	24	328	60	1
2022	WR	10-7	35	470	13.4	3	69	12	58	23	0
at UK		10-7	35	470	13.4	3	69	12	58	23	0
Totals		46-43	148	2025	13.7	11	71	59	592	60	1

*at Virginia Tech

ROBINSON'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long	Att	Yds	TD	Long	Avg.
vs. Miami OH*	6	136	0	45	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida*	1	0	0	0	4	11	0	6	2.7
vs. YSU*	6	66	0	22	1	5	0	5	5.0
vs. NIU*	7	147	2	69	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	4	16	1	8	1	5	0	5	5.0
vs. USC	1	27	0	27	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State				DNP					
at Tennessee*	4	11	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	1	18	0	18	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt*	5	49	0	25	1	12	0	12	12.0
vs. Georgia*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. UofL				DNP					
Totals	35	470	3	69	7	33	0	12	4.7

ROBINSON'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME CONT.

Opponent	PR	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
vs. Miami OH*	2	25	12.5	23	0
at Florida*	2	8	4.0	8	0
vs. YSU*	3	15	5.0	15	0
vs. NIU*	2	6	3.0	4	0
at Ole Miss*	1	0	0.0	0	0
vs. USC	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State				DNP	
at Tennessee*	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	2	4	2.0	2	0
Totals	12	58	4.8	23	0

ROBINSON'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long	Att	Yds	TD	Long	Avg.
vs. UNC*	1	2	1	2	2	25	0	16	12.5
vs. MTSU*	4	41	-	26	-	-	0	-	-
at West Va.*	3	47	-	25	1	5	0	5	5.0
vs. Richmond*	6	76	-	20	1	-2	0	-	-2.0
vs. Notre Dame*	5	53	-	23	-	-	0	-	-
vs. Pitt*	5	20	1	8	1	2	0	2	2.0
vs. Syracuse*	3	57	-	30	1	1	0	1	1.0
at Ga. Tech*	4	27	1	11	1	5	0	5	5.0
at Boston Coll.*	4	44	-	22	2	6	0	7	3.0
vs. Duke*	4	78	-	41	1	3	0	3	3.0
at Miami (FL)*	2	25	-	21	2	4	0	5	2.0
at Virginia*	3	89	1	61	1	-2	0	-	-2.0
vs. Maryland				DNP					
Totals	601	4	61	3	227	0	11	3.6	





ROBINSON'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME CONT.

Table with columns: Opponent, PR, Yds., Avg., Long, TD. Rows include vs. UNC, vs. MTSU, at West Virginia, vs. Richmond, vs. Notre Dame, vs. Pitt, vs. Syracuse, at Georgia Tech, at Boston College, vs. Duke, at Miami (FL), and Totals.

ROBINSON'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Rec, Yds, TD, Long, Att, Yds, TD, Long, Avg. Rows include vs. NC State*, at Duke*, at UNC*, vs. BC*, at Wake Forest*, at Louisville*, vs. Liberty*, vs. Miami (FL)*, at Pitt*, vs. Clemson*, vs. Virginia*, and Totals.

ROBINSON'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME CONT.

Table with columns: Opponent, PR, Yds., Avg., Long, TD. Rows include vs. NC State, at Duke, at UNC, at Wake Forest, at Louisville, vs. Liberty, and Totals.

ROBINSON'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Rec, Yds, TD, Long, Att, Yds, TD, Long, Avg. Rows include at BC*, Old Dominion*, Furman*, Duke*, @Miami (Fla)*, Rhode Island*, UNC*, @Notre Dame*, Wake Forest*, @Georgia Tech*, Pittsburgh*, @Virginia*, vs. Kentucky*, and Totals.

ROBINSON'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME CONT.

Table with columns: Opponent, PR, Yds., Avg., Long, TD. Rows include vs. Wake Forest, at Georgia Tech, vs. Pittsburgh, at Virginia, vs. Kentucky, and Totals.

ROBINSON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Receptions: 7, vs Northern Illinois, Sept 24, 2022
Receiving yards: 147, vs Northern Illinois, Sept 24, 2022 (7 receptions)
Receiving touchdowns: 2, vs Northern Illinois, Sept 24, 2022
Long reception: 71, vs Pitt, Nov 23, 2019
Rushing attempts: 4, at Florida, Sept 10, 2021
Rushing yards: 49, at Georgia Tech, Nov 16, 2019
Long Rush: 49, at Georgia Tech, Nov 16, 2019
Rushing touchdowns: n/a
Punt returns: 4, twice, last vs NC State, Sept 26, 2020
Punt return yards: 73, vs Duke, Nov 13, 2021
Long punt return: 60, vs. Richmond, Sept 25, 2021
Punt return touchdowns: 1, vs Richmond, Sept 25, 2021 (66 yards)
Long kick return: 29, at Boston College, Aug 31, 2019
Total tackles: 1, twice, last vs Wake Forest, Nov 9, 2019
Completed passes: 1, twice, last at Virginia, Nov 27, 2021
Passing yards: 20, at North Carolina, Oct 10, 2020
Passing touchdowns: 1, at Virginia, Nov 27, 2021



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PAUL RODRIGUEZ

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-5 • 325 • Freshman-RS
Mason, Ohio (William Mason)

2022- r-Freshman

- Has seen action in nine games on special teams

2021- Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- A three-star recruit, who is considered a top-60 offensive tackle nationally by 247sports and Rivals
Touts a 100.25-inch standing reach and an 81-inch wingspan
Three-year letterwinner and starter for head coach Brian Castner at William Mason
Helped lead the Comets to a 5-3 overall record, including a 4-2 mark in the Greater Miami Conference (GMC) in 2020
Also played on the d-line as a defensive tackle
Named first-team All-Conference by the GMC
Earned a spot on the Enquirer's Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky 2020 Fall Sports All-Stars First Team
Named a preseason All-America candidate by Sports Illustrated
Earned 2020 Preseason All-TriState Football First-Team Offense recognition
Chose Kentucky over Duke, Iowa State, Purdue, and Maryland

Personal

- Born in Lebanon, Missouri
Son of Wendy Rodriguez and the late Abel Rodriguez
Siblings are Nick, Victoria, Abel Jr. and Maria
Mother, Wendy, played softball and basketball at Davis & Elkins College from 1985-89
Majoring in pre-integrated strategic communication

Community Cats

- Volunteered for the My New Kentucky Home Special Olympics event (2021)

Paul Says

- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home and he would have the opportunity to play in the SEC
One thing most people don't know about him is that he lost his dad when he was in the eighth grade
Three words to describe him are loving, hardworking, and friendly
In one sentence he would describe Coach Stoops as "one of the nicest people I've ever met and real with me and my family"
The Rock would play him in a movie about his life



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JUSTIN ROGERS

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-3 • 332 • Junior-2L
Detroit, Mich. (Oak Park)

2022 - Junior

- Preseason Fourth-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
Has started in 11 of 12 games played and has 32 tackles and 0.5 TFL
Had a career-best nine tackles vs. Vanderbilt

2021 - Sophomore

- Saw action in all 13 games with four starting assignments
Totaled 16 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks
Made a career-high four tackles, including a nine-yard quarterback sack and a one-yard tackle for loss in the win over Vanderbilt
Totaled three tackles in the win over Florida and also had three at Georgia and vs. Mississippi State

2020 - Freshman

- Saw action in seven games and totaled nine tackles and a TFL
Saw his first collegiate action vs. Mississippi State and charted two tackles in his debut
Recorded a career-high three tackles at Alabama
Got his first career TFL in the win over South Carolina

High School

- Elite five-star prospect and the No. 10 overall prospect by Rivals





- Ranked the No. 1 player in the state of Michigan by 247Sports Composite
- Considered the second-best defensive tackle in the 2020 class by Rivals
- Four-year starter who dominated both sides of the ball — offensive tackle and defensive end - for head coach Greg Carter
- As a senior, did not give up a sack offensively, while defensively he charted six sacks, forced three fumbles and recovered two fumbles
- Named to the Detroit News Football Dream Team and the All-North Football Team in 2019
- Totaled 22 TFL, seven sacks and four forced fumbles to help Oak Park win the OAA White Division championship as a junior
- One of seven boys in his family
- Played high school football with Marquan McCall
- His first college offer came from Kentucky when he was in the eighth grade
- Picked Kentucky over Georgia, LSU Michigan, Tennessee

Personal

- Born in Detroit
- Son of Joya Townsel
- Siblings are Jeremiah Townsel and Raychard White
- Major is undecided

Justin Says

- He chose Kentucky because he felt an instant connection
- The person he most admires is his mom because of her strength and how she deals with five sons
- Besides being good at football, he's also a good cook
- Three words to describe him are team player, reliable, and trustworthy
- In one sentence he would describe Coach Stoops as "an amazing person who has a heart of gold for his players"

ROGERS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G-GS	Tackles	TFL-Yds.	Sacks-Yds.	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
2020	7-0	9	1.0-2	1.0-2	0	0	0	0	0
2021	13-4	16	2.5-10	1.5-9	0	0	0	0	0
2022	12-11	32	0.5-2	0.5-2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32-15	57	4.0-14	3.0-13	0	0	0	0	0

ROGERS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. Miami OH*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss*	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC*	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee*	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	1	0.5-2	0.5-2	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt*	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. UofL*	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	0.5-2	0.5-2	0	0	0	0	0

ROGERS' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. ULM	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. UTC	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at USC	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Florida	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. LSU*	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Georgia*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Miss. State*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee*	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	4	2.0-10	1.0-9	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	1	0.5-0	0.5-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Louisville	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	16	2.5-10	1.5-9	0	0	0	0	0

ROGERS' 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. Mississippi St.	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Alabama	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. South Carolina*	1	1.0-2	1.0-2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	9	1.0-2	1.0-2	0	0	0	0	0

ROGERS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 9, vs Vanderbilt, Nov 12, 2022
Sacks: 1.0, twice, last at Vanderbilt, Nov 13, 2021 (1 yards)
Tackles for loss: 2.0, at Vanderbilt, Nov 13, 2021 (9 yards)



96

MATT RUFFOLO

KICKER

5-11 • 211 • %Senior-3L
Centerville, Ohio (Archbishop Alter)

2022 - %Super Senior

- Elected to return for a sixth year, taking advantage of the NCAA's ruling to grant an extra year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Three-year letter winner
- Career totals include 42-of-56 field goals and 119-of-126 extra points
- Has 245 points, the eighth player in school history to reach 200 career points ... Ranks fifth on UK's all-time scoring list ... Needs one more point to tie for fourth
- Ranks fourth in the SEC in field goals made (16)
- Made field goals of 43, 29, 35 and 40 yards, and two extra points in the win over Louisville ... Named winner of the Howard Schnellenberger

Award as the Most Valuable Player for the winning team of the Governor's Cup game, the first kicker to win the honor since it was founded in 2010 ... His four field goals in a game were a career best and tied the Governor's Cup record ... Became the first Wildcat with four field goals in a game since Austin MacGinnis vs. Missouri in 2017

- Made three field goals from 34, 25 and 50 yards, respectively in the win over Miami (Ohio) in the season opener ... His 50-yard field goal in the third quarter tied his career long ... third time in his career he has made a field goal from 50 yards
- Earned a Lou Groza Award Star of the Week for his performance in the season opener
- Made 2-of-3 field goal attempts, including the game-sealing 26-yarder with 1:24 remaining at Florida

2021 - Senior

- Lou Groza Award Watch List (nation's top place kicker)
- Burlsworth Trophy nominee (award presented annually to the most outstanding player who began his career as a walk-on)
- CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team
- Hit 10-of-13 field goals and 54-of-56 extra points for 84 points
- His 54 extra points are a single-season school record, previously held by Lones Seiber (51 in 2007)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Junior

- Hit 22-of-23 extra points and 12-of-14 field goal attempts, totaling 58 points, UK's second-leading scorer
- Set a UK bowl record with three field goals, from 25, 26 and 20 yards, in the win over NC State in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl
- Made all of his kicks in the win over South Carolina, including field goals of 22 and 41 yards, along with all five extra points
- Connected a 50-yard field goal in the second quarter at Missouri, tying his career long set last season vs. Arkansas
- Scored 10 points in Kentucky's 34-7 win at No. 18/17-ranked Tennessee ... Made a then-career-high 2-of-2 field goals, from 30 and 27 yards ... Also made all four extra points
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Sophomore

- Hit 4-of-5 field goals and 18-of-20 PATS
- Totaled 30 points
- Nailed a career-long 50-yard field goal in Kentucky's 24-20 win over Arkansas
- His field goal came on the first drive of the second half, keeping UK's momentum going after trailing 13-0 early in the game ... Also made all three extra points
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Dean's List (Fall 2019)

2018 - r-Freshman

- Practiced with the team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2017 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2017)



High School

- Two-year starter and letter winner at kicker for Archbishop Alter
Coached by Ed Domsitz
Did not miss an extra point for two straight seasons (2016 and 2015)
Ranks second all-time in Ohio for consecutive PATs made with 103
Hit 4 of 5 field goals, 79 of 79 PATs, 73 of 85 kicks were touchbacks and averaged 40.0 yards per punt as a senior
Helped the Knights finish as conference champs and state runner-up with a 13-1 record in 2016
Named to the All-Greater Catholic League First Team and was named to the Miami Valley Football Coaches Association (MVFCA) All-Star Team
Honorable mention Southwest Ohio
Member of the National Honors Society, graduating with honors
Member of the Student Council, Key Club, University Club and German Club
Chose UK over Dayton, Ball State and Toledo

Community Cats

- Teamed up with punter Colin Goodfellow to form a fundraiser "Kicks for Kids" with a goal of raising \$25,000 for the 25th anniversary of the Kentucky Children's Hospital. The money will be donated to Child Life Program which provides essential support and coping services for pediatric patients and their families who are seeking care at the hospital. The child life specialists incorporate play into a patient's hospital stay to help the child understand a medical procedure on their level or take their mind off of the difficult situations they are facing. To donate: https://bit.ly/KCHKicksforKids

Personal

- Born in Dayton, Ohio
Son of John and Susie Ruffolo
Sister, Kara, played soccer at Loyola, while brother, Michael, was a kicker at Dayton
Graduated in May of 2021 with a degree in finance .. Graduated in May of 2022 with his MBA at UK's Gatton College of Business and Economics ... Currently working on a second master's degree in finance also from Gatton

Matt Says

- His nickname is "Big Foot"
Other than playing for the NFL, his dream job is to be a CFO of a company
The three people he would invite to his fantasy dinner are Peyton Manning, Donald Trump and Pat McAfee
If he could create a holiday he would call it "National Spicy Italian Meatball Day" and everyone would eat meatballs

RUFFOLO'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with 5 columns: Year, FG, Long FG, PAT, Points. Rows for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and Totals.

RUFFOLO'S FIELD GOALS BY DISTANCE

Table with 8 columns: Year, 1-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+, Total, Long. Rows for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and Totals.

RUFFOLO'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Points scored: 14, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Points by kicking: 14, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Field goals made: 4, 14, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Field goal attempts: 4, twice, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Longest field goal: 50, 3x, last vs Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022
Consecutive FGs made: 8 - Vanderbilt, Nov 13, 2021 - Florida, Sept 10, 2022



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TRE'VONN RYBKA

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-4 • 275 • Sophomore-1L
Dickson, Tenn. (Dickson County)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has started in seven of 11 games played
Did not play vs. Youngstown State
Has 18 tackles and a sack this season
Got a career-high tying four tackles along with a sack at No. 3 Tennessee
Also had four tackles in the win over Louisville

2021 - r-Freshman

- Played in 12 games with one start
Totaled 15 tackles, a half sack and two quarterback hurries
Earned his first career start in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl vs. Iowa and totaled a career-best four tackles and his first career half sack
Had three tackles in the win over LSU

2020 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
Saw his first collegiate action vs. Mississippi State

High School

- Consensus top-50 defensive tackle recruit, as high as No. 28 by Rivals.com
Four-star recruit by Rivals, which listed him the No. 10 recruit in Tennessee
247sports has him as the No. 40 defensive tackle in the US, ESPN has him at No. 44
Totaled 170 tackles, including 25 for loss, during his career at Dickson County HS
Named to the 2019 All-Dickson County football team by The Dickson Post and was on the Region 6-6A All-Region team
Played in the Tennessee East-West All-Star game and tied for the team lead with eight total tackles, including five solo tackles, and a fumble recovery
Also participated in track and field in the shot put

- Four-year starter for head coach Randy Murphree
Decided on Kentucky over Oregon

Personal

- First name pronounced "TREY-von"
Born in Nashville, Tennessee
Son of Ricky and Elaine Newsom
Siblings are Maya Rybka, Toni Dunn, Malachi Rybka, Nehemiah Joiner, Nazare Battiste
A cousin, Demonta Daniel, played football at Memphis and Tennessee Martin
Major is undecided

Tre'vonn Says

- His nickname is "Chunky"
He chose Kentucky because he loved the atmosphere and the vibe of the coaching staff
Other than playing for the NFL, his dream job is to be a collegiate football coach
One thing most people may not know about him is that he was adopted by his grandparents
Besides football he's also good at tennis, fishing and longboarding

RYBKA'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with 10 columns: Year, Pos., G-GS, Tkl.s, Sacks-Y, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, Int., PBU. Rows for 2020, 2021, 2022, and Totals.

RYBKA'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 8 columns: Opponent, Tkl.s, TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int., QBH. Rows for various opponents and Totals.

RYBKA'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with 8 columns: Opponent, Tkl.s, TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int., QBH. Rows for various opponents and Totals.



RYBKA'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

vs. Iowa	4	0-0	0.5-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	15	0-0	0.5-1	0	0	0	0	0	2

RYBKA'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0

RYBKA'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 4, 3x, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Sacks: 1.0, at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022 (8 yards)
Tackles for loss: 1.0, at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022 (8 yards)
Quarterback hurry: 1, twice, last vs Florida, Oct 2, 2021



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KAHLIL SAUNDERS

DEFENSIVE LINE

**6-5 • 288 • Freshman-RS
Huntsville, Ala. (Grissom)**

2022 - r-Freshman

- Has seen action in all 11 games and has 13 tackles, 1.0 TFL and a half sack
- Charted a career-best five tackles vs. No. 1 Georgia
- Did not play vs. Louisville with injury

2021 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
- Saw action in four games (ULM, Florida, NMST and Louisville)
- Totaled two tackles, two tackles for loss and a quarterback hurry
- Got a TFL vs. New Mexico State and Louisville
- Charted his first QBH vs. New Mexico State

High School

- A three-star recruit by all the major recruiting services
- Considered a top 50 strong-side defensive end by 247sports
- A two-way player at Grissom High School also playing on the offensive line
- A three-year starter for head coach Chip English
- Totaled 80 tackles, including 14.0 tackles for loss, 8.0 sacks and 17 quarterback hurries as a senior at Grissom
- Helped lead Grissom to the AHSAA High School Football Class 7A playoffs for the first time since 2004
- Named to the 2020 Alabama Sports Writers Association All-State football Class 7A Second Team
- Earned 7A Region 4 first-team honors ... Also an all-city first-team member
- Named a preseason All-America candidate by Sports Illustrated
- Chose Kentucky over Indiana, Virginia, and Va. Tech

Personal

- Born in Huntsville, Alabama
- Son of Toshiba Burton
- Major is undecided

Kahlil Says

- He chose Kentucky because it would give him the best opportunity to go to the NFL
- After football his dream is to be an exotic animal veterinarian
- Three words to describe him are chill, goofy, and competitive
- The person he admires the most is his mom because she's a strong, independent woman
- One thing most people may not know about him is that he draw

SAUNDERS' CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G-GS	Tackles	TFL-Yds.	Sacks-Yds.	PBU	FF	FR	QBH
2021	4-0	2	2.0-4	0-0	0	0	0	1
2022	11-0	13	1.0-6	0.5-6	0	0	0	0
Totals	15-0	15	3.0-10	0.5-6	0	0	0	1

SAUNDERS' 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. Miami OH	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU	2	0.5-6	0.5-6	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	2	0.5-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Louisville			DNP					
Totals	13	1.0-6	0.5-6	0	0	0	0	0

SAUNDERS' 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. ULM	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	1	1.0-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	1
at Louisville	1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	2.0-4	0-0	0	0	0	0	1

SAUNDERS' SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 5, vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022
Tackles for loss: 1.0, twice, last at Louisville, Nov 27, 2021 (1 yard)
Sacks: 0.5, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022 (6 yards)
Quarterback hurry: 1, vs New Mexico State, Nov 20, 2021



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JACKSON SCHULZ

DEFENSIVE BACK

**6-2 • 180 • Freshman-HS
Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)**

2022 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2022
- Practiced with the team

High School

- Accepted a preferred walk-on position
- Four-year letter winner at safety and nickel for head coach Bob Beatty at Trinity
- Helped the Shamrock win the Class 6A State Championship title in 2020
- Earned Most Improved Player of the Year as a junior
- In the 2020 title game against Male, led the team in tackles with five, including 1.0 tackle for loss
- Named Scout Team Player of the Year as a sophomore
- Excellent student who earned a spot on the school's Principal's List
- Chose Kentucky over Miami (Ohio) and Purdue

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky
- Son of Kelly Schulz and the late Christopher Schulz
- Siblings are Ally and Ben
- Major is pre-management

Jackson Says

- His nickname is "J. Schulz"
- He chose Kentucky because his mom and dad also went to UK
- His dream job is to be a business owner
- The person he most admires is his mom because of all she has gone through in the loss of his dad and how she handled it
- Three words to describe him are "funny, chill, and hyper"





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JACKSON SMITH

KICKER

5-11 • 194 • Freshman-HS Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)

2022 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- Ranked the top kicker/punter in the 2022 class by ProKicker.com
A three-time National Specialist of the Year and three-time All-American by Prokicker.com (2019, 2020 and 2021)
Four-time All-Region selection
A three-time first-team All-State choice by the Courier-Journal and Associated Press
Picked to the Lexington Herald-Leader "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top-25 seniors in Kentucky
Named to the Kentucky Sports Radio 2021 All-State Football Team
Helped lead Boyle County to an impressive 52-3 overall record in his four-year prep career, including back-to-back 4A state championship titles (2020 and 2021)
Also helped the Rebels finish as the state runner-up in 2019 and as semifinalists in 2018
Coached by Chuck Smith from 2018-19 and Justin Haddix in 2020-21
As a senior, hit 72 of 78 PATs (four blocked), 7 of 9 field goals and had 68 touchbacks
Punted 13 times for a 42.1 avg with 0 return yards
Also played linebacker and totaled 36 tackles, six tackles for loss and one interception
As a junior was on the track & field team, participating in the long jump and the 4X200 relay
An avid outdoorsman, he also was on the bass fishing team all four years
First-Team All-State Academic Team in 2019
Talked to others but never really considered any other school but Kentucky

Personal

- Born in Lexington, Kentucky
Son of Andy and Laura Smith
Has one sister, Ava
Son of former Wildcat punter Andy Smith (1997-99), an All-SEC punter whose 42.7-yard average in 1999 was, at the time, the third-best single-season mark in school history
Major is undecided

Jackson Says

- His nickname is "J-Smitty"
He chose Kentucky because it felt like home and because of the coaches and the support staff
Besides playing football, he's also good at hunting
Three words to describe him are funny, athletic, and outdoorsman

- The best advice he's ever received is "play the next play"



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KAIYA SHERON

QUARTERBACK

6-3 • 208 • Freshman-RS Somerset, Ky. (Somerset)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Has played in four games this season
Has 17 completions, and just one interception, on 29 attempts for 187 yards and two touchdowns
Got his first collegiate start vs. South Carolina, starting for an injured Will Levis
Recorded the first touchdown of his career on a 16-yard pass to tight end Jordan Dingle in the second quarter vs. the Gamecocks ... Later connected with running back JuTahn McClain on a 10-yard touchdown throw
Completed 2 of 2 passes for nine yards vs. Mississippi State

2021 - Freshman

- Mid-year enrollee in January 2021
Redshirt season
2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Three-star prospect who ranked as one of the top-10 players in the commonwealth as evaluated by 247, Rivals.com and ESPN
Ranked as the nation's No. 21 pro-style quarterback by 247sports.com
A four-year letter winner and three-year starter for head coach Robbie Lucas at Somerset
Guided team to a 9-3 record as a senior and the second round of the state playoffs
Completed 111 passes for 2,016 yards and threw 15 touchdown passes ... Also rushed for 465 yards and scored 10 rushing touchdowns
Two-time Class AA Player of the Year as chosen by the Kentucky Football Coaches Association (2019 and 2020)
First-team all-state by Kentucky Sports Radio, named to the Lexington Herald-Leader "Class of the Commonwealth" list of the top seniors in Kentucky
Named 2020 Commonwealth Journal Offensive Player of the Year
Nominated for the Lexington Herald-Leader's 2020 Kentucky Sports Figure of the Year
AP All-State honorable mention
As a junior, led Somerset (Ky.) High School to a 14-1 record and the 2019 state championship in Class AA
Most Valuable Player of the state title game as he guided the Briar Jumpers on a five-play, 86-yard TD drive in the game's final 28 seconds
Overall, threw for 3,218 yards and 28 touchdowns while rushing for 959 yards and nine TDs

- Named second-team all-state by The Associated Press and honorable mention by the Louisville Courier-Journal
2019 Commonwealth Journal Football Player of the Year
Strong arm paired with good mobility
Also played basketball, earning three letters
Member of the student council
An early commitment to Kentucky, he selected the Wildcats over Arizona State and Cincinnati

Personal

- Name is pronounced "Ki-yah Sharon"
Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
Son of Melissa and Kevin Sheron
Has one sister, Kallie Sheron
Major is communication

Kaiya Says

- His nickname is "K.B."
Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a coach
One thing most people don't know about him is that he throws with his right hand but kicks with his left foot
Besides playing football, he's also good at ping pong
The best advice he's ever received is "nothing good happens after midnight"

SHERON'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, G-G, Rush, Yds, TD, Lg, Comp, Att, Int, Pct, Yds, TD, Lg. Totals: 4-0, 11, -24, 0, 15, 17, 29, 1, 58.6, 187, 2, 37

SHERON'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Comp.-Att.-Int., Yds, TD, Long, Rush, Yds, TD, Long. Totals: 17-29-1, 187, 2, 27, 11, -24, 0, 15

SHERON'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Pass attempts: 27, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022
Pass completions: 15, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022
Pass yards: 178, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022
Pass TDs: 2, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022
Long pass: 27, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022
Total offense plays: 38, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022 (11 rush, 27 pass)
Total offense yards: 154, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022 (-24 rush, 178 pass)
Rush attempts: 11, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022
Rush yards: n/a
Long rush: 15, vs South Carolina, Sept 8, 2022
Rushing TDs: n/a



1

**KEIDRON
SMITH**

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-2 • 204 • Senior-Tr
West Palm Beach, Fla. (Ole Miss/
Oxbridge Academy)

2022 - %Senior

- All-SEC Second Team (Coaches)
- PFF All-SEC Second Team
- A graduate transfer who came to Kentucky after four seasons at Ole Miss
- Appeared in every game for the Rebels, which included 47 contests with 29 starting assignments
- The two-year starter totaled 224 total tackles, 22 passes defended, five forced fumbles, five interceptions, eight tackles for loss and one sack
- Finished with 47 or more tackles in each of his four seasons played in Oxford
- Has 266 career tackles, 26 pass breakups and seven total INTs - at least one in each of his five collegiate seasons in 59 career games
- Has played in all 12 games for Kentucky, starting in the last 11
- Has totaled 43 tackles, five PBUs, two interceptions, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and a tackle for loss this season
- In his Kentucky debut, charted four tackles and charted his first career fumble recovery, returning it 23 yards which set up a UK touchdown
- In the win at Florida in his second game, earned his first start at UK and had a 65-yard interception return for a touchdown in the third quarter ... Marked UK's first INT for a score since Quandre Mosely against New Mexico State on Nov. 20, 2021 (38 yards)
- Had six tackles in his return to his alma mater at Ole Miss
- Recorded an interception in the second quarter vs. Vanderbilt, his second of the season and seventh in his career

2021 - Senior (Ole Miss)

- Played in all 13 games with seven starting assignments, seeing action at all five defensive back positions for the Rebels
- Ranked fifth on the team in tackles with 64 and tied for second on the team with two interceptions
- Added 2.5 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and three pass breakups
- Was the recipient of the Chucky Mullins Courage Award which is presented annually to an Ole Miss upperclassman defensive player that embodies the spirit of Mullins – courage, leadership, perseverance, and determination
- At top-ranked Alabama notched his first interception of the season and finished third on the team with eight tackles
- Against No. 13 Arkansas, filled the stat sheet with a season-high 10 tackles, a tackle for loss, a forced fumble and an interception .

2020 - Junior (Ole Miss)

- Started all 10 games at cornerback
- Finished second on the team with 64 total tackles including a 38 solo stops ... Tallied six pass breakups
- Got the start at cornerback in the Rebels' season opener vs. No. 5 Florida and finished with a career and team-high 12 total tackles with one pass breakup
- Against No. 2 Alabama was second on the team with eight tackles, including six solo stops, in 68 snaps as the starting cornerback
- Started at cornerback and played all 84 defensive snaps vs. Arkansas, finishing with six tackles
- Led the team and tied his career-high with 12 tackles in his fifth start of the season vs. Auburn

2019 - Sophomore (Ole Miss)

- Appeared in all 12 games, with eight starts
- Registered 48 total tackles with 3.5 tackles for loss
- Led the team with eight pass breakups
- Tied for team lead with seven total tackles, including a career-high six solo tackles in season debut as a starter vs. Memphis
- Against No. 11 Auburn, broke up one pass, forced a fumble and finished third on the team with seven tackles (0.5 TFL)
- Totaled eight tackles, picked off one pass, forced a fumble and notched first-career sack vs. No. 1 LSU
- Named to the Pro Football Focus SEC Team of the Week following efforts vs. LSU
- A Mississippi State, recorded three tackles, including one TFL, forced a fumble and created first-career QB hurry

2018 - Freshman (Ole Miss)

- Appeared in all 12 games, making four starts as a true freshman
- Tallied 47 total tackles with four pass breakups
- Made his Ole Miss debut vs. Texas Tech and recorded a tackle
- Recorded first career interception and three tackles in the win over Southern Illinois
- Recorded his first career start vs. South Carolina and tallied one total tackle and one pass breakup

High School

- Rated a consensus three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals out of Oxbridge Academy
- Ranked as the No. 110 ranked cornerback in the nation and was tabbed the No. 127 player in Florida by ESPN
- An excellent basketball player who scored 1,000 points in his prep career
- Helped lead the ThunderWolves to the state championship game and 10-2 record as a senior
- Totaled 41 tackles as a senior and 33 as a junior
- Had six career interceptions at Oxbridge
- Coached by Brendan Kent

Personal

- Born in Boca Raton, Florida
- Son of Deirdre and Alonzo Smith
- Siblings are Kaylor and Anterio
- Comes from a family of athletes as his mother, Deirdre, played basketball at UCF; father, Alonzo, played basketball at Savannah State; sister, Kaylor, is currently a senior forward at Vanderbilt women's basketball team

- Graduated from Ole Miss in May of 2022 with a degree in finance ... Currently working on a second degree in community leadership and development

Keidron Says

- His nickname is "Keibo"
- He chose Kentucky because it was a great fit and because of the great staff behind the program
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a sports agent or financial advisor
- The highlight of his life so far is being an uncle to his two nieces
- One thing he will never do again is go to a haunted house

SMITH'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos	G-GS	Tkls	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
2018*	DB	12-4	47	0-0	1-2	0/0	0	1	4
2019*	DB	12-8	33	1-3	3.5-20	3/0	1	1	8
2020*	DB	10-10	64	0-0	1-2	0/0	0	1	6
2021*	DB	13-7	64	0-0	2.5-5	2/0	1	2	3
2022	DB	12-11	43	0-0	0.5-1	1/1	0	2	5
at UK		12-11	43	0-0	0.5-1	1/1	0	2	5
Totals		59-40	266	1.0-3	8.5-30	6/1	2	7	26

*at Ole Miss

SMITH'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
Miami OH	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1-23	0	0
at Florida*	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	1-65	0
vs. YSU*	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU*	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss*	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC*	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee*	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	3	0.5-1	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
vs. Vandy*	5	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	1-0	0
vs. Georgia*	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. UofL*	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	43	0.5-1	0-0	5	1	1-23	7-65	0

SMITH'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
Louisville	7	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Austin Peay*	5	1.0-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Tulane*	6	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	1
at Alabama*	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1-1	0
Arkansas*	10	1.0-1	0-0	0	1	0	1	0
at Tennessee	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
LSU	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0





SMITH'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns for Opponent, Tkl., TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int., QBH. Rows include Auburn, Liberty, Texas A&M*, Vanderbilt*, at Mississippi St.*, Baylor, and Totals.

SMITH'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns for Opponent, Tkl., TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int., QBH. Rows include Florida*, at Kentucky*, Alabama*, at Arkansas*, Auburn*, at Vanderbilt*, South Carolina*, Mississippi State*, at LSU*, vs. Indiana*, and Totals.

SMITH'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns for Opponent, Tkl., TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int., QBH. Rows include at Memphis*, Arkansas*, SLU, Cal*, at Alabama*, Vanderbilt, at Missouri, Texas A&M*, at Auburn*, New Mexico St.*, LSU*, at Mississippi St., and Totals.

SMITH'S 2018 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns for Opponent, Tkl., TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int., QBH. Rows include vs. Texas Tech, Southern Illinois, Alabama, Kent State, at LSU, ULM, vs. Arkansas, Auburn, South Carolina*, at Texas A&M*, at Vanderbilt*, Mississippi State*, and Totals.

SMITH'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 12, twice, last vs Auburn, Oct 24, 2020
Tackles for loss: 1.0, 6x, last vs Arkansas, Oct 9, 2021 (1 yard)
Sacks: 1.0, vs LSU, Nov 16, 2019 (3 yards)
Pass breakup: 4, vs South Carolina, Nov 14, 2020
Interceptions: 1, 7x, last vs Vanderbilt, Nov 12, 2022
Quarterback hurry: 1, twice, last vs Tulane, Sept 18, 2021
Forced Fumbles: 1, 6x, last vs Vanderbilt, Nov 12, 2022
Fumble Recovery: 1 vs Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022 (23 yards)



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DEANDRE SQUARE

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-1 • 221 • %Senior-4L
Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)

2022 - %Super Senior (Team Captain)

- Butkus Award Watch List
• Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List
• Preseason Third-Team All-SEC (Coaches)
• Elected to return for a fifth year, taking advantage of the NCAA's ruling to grant an extra year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic
• Has played in 58 career games with 44 straight starting assignments
• Missed three games (Missouri, Vanderbilt and Georgia) due to injury
• Career totals include 302 tackles, 22.5 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks, 15 quarterback hurries, seven pass breakups, three forced fumbles, three interceptions and one fumble recovery
• With three tackles in the win over Louisville, became just the 20th member of UK's 300-tackle club and the first since Mike Edwards in 2018
• Just the second player in school history to be elected team captain three consecutive seasons, joining Josh Paschal who accomplished the feat from 2019-21 ... Elected one of seven team captains
• UK's third-leading tackler this season with 58 ... Also has three pass breakups, two quarterback hurries, 3.0 tackles for loss, a sack and an interception
• Led the Wildcats with 11 tackles vs. Ole Miss, his first double-figure tackle game of the season
• Named SEC co-Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts in UK's win over No. 16 Mississippi State ... Sealed the win with an interception with 4:01 remaining ... Also tallied 11 tackles and 0.5 tackles for loss, his second double-figure tackle game of the season
• Left the Tennessee in the first quarter with an ankle injury ... Had three tackles before the injury

2021 - Senior (Team Captain)

- Fourth-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
• Elected two-time team captain
• Started in all 13 games
• Third on the team in total tackles (80), tackles for loss (9.5) and 3.0 sacks in 2021
• Also charted three quarterback hurries, one pass breakup and a forced fumble in 13 starts

- With two tackles in the first half against Iowa in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl, he sustained an ankle injury and did not return in the second half until midway through the fourth quarter ... Finished with six stops, plus the game-clinching interception with 1:48 remaining – his first pickoff of the season and second of his career
• Made 12 tackles, including one for loss, at Mississippi State, his second double-figure tackle game of the season (13 vs. Florida)
• Had eight tackles, including a quarterback sack in the win over LSU ... His sack in the first quarter caused a fumble, recovered by Josaih Hayes, setting up a TD drive
• Had a career-high 13 tackles in the win over No. 10/9 Florida, the second double-figure tackle game of his career (also vs. Toledo in 2019)
• Led the Cats with eight tackles in Kentucky's 16-10 win at South Carolina ... In the second quarter, with USC at the Kentucky 47-yard line, he made consecutive stops for no gain on 3rd-and-1 and 4th-and-1 to turn the ball over on downs ... In the fourth quarter, he made a third-down tackle that set up another fourth-down stop by the UK defense
• Had a career-high 3.5 TFL (-7 yards) in the opener vs. ULM ... Included in the TFL was a one-yard sack

2020 - Junior (Team Captain)

- Started in 10 of 11 games played
• Third on the team in total tackles with 60, second with four QBH
• Also had 2.5 TFL, a pass breakup and a fumble recovery
• Had a season-high nine tackles vs. Mississippi State
• Had six tackles and shared a one-yard tackle for loss at Florida ... His fumble recovery in the second quarter on the UF 38 set up a UK touchdown drive ... It was the first recovery of his career
• Elected one of 10 team captains

2019 - Sophomore

- Started in 12 games
• Second on the team in tackles with 69
• Also had 4.0 TFL, 1.5 sacks, three QBHs, a PBU, an interception and a forced fumble
• Had a career-best 11 tackles and had his first career interception in his first career start vs. Toledo in the season opener
• First UK player with at least 10 tackles, a half sack, 1 TFL and an interception since Josh Forrest vs. Louisiana on Sept. 5, 2015

2018 - Freshman

- Played in all 13 games with one start vs. Penn State
• Earned Freshman All-SEC honors by the league coaches after totaling 35 tackles, 3.5 TFL, three QBHs, one PBU and one forced fumble
• In his first collegiate start vs. Penn State in the VRBO Citrus Bowl, tied his career-high of six tackles, including a six-yard quarterback sack
• Charted three tackles in his collegiate debut

High School

- A hard-hitting linebacker at powerhouse Cass Tech
• Rated a four-star player and No. 20 outside linebacker nationally
• Played both sides for head coach Thomas Wilcher
• Had 94 tackles, two interceptions and forced four fumbles to help Cass Tech advance to the Division 1 state semifinals as a senior





Andre Says

- Nickname is "Dre"
• He chose Kentucky because it felt like home and because Coach Stewart, Coach White and Coach Collins showed a lot of love
• One word to describe him on the field is "aggressive"
• One thing most people don't know about him is that he is a good cook
• The person he most admires is his dad because of his tenacity and hard work to walk again after a bad car accident caused him to be paralyzed from the waist down



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JOSH TERRELL

WIDE RECEIVER

5-10 • 175 • Freshman-HS Fort Worth, Texas (Grapevine Faith Christian)

2022 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Lettered three years for head coach CJ Wilson at Grapevine Faith Christian
• Played in two games and totaled eight receptions for 300 yards and three scores and had four punts returns for 190 yards and two touchdowns before his season was cut short due to a knee injury
• Was a second-team all-state selection as a junior after totaling 542 yards receiving, 1,047 all-purpose yards and 10 touchdowns as a wide receiver and 34 tackles and one interception as a defensive back
• Earned an invitation to the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl in AT&T Stadium in 2021
• Reunites with high school teammate Deuce Hogan at Kentucky
• Chose UK over Houston, Texas Tech and TCU

Community Cats

- Volunteered to work with children as part of My New Kentucky Home (2022)

Personal

- Born in Fort Worth, Texas
• Son of Scott and Shannon Terrell
• Two siblings, Jake and Jordan
• Father, Scott, was a receiver at Howard Payne University, while a cousin, Blaze Morehead, was a receiver at UTSA
• Major is kinesiology

Josh Says

- Nickname is "J-rel"
• One thing most people don't know about him is that he is Hispanic
• Three words to describe him are small, creative, and effective

- Besides playing football, he's also good at water sports
• The craziest thing he's ever done is zipline and cliff jump in Mexico



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MARTEZ THROWER

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-2 • 224 • Sophomore-1L Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has seen action in 11 games and has five tackles and a blocked kick
• Got his first career blocked punt vs. Youngstown St.
• Charted a season-high two tackles vs. Georgia

2021 - Freshman

- Saw action in eight games and totaled six tackles and a quarterback hurry
• Totaled a career-high three tackles at Mississippi State
• Charted his first career tackle and a quarterback hurry in his collegiate debut vs. ULM
• Also had a tackle vs. Missouri and Iowa
• 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll

High School

- Three-star prospect by the major scouting services
• Rated the No. 38 outside linebacker nationally and No. 54 overall prospect in Georgia by the 247Sports Composite
• Totaled 120 tackles, including 92 solo, 9.5 tackles for loss, four forced fumbles and one fumble recovery for a touchdown as a senior
• Named first-team All-State by the AJC
• Earned a spot on the Class A South defensive team by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association
• Named to the 2020 Class 1A Public All-State First Team by the GHSF Daily
• "Martez is an explosive hitter. He brings the hammer. He broke three facemasks in one game. Long story short, the guy will hit you. He will light you up," Wilcox County coach Rob Stowe said
• Named the 2020 Atlanta Journal-Constitution Preseason Player of the Year for Class A
• Named a preseason All-America candidate by Sports Illustrated
• Picked Kentucky over Arkansas and Nebraska

Personal

- Born in Hawkinsville, Georgia
• Son of Norma Brown
• Siblings are Deauntay Legrier, Britney Legrier and Shaina Legrier
• Major is kinesiology

Martez Says

- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home
• One word to describe him on the field is "determined"

- One thing most people don't know about him is that he likes to fish and hunt
• The person he admires most is his brother because he leads him the right way
• His passion in life is to be the best person he can be

THROWER'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, Pos., G-GS, Tkl, Sacks-Y, TFL-Y, FF/FR, QBH, Int, PBU, Blk. Rows for 2021, 2022, and Totals.

THROWER'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tkl, TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int, QBH, Blk. Rows for various opponents and Totals.

THROWER'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tkl, TFL-Y, Sacks-Y, PBU, FF, FR, Int, QBH. Rows for various opponents and Totals.

THROWER'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 3, at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021 (0-3)
Quarterback hurry: 1, vs ULM, Sept 4, 2021
Blocked kicks: 1, vs Youngstown State, Sept 17, 2022 (punt)



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VITO
TISDALE

DEFENSIVE BACK

6-1 • 184 • Junior-2L
Bowling Green, Ky. (Bowling Green)

2022 - Junior

- Missed the 2022 season due to a ACL tear in his knee

2021 - Sophomore

- Played in nine games with two starting assignments, his first career start came vs. Vanderbilt ... Also started vs. Iowa
- Totaled 21 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, a pass breakup and a quarterback hurry
- Led the Wildcats in tackles with six vs. Tennessee
- Had his first career sack and first career pass breakup at Mississippi State ... Also finished with a five tackles
- Had three tackles in the win over Iowa in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl

2020 - Freshman

- Had 20 tackles, and 0.5 TFL in 10 games played
- Totaled a career-high six tackles in the win over NC State in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl

High School

- Ranked the No. 3 Kentucky prospect and a top-20 safety in the class of 2020 by 247sports
- Announced his decision during the U.S. Army All-American game in San Antonio, Texas
- Named a U.S. Army All-American and first-team All-State member after totaling 88 total tackles (26 solo), four interceptions and two fumble recoveries during his senior season
- Named honorable mention for the 2019 Class of the Commonwealth by the Lexington Herald-Leader
- Four-year starter for head coach Mark Spader at Bowling Green High School
- Also returned kicks
- His defensive prowess helped lead the Purples to a 9-4 record and a semifinal appearance in the Class 5A playoffs in 2019
- Also participated in track at BGHS
- Chose UK over Alabama, Georgia and Texas A&M

Personal

- Born in Bowling Green, Kentucky
- Son of Vito Tisdale and Erica Cherry
- Siblings are Napoleon, Sydney, Blue, and Meadow
- Major is community and leadership development

Vito Says

- He chose Kentucky because it's home
- Three words to describe him are chill, calm, and sweet
- One word to describe him on the field is "dangerous"

- If he could eat one thing for the rest of his life he would eat tacos
- His sports hero is Sean Taylor

V. TISDALE'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls.	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	QBH	Int.	PBU
2020	S	10-0	20	0-0	0.5-1	0/0	0	0	0
2021	S	9-2	21	1.0-7	1.5-8	0/0	1	0	1
Totals		19-2	41	1.0-7	2.0-9	0/0	1	0	1

V. TISDALE'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
vs. Florida	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. LSU	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Georgia	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Miss. State	5	1.0-7	1.0-7	1	0	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee	6	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Louisville	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1
vs. Iowa*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	21	1.5-8	1.0-7	1	0	0	0	1

V. TISDALE'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls.	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int.	QBH
at Auburn			DNP					
vs. Ole Miss	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Alabama	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	3	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. South Carolina	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NC State	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	20	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0

V. TISDALE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 6, vs NC State, Jan 2, 2021 (3-3)
Tackles for loss: 1.0, at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021 (7 yards)
Sacks: 1.0, at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021 (7 yards)
Pass breakup: 1, at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021 (7 yards)
Quarterback hurry: 1, at Louisville, Nov. 27, 2021

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JACK
VARGA

FULLBACK

5-11 • 223 • Senior-SQ
Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)



2022 - Senior

- Practiced with the team

2021 - Junior

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2021)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Saw his first collegiate action vs. Vanderbilt
- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2019 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team
- Dean's List (Fall 2019)

High School

- Played three different positions during his prep career, including offensive lineman as a freshman, fullback during his sophomore and junior seasons and defensive lineman as a senior
- Three-year letter winner and two-year starter for head coach Will Wolford and Kevin Wallace
- Helped lead the Tigers to three straight district championship titles
- Averaged 4.0 tackles per game as a senior
- Earned the Grey Horton Award for character as a senior at St. Xavier
- Also a two-year letter winner on the lacrosse team
- Excellent in the classroom, earning a spot on the Principal's List as a senior ... Also won the Optimist Essay Award
- Active in community service for St. Xavier, volunteering to give blood five times
- Chose UK over Centre College

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky
- Son of John and Tracy Varga
- Comes from a tennis family as dad, John, uncle Andrew Varga, uncles Paul and Andrew Varga, and aunt, Julie Hale, all played tennis at UK
- Double major in finance and marketing

Jack Says

- His nickname is "Meat"
- He chose Kentucky because it is his dream school and has a strong family tradition
- Besides playing football, he's also enjoys golf, video games, horse racing and movies
- If he could create a holiday he would call it "Mandatory Beach Day"



The person he admires most is his dad because of his work ethic and dedication to excellence in everything he does



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DESTIN WADE

QUARTERBACK

6-3 • 222 • Freshman-HS Springhill, Tenn. (Summit)

2022 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- "Mr. Football" as a senior for Division I, Class 6A, the largest classification in Tennessee
Four-star prospect as rated by Rivals.com, 247sports.com, on3.com and ESPN
All four services listed him in the top 20 nationally in the "Athlete" category
Began starting at quarterback during his freshman year, then was the full-time starter for three seasons
Guided Summit High School to a three-year record of 40-5
Team was state champion in Class 5A as junior (14-1 record) and state runner-up twice, Class 5A as a sophomore (12-3) and Class 6A as a senior (14-1)
As a senior, rushed for 2,308 yards and 30 touchdowns while throwing for 1,436 yards and 18 TDs
Named Region 7-6A Most Valuable Player
Finalist for Class 5A "Mr. Football" as a junior while being named to the all-state team by the Tennessee Sportswriters Association
Coached by Brian Coleman
Also a three-year letter winner as a guard on the basketball team
Chose Kentucky over Tennessee, Louisville and Virginia

Personal

- Born in Nashville, Tennessee
Son of Valerie and Steve Wade
Has three brothers, Jalen, Cameron and Keaten
Twin brother, Keaten, also is a freshman on the team
Major is pre-marketing

Destin Says

- His nickname is "Dae"
He chose Kentucky because of the family fit and he thought he could make an impact
Besides playing football, he's also enjoys working out, golfing, video games and family
One word to describe him on the field is "versatile"
His favorite family recipe to make and eat is shrimp burgers



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KEATEN WADE

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

6-5 • 237 • Freshman-HS Springhill, Tenn. (Summit)

2022 - Freshman

- Has seen action in all 12 games and has 16 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks and 1 pass breakup
Charted a career-best three tackles and a pass breakup in his collegiate debut vs. Miami (Ohio)
Had two tackles in the win at Florida
Also had a career-high tying three tackles vs. Youngstown and at Ole Miss
Got a sack vs. South Carolina

High School

- Consensus four-star linebacker is listed as one of the top 25 linebackers and nation's top 250 prospects by all three major evaluation services
The No. 18 linebacker and No. 193 nationally by Rivals.com
The No. 21 linebacker and No. 192 nationally by ESPN
Played in the All-American Bowl for the East squad in San Antonio, Texas on January 8, 2022
Helped lead Summit High School to a three-year record of 40-5
Team was state champion in Division I, Class 5A as junior (14-1 record) and state runner-up twice, Class 5A as a sophomore (12-3) and Class 6A as a senior (14-1)
Finalist for Class 6A "Mr. Football" as a senior, an honor won by twin brother Destin
Named Region 7-6A defensive MVP
Totaled 84 tackles as a senior, highlighted by eight quarterback sacks, 26 tackles for loss, two interceptions (one returned for a touchdown), five fumbles caused and six fumble recoveries ... Coached by Brian Coleman
Chose Kentucky over Tennessee, Louisville and Virginia

Personal

- Born in Nashville, Tennessee
Son of Valerie and Steve Wade
Has three brothers, Jalen, Cameron and Keaten
Twin brother, Destin, also is a freshman on the team
Major is pre-marketing

Keaten Says

- His nickname is "Kea"
He chose Kentucky because of its academics, coaches, and it is family oriented
Besides playing football, he's also enjoys golfing, fishing, video games and working out
Three words to describe him are focused, hardworking, and happy
What motivates him to work hard is his mom because she's sacrificed so much

K. WADE'S CAREER STATISTICS

Table with columns: Year, Pos., G-GS, Tkls, TFL-Yds, Sacks-Yds, FF/FR, PBU, QBH, INT. Row 1: 2022 OLB 12-0 16 2.5-13 1.5-8 0/0 1 0 0. Row 2: Totals 12-0 16 2.5-13 1.5-8 0/0 1 0 0

K. WADE'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, Tkls, TFL-Yds, Sacks-Yds, FF, FR, Int, PBU, QBH. Rows include: vs. Miami OH, at Florida, vs. YSU, vs. NIU, at Ole Miss, vs. USC, vs. Miss. State, at Tennessee, at Missouri, vs. Vanderbilt, vs. Georgia, vs. UofL, Totals.

K. WADE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 3, 3x, last at Ole Miss, Oct 1, 2022
Tackles for loss: 1.0, twice, last at Missouri, Nov 5, 2022
Sacks: 1.0, vs South Carolina, Oct 8, 2022 (2 yards)
Pass breakups: 1, vs Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022



0

DEONE WALKER

DEFENSIVE LINE

6-6 • 330 • Freshman-HS Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)

2022 - Freshman

- True Freshman All-American (On3.com)
College All-True Freshman Team (PFF)
First-team Freshman All-American (CFN)
HM All-American (Phil Steele)
All-SEC Freshman Team (Coaches)
All-SEC Second Team (PFF)
All-SEC Second Team (Phil Steele)
Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Year Award Semifinalist
Midseason True Freshman All-American (The Athletic, 247 Sports, On3.com)
Preseason True Freshman All-American (247 Sports, On3.com)
SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Week (11/28)
Has played in all 12 games, earning a starting spot in the last 10
Has totaled 39 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, five quarterback hurries (second-most on the team, two pass breakups and a forced fumble)
Recorded four tackles in his collegiate debut vs. Miami (Ohio) and also vs. Vanderbilt





- Had two tackles, including a TFL in the win at Florida
- Earned his first collegiate start and charted three tackles and his first career pass breakup vs. Youngstown State
- Got another PBU in the win over Miss. State
- Charted a career-high six tackles vs. No. 1 Georgia and got a QBH
- Tied his career high with six tackles in the win over Louisville, including a TFL and a half sack ... Also had a career-best two quarterback hurries and his first career forced fumble ... Earned SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts

High School

- Rated a four-star prospect and the No. 23 defensive tackle recruit nationally by Rivals
- Four-star and No. 246 nationally among all recruits, No. 28 nationally at defensive tackle and the No. 4 prospect in Michigan as evaluated by on3.com
- A four-star prospect in the 247Sports Composite, ranking as the No. 30 defensive lineman
- Three-year starter and letter winner at Cass Tech coached by Thomas Wilcher and Marvin Rushing
- Also played offensive tackle as a senior
- Combines massive frame with impressive agility
- Named to the Detroit Free Press All-State Dream Team in 2021
- Named First-Team All-State after totaling 43 tackles, 15 tackles for loss and six sacks in seven games
- Also played center on the basketball team
- Picked Kentucky over Georgia, Michigan, Missouri and Alabama

Personal

- Born in Detroit
- Son of Nikita and Sanquanetta Walker
- Has one sister, Nikita
- Left-handed
- Major is undecided

Deone Says

- His nickname is "D-1"
- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home
- After football his dream job is to be in real estate
- Three words to describe him are quiet, funny, and athletic
- What motivates him to work hard is his family

WALKER'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls	TFL-Yds	Sacks-Yds	FF/FR	PBU	QBH	Int
2022	DL	12-10	39	3.5-12	1.0-8	1/0	2	5	0
Totals		12-10	39	3.5-12	1.0-8	1/0	2	5	0

WALKER'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Yds.	Sacks-Yds	FF	FR	Int	PBU	QBH
vs. Miami OH	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Florida	2	1.0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU*	3	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
vs. NIU*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1
at Ole Miss*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1
vs. USC*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State*	1	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
at Tennessee*	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	3	0.5-3	0.5-3	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt*	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1
vs. UofL*	6	1.0-6	0.5-5	1	0	0	0	2
Totals	39	3.5-12	1.0-8	1	0	0	2	5

WALKER'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 6, twice, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Tackles for loss: 1.0, twice, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (6 yards)
Sacks: 0.5, twice, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (5 yards)
Pass breakups: 1, twice, last vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022
Quarterback hurry: 2, vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022



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TREVIN WALLACE

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-2 • 240 • Sophomore-1L
Jesup, Ga. (Wayne County)

2022 - Sophomore

- Has seen action in 11 games with five starts vs. Youngstown State, Missouri, Vanderbilt, Georgia and Louisville
- Did not see action in the opener due to injury
- Has totaled 48 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss (third-most on the team), 2.5 sacks, two interceptions and a QBH this season
- Got his first career interception vs. South Carolina
- Recorded six tackles at No. 3 Tennessee ... Had his first sack the season for a loss of nine yards in the second quarter
- Finished with a team-lead and season-high nine total tackles and career-high 2.5 tackles for loss in the win over Missouri
- Got his second interception of the season in the win over Louisville, intercepting a pass in the third quarter, returning it 19 yards to the Louisville 15 .. Itset up Levis' three-yard touchdown pass to Brown

2021 - Freshman

- All-SEC Freshman Team
- Saw action in 12 games with one starting assignment at Mississippi State
- Recorded 32 total tackles with 4.0 tackles for loss, two sacks, a forced fumble, a pass breakup and a quarterback hurry

- Named SEC Freshman of the Week after charting a career-high 12 tackles, including 2.0 for loss, in his first collegiate start at outside linebacker at Mississippi State
- Scored the game-changing touchdown, off a blocked field goal, in UK's 20-13 win over No. 10/9-ranked Florida ... With UK trailing 10-7 in the third quarter, he caught a blocked field goal, weaved his way through traffic, then sprinted for a 76-yard touchdown ... His first collegiate score put UK in the lead and the Wildcats never trailed again ... Also made two tackles during the game

High School

- A four-star prospect by all of the national recruiting analysts
- Ranked as the nation's 35 overall prospect and No. 2 inside linebacker by 247Sports
- Rated as the state of Georgia's No. 6 overall player
- A two-way difference-maker and four-year letterwinner for head coach Ken Cribb at Wayne County High School
- Saw action at receiver, running back, quarterback, and multiple linebacker spots, plus had reps as a kick and punt returner during his prep career
- Totaled 96 tackles, 12.0 tackles for loss, 5.0 sacks, three forced fumbles and an interception on defense as a senior
- Had 78 rushes for 910 yards and seven touchdowns and 10 catches for 79 receiving yards playing on the offensive side of the ball
- Had an incredible performance in his final high school game, rushing 28 times for 382 yards and three touchdowns
- Also played every snap at OLB in the game
- Earned WCHS Varsity Offensive Player of the Week for his performance in the playoffs
- Named the Gibson Animal Clinic Defensive Player of the Year in 2020
- Named a *Sports Illustrated* All-American
- Played in only four games as a junior due to injury
- Also a four-year letter winner on the track team fin the 100- and 200-meter dashes, 110m hurdles, high jump, long jump, and shot put
- Broke the WCHS long jump record with a jump of 23' 4.25", a record that stood for 44 years
- Won the state weightlifting championship with a power clean of 335 pounds
- Chose Kentucky over Auburn and Ole Miss

Community Cats

- Volunteered with My New Kentucky Home for a Special Olympics event (2021)

Personal

- Born in Jesup, Georgia
- Son of Adrian and Trevor Wallace
- Siblings are Kolby, Tionne, Tavion, and Titus
- Sister, Tionne, is currently a U.S. Army Reserves Specialist
- Uncle, Robert Bryant, was a linebacker at Oklahoma from 2009-11
- Major is animal sciences

Trevin Says

- His nickname is "Dooda"
- He chose Kentucky because of its great academic programs
- After football his dream job is to be a veterinarian





- The last time he was starstruck was when he saw his sister when she came home from the military
- Three words to describe him are calm, cool, and collected

WALLACE'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	QBH	Int	PBU
2021	ILB	12-1	32	2.0-5	4.0-13	1/0	1	0	1
2022	ILB	11-5	48	2.5-14	5.5-20	0/0	1	2-19	0
Totals		23-6	80	4.5-19	9.5-33	1/0	2	2-19	1

WALLACE'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int	QBH
vs. Miami OH				DNP				
at Florida	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. YSU*	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Ole Miss	2	1.0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1-0	0
vs. Miss. State	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	9	2.5-13	1.0-9	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt*	6	1.0-1	1.0-1	0	0	0	0	1
vs. Georgia*	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. UofL*	7	1.0-5	0.5-4	0	0	0	1-19	0
Totals	48	4.5-19	2.5-14	0	0	0	2-19	1

WALLACE'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	FF	FR	Int	QBH
vs. ULM	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1
vs. UTC	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at USC	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Florida	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. LSU	1	1.0-3	1.0-3	0	0	0	0	0
at Georgia	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Miss. State*	12	2.0-6	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	5	1.0-4	1.0-4	1	1	0	0	0
at Louisville	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa				DNP				
Totals	32	4.0-13	2.0-7	1	1	0	0	1

WALLACE'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 12, at Mississippi State, Oct 30, 2021
Tackle for loss: 2.5, 13, at Missouri, Nov 5, 2022
Sacks: 1.0, 4x, last vs Vanderbilt, Nov 12, 2022
Quarterback hurries: 1, twice, last vs Vanderbilt, Nov 12, 2022
Pass breakups: 1, vs New Mexico State, Nov 20, 2021
Interceptions: 1, twice, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022 (19 yards)
Forced fumbles: 1, vs New Mexico State, Nov 20, 2021
Special teams touchdown: 1, vs Florida, Oct 2, 2021 (picked up blocked field goal)



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ANGELO WASHINGTON

INSIDE LINEBACKER

6-2 • 226 • Freshman-HS
Ironton, Ohio (Ironton)

2022 - Freshman

- Practiced with the team

High School

- Arrives at Kentucky from Ironton (Ohio) High School, where he was a two-year letter winner as a linebacker
- Coached by Trevon Pendleton
- Helped guide Ironton to a 22-3 record during his two seasons and state runner up in 2020-21
- Was named Defensive co-Player of the Year and First-Team All-State after tallying 117 tackles with four forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and one INT
- Also competed in the shot put one season
- Before transferring to Ironton, played his sophomore season, 2019, at Mize High School in Mize, Mississippi ... Totaled 54 tackles at defensive end
- Picked UK over Marshall and West Virginia

Community Cats

- Volunteered to play games with kids for a My New Kentucky Home event (2022)

Personal

- Born in Huntington, West Virginia
- Son of Rebecca Troisi and Jermaine Keyes; Liz and Kenneth Washington
- Siblings are Jaquez Keyes, Jermaine Keyes Jr., and Ella Washington
- Two cousins are currently playing Division 1 football - Ty Keyes, quarterback at Southern Miss, and Wardalis Ducksworth, defensive lineman at Memphis
- Left-handed
- Major is kinesiology

Angelo Says

- Nickname is "Lo"
- He chose Kentucky because it felt like home
- He would take water, a bed and a spear with him if were stuck on a desert island
- What motivates him to work hard is to prove the doubters wrong
- One thing he will never do again is stay up for 24 hours straight



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J.J. WEAVER

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

6-5 • 242 • Junior-2L
Louisville, Ky. (Moore Traditional)

2022 - Junior (Team Captain)

- Elected one of seven team captains
- Lott IMPACT Trophy Watch List
- Third-Team Preseason All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Has seen action in 34 career games with 15 career starts
- Has totaled 117 career tackles, including 23.5 tackles for loss, 9.5 sacks, 10 quarterback hurries, two interceptions, three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries
- This season, has 44 tackles (seventh on the team), 6.0 tackles for loss (second-most on the team), a team-high 2.5 sacks, three quarterback hurries, a team-high three fumble recoveries, a team-high tying two forced fumbles and a blocked kick
- Had five tackles, 1.0 sack, a tackle for loss and a blocked punt in the win over Miami (Ohio) in the season opener
- Led the Wildcats in tackles with a career-high nine stops in the win over Florida
- Recorded one tackle and a TFL before leaving the game with a left elbow injury vs. Youngstown State
- Did not see action vs. Northern Illinois or at Ole Miss with the elbow injury
- Returned vs. South Carolina to chart four tackles, a tackle for loss and fumble recovery
- Had six tackles, including 1.0 tackle for loss, and his second fumble recovery of the season in the win at Missouri
- Totaled a career-high two quarterback hurries vs. Vanderbilt
- Had seven tackles, one sack, one tackle for loss and a pass breakup in the win over Louisville ... In the second quarter, he sacked the quarterback, causing a fumble that he recovered and returned to the Louisville six-yard line ... Marked his third fumble recovery of the season, returning it for 15 yards that set up Kentucky for its third score and second field goal of the game

2021 - Sophomore

- Named one of the three award winners for the 2021 Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year
- Capital One Orange Bowl Courage Award nominee
- Third-Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Played in 12 games with six starts
- Did not see action vs. Iowa in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl due to Covid protocols
- Totaled 34 tackles, 10.0 tackles for loss (second on the team), a team-high 6.0 sacks, four quarterback hurries, two interceptions, one forced fumble and one pass breakup
- Made at least one TFL in eight of 12 games played
- Had four tackles, including a career-high 2.5 sacks vs. Tennessee



- Was part of the first team in school history that went undefeated in the regular season (2016) and was part of three straight region finalists
- Had a fantastic prep career statistically, finishing sixth all-time in KHSAA history with 107 career TDs, (101 rushing), 11th in points scored with 614 and 20th in rushing yards with 6,204 ... Also had 161 career tackles as a linebacker
- As a senior in 2017, compiled 1,747 yards rushing with 31 rushing touchdowns, helping LCA go 11-2
- 2017 Lexington Player of the Year and "Class of the Commonwealth by the *Lexington Herald-Leader*
- Named one of the Commonwealth's top 36 players in 2017 by BluegrassPreps.com
- Earned offensive MVP in the Best of the Bluegrass game vs. Louisville
- Three-time All-State and four-time All-City selection by the *Herald-Leader*
- Also a three-year letter winner as a sprinter on the track team ... Helped LCA win the 2016-17 Class A Track championship
- Finished second in the state in the 100-meters
- Member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Personal

- Born in Lexington, Kentucky
- Son of Dwayne and Tracy Wheatley
- Has two brothers, Dalton and Dustin
- Graduated on Dec. 16, 2022 with a degree in agricultural economics

Dillon Says

- He chose to play football at Kentucky because his dad is a Kentucky alumnus and it was his favorite school growing up
- After football, his dream job is to be in an engineer
- Three words to describe him are humble, driven, and hard-nosed
- Best advice he's ever received is from his high school football coach, Ethan Atchley, "no one cares" aka, "no excuses"
- Hobbies include fishing, hunting, and riding four-wheelers



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BRANDON WHITE

WIDE RECEIVER

5-9 • 160 • Freshman-HS
Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)

2022 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- Speedy wide receiver has been timed as fast as 4.28 seconds in the 40-yard dash
- Consensus three-star prospect
- The No. 26 prospect in talent-rich Ohio and one of the nation's top 150 wide receivers as evaluated by ESPN

- Played at perennial power Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati
- Caught four passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns in the season opener of his senior year but missed much of the season because of injury
- Returned before the end of the season and helped Moeller to an 11-4 record, the regional championship, and the semifinals of the state playoffs in Division I, the largest classification in Ohio
- Coached by Mark Elder
- Also excelled on the track, competing in the 100- and 200-meter races for Archbishop Moeller
- Ran a personal best 10.30 in the 100-meter dash at the 2022 OHSAA D1 Southwest District Outdoor Championships, finishing second
- Won the OHSAA D1 Region 4 championship title in the 100m with a time of 10.69
- Placed third in the 2022 OHSAA D1 State Track & Field Championships in the 100m with a time of 10.59
- Competed at the 2022 Adidas Indoor Track and Field Nationals and posted an impressive 6.82 in the 60m final, earning him a top-3 finish and All-America honors
- Broke the Indoor State Meet 60m dash record with a time of 6.73
- Reunites on the football field with high school teammates Josh Kattus and Carrington Valentine
- Picked Kentucky over West Virginia, Akron, Bowling Green and Marshall

Personal

- Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Son of Jeanita Cummings and Ben White
- Has four siblings, Beniria, Bryson, Bryan and Ben
- Mother, Jeanita, played basketball at Mississippi State, while dad, Ben, was a running back at Mississippi State
- Major is undecided

Brandon Says

- Nickname is "B-White"
- He chose to play at Kentucky because it was a good fit and to play in the SEC
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be the CEO of his own company
- Three words to describe athletic, funny, and loving
- The person who motivates him to work hard is his mother because she's sacrificed so much for his family



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JAI WILLIAMS

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

6-5 • 215 • Sophomore-SQ
Lake Forest, Ill. (Lake Forest)

2022 - Sophomore

- Moved from tight end to outside linebacker in the spring

2021 - Freshman

- 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll
- Practiced with the team

High School

- Two-year starter for head coach Chuck Spagnoli
- A two-way player who lined up at linebacker and tight end and was a member of all four special teams units
- Lake Forest's 2020 season was postponed to the Spring of 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Voted a senior co-captain
- As a junior, helped Lake Forest finish 7-5 and reach the Class 6A state quarterfinals
- Earned All-North Suburban Conference honors as a junior
- Selected to play in the 2019 Illinois High School All-Star Shrine football game in Bloomington
- Also on the wrestling and rugby teams at LFHS
- Three-time All-State wrestler (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Chose Kentucky over Tennessee and Western Michigan

Personal

- Name is pronounced "Ji"
- Born in Lake Forest, Illinois
- Son of Joi Artis and James Williams
- Dad, James, also known as "Big Cat," played 12 seasons (1991-2003), mostly as an offensive tackle, with the Chicago Bears and is known as one of the "100 Greatest Bears of All-Time"
- Has one younger sister, Jia
- Major is architecture

Jai Says

- He chose Kentucky because of its architecture program and top-tier football program
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be an architect
- Besides playing football, he's also good at dodge ball and snowboarding
- If he could have dinner with three famous people, living or dead, he would choose Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, and Bob Marley
- The best advice he's ever received is "bet on yourself"



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QUINTIN
WILSON

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-1 • 295 • Senior-3L
Cincinnati, Ohio (Turpin)**2022 - Senior**

- Has seen action in four games with one start vs. Youngstown State at right guard
- Also saw action vs. Miami (Ohio), Mississippi State and Tennessee
- Played every play and graded at 79 percent and had no missed assignments or penalties vs. YSU ... Did not allow any quarterback sacks or pressures ... Helped the Wildcats generate a season-high 480 yards

2021 - Junior

- Saw action in 10 of 13 games
- Named to CoSIDA Academic All-District First Team
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll

2020 - Sophomore

- Played in five games
- Saw his first action of the season vs. Vanderbilt and also saw action at Alabama, at Florida, vs. South Carolina and vs. NC State
- Dean's List (Fall 2020)
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Named to CoSIDA Academic All-District Team
- Served as one of three representatives for UK football on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

2019 - r-Freshman

- Saw action in five games
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Dean's List (Fall 2019)

2018 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
- Dean's List (Fall 2018)
- Dean's List (Spring 2019)
- First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll
- Played in one game vs. Louisville

High School

- Considered one of the top OL prospects in Ohio
- Rated as the nation's No. 5 center by Rivals and No. 9 center by 247sports in the Class of 2018
- A three-star prospect by all the major recruiting services
- Played three seasons at Walnut Hills High School before transferring to Turpin his senior season
- Earned first-team Division II OPSWA All-Ohio honors in 2017
- Coached by Kent McCullough at Turpin
- Excelled in the classroom, graduating cum laude and as a Ohio All-Academic First Team member
- Chose Kentucky over offers from Virginia, Boston College, Cincinnati, Minnesota and Duke

Community Cats

- Volunteered at Deep Springs Elementary (2020)

Personal

- Born in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Son of Terri and Lloyd Johnson and Ken Wilson
- Has one sister, Calais Pitman
- Graduated in December of 2020 with a degree in management ... Completed his bachelor's degree in two and one-half years with the help of advanced placement credits earned in high school ... Earned his MBA at UK's Gatton College of Business and Economics in May of 2022 ... Currently working on a second master's degree in sport leadership

Quintin Says

- His nickname is "Q"
- He chose to play football at Kentucky because it's a family environment
- Other than playing in the NFL, his dream job is to be in sports management
- Most people would be surprised to know he didn't start playing football until his freshman year of high school
- One word to describe him on the field is "smart"



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DAVID
WOHLBAUGH JR.

OFFENSIVE LINE

6-6 • 302 • Freshman-RS
Stow, Ohio (Walsh Jesuit)**2022 - r-Freshman**

- Has played in eight games with one start
- Earned his first career start in the season opener vs. Miami (Ohio)

2021 - Freshman

- Played in two games .. Saw his first collegiate action vs. ULM and also played at Mississippi State
- Redshirt season
- Mid-year enrollee In January 2021

High School

- Three-start recruit by all of the major recruiting services
- Rated the nation's No. 53 offensive guard by ESPN, the No. 67 tackle by 247sports and the No. 69 tackle by Rivals.com
- The No. 25 player in Ohio by 247, No. 30 by ESPN and No. 31 by Rivals
- First-team all-state as a senior by the Ohio Sportswriters Association
- Helped lead Walsh Jesuit High School to a 5-2 record and the second round of the Division II state playoffs
- His size is enhanced by the ability he has shown to make blocks in space
- Coached by Nick Alexander
- Also lettered two seasons in ice hockey

- Chose Kentucky over Arizona State, Penn State and West Virginia

Personal

- Named is pronounced "WUL-uh-bah"
- Born in Cleveland, Ohio
- wSon of Dave and Virginia Wohlbaugh
- Comes from a football family, as his father, Dave, played at Syracuse and went on to a nine-year NFL career with New England (1995-98), Cleveland (1999-2002) and St. Louis (2003) ... The elder Wohlbaugh was a member of the 1995 All-Rookie Team, played in the 1997 Super Bowl, and started all 128 games of his NFL career ... Dad was a teammate with former Kentucky quarterback Tim Couch with the Cleveland Browns ... Brother, Jack, is currently a center at Duke
- Major is pre-management

David Says

- He chose Kentucky because it felt like family
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he's red-green color blind
- Besides playing football, he's also good at spike ball
- The person he admires most is his dad because he's a great role model
- If he could eat only three foods for the rest of his life he would choose chicken, bacon, and waffles



15

JORDAN
WRIGHT

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

6-5 • 231 • %Senior-4L
Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Dillard)**2022 - %Super Senior (Team Captain)**

- Elected one of seven team captains
- SEC co-Defensive Player of the Week (9/12)
- Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List
- Returned for a sixth year, taking advantage of the NCAA's ruling to grant an extra year of eligibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Has played in 53 career games with 21 starting assignments
- Has totaled 164 career tackles with 24.0 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks ... Also has 15 pass breakups, 13 quarterback hurries, five forced fumbles, five fumble recoveries, and two interceptions
- This season, has 58 tackles (third on the team) and a team-high 8.5 tackles for loss and a team-high seven quarterback hurries
- Made a game-changing interception while totaling six tackles, a quarterback sack, another tackle for loss, and caused a fumble in Kentucky's 26-16 come-from-behind win at No. 12/19 Florida
- With Kentucky trailing 16-7 late in the second quarter, he made a spectacular one-handed interception and returned it to the Florida six-yard line, setting up a UK touchdown that swung the momentum in favor of the Wildcats



- From that point, UK limited Florida to no points, five first downs and 91 total yards in the second half; it was the first time UF had been shut out in the second half since 2017
- In the third quarter, stopped a possession with an eight-yard sack, forcing a punt
- Also credited with a five-yard tackle for loss and a caused fumble
- Charted eight tackles including a TFL to go along with a career-high two QBH at Ole Miss
- Had seven tackles, including six solo tackles, for a team-best 2.0 TFL vs. South Carolina
- Tallied a season-high and a career-high tying 10 tackles vs. No. 1 Georgia
- Had seven tackles and a career-high tying two quarterback hurries in the win over Louisville

2021 - Senior

- Played in nine of 13 games in 2021, missing four with injury ... Had seven starts
- Totaled 30 tackles, 4.0 tackles for loss, a sack, a quarterback hurry and six pass breakups
- Ranked 15th in the SEC in passes defended
- Led the Wildcats with a career-high 10 tackles in the win over Iowa in the Vrbo Citrus Bowl, including one for loss, and tipped the pass that led to D'Eryk Jackson's interception
- Went out of the game late in the first half at Mississippi State with injury and did not return until the Louisville game on Nov. 27
- Had a career-high tying two PBUs in the road win over South Carolina
- Had six tackles, with a career-high-tying two tackles for loss (-9), an eight-yard sack and a pass breakup, vs. ULM in the season opener

2020 - Junior

- Started in 11 games in 2020
- Named SEC Defensive Player of the Week for win over Mississippi State
- Totaled 45 tackles, 5.5 TFL, 3.5 sacks, four PBUs, two QBHs, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and an interception
- Named to SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll
- Had five tackles, including a 12-yard sack, and caused a fumble in the win over NC State in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl
- Made four tackles, caused a fumble, recovered two fumbles, had two pass breakups and a quarterback hurry in Kentucky's 41-18 win over South Carolina ... His two turnover plays helped produce 10 Kentucky points ... In the first quarter, he snatched the ball away from a Gamecock receiver and returned it four yards, setting up the first touchdown of the game ... Recovered a fumble in the second quarter, setting up a field goal
- Recorded a career-high seven tackles vs. Georgia
- Was a key part of the Kentucky defense that held Mississippi State without an offensive score in UK's 24-2 win ... Game totals featured a pass interception returned for a touchdown; career-high tying six tackles; career-best two tackles for loss (-9 yards), including a quarterback sack; and a pass breakup

2019 - Sophomore

- Played in all 13 games
- Totaled 27 tackles, 6.0 TFL (tied for third on the team), 3.0 sacks (fourth on the team), team-high tying two fumble recoveries one which resulted in

a touchdown, one forced fumble, one PBU and a quarterback hurry

- Put the icing on the cake in the win over Virginia Tech in the Belk Bowl with a 28-yard fumble return for a TD on the game's final play ... Also had three tackles, including one for loss, and a pass breakup
- Totaled a career-best six tackles and a tackle for loss in the season opener vs. Toledo

2018 - r-Freshman

- Saw action in nine games, totaling four tackles
- Charted a career-high three tackles vs. Murray State, along with a pass breakup and QBH
- Also had a QBH in the win over Vanderbilt

2017 - Freshman

- Redshirt season

High School

- Dual-sport standout in football and basketball
- A three-star football recruit
- Rivals ranked him as the 25th-best defensive end and the 80th-best prospect in Florida, while 247Sports had him as the No. 28 weakside defensive end in the country and the No. 67 player in the state of Florida
- The 46th-best DE in the class of 2017 by ESPN
- Coached by Lorenzo Davis
- Compiled 25 sacks as a senior
- Doubled as a tight end in the red zone, catching six touchdowns, including a critical score against Boynton Beach in the District 15-6A three-team tiebreaker to lead Dillard to the district title
- Earned *Sun Sentinel's* All-Broward first-team defensive honors
- As a shooting guard, was a back-to-back preseason Fab Five selection and was an All-County pick
- Led the Panthers' hoops team to a Class 6A state title as a junior
- Named Mr. Dillard High School
- Chose Kentucky over Miami, Arkansas and Florida

Personal

- Born in Lauderdale, Florida
- Son of Wanda Burns-Wright and Louis Wright
- Has one sister, Kayla
- Comes from an athletic family as older sister, Kayla, played basketball at Nova Southeastern, while cousin, RaiQuan Gray, currently plays basketball at Florida State, and another cousin, Kenneth Ruff, was a defensive lineman at Syracuse
- Graduated on December 17, 2021 with a degree in community and leadership development ... Currently working on a second degree in kinesiology

Jordan Says

- His nickname is "Jay Dub"
- He chose Kentucky because it was a perfect fit for himself and his family, and it felt like home
- His sports heroes are his parents because they push him to be the best he can be
- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a sports trainer
- One word to describe him on the field is "beast"

J. WRIGHT'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Pos.	G-GS	Tkls	TFL-Y	Sacks-Y	PBU	Int	FF/FR	QBH
2018	OLB	9-0	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0/0	2
2019	OLB	13-0	27	6.0-33	3.0-25	1	0	1/2	1
2020	OLB	11-5	45	5.5-39	3.5-30	4	1	3/2	2
2021	OLB	9-7	30	4.0-9	1.0-8	6	0	0/0	1
2022	OLB	11-9	58	8.5-25	1.0-8	3	1	1/1	7
Totals		53-21	164	24.0-107	8.5-68	15	2	5/5	13

J. WRIGHT'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	PBU	Int.	FF/FR	QBH
vs. Miami OH			DNP				
at Florida*	6	1.0-8	2.0-13	0	1-18	1/0	0
vs. YSU*	4	0-0	2.0-3	0	0	0/0	1
vs. NIU*	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0/0	0
at Ole Miss*	8	0-0	1.0-2	1	0	0/0	2
vs. USC*	7	0-0	2.0-5	0	0	0/0	0
vs. Miss. State*	2	0-0	0-0	2	0	0/0	0
at Tennessee	4	0-0	0.5-1	0	0	0/0	0
at Missouri*	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0/1	0
vs. Vanderbilt	3	0-0	0.5-1	0	0	0/0	2
vs. Georgia*	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	0/0	0
vs. UofL*	7	0-0	0.5-0	0	0	0/0	2
Totals	58	1.0-8	8.5-25	3	1-18	1/1	7

J. WRIGHT'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	Int.	QBH
vs. ULM*	6	1.0-8	2.5-9	0/0	1	0	0
vs. Missouri*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	0
vs. UTC			DNP				
at USC*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	2	0	0
vs. Florida*	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. LSU*	6	0-0	1.0-0	0/0	1	0	1
at Georgia*	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Miss. State*	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee			DNP				
at Vanderbilt			DNP				
vs. NMST			DNP				
at Louisville	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa*	10	0-0	1.0-1	0/0	1	0	0
Totals	30	1.0-8	4.0-10	0/0	6	0	1

J. WRIGHT'S 2020 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	Int.	QBH
at Auburn	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
vs. Ole Miss	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. St.	6	1.0-4	2.0-9	0/0	1	1-8*	0
at UT*	3	1.0-9	1.0-9	0/0	0	0	0
at Missouri*	4	0-0	1.0-4	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia*	7	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Vandy*	6	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Alabama*	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	0
at Florida	4	0.5-5	0.5-5	1/0	0	0	0
vs. USC	4	0-0	0-0	1/2	2	0	1
vs. NC State	5	1.0-12	1.0-12	1/0	0	0	0
Totals	45	3.5-30	5.5-39	3/2	4	1-8	2



J. WRIGHT'S 2019 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks-Y	TFL-Y	FF/FR	PBU	Int.	QBH
vs. Toledo	6	0-0	1.0-3	0/0	0	0	0
vs. EMU	2	1.0-13	1.0-13	0/0	0	0	1
vs. Florida	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at USC	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Arkansas	2	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Georgia	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Missouri	2	1.0-8	1.0-8	1/1	0	0	0
vs. Tennessee	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Vanderbilt	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. UT Martin	3	1.0-4	1.0-4	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Louisville	5	0-0	1.0-1	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Va. Tech	3	0-0	1.0-4	0/1*	1	0	0
Totals	27	3.0-25	6.0-33	1/2	1	0	1

J. WRIGHT'S 2018 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Tackles	Sacks	TFL-Y	FR/FC	PBU	Int.	QBH
vs. Murray State	3	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	1
vs. Miss. State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. South Carolina	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at TAMU	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	1
at Missouri	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
at Louisville	1	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
vs. Penn State	0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0	0	0
Totals	4	0-0	0-0	0/0	1	0	2

J. WRIGHT'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Tackles: 10, twice, last vs Georgia, Nov 19, 2022
Sacks: 1.5, vs. ULM, Sept 4, 2021 (13 yards)
Tackles for loss: 2.5, ULM, Sept 4, 2021 (17 yards)
Pass breakups: 2, 3x, last vs Mississippi State, Oct 15, 2022
Quarterback hurry: 2, 3x, last vs Louisville, Nov 26, 2022
Forced fumbles: 1, 5x, last vs Missouri, Sept 11, 2021
Fumble recovery: 2, vs South Carolina, Dec 5, 2020
Fumble return for a touchdown: 1, vs Virginia Tech, Dec 31, 2019
Interceptions: 1, twice, last at Florida, Sept 10, 2022 (18 yards)
Interception return for TD: 1, vs Mississippi State, Oct 10, 2020



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LA'VELL
WRIGHT

RUNNING BACK

6-0 • 217 • Freshman-RS
Louisville, Ky. (North Hardin)

2022 - r-Freshman

- Has seen action in all 13 games and has 38 carries for 114 yards along with four catches for 22 yards
- Had three carries for 10 yards in the season opener vs. Miami (Ohio) ... Also had his first career catch for 13 yards

- Had a career-high 11 carries for 27 yards in the win at Florida ... Also had one catch

2021 - Freshman

- Redshirt season
- 2020-21 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll
- Played in four games (ULM, New Mexico State, Louisville and Iowa)
- Totaled nine carries for 118 yards and one score ... Also had a tackle
- Got his first collegiate carries in the win over New Mexico State, carrying six times for 75 yards, including a 52-yard jaunt
- Rushed three times for 43 yards in the win over Louisville, including a 41-yard jaunt for his first collegiate touchdown
- Mid-year enrollee in January 2021

High School

- A three-star prospect who ranked as the No. 12 all-purpose back nationally by Rivals.com and the No. 6 player in Kentucky
- Rated the No. 7 player in Kentucky and No. 51 running back nationally in the 247Sports Composite
- A four-year starter who rushed for 4,396 yards and 56 touchdowns at North Hardin for head coach Brent Thompson
- Also proved to be a quality pass catcher with 1,260 receiving yards and six receiving TDs during his career
- As a senior, rushed for 884 yards on 127 carries (6.96 yards per carry) with 11 touchdowns in seven games
- Named Class 6A Player of the Year by the Kentucky Football Coaches Association
- Was a second-team All-State selection by the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and the AP in 2019 and 2020
- Chosen for the *Lexington Herald-Leader* "Class of the Commonwealth" listing of the top seniors in Kentucky
- In 2019, rushed for 1,819 yards and 25 touchdowns while averaging 7.0 yards per carry
- In 2018, rushed for 1,316 yards and 17 scores
- High school teammates of current UK defensive lineman Octavious Oxendine and fellow signee Jordan Lovett
- Opted to stay home and play for the Wildcats over Maryland, Northwestern, and West Virginia

Personal

- Born in Louisville, Kentucky
- Son of Latarsha Wright and Theodore Wright
- Major is pre-communication

La'Ve'll Says

- Other than play in the NFL, his dream job is to be a coach
- One thing most people don't know about him is that he has a pet lizard, Dash
- Besides playing football, he's also good at drawing
- Three words to describe him are quiet, funny, and chill
- If he could eat only three foods for the rest of his life he would choose salmon croquettes, Fruity Pebbles, and gumbo

WRIGHT'S CAREER STATISTICS

Year	G-GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LG
2021	4-0	9	118	13.1	1	52	0	0	0	0	0
2022	12-0	38	114	3.0	0	15	4	22	5.5	0	13
Totals	16-0	47	232	4.9	1	52	4	22	5.5	0	13

WRIGHT'S 2022 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
vs. Miami OH	3	10	0	7	1	13	0	13
at Florida	11	27	0	9	1	0	0	0
vs. YSU	6	25	0	9	0	0	0	0
vs. NIU	9	14	0	5	1	8	0	8
at Ole Miss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. USC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Miss. State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
at Tennessee	8	33	0	15	1	1	0	1
at Missouri	1	5	0	5	0	0	0	0
vs. Vanderbilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	114	0	15	4	22	0	13

WRIGHT'S 2021 GAME-BY-GAME

Opponent	Att.	Yds.	TD	Long	Rec.	Yds.	TD	Long
vs. ULM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
vs. NMST	6	75	0	52	0	0	0	0
at Louisville	3	43	1	41	0	0	0	0
vs. Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	9	118	1	52	0	0	0	0

WRIGHT'S SINGLE-GAME HIGHS

Rush attempts: 11, at Florida, Sept 10, 2022
Rush yards: 75, vs New Mexico State, Nov 20, 2021 (6 carries)
Long rush: 52, vs New Mexico State, Nov 20, 2021
Rushing touchdowns: 1, at Louisville, Nov 27, 2021
Receptions: 1, 4x, last at Tennessee, Oct 29, 2022
Receiving yards: 13, vs Miami Ohio, Sept 3, 2022 (3 receptions)
Tackles: 1, at Louisville, Nov 27, 2021





2022-23 Kentucky Football
Game Results
All games

Team Results

	Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	Conf	Time	Attend
	09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	W	37-13	1-0	0-0	3:17	61139
*	09/10/2022	at Florida	W	26-16	2-0	1-0	3:36	89993
	09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	W	31-0	3-0	1-0	3:07	59308
	09/24/2022	NIU	W	31-23	4-0	1-0	3:04	61579
*	10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	L	19-22	4-1	1-1	3:08	64828
*	10/08/2022	South Carolina	L	14-24	4-2	1-2	3:04	61612
*	10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	W	27-17	5-2	2-2	3:19	61451
*	10/29/2022	at Tennessee	L	6-44	5-3	2-3	3:22	101915
*	11/05/2022	at Missouri	W	21-17	6-3	3-3	3:30	61047
*	11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	L	21-24	6-4	3-4	3:10	57474
*	11/19/2022	Georgia	L	6-16	6-5	3-5	3:03	61022
	11/26/2022	Louisville	W	26-13	7-5	3-5	3:13	58727



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Team Game-by-Game
All games**

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	26	50	0	9	21	303	3	45	21-32-1	303	3	45	2	121	1	100	2	25	0	23	353
09/10/2022	at Florida	38	70	1	18	13	202	1	55	13-24-1	202	1	55	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	8	272
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	36	103	2	24	27	377	2	58	27-35-2	377	2	58	0	0	0	0	4	18	0	15	480
09/24/2022	NIU	35	103	0	27	18	303	4	70	18-26-0	303	4	70	4	23	0	12	2	6	0	4	406
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	37	108	1	23	18	220	2	51	18-24-0	220	2	51	4	172	0	85	1	0	0	0	328
10/08/2022	South Carolina	36	121	0	20	15	178	2	27	15-27-1	178	2	27	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	11	299
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	49	239	2	47	19	239	1	50	19-25-1	239	1	50	1	17	0	17	2	8	0	5	478
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	36	107	1	16	16	98	0	24	16-27-3	98	0	24	5	49	0	19	0	0	0	0	205
11/05/2022	at Missouri	41	82	0	25	13	170	3	39	13-19-0	170	3	39	3	15	0	14	3	4	0	2	252
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	31	213	2	72	11	109	0	29	11-23-1	109	0	29	3	56	0	20	0	0	0	0	322
11/19/2022	Georgia	25	89	0	15	20	206	1	47	20-31-1	206	1	47	2	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	295
11/26/2022	Louisville	42	158	0	20	11	188	2	70	11-19-0	188	2	70	2	12	0	13	3	9	0	13	346
Kentucky		432	1443	9	72	202	2593	21	70	202-312-11	2593	21	70	26	490	1	100	20	89	0	23	4036
Opponents		409	1761	16	59	192	2081	9	64	192-323-10	2081	9	64	14	334	0	42	8	108	0	34	3842

Kentucky Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
12	3.3	12.8	149.7	18.8	4.5	396.6	336.3

Date	Opponent	Tackles			Sacks no-yds	Fumble ff fr-yds	Pass Defense			blkd kick	PAT attempts			off				
		ua	a total	tfl-yds			int-yds	qbh	brup		kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts		
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	30	36	66	4.0-22	3-18	2	1-23	0-0	1	4	1	4-4	0	0	0	7	37
09/10/2022	at Florida	24	48	72	3.0-14	1-8	1	0-0	2-83	3	5	0	2-2	0	0	0	13	26
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	20	26	46	6.0-27	2-21	0	0-0	1-0	2	7	1	4-4	0	0	0	0	31
09/24/2022	NIU	29	28	57	1.0-2	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	2	4	0	4-4	0	0	0	0	31
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	42	18	60	4.0-11	0-0	0	0-0	1-0	3	5	0	1-2	0	0	0	0	19
10/08/2022	South Carolina	42	16	58	9.0-29	3-13	1	1-0	1-0	0	1	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	14
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	23	16	39	3.0-16	1-10	0	0-0	1-8	1	4	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	27
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	33	44	77	3.0-17	2-16	0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0-1	0	0	0	0	6
11/05/2022	at Missouri	38	12	50	9.0-31	2-14	0	2-18	0-0	0	3	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	21
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	26	42	68	3.0-4	1-1	1	1-21	1-0	6	2	0	0-0	0	0	0	3	21
11/19/2022	Georgia	29	56	85	0.0-0	0-0	0	1-0	1-0	2	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	6
11/26/2022	Louisville	33	36	69	6.0-43	4-40	2	1-14	2-53	5	3	0	2-2	0	0	0	7	26
Kentucky		369	378	747	51.0-216	19-141	7	7-76	10-144	25	40	2	25-27	0	0	0	30	265
Opponents		386	462	848	81.0-374	42-285	10	6-15	11-185	26	29	5	20-21	0	2	2	39	229

Date	Opponent	Punting								Field Goals			Kickoffs					
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	2	70	35.0	47	0	0	0	0	0	3-3	50	0	7	455	65.0	7	0
09/10/2022	at Florida	5	194	38.8	44	0	1	2	0	1	2-3	26	0	7	446	63.7	3	0
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	3	125	41.7	50	0	0	2	1	2	1-1	23	0	6	383	63.8	4	0
09/24/2022	NIU	3	139	46.3	60	0	0	2	1	1	1-1	49	0	6	384	64.0	5	0
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	2	103	51.5	53	0	0	1	2	1	0-1	0	0	5	328	65.6	2	1
10/08/2022	South Carolina	6	200	33.3	47	1	0	3	0	2	0-1	0	0	2	122	61.0	1	0
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	1	42	42.0	42	0	0	1	0	1	2-3	37	0	6	390	65.0	5	0
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	6	235	39.2	46	1	0	2	0	1	0-0	0	0	2	129	64.5	1	0
11/05/2022	at Missouri	7	273	39.0	50	0	0	4	1	3	0-2	0	0	4	260	65.0	4	0
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	2	70	35.0	40	0	0	1	0	2	3-4	47	1	6	382	63.7	3	0
11/19/2022	Georgia	3	140	46.7	53	0	0	1	1	0	0-1	0	0	2	123	61.5	1	0
11/26/2022	Louisville	3	128	42.7	47	0	0	1	0	1	4-4	43	0	7	455	65.0	7	0
Kentucky		43	1719	40.0	60	2	1	20	6	15	16-24	50	1	60	3857	64.3	43	1



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Team Game-by-Game
All games

Date	Opponent	Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs				
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	
Opponents		51	2087	40.9	61	2	3	11	9	22	15-16	53	0	51	2883	56.5	21	3	



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Opponents Game-by-Game
All games**

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	32	111	1	22	22	179	0	24	22-32-0	179	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	290	
09/10/2022	at Florida	30	136	1	40	14	143	0	28	14-35-2	143	0	28	4	70	0	22	2	1	0	3	279
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	22	58	0	23	9	134	0	64	9-24-1	134	0	64	2	45	0	24	1	8	0	8	192
09/24/2022	NIU	33	128	1	20	14	199	2	63	14-26-0	199	2	63	1	42	0	42	0	0	0	0	327
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	39	186	2	48	15	213	0	38	15-29-1	213	0	38	2	51	0	28	0	0	0	0	399
10/08/2022	South Carolina	42	179	2	45	14	177	1	42	14-19-1	177	1	42	1	24	0	24	1	18	0	18	356
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	10	22	0	16	25	203	1	30	25-37-1	203	1	30	1	32	0	32	0	0	0	0	225
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	40	177	3	35	19	245	3	55	19-25-0	245	3	55	0	0	0	0	2	44	0	34	422
11/05/2022	at Missouri	34	89	2	20	18	143	0	35	18-27-0	143	0	35	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	7	232
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	44	264	2	59	12	184	1	40	12-23-1	184	1	40	2	47	0	29	0	0	0	0	448
11/19/2022	Georgia	46	247	1	26	13	116	0	35	13-19-1	116	0	35	1	23	0	23	0	0	0	0	363
11/26/2022	Louisville	37	164	1	22	17	145	1	27	17-27-2	145	1	27	0	0	0	0	1	30	0	30	309
Opponents		409	1761	16	59	192	2081	9	64	192-323-10	2081	9	64	14	334	0	42	8	108	0	34	3842
Kentucky		432	1443	9	72	202	2593	21	70	202-312-11	2593	21	70	26	490	1	100	20	89	0	23	4036

Opponents Averages

Games	Avg/ rush	Avg/ catch	Pass effic	KR avg	PR avg	All purpose avg/game	Total offense avg/game
12	4.3	10.8	116.6	23.9	13.5	372.4	320.2

Date	Opponent	Tackles			Sacks no-yds	Fumble ff fr-yds	Pass Defense			blkd kick	PAT attempts			off					
		ua	a	total			tfl-yds	int-yds	qbh		brup	kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts		
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	23	42	65	4.0-26	4-26	0	0-0	1-5	2	1	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	0	13
09/10/2022	at Florida	30	38	68	5.0-21	3-18	0	0-0	1-0	7	2	0	0-0	0	1	1	8	16	
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	41	40	81	10.0-42	4-26	3	1-0	2-12	1	1	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	
09/24/2022	NIU	33	40	73	6.0-22	5-21	2	1-0	0-0	2	3	0	2-2	0	0	0	7	23	
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	38	36	74	9.0-45	3-32	3	2-0	0-0	1	3	1	2-2	0	0	1	0	22	
10/08/2022	South Carolina	33	34	67	8.0-71	6-54	1	1-15	1-9	1	3	1	3-3	0	0	0	7	24	
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	36	52	88	4.0-8	1-5	1	1-0	1-59	1	1	0	2-2	0	0	0	7	17	
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	28	44	72	8.0-33	4-23	0	0-0	3-55	4	3	2	5-6	0	0	0	7	44	
11/05/2022	at Missouri	37	30	67	10.0-45	5-39	0	0-0	0-0	0	3	0	0-0	0	1	0	0	17	
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	31	24	55	6.0-26	4-23	0	0-0	1-0	2	6	1	3-3	0	0	0	0	24	
11/19/2022	Georgia	25	38	63	5.0-15	1-4	0	0-0	1-45	1	2	0	1-1	0	0	0	3	16	
11/26/2022	Louisville	31	44	75	6.0-20	2-14	0	0-0	0-0	4	1	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	13	
Opponents		386	462	848	81.0-374	42-285	10	6-15	11-185	26	29	5	20-21	0	2	2	39	229	
Kentucky		369	378	747	51.0-216	19-141	7	7-76	10-144	25	40	2	25-27	0	0	0	30	265	

Date	Opponent	Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs			
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	5	170	34.0	44	1	0	2	0	3	2-2	48	0	4	260	65.0	2	0
09/10/2022	at Florida	5	237	47.4	54	0	0	3	1	3	2-2	50	0	4	258	64.5	3	1
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	8	273	34.1	44	1	0	2	0	2	0-0	0	0	1	65	65.0	1	0
09/24/2022	NIU	6	287	47.8	61	0	1	2	3	3	1-1	38	0	4	173	43.3	0	0
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	4	172	43.0	58	0	0	0	1	2	2-2	53	0	5	294	58.8	1	0
10/08/2022	South Carolina	4	166	41.5	54	0	1	1	1	1	1-1	32	0	5	325	65.0	5	0
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	4	146	36.5	56	0	1	0	1	0	1-1	48	0	4	253	63.3	3	0
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	3	128	42.7	51	0	0	1	1	2	1-2	29	0	8	456	57.0	2	1
11/05/2022	at Missouri	5	200	40.0	53	0	0	0	1	2	1-1	44	0	4	125	31.3	0	1
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	1	39	39.0	39	0	0	0	0	0	1-1	26	0	5	301	60.2	2	0
11/19/2022	Georgia	2	91	45.5	48	0	0	0	0	2	3-3	37	0	4	256	64.0	2	0
11/26/2022	Louisville	4	178	44.5	47	0	0	0	0	2	0-0	0	0	3	117	39.0	0	0
Opponents		51	2087	40.9	61	2	3	11	9	22	15-16	53	0	51	2883	56.5	21	3



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Opponents Game-by-Game
All games

Date	Opponent	Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs				
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	
Kentucky		43	1719	40.0	60	2	1	20	6	15	16-24	50	1	60	3857	64.3	43	1	



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games

Team Statistics

	UK	OPP
Scoring	265	229
Points per game	22.1	19.1
Points Off Turnovers	30	39
First Downs	219	187
Rushing	86	83
Passing	110	91
Penalty	23	13
Rushing Yardage	1443	1761
Yards gained rushing	1833	1966
Yards lost rushing	390	205
Rushing attempts	432	409
Average per rush	3.3	4.3
Average per game	120.3	146.8
TDs Rushing	9	16
Passing Yardage	2593	2081
Comp-Att-Int	202-312-11	192-323-10
Average per pass	8.3	6.4
Average per catch	12.8	10.8
Average per game	216.1	173.4
TDs Passing	21	9
Total offense	4036	3842
Total plays	744	732
Average per play	5.4	5.2
Average per game	336.3	320.2
Kick returns: #-Yards	26-490	14-334
Punt returns: #-Yards	20-89	8-108
Int returns: #-Yards	10-144	11-185
Kick return average	18.8	23.9
Punt return average	4.5	13.5
Int return average	14.4	16.8
Fumbles-Lost	13-6	11-7
Penalties-Yards	71-479	72-634
Average per game	39.9	52.8
Punts-Yards	43-1719	51-2087
Average per punt	40.0	40.9
Net punt average	36.6	38.5
Kickoffs-Yards	60-3857	51-2883
Average per kick	64.3	56.5
Net kick average	39.7	36.0
Time of possession / game	33:05	26:57
3rd-down conversion	56/152	57/160
3rd-down pct	37%	36%
4rd-down conversion	13/21	12/28



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games**

	UK	OPP
4rd-down pct	62%	43%
Sacks by-Yards	19-141	42-285
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	32	26
Field goals - attempts	16-24	15-16
On-Side kicks	0-0	0-0
Red-zone scores	(37-47) 79%	(26-32) 81%
Red-zone touchdowns	(25-47) 53%	(17-32) 53%
PAT-attempts	(25-27) 93%	(20-21) 95%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-5) 0%	(2-5) 40%
Attendance	482312	317783
Games / Avg per game	8/60289	4/79446
Neutral site games	-	0/0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Kentucky	46	69	81	69	0	265
Opponents	58	64	47	60	0	229



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Overall Defense Statistics
All games**

Team Defense

##	Player	gp	Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
54	D'Eryk Jackson	12	25	38	63	4-11	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
25	Jordan Lovett	12	34	25	59	1.5-3	.	2-34	2	1	.	.	.	
5	DeAndre Square	9	27	31	58	3-6	1-1	1-8	3	2	.	.	.	
15	Jordan Wright	11	29	29	58	8.5-25	1-8	1-18	3	7	1-0	1	.	
14	Carrington Valentine	12	34	14	48	1.5-11	1-10	1-0	10	1	1-21	.	.	
32	Trevin Wallace	11	27	21	48	5.5-20	2.5-14	2-19	.	1	.	.	.	
13	J.J. Weaver	10	24	20	44	6-45	3-37	.	1	3	3-32	2	1	
1	Keidron Smith	12	29	14	43	0.5-1	.	2-65	5	.	1-23	1	.	
0	Deone Walker	12	11	28	39	3.5-12	1-8	.	2	5	.	1	.	
10	Jacquez Jones	6	15	19	34	1.5-6	1-4	1-0	1	1	.	.	.	
52	Justin Rogers	12	7	25	32	0.5-2	0.5-2	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Tyrell Ajian	11	21	10	31	1.5-11	1-10	.	2	.	.	2	.	
11	Zion Childress	12	16	15	31	2-12	1-10	.	2	.	.	.	.
23	Andru Phillips	12	19	11	30	1.5-3	.	.	5	.	.	.	.
3	Alex Afari Jr.	12	12	9	21	3-10	1-5	.	.	1	.	.	.	
8	Octavious Oxendine	12	7	13	20	0.5-1	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	
90	Tre'vonn Rybka	11	5	13	18	1-8	1-8	.	.	.	.	.	.
20	Keaten Wade	12	7	9	16	2.5-13	1.5-8	.	1	.	.	.	.
92	Kahlil Saunders	11	2	11	13	1-6	0.5-6	.	.	.	.	.	.
95	Jamarius Dinkins	8	2	6	8	1-1	1-1	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Jalen Geiger	2	3	4	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Josaih Hayes	10	1	6	7	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
44	Martez Thrower	11	2	3	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
31	Maxwell Hairston	11	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7	Will Levis	11	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
42	Tyreese Fearbry	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Chance Poore	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Kobi Albert	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
93	Wilson Berry	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
30	Taj Dodson	8	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10	Chauncey Magwood	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
75	Eli Cox	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17	JuTahn McClain	9	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Dane Key	12	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
50	Darrion Henry-Young	4	1	.	1	1-9	1-9	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Barion Brown	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.
Totals		12	369	378	747	51-216	19-141	10-144	40	25	7-76	7	2	0
Opponents		12	386	462	848	81-374	42-285	11-185	29	26	6-15	10	5	2



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Team Game Highs
All games

Kentucky - Game Highs

RUSHES	49	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
YARDS RUSHING	239	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
YARDS PER RUSH	6.9	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
TD RUSHES	2	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	2	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
	2	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PASS ATTEMPTS	35	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PASS COMPLETIONS	27	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
YARDS PASSING	377	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
YARDS PER PASS	11.7	NIU (09/24/2022)
TD PASSES	4	NIU (09/24/2022)
TOTAL PLAYS	74	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
TOTAL OFFENSE	480	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
YARDS PER PLAY	6.8	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
POINTS	37	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
SACKS BY	4	Louisville (11/26/2022)
FIRST DOWNS	26	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PENALTIES	12	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
PENALTY YARDS	84	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	84	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
TURNOVERS	3	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	3	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PUNTS	7	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
PUNTING AVG	51.5	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
LONG PUNT	60	NIU (09/24/2022)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	3	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
LONG PUNT RETURN	23	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Opponent Match Highs
All games

Opponent - Game Highs

RUSHES	46	Georgia (11/19/2022)
YARDS RUSHING	264	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
YARDS PER RUSH	6.0	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
TD RUSHES	3	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
PASS ATTEMPTS	37	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
PASS COMPLETIONS	25	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
YARDS PASSING	245	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
YARDS PER PASS	9.8	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
TD PASSES	3	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
TOTAL PLAYS	68	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
TOTAL OFFENSE	448	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
YARDS PER PLAY	6.7	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
POINTS	44	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
SACKS BY	6	South Carolina (10/08/2022)
FIRST DOWNS	20	Georgia (11/19/2022)
PENALTIES	13	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
PENALTY YARDS	109	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
TURNOVERS	3	Louisville (11/26/2022)
PUNTS	8	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PUNTING AVG	47.8	NIU (09/24/2022)
LONG PUNT	61	NIU (09/24/2022)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	3	at Florida (09/10/2022)
	3	NIU (09/24/2022)
	3	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
LONG PUNT RETURN	34	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Team Match Lows
All games**

Kentucky - Game Lows

RUSHES	25	Georgia (11/19/2022)
YARDS RUSHING	50	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
YARDS PER RUSH	1.8	at Florida (09/10/2022)
TD RUSHES	0	Louisville (11/26/2022)
	0	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	0	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	0	South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	0	NIU (09/24/2022)
	0	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
PASS ATTEMPTS	19	Louisville (11/26/2022)
	19	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
PASS COMPLETIONS	11	Louisville (11/26/2022)
	11	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
YARDS PASSING	98	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
YARDS PER PASS	3.6	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
TD PASSES	0	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	0	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
TOTAL PLAYS	54	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
TOTAL OFFENSE	205	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
YARDS PER PLAY	3.3	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
POINTS	6	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	6	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
SACKS BY	0	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	0	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
	0	NIU (09/24/2022)
FIRST DOWNS	14	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
PENALTIES	2	at Florida (09/10/2022)
	2	NIU (09/24/2022)
PENALTY YARDS	8	NIU (09/24/2022)
INTERCEPTIONS BY	0	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	0	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	0	NIU (09/24/2022)
	0	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
PUNTS	1	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
PUNTING AVG	33.3	South Carolina (10/08/2022)
LONG PUNT	40	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	0	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	0	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
LONG PUNT RETURN	0	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	0	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	0	at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	0	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Opponent Match Lows
All games**

Opponent - Game Lows

RUSHES	10	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
YARDS RUSHING	22	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
YARDS PER RUSH	2.2	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
TD RUSHES	0	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
	0	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PASS ATTEMPTS	19	South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	19	Georgia (11/19/2022)
PASS COMPLETIONS	9	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
YARDS PASSING	116	Georgia (11/19/2022)
YARDS PER PASS	4.1	at Florida (09/10/2022)
TD PASSES	0	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	0	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	0	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
	0	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
	0	at Florida (09/10/2022)
	0	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
TOTAL PLAYS	46	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
TOTAL OFFENSE	192	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
YARDS PER PLAY	3.8	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
POINTS	0	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
SACKS BY	1	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	1	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
FIRST DOWNS	9	Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PENALTIES	3	at Florida (09/10/2022)
	3	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
PENALTY YARDS	26	South Carolina (10/08/2022)
INTERCEPTIONS BY	0	Louisville (11/26/2022)
	0	at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	0	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
	0	NIU (09/24/2022)
PUNTS	1	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
PUNTING AVG	34.0	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
LONG PUNT	39	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	0	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	0	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
LONG PUNT RETURN	0	Georgia (11/19/2022)
	0	Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	0	Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
	0	at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
	0	NIU (09/24/2022)
	0	Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Individual Game Highs
All games**

Kentucky - Individual Game Highs

RUSHES	31	Christopher Rodriguez Jr. vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
YARDS RUSHING	197	Christopher Rodriguez Jr. vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
TD RUSHES	2	Christopher Rodriguez Jr. vs Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	2	Christopher Rodriguez Jr. vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
LONG RUSH	72	Christopher Rodriguez Jr. vs Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
PASS ATTEMPTS	35	Will Levis vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PASS COMPLETIONS	27	Will Levis vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
YARDS PASSING	377	Will Levis vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
TD PASSES	4	Will Levis vs NIU (09/24/2022)
LONG PASS	70	Will Levis vs Louisville (11/26/2022)
	70	Will Levis vs NIU (09/24/2022)
RECEPTIONS	10	Barion Brown vs Georgia (11/19/2022)
YARDS RECEIVING	147	Tayvion Robinson vs NIU (09/24/2022)
TD RECEPTIONS	2	Dane Key at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	2	Barion Brown vs NIU (09/24/2022)
	2	Tayvion Robinson vs NIU (09/24/2022)
LONG RECEPTION	70	Josh Kattus vs Louisville (11/26/2022)
	70	Barion Brown vs NIU (09/24/2022)
PUNTS	6	Colin Goodfellow at Missouri (11/05/2022)
PUNTING AVG	51.5	Colin Goodfellow at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
LONG PUNT	60	Colin Goodfellow vs NIU (09/24/2022)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	2	Wilson Berry vs Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	2	Colin Goodfellow at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	2	Colin Goodfellow vs South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	2	Colin Goodfellow vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
LONG PUNT RETURN	23	Tayvion Robinson vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
LONG KICKOFF RETURN	100	Barion Brown vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
TACKLES	14	D'Eryk Jackson at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
SACKS	1	J.J. Weaver vs Louisville (11/26/2022)
	1	Jamarius Dinkins vs Louisville (11/26/2022)
	1	Zion Childress vs Louisville (11/26/2022)
	1	Trevin Wallace vs Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	1	Trevin Wallace at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	1	J.J. Weaver at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	1	Tre'vonn Rybka at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	1	Carrington Valentine vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
	1	DeAndre Square vs South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	1	Keaten Wade vs South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	1	Tyrell Ajian vs South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	1	Darrion Henry-Young vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
	1	Jordan Wright at Florida (09/10/2022)
	1	Alex Afari Jr. vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
	1	J.J. Weaver vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
	1	Jacquez Jones vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
TACKLES FOR LOSS	2.5	Trevin Wallace at Missouri (11/05/2022)



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Opponent Individual Match Highs
All games**

Opponent - Individual Game Highs

RUSHES	26	Ray Davis vs Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
YARDS RUSHING	145	Jawhar Jordan vs Louisville (11/26/2022)
TD RUSHES	2	Brady Cook at Missouri (11/05/2022)
LONG RUSH	59	Mike Wright vs Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
PASS ATTEMPTS	37	Will Rogers vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
PASS COMPLETIONS	25	Will Rogers vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
YARDS PASSING	245	Hendon Hooker at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
TD PASSES	3	Hendon Hooker at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
LONG PASS	64	Demeatric Crenshaw vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
RECEPTIONS	7	Jo'quavious Marks vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
	7	Mac Hippenhammer vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
YARDS RECEIVING	138	Jalin Hyatt at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
TD RECEPTIONS	2	Jalin Hyatt at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	2	Tristen Tewes vs NIU (09/24/2022)
LONG RECEPTION	64	Jaleel McLaughlin vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
FIELD GOALS	3	Jack Podlesny vs Georgia (11/19/2022)
LONG FIELD GOALS	53	Jonathan Cruz at Ole Miss (10/01/2022)
PUNTS	7	Paddy Lynch vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
PUNTING AVG	51.0	Ethan Hampton vs NIU (09/24/2022)
LONG PUNT	61	Tom Foley vs NIU (09/24/2022)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	3	Tom Foley vs NIU (09/24/2022)
	3	Jeremy Crawshaw at Florida (09/10/2022)
	3	Dom Dzioban vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)
LONG PUNT RETURN	34	Dee Williams at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
LONG KICKOFF RETURN	42	Billy Dozier vs NIU (09/24/2022)
TACKLES	17	Nathaniel Watson vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
SACKS	1.5	Darius Robinson at Missouri (11/05/2022)
	1.5	Byron Young at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	1.5	Jordan Burch vs South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	1.5	Tonka Hemingway vs South Carolina (10/08/2022)
TACKLES FOR LOSS	3.5	Dylan Wudke vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
INTERCEPTIONS	1	Kelee Ringo vs Georgia (11/19/2022)
	1	CJ Taylor vs Vanderbilt (11/12/2022)
	1	Doneiko Slaughter at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	1	Brandon Turnage at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	1	Juwan Mitchell at Tennessee (10/29/2022)
	1	Emmanuel Forbes vs Mississippi St. (10/15/2022)
	1	David Spaulding vs South Carolina (10/08/2022)
	1	Quincy Lenton vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
	1	Troy Jakubec vs Youngstown St. (09/17/2022)
	1	Gervon Dexter Sr. at Florida (09/10/2022)
	1	Eli Blakey vs Miami (OH) (09/03/2022)



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Individual Statistics
All games**

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	175	934	30	904	5.2	6	72	113.0
Kavosiey Smoke	12	59	291	14	277	4.7	1	27	23.1
JuTahn McClain	9	49	244	6	238	4.9	0	28	26.4
La'Ve'll Wright	12	38	117	3	114	3.0	0	15	9.5
Tayvion Robinson	10	7	33	0	33	4.7	0	12	3.3
Izayah Cummings	12	1	23	0	23	23.0	0	23	1.9
Dee Beckwith	3	5	22	1	21	4.2	0	7	7.0
Ramon Jefferson	1	2	10	0	10	5.0	0	8	10.0
Barion Brown	12	2	3	1	2	1.0	0	3	0.2
Kaiya Sheron	4	11	30	54	-24	-2.2	0	15	-6.0
Will Levis	11	72	126	233	-107	-1.5	2	24	-9.7
Team	12	11	0	48	-48	-4.4	0	0	-4.0
Total	12	432	1833	390	1443	3.3	9	72	120.3
Opponents	12	409	1966	205	1761	4.3	16	59	146.8

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Will Levis	11	151.9	185-283-10	65.4	2406	19	70	218.7
Kaiya Sheron	4	128.6	17-29-1	58.6	187	2	27	46.8
Total	12	149.7	202-312-11	64.7	2593	21	70	216.1
Opponents	12	116.6	192-323-10	59.4	2081	9	64	173.4

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Barion Brown	12	45	604	13.4	4	70	50.3
Tayvion Robinson	10	35	470	13.4	3	69	47.0
Dane Key	12	31	472	15.2	6	55	39.3
Jordan Dingle	12	19	214	11.3	3	24	17.8
JuTahn McClain	9	15	93	6.2	1	31	10.3
Brenden Bates	11	10	99	9.9	1	23	9.0
Chauncey Magwood	12	7	104	14.9	1	26	8.7
Josh Kattus	11	7	125	17.9	0	70	11.4
Rahsaan Lewis	9	6	65	10.8	1	21	7.2
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	5	41	8.2	0	17	5.1
Keaton Upshaw	12	4	50	12.5	0	22	4.2
DeMarcus Harris	12	4	90	22.5	0	58	7.5
Dekel Crowdus	9	4	82	20.5	0	50	9.1
La'Ve'll Wright	12	4	22	5.5	0	13	1.8
Kavosiey Smoke	12	3	30	10.0	0	14	2.5
Chris Lewis	8	2	22	11.0	1	20	2.8
Justice Dingle	8	1	10	10.0	0	10	1.3
Total	12	202	2593	12.8	21	70	216.1
Opponents	12	192	2081	10.8	9	64	173.4

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Tayvion Robinson	12	58	4.8	0	23
Barion Brown	7	28	4.0	0	13
Izayah Cummings	1	3	3.0	0	3
Total	20	89	4.5	0	23
Opponents	8	108	13.5	0	34

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Keidron Smith	2	65	32.5	1	65
Jordan Lovett	2	34	17.0	0	34
Trevin Wallace	2	19	9.5	0	19
DeAndre Square	1	8	8.0	0	8
Jordan Wright	1	18	18.0	0	18
Carrington Valentine	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jacquez Jones	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	10	144	14.4	1	65
Opponents	11	185	16.8	1	59

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Barion Brown	15	424	28.3	1	100
Kavosiey Smoke	4	35	8.8	0	13
JuTahn McClain	4	31	7.8	0	16
Zion Childress	1	0	0.0	0	0
Chauncey Magwood	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Kobi Albert	1	1	1.0	0	1
Total	26	490	18.8	1	100
Opponents	14	334	23.9	0	42

Fumble Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
J.J. Weaver	3	32	10.7	0	18
Keidron Smith	1	23	23.0	0	23
Carrington Valentine	1	21	21.0	0	21
Jordan Wright	1	0	0.0	0	0
Barion Brown	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	7	76	10.9	0	23
Opponents	6	15	2.5	0	15



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Individual Statistics
All games**

Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT						pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	
Matt Ruffolo	-	16-24	25-27	-	-	-	-	-	73
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Dane Key	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Barion Brown	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Tayvion Robinson	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Jordan Dingle	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Will Levis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Kavosiey Smoke	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Brenden Bates	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rahsaan Lewis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
JuTahn McClain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Keidron Smith	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chauncey Magwood	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chris Lewis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	32	16-24	25-27	0	0	0	0	0	265
Opponents	26	15-16	20-21	0	2	2	0	2	229

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Matt Ruffolo	16-24	66.7	0-0	7-7	4-8	4-7	1-2	50	1
Opponents	15-16	93.8	0-0	6-6	4-5	3-3	2-2	53	0

FG Sequence

Team Name	Kentucky	Opponents
Miami (OH)	(34),(25),(50)	(48),(27)
Florida	(24),38,(26)	(39),(50)
Youngstown St.	(23)	
NIU	(49)	(38)
Ole Miss	39	(53),(26)
South Carolina	45	(32)
Mississippi St.	51,(28),(37)	(48)
Missouri	43,47	,(44)
Vanderbilt	(47),(27),37,(39)	(26)
Georgia	38	(27),(24),(37)
Louisville	(43),(29),(35),(40)	
Tennessee		(29),37

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Will Levis	11	355	-107	2406	2299	209.0
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	175	904	0	904	113.0
Kavosiey Smoke	12	59	277	0	277	23.1
JuTahn McClain	9	49	238	0	238	26.4
Kaiya Sheron	4	40	-24	187	163	40.8
La'Ve'll Wright	12	38	114	0	114	9.5
Tayvion Robinson	10	7	33	0	33	3.3
Izayah Cummings	12	1	23	0	23	1.9
Dee Beckwith	3	5	21	0	21	7.0
Ramon Jefferson	1	2	10	0	10	10.0
Barion Brown	12	2	2	0	2	0.2
Team	12	0	-48	0	-48	-4.0
Total	12	744	1443	2593	4036	336.3
Opponents	12	732	1761	2081	3842	320.2

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Colin Goodfellow	32	1328	41.5	60	1	17	11	5	0
Wilson Berry	9	373	41.4	53	0	3	4	1	0
Team	2	18	9.0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	43	1719	40.0	60	1	20	15	6	2
Opponents	51	2087	40.9	61	3	11	22	9	2

Kickoffs

Player	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
Chance Poore	60	3857	64.3	43	1			
Total	60	3857	64.3	43	1	14	39.7	25
Opponents	51	2883	56.5	21	3	25	36	29



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Individual Statistics
All games

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Barion Brown	12	2	604	28	424	0	1058	88.2
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	904	41	0	0	0	945	118.1
Tayvion Robinson	10	33	470	58	0	0	561	56.1
Dane Key	12	0	472	0	0	0	472	39.3
JuTahn McClain	9	238	93	0	31	0	362	40.2
Kavosiey Smoke	12	277	30	0	35	0	342	28.5
Jordan Dingle	12	0	214	0	0	0	214	17.8
La'Vell Wright	12	114	22	0	0	0	136	11.3
Josh Kattus	11	0	125	0	0	0	125	11.4
Chauncey Magwood	12	0	104	0	-1	0	103	8.6
Brenden Bates	11	0	99	0	0	0	99	9.0
DeMarcus Harris	12	0	90	0	0	0	90	7.5
Dekel Crowdus	9	0	82	0	0	0	82	9.1
Keidron Smith	12	0	0	0	0	65	65	5.4
Rahsaan Lewis	9	0	65	0	0	0	65	7.2
Keaton Upshaw	12	0	50	0	0	0	50	4.2
Jordan Lovett	12	0	0	0	0	34	34	2.8
Izayah Cummings	12	23	0	3	0	0	26	2.2
Chris Lewis	8	0	22	0	0	0	22	2.8
Dee Beckwith	3	21	0	0	0	0	21	7.0
Trevin Wallace	11	0	0	0	0	19	19	1.7
Jordan Wright	11	0	0	0	0	18	18	1.6
Justice Dingle	8	0	10	0	0	0	10	1.3
Ramon Jefferson	1	10	0	0	0	0	10	10.0
DeAndre Square	9	0	0	0	0	8	8	0.9
Kobi Albert	9	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
Kaiya Sheron	4	-24	0	0	0	0	-24	-6.0
Will Levis	11	-107	0	0	0	0	-107	-9.7
Team	12	-48	0	0	0	0	-48	-4.0
Total	12	1443	2593	89	490	144	4759	396.6
Opponents	12	1761	2081	108	334	185	4469	372.4



2022-23 Kentucky Football Combined Team Statistics All games

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	W	37-13	61139
* 09/10/2022	at Florida	W	26-16	89993
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	W	31-0	59308
09/24/2022	NIU	W	31-23	61579
* 10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	L	19-22	64828
* 10/08/2022	South Carolina	L	14-24	61612
* 10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	W	27-17	61451
* 10/29/2022	at Tennessee	L	6-44	101915
* 11/05/2022	at Missouri	W	21-17	61047
* 11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	L	21-24	57474
* 11/19/2022	Georgia	L	6-16	61022
11/26/2022	Louisville	W	26-13	58727

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	175	934	30	904	5.2	6	72	113.0
Kavosiey Smoke	12	59	291	14	277	4.7	1	27	23.1
JuTahn McClain	9	49	244	6	238	4.9	0	28	26.4
La'Ve'll Wright	12	38	117	3	114	3.0	0	15	9.5
Tayvion Robinson	10	7	33	0	33	4.7	0	12	3.3
Izayah Cummings	12	1	23	0	23	23.0	0	23	1.9
Dee Beckwith	3	5	22	1	21	4.2	0	7	7.0
Ramon Jefferson	1	2	10	0	10	5.0	0	8	10.0
Barion Brown	12	2	3	1	2	1.0	0	3	0.2
Kaiya Sheron	4	11	30	54	-24	-2.2	0	15	-6.0
Will Levis	11	72	126	233	-107	-1.5	2	24	-9.7
Team	12	11	0	48	-48	-4.4	0	0	-4.0
Total	12	432	1833	390	1443	3.3	9	72	120.3
Opponents	12	409	1966	205	1761	4.3	16	59	146.8

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Will Levis	11	151.9	185-283-10	65.4	2406	19	70	218.7
Kaiya Sheron	4	128.6	17-29-1	58.6	187	2	27	46.8
Total	12	149.7	202-312-11	64.7	2593	21	70	216.1
Opponents	12	116.6	192-323-10	59.4	2081	9	64	173.4

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Barion Brown	12	45	604	13.4	4	70	50.3
Tayvion Robinson	10	35	470	13.4	3	69	47.0
Dane Key	12	31	472	15.2	6	55	39.3
Jordan Dingle	12	19	214	11.3	3	24	17.8
JuTahn McClain	9	15	93	6.2	1	31	10.3
Brenden Bates	11	10	99	9.9	1	23	9.0
Chauncey Magwood	12	7	104	14.9	1	26	8.7
Josh Kattus	11	7	125	17.9	0	70	11.4
Rahsaan Lewis	9	6	65	10.8	1	21	7.2
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	5	41	8.2	0	17	5.1
Keaton Upshaw	12	4	50	12.5	0	22	4.2
DeMarcus Harris	12	4	90	22.5	0	58	7.5
Dekel Crowdus	9	4	82	20.5	0	50	9.1
La'Ve'll Wright	12	4	22	5.5	0	13	1.8
Kavosiey Smoke	12	3	30	10.0	0	14	2.5
Chris Lewis	8	2	22	11.0	1	20	2.8
Justice Dingle	8	1	10	10.0	0	10	1.3
Total	12	202	2593	12.8	21	70	216.1
Opponents	12	192	2081	10.8	9	64	173.4

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	7-5	5-3	2-2	0-0
CONFERENCE	3-5	1-3	2-2	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	4-0	4-0	0-0	0-0

Team Statistics

	UK	OPP
First Downs	219	187
Rushing	86	83
Passing	110	91
Penalty	23	13
Rushing Yardage	1443	1761
Rushing attempts	432	409
Average per rush	3.3	4.3
Average per game	120.3	146.8
TDs Rushing	9	16
Passing Yardage	2593	2081
Comp-Att-Int	202-312-11	192-323-10
Average per pass	8.3	6.4
Average per catch	12.8	10.8
Average per game	216.1	173.4
TDs Passing	21	9
Total offense	4036	3842
Average per play	5.4	5.2
Average per game	336.3	320.2
Kick returns: #-Yards	26-490	14-334
Punt returns: #-Yards	20-89	8-108
Int returns: #-Yards	10-144	11-185
Fumbles-Lost	13-6	11-7
Penalties-Yards	71-479	72-634
Punts-Avg	43-40.0	51-40.9
Time of possession / game	33:05	26:57
3rd-down conversion	56/152	57/160
4rd-down conversion	13/21	12/28
PAT-attempts	(25-27) 93%	(20-21) 95%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-5) 0%	(2-5) 40%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Keidron Smith	2	65	32.5	1	65
Jordan Lovett	2	34	17.0	0	34
Trevin Wallace	2	19	9.5	0	19
DeAndre Square	1	8	8.0	0	8
Jordan Wright	1	18	18.0	0	18
Carrington Valentine	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jacquez Jones	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	10	144	14.4	1	65
Opponents	11	185	16.8	1	59



2022-23 Kentucky Football Combined Team Statistics All games

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Matt Ruffolo	16-24	66.7	0-0	7-7	4-8	4-7	1-2	50	1
Opponents	15-16	93.8	0-0	6-6	4-5	3-3	2-2	53	0

Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT					dpx	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass				
Matt Ruffolo	-	16-24	25-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	73
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Dane Key	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Barion Brown	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Tayvion Robinson	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Jordan Dingle	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Will Lewis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Kavosiey Smoke	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Brenden Bates	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rahsaan Lewis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
JuTahn McClain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Keidron Smith	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chauncey Magwood	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chris Lewis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	32	16-24	25-27	0	0	0	0	0	0	265
Opponents	26	15-16	20-21	0	2	2	0	2	2	229

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Kentucky	46	69	81	69	0	265
Opponents	58	64	47	60	0	229

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Colin Goodfellow	32	1328	41.5	60	1	17	11	5	0
Wilson Berry	9	373	41.4	53	0	3	4	1	0
Team	2	18	9.0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	43	1719	40.0	60	1	20	15	6	2
Opponents	51	2087	40.9	61	3	11	22	9	2

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Tayvion Robinson	12	58	4.8	0	23
Barion Brown	7	28	4.0	0	13
Izayah Cummings	1	3	3.0	0	3
Total	20	89	4.5	0	23
Opponents	8	108	13.5	0	34

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Barion Brown	15	424	28.3	1	100
Kavosiey Smoke	4	35	8.8	0	13
JuTahn McClain	4	31	7.8	0	16
Zion Childress	1	0	0.0	0	0
Chauncey Magwood	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Kobi Albert	1	1	1.0	0	1
Total	26	490	18.8	1	100
Opponents	14	334	23.9	0	42

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Barion Brown	12	2	604	28	424	0	1058	88.2
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	904	41	0	0	0	945	118.1
Tayvion Robinson	10	33	470	58	0	0	561	56.1
Dane Key	12	0	472	0	0	0	472	39.3
JuTahn McClain	9	238	93	0	31	0	362	40.2
Kavosiey Smoke	12	277	30	0	35	0	342	28.5
Jordan Dingle	12	0	214	0	0	0	214	17.8
La'Veil Wright	12	114	22	0	0	0	136	11.3
Josh Kattus	11	0	125	0	0	0	125	11.4
Chauncey Magwood	12	0	104	0	-1	0	103	8.6
Brenden Bates	11	0	99	0	0	0	99	9.0
DeMarcus Harris	12	0	90	0	0	0	90	7.5
Dekel Crowdus	9	0	82	0	0	0	82	9.1
Keidron Smith	12	0	0	0	0	65	65	5.4
Rahsaan Lewis	9	0	65	0	0	0	65	7.2
Keaton Upshaw	12	0	50	0	0	0	50	4.2
Jordan Lovett	12	0	0	0	0	34	34	2.8
Izayah Cummings	12	23	0	3	0	0	26	2.2
Chris Lewis	8	0	22	0	0	0	22	2.8
Dee Beckwith	3	21	0	0	0	0	21	7.0
Trevin Wallace	11	0	0	0	0	19	19	1.7
Jordan Wright	11	0	0	0	0	18	18	1.6
Justice Dingle	8	0	10	0	0	0	10	1.3
Ramon Jefferson	1	10	0	0	0	0	10	10.0
DeAndre Square	9	0	0	0	0	8	8	0.9
Kobi Albert	9	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.1
Kaiya Sheron	4	-24	0	0	0	0	-24	-6.0
Will Lewis	11	-107	0	0	0	0	-107	-9.7
Total	12	1443	2593	89	490	144	4759	396.6
Opponents	12	1761	2081	108	334	185	4469	372.4

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Will Lewis	11	355	-107	2406	2299	209.0
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8	175	904	0	904	113.0
Kavosiey Smoke	12	59	277	0	277	23.1
JuTahn McClain	9	49	238	0	238	26.4
Kaiya Sheron	4	40	-24	187	163	40.8
La'Veil Wright	12	38	114	0	114	9.5
Tayvion Robinson	10	7	33	0	33	3.3
Izayah Cummings	12	1	23	0	23	1.9
Dee Beckwith	3	5	21	0	21	7.0
Ramon Jefferson	1	2	10	0	10	10.0
Barion Brown	12	2	2	0	2	0.2
Total	12	744	1443	2593	4036	336.3
Opponents	12	732	1761	2081	3842	320.2

Team Defense

#	Player	gp	Tackles			tfl/yds	Sacks	Pass defense		Fumbles		blkd		
			ua	a	tot			no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh		fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
54	D'Eryk Jackson	12	25	38	63	4-11	.	.	2



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Combined Team Statistics
All games

##	Player	gp	Tackles				tfl/yds	Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	no-yds		int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf	
25	Jordan Lovett	12	34	25	59	1.5-3	.	2-34	2	1	.	.	.	.
15	Jordan Wright	11	29	29	58	8.5-25	1-8	1-18	3	7	1-0	1	.	.	
5	DeAndre Square	9	27	31	58	3-6	1-1	1-8	3	2	.	.	.	.
14	Carrington Valentine	12	34	14	48	1.5-11	1-10	1-0	10	1	1-21	.	.	.	
32	Trevin Wallace	11	27	21	48	5.5-20	2.5-14	2-19	.	1	.	.	.	.
13	J.J. Weaver	10	24	20	44	6-45	3-37	.	1	3	3-32	2	1	.	
1	Keidron Smith	12	29	14	43	0.5-1	.	2-65	5	.	1-23	1	.	.	
0	Deone Walker	12	11	28	39	3.5-12	1-8	.	2	5	.	1	.	.	
10	Jacquez Jones	6	15	19	34	1.5-6	1-4	1-0	1	1	.	.	.	.
52	Justin Rogers	12	7	25	32	0.5-2	0.5-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11	Zion Childress	12	16	15	31	2-12	1-10	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
6	Tyrell Ajian	11	21	10	31	1.5-11	1-10	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	
23	Andru Phillips	12	19	11	30	1.5-3	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.
3	Alex Afari Jr.	12	12	9	21	3-10	1-5	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
8	Octavious Oxendine	12	7	13	20	0.5-1	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
90	Tre'vonn Rybka	11	5	13	18	1-8	1-8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
20	Keaten Wade	12	7	9	16	2.5-13	1.5-8	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
92	Kahlil Saunders	11	2	11	13	1-6	0.5-6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
95	Jamarius Dinkins	8	2	6	8	1-1	1-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Josaih Hayes	10	1	6	7	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
4	Jalen Geiger	2	3	4	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
44	Martez Thrower	11	2	3	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
7	Will Levis	11	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
31	Maxwell Hairston	11	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10	Chauncey Magwood	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
50	Darrion Henry-Young	4	1	.	1	1-9	1-9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
93	Wilson Berry	4	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
30	Taj Dodson	8	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17	JuTahn McClain	9	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Kobi Albert	9	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
42	Tyreese Fearbry	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Dane Key	12	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Chance Poore	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
75	Eli Cox	12	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Barion Brown	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
96	Matt Ruffolo	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Totals		12	369	378	747	51-216	19-141	10-144	40	25	7-76	7	2	0	
Opponents		12	386	462	848	81-374	42-285	11-185	29	26	6-15	10	5	2	



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Total Tackles Game-by-Game
All games**

Total Tackles

Player	S-A	Total	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
D'Eryk Jackson	25-38	63	0-5	0-3	-	-	3-0	4-2	3-2	4-10	8-0	1-8	0-8	2-0
Jordan Lovett	34-25	59	0-2	2-5	3-0	3-2	1-1	3-2	3-1	4-4	2-1	5-1	4-3	4-3
Jordan Wright	29-29	58	DNP	4-2	3-1	2-4	5-3	6-1	1-1	2-2	1-0	1-2	1-9	3-4
DeAndre Square	27-31	58	3-4	2-4	0-2	3-3	7-4	6-3	4-7	1-2	DNP	DNP	DNP	1-2
Carrington Valentine	34-14	48	3-2	2-3	-	1-0	3-0	4-0	6-0	3-0	2-1	1-3	6-2	3-3
Trevin Wallace	27-21	48	DNP	1-2	1-1	1-0	2-0	1-1	2-0	2-4	7-2	4-2	4-4	2-5
J.J. Weaver	24-20	44	3-2	3-6	0-1	DNP	DNP	2-2	1-0	1-1	6-0	4-3	1-1	3-4
Keidron Smith	29-14	43	4-0	1-0	1-0	0-1	4-2	3-1	1-1	5-0	1-2	3-2	2-2	4-3
Deone Walker	11-28	39	3-1	1-1	0-3	0-2	2-1	0-2	0-1	1-2	2-1	0-4	1-5	1-5
Jacquez Jones	15-19	34	1-2	1-6	2-2	4-8	5-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	2-1
Justin Rogers	7-25	32	0-3	0-2	0-1	1-2	-	-	0-2	2-2	0-1	3-6	1-5	0-1
Tyrell Ajian	21-10	31	1-2	3-2	1-2	2-0	3-1	4-0	1-0	1-0	3-1	2-2	DNP	-
Zion Childress	16-15	31	1-1	0-1	-	2-2	1-2	2-0	-	1-4	-	-	6-3	3-2
Andru Phillips	19-11	30	4-1	2-1	2-1	2-0	2-1	1-0	-	1-3	4-2	-	0-2	1-0
Alex Afari Jr.	12-9	21	3-3	-	1-4	3-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	-	-	0-2	-	1-0
Octavious Oxendine	7-13	20	0-2	1-3	1-1	0-1	0-2	2-1	-	2-0	0-1	0-2	1-0	-
Tre'vonn Rybka	5-13	18	0-2	0-1	DNP	2-1	-	-	-	1-3	-	0-1	1-2	1-3
Keaten Wade	7-9	16	2-1	0-2	0-3	1-0	2-1	1-0	-	-	1-0	0-2	-	-
Kahlil Saunders	2-11	13	0-1	-	0-2	1-1	-	-	-	-	1-0	0-2	0-5	DNP
Jamarius Dinkins	2-6	8	-	DNP	0-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	0-3	-	1-0	0-2	1-0
Jalen Geiger	3-4	7	2-2	1-2	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Josaih Hayes	1-6	7	-	0-1	-	1-1	DNP	0-1	0-1	0-1	-	DNP	0-1	-
Martez Thrower	2-3	5	-	0-1	1-0	-	-	-	DNP	-	-	1-0	0-2	-
Will Levis	2-0	2	-	-	-	-	-	DNP	-	1-0	-	-	1-0	-
Maxwell Hairston	1-1	2	-	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DNP	-
Tyreese Fearbry	1-0	1	-	DNP	1-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Darrion Henry-Young	1-0	1	DNP	DNP	1-0	DNP	DNP	-	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Kobi Albert	1-0	1	DNP	DNP	-	DNP	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
Chance Poore	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eli Cox	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chauncey Magwood	1-0	1	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson Berry	1-0	1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	1-0
Taj Dodson	0-1	1	-	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	0-1	DNP	-	-	-
Dane Key	0-1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1	-	-	-	-
JuTahn McClain	0-1	1	-	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	0-1	DNP	-	-	-



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Rushing/Receiving Game-by-Game
All games**

Rushing

Player	No-Yds/TD	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	175-904/6	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	19-72/1	22-126/0	31-197/2	15-64/1	29-112/0	18-162/2	17-51/0	24-120/0
Will Levis	72--107/2	7--18/0	7--12/1	8-3/1	9--10/0	9--19/0	DNP	4-7/0	5--22/0	7--36/0	6--16/0	5-26/0	5--10/0
Kavosiey Smoke	59-277/1	7-32/0	14-80/0	18-66/1	12-85/0	2-6/0	-	3-6/0	-	3-2/0	-	-	-
JuTahn McClain	49-238/0	6-16/0	DNP	DNP	3-15/0	5-21/0	3-19/0	9-30/0	4-20/0	DNP	6-55/0	3-12/0	10-50/0
La'Veil Wright	38-114/0	3-10/0	11-27/0	6-25/0	9-14/0	-	-	-	8-33/0	1-5/0	-	-	-
Kaiya Sheron	11--24/0	DNP	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	11--24/0	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	DNP
Tayvion Robinson	7-33/0	-	4-11/0	1-5/0	-	1-5/0	-	DNP	-	-	1-12/0	-	DNP
Dee Beckwith	5-21/0	DNP	DNP	2-8/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	3-13/0	-	DNP	DNP	DNP
Ramon Jefferson	2-10/0	2-10/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Barion Brown	2-2/0	-	1-3/0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1--1/0	-	-	-
Izayah Cummings	1-23/0	-	-	-	-	1-23/0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Receiving

Player	No-Yds/TD	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Barion Brown	45-604/4	3-45/0	1--2/0	5-56/0	4-102/2	2-81/0	2-6/0	7-62/0	2-12/0	4-54/0	1--1/0	10-145/1	4-44/1
Tayvion Robinson	35-470/3	6-136/0	1-0/0	6-66/0	7-147/2	4-16/1	1-27/0	DNP	4-11/0	1-18/0	5-49/0	-	DNP
Dane Key	31-472/6	4-53/1	3-83/1	6-90/1	2-15/0	2-28/0	2-22/0	1-31/0	1-8/0	4-53/2	1-29/0	2-23/0	3-37/1
Jordan Dingle	19-214/3	2-11/0	2-29/0	-	1-19/0	3-30/1	1-16/1	1-2/0	4-44/0	3-35/1	-	1-8/0	1-18/0
JuTahn McClain	15-93/1	-	DNP	DNP	1-5/0	1-7/0	1-10/1	3-48/0	3-15/0	DNP	1-7/0	5-1/0	-
Brenden Bates	10-99/1	1-6/1	1-11/0	2-46/0	2-7/0	2-10/0	2-19/0	-	-	-	-	-	DNP
Josh Kattus	7-125/0	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-10/0	2-10/0	2-29/0	2-76/0
Chauncey Magwood	7-104/1	1-8/1	2-47/0	-	-	1-8/0	2-37/0	1-4/0	-	-	-	-	-
Rahsaan Lewis	6-65/1	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	1-10/0	4-42/1	-	DNP	-	-	1-13/0
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	5-41/0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	3-40/0	1-1/0	1-0/0	-	-	-	-	-
DeMarcus Harris	4-90/0	1-15/0	-	1-58/0	-	-	1-10/0	-	1-7/0	-	-	-	-
Dekel Crowder	4-82/0	DNP	DNP	2-17/0	-	-	-	1-50/0	-	-	1-15/0	DNP	-
Keaton Upshaw	4-50/0	-	2-34/0	2-16/0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
La'Veil Wright	4-22/0	1-13/0	1-0/0	-	1-8/0	-	-	-	1-1/0	-	-	-	-
Kavosiey Smoke	3-30/0	2-16/0	-	1-14/0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chris Lewis	2-22/1	-	-	1-2/1	-	-	1-20/0	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Justice Dingle	1-10/0	-	-	1-10/0	-	-	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Returns Game-by-Game
All games**

Punt Returns

Player	No-Yds	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Tayvion Robinson	12-58	2-25	2-8	3-15	2-6	1-0	-	DNP	-	2-4	-	-	DNP
Barion Brown	7-28	-	-	-	-	-	1-11	2-8	-	1-0	-	-	3-9
Izayah Cummings	1-3	-	-	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Kick Returns

Player	No-Yds	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Barion Brown	15-424	2-121	-	-	1-1	3-164	-	1-17	2-26	1-14	3-56	2-25	-
Kavosiey Smoke	4-35	-	-	-	3-22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-13
JuTahn McClain	4-31	-	DNP	DNP	-	1-8	-	-	3-23	DNP	-	-	-
Kobi Albert	1-1	DNP	DNP	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	-
Zion Childress	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-
Chauncey Magwood	1--1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1--1

Interceptions Returns

Player	No-Yds	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Keidron Smith	2-65	-	1-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-
Jordan Lovett	2-34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	1-34
Trevin Wallace	2-19	DNP	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	1-19
Jordan Wright	1-18	DNP	1-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DeAndre Square	1-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-8	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Jacquez Jones	1-0	-	-	-	-	1-0	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Carrington Valentine	1-0	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Fumble Returns

Player	No-Yds	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
J.J. Weaver	3-32	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	1-0	-	-	1-18	-	-	1-14
Keidron Smith	1-23	1-23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrington Valentine	1-21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-21	-	-
Barion Brown	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-
Jordan Wright	1-0	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Sacks Game-by-Game
All games**

Player	UA-A	Total	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
J.J. Weaver	3-0	3	1-9	-	-	DNP	DNP	-	-	1-8	-	-	-	1-20
Trevin Wallace	2-1	2.5	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-9	1-1	-	0.5-4
Keaten Wade	1-1	1.5	-	-	0.5-6	-	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alex Afari Jr.	1-0	1	1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DeAndre Square	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1-1	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Tyrell Ajian	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1-10	-	-	-	-	DNP	-
Jacquez Jones	1-0	1	1-4	-	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Zion Childress	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-10
Carrington Valentine	1-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-10	-	-	-	-	-
Jordan Wright	1-0	1	DNP	1-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Darrion Henry-Young	1-0	1	DNP	DNP	1-9	DNP	DNP	-	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Tre'vonn Rybka	1-0	1	-	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1-8	-	-	-	-
Jamarius Dinkins	1-0	1	-	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	1-1
Deone Walker	0-2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-3	-	-	0.5-5
Justin Rogers	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-2	-	-	-
Kahlil Saunders	0-1	0.5	-	-	0.5-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	DNP



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Tackles For Loss Game-by-Game
All games**

Player	UA-A	Total	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Jordan Wright	7-3	8.5	DNP	2.0-13	2.0-3	-	1.0-2	2.0-5	-	0.5-1	-	0.5-1	-	0.5-0
J.J. Weaver	5-2	6.0	1.0-9	-	0.5-0	DNP	DNP	0.5-2	1.0-5	1.0-8	1.0-1	-	-	1.0-20
Trevin Wallace	4-3	5.5	DNP	-	-	-	1.0-1	-	-	-	2.5-13	1.0-1	-	1.0-5
D'Eryk Jackson	3-2	4.0	-	-	-	-	1.0-5	2.0-5	-	0.5-0	-	0.5-1	-	-
Deone Walker	1-5	3.5	-	1.0-1	0.5-1	-	-	-	0.5-1	-	0.5-3	-	-	1.0-6
Alex Afari Jr.	2-2	3.0	1.5-7	-	1.0-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-1	-	-
DeAndre Square	2-2	3.0	-	-	-	-	1.0-3	1.5-3	0.5-0	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Keaten Wade	2-1	2.5	-	-	0.5-6	-	-	1.0-2	-	-	1.0-5	-	-	-
Zion Childress	2-0	2.0	-	-	-	1.0-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-10
Jacquez Jones	1-1	1.5	1.5-6	-	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Tyrell Ajian	1-1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-10	-	-	0.5-1	-	DNP	-
Carrington Valentine	1-1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-10	-	0.5-1	-	-	-
Andru Phillips	1-1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5-3	-	-	-
Jordan Lovett	1-1	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-2	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-1
Darrion Henry-Young	1-0	1.0	DNP	DNP	1.0-9	DNP	DNP	-	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-
Tre'vonn Rybka	1-0	1.0	-	-	DNP	-	-	-	-	1.0-8	-	-	-	-
Jamarius Dinkins	1-0	1.0	-	DNP	-	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	1.0-1
Kahlil Saunders	0-2	1.0	-	-	0.5-6	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-0	-	DNP
Octavious Oxendine	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-1	-	-	-
Keidron Smith	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-1	-	-	-
Justin Rogers	0-1	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5-2	-	-	-



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Fumbles Game-by-Game
All games**

Fumbles

Player	No-Lost	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Will Levis	6-2	-	-	2-0	-	3-1	DNP	1-1	-	-	-	-	-
Kavosiey Smoke	2-1	-	-	-	2-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barion Brown	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	-
Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	1-1	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
La'Vell Wright	1-1	-	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Fumbles Forced

Player	Number	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
Tyrell Ajian	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	DNP	-
J.J. Weaver	2	1	-	-	DNP	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Deone Walker	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Keidron Smith	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Jordan Wright	1	DNP	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Fumbles Recovered

Player	Number	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
J.J. Weaver	3	-	-	-	DNP	DNP	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Keidron Smith	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barion Brown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carrington Valentine	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Jordan Wright	1	DNP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-



2022-23 Kentucky Football
Passing Game-by-Game
All games

#7 Will Levis	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sacked	Effic.
Miami (OH)	21	32	1	65.6	303	3	45	4-26	169.9
Florida	13	24	1	54.2	202	1	55	3-18	130.3
Youngstown St.	27	35	2	77.1	377	2	58	4-26	175.1
NIU	18	26	0	69.2	303	4	70	5-21	217.9
Ole Miss	18	24	0	75.0	220	2	51	3-32	179.5
Mississippi St.	17	23	1	73.9	230	1	50	1-5	163.6
Tennessee	16	27	3	59.3	98	0	24	4-23	67.5
Missouri	13	19	0	68.4	170	3	39	5-39	195.7
Vanderbilt	11	23	1	47.8	109	0	29	4-23	78.9
Georgia	20	31	1	64.5	206	1	47	1-4	124.5
Louisville	11	19	0	57.9	188	2	70	2-14	175.7
Totals	185	283	10	65.4	2406	19	70	36-231	151.9

#12 Kaiya Sheron	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Sacked	Effic.
South Carolina	15	27	1	55.6	178	2	27	6-54	128.0
Mississippi St.	2	2	0	100.0	9	0	7	0-0	137.8
Totals	17	29	1	58.6	187	2	27	6-54	128.6



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Red-Zone Results
All games**

Kentucky Inside Opponent Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	W 37-13	6	5	27	3	0	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
09/10/2022	at Florida	W 26-16	4	3	12	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	W 31-0	6	5	31	4	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
09/24/2022	NIU	W 31-23	1	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	L 19-22	5	3	19	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
10/08/2022	South Carolina	L 14-24	2	2	14	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	W 27-17	6	5	27	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	L 6-44	2	1	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
11/05/2022	at Missouri	W 21-17	3	3	21	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	L 21-24	4	3	12	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
11/19/2022	Georgia	L 6-16	3	1	6	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
11/26/2022	Louisville	W 26-13	5	5	23	2	0	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totals 37 of 47 (78.7%)			47	37	205	25	8	17	12	15	0	4	2	0	1

Opponents Inside Kentucky Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
			In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	W 37-13	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
09/10/2022	Florida	W 26-16	1	1	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	W 31-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
09/24/2022	NIU	W 31-23	4	4	23	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
10/01/2022	Ole Miss	L 19-22	3	2	10	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
10/08/2022	South Carolina	L 14-24	3	2	10	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	W 27-17	1	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/29/2022	Tennessee	L 6-44	6	5	30	4	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/05/2022	Missouri	W 21-17	2	2	14	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	L 21-24	3	3	17	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
11/19/2022	Georgia	L 6-16	5	4	16	1	1	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
11/26/2022	Louisville	W 26-13	2	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals 26 of 32 (81.3%)			32	26	145	17	12	5	9	10	3	1	1	0	0



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Tackles Breakdown
All games**

All Tackles

Player	Total	Rush	Pass	Sack	KO	Punt	Int	Fumb	FF	Other
D'Eryk Jackson	63	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	59
Jordan Lovett	59	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	57.5
DeAndre Square	58	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	55
Jordan Wright	58	0	0	8.5	0	0	0	0	0	49.5
Carrington Valentine	48	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	46.5
Trevin Wallace	48	0	0	5.5	0	0	0	0	0	42.5
J.J. Weaver	44	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	38
Keidron Smith	43	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	42.5
Deone Walker	39	0	0	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	35.5
Jacquez Jones	34	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	32.5
Justin Rogers	32	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	31.5
Tyrell Ajian	31	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	29.5
Zion Childress	31	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	29
Andru Phillips	30	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	28.5
Alex Afari Jr.	21	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
Octavious Oxendine	20	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	19.5
Tre'vonn Rybka	18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	17
Keaten Wade	16	0	0	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	13.5
Kahlil Saunders	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Jamarius Dinkins	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Jalen Geiger	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Josaih Hayes	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Martez Thrower	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Maxwell Hairston	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Will Levis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Chauncey Magwood	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Darrion Henry-Young	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eli Cox	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wilson Berry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Taj Dodson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kobi Albert	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tyreese Fearbry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dane Key	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chance Poore	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
JuTahn McClain	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	747	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	0	696

Rushing Tackles

Player	No.
Total	0

Passing Tackles

Player	No.
Total	0



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
By Quarter Statistics
All games**

3rd-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall		1st Qtr		2nd Qtr		3rd Qtr		4th Qtr		Overtime	
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	W 37-13	2-8	25.0	0-0	0.0	1-5	20.0	1-3	33.3	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
09/10/2022	at Florida	W 26-16	4-13	30.8	1-3	33.3	1-3	33.3	0-2	0.0	2-5	40.0	0-0	0.0
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	W 31-0	6-11	54.5	1-3	33.3	4-4	100.0	1-2	50.0	0-2	0.0	0-0	0.0
09/24/2022	NIU	W 31-23	10-16	62.5	3-4	75.0	2-3	66.7	3-5	60.0	2-4	50.0	0-0	0.0
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	L 19-22	7-14	50.0	2-4	50.0	2-3	66.7	1-4	25.0	2-3	66.7	0-0	0.0
10/08/2022	South Carolina	L 14-24	3-12	25.0	0-3	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-1	0.0	3-7	42.9	0-0	0.0
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	W 27-17	6-15	40.0	2-6	33.3	1-2	50.0	1-3	33.3	2-4	50.0	0-0	0.0
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	L 6-44	2-13	15.4	1-2	50.0	0-4	0.0	0-3	0.0	1-4	25.0	0-0	0.0
11/05/2022	at Missouri	W 21-17	6-16	37.5	3-4	75.0	0-4	0.0	2-4	50.0	1-4	25.0	0-0	0.0
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	L 21-24	4-12	33.3	3-5	60.0	1-3	33.3	0-3	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0
11/19/2022	Georgia	L 6-16	3-11	27.3	1-2	50.0	1-3	33.3	0-2	0.0	1-4	25.0	0-0	0.0
11/26/2022	Louisville	W 26-13	3-11	27.3	0-1	0.0	1-4	25.0	2-3	66.7	0-3	0.0	0-0	0.0
Kentucky			56-152	36.8	17-37	45.9	14-39	35.9	11-35	31.4	14-41	34.1	0-0	0.0
Opponents			57-160	35.6	13-34	38.2	17-47	36.2	16-38	42.1	11-41	26.8	0-0	0.0

4th-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall		1st Qtr		2nd Qtr		3rd Qtr		4th Qtr		Overtime	
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	W 37-13	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
09/10/2022	at Florida	W 26-16	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	W 31-0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
09/24/2022	NIU	W 31-23	2-2	100.0	1-1	100.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	0-0	0.0
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	L 19-22	1-2	50.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0
10/08/2022	South Carolina	L 14-24	2-2	100.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	2-2	100.0	0-0	0.0
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	W 27-17	4-5	80.0	2-2	100.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	1-2	50.0	0-0	0.0
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	L 6-44	2-3	66.7	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	1-1	100.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0
11/05/2022	at Missouri	W 21-17	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	L 21-24	1-2	50.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0
11/19/2022	Georgia	L 6-16	1-3	33.3	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	1-2	50.0	0-0	0.0
11/26/2022	Louisville	W 26-13	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
Kentucky			13-21	61.9	3-4	75.0	1-3	33.3	4-4	100.0	5-10	50.0	0-0	0.0
Opponents			12-28	42.9	3-4	75.0	1-5	20.0	3-5	60.0	5-14	35.7	0-0	0.0

Time of Possession

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
09/03/2022	Miami (OH)	W 37-13	28:07	02:10	13:30	06:30	05:57	00:00
09/10/2022	at Florida	W 26-16	33:24	07:32	08:21	07:08	10:23	00:00
09/17/2022	Youngstown St.	W 31-0	38:10	07:32	11:48	08:18	10:32	00:00
09/24/2022	NIU	W 31-23	33:49	08:05	06:10	09:34	10:00	00:00
10/01/2022	at Ole Miss	L 19-22	36:53	09:17	09:15	07:51	10:30	00:00
10/08/2022	South Carolina	L 14-24	31:05	11:17	06:21	03:08	10:19	00:00
10/15/2022	Mississippi St.	W 27-17	39:22	05:31	13:30	07:44	12:37	00:00
10/29/2022	at Tennessee	L 6-44	35:11	06:44	10:19	04:19	13:49	00:00
11/05/2022	at Missouri	W 21-17	31:05	07:36	06:09	09:10	08:10	00:00
11/12/2022	Vanderbilt	L 21-24	26:45	09:17	08:25	05:13	03:50	00:00



2022-23 Kentucky Football
By Quarter Statistics
All games

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
11/19/2022	Georgia	L	6-16	29:58	05:50	11:57	03:16	08:55	00:00
11/26/2022	Louisville	W	26-13	33:05	04:29	11:17	05:35	11:44	00:00
Kentucky			Total	396:54	85:20	117:02	77:46	116:46	00:00
			Avg.	33:05	07:07	09:45	06:29	09:44	00:00
Opponents			Total	323:26	59:59	97:59	70:59	94:29	00:00
			Avg.	26:57	05:00	08:10	05:55	07:52	00:00



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Team Game-by-Game Comparison
All games**

Opponent	Score	First Downs				Pen	Rushing Number-Yards	Passing		Total Offense Plays-Yards	Return Yards	Turn- Overs
		Total	Rush	Pass	Comp-Att.-Int			Yards				
Miami (OH)	37-13	20 / 17	4 / 5	13 / 11	3 / 1	26-50 / 32-111	21-32-1 / 22-32-0	303 / 179	58-353 / 64-290	169 / 5	1 / 1	
Florida	26-16	17 / 12	6 / 5	10 / 7	1 / 0	38-70 / 30-136	13-24-1 / 14-35-2	202 / 143	62-272 / 65-279	91 / 71	1 / 2	
Youngstown St.	31-0	26 / 9	7 / 1	17 / 5	2 / 3	36-103 / 22-58	27-35-2 / 9-24-1	377 / 134	71-480 / 46-192	18 / 65	3 / 1	
NIU	31-23	18 / 14	5 / 6	12 / 7	1 / 1	35-103 / 33-128	18-26-0 / 14-26-0	303 / 199	61-406 / 59-327	29 / 42	1 / 0	
Ole Miss	19-22	17 / 19	7 / 10	9 / 9	1 / 0	37-108 / 39-186	18-24-0 / 15-29-1	220 / 213	61-328 / 68-399	172 / 51	2 / 1	
South Carolina	14-24	18 / 15	9 / 8	8 / 7	1 / 0	36-121 / 42-179	15-27-1 / 14-19-1	178 / 177	63-299 / 61-356	11 / 66	2 / 2	
Mississippi St.	27-17	24 / 13	14 / 1	5 / 10	5 / 2	49-239 / 10-22	19-25-1 / 25-37-1	239 / 203	74-478 / 47-225	33 / 91	2 / 1	
Tennessee	6-44	14 / 19	8 / 9	6 / 9	0 / 1	36-107 / 40-177	16-27-3 / 19-25-0	98 / 245	63-205 / 65-422	49 / 99	3 / 0	
Missouri	21-17	15 / 12	4 / 5	7 / 6	4 / 1	41-82 / 34-89	13-19-0 / 18-27-0	170 / 143	60-252 / 61-232	37 / 7	0 / 2	
Vanderbilt	21-24	16 / 18	8 / 9	6 / 7	2 / 2	31-213 / 44-264	11-23-1 / 12-23-1	109 / 184	54-322 / 67-448	77 / 47	1 / 2	
Georgia	6-16	17 / 20	5 / 15	10 / 5	2 / 0	25-89 / 46-247	20-31-1 / 13-19-1	206 / 116	56-295 / 65-363	25 / 68	1 / 2	
Louisville	26-13	17 / 19	9 / 9	7 / 8	1 / 2	42-158 / 37-164	11-19-0 / 17-27-2	188 / 145	61-346 / 64-309	88 / 30	0 / 3	
Totals	265-229	219 / 187	86 / 83	110 / 91	23 / 13	432-1443 / 409-1761	202-312-11 / 192-323-10	2593 / 2081	744-4036 / 732-3842	799 / 642	17 / 17	

Opponents	3rd Down Conversion	4th Down Conversion	Time of Possession	TOP Margin	Avg Yds/Rush	Avg Yds/Pass	Avg Yds/Play	Punting Number-Avg	Penalties Number-Yards	Sacks
Miami (OH)	2-8 / 3-14	0-1 / 3-4	28:07 / 31:53	-03:46	1.9 / 3.5	9.5 / 5.6	6.1 / 4.5	2-35.0 / 5-34.0	4-30.0 / 7-45.0	3 / 4
Florida	4-13 / 4-16	0-1 / 1-3	33:24 / 26:36	06:48	1.8 / 4.5	8.4 / 4.1	4.4 / 4.3	5-38.8 / 5-47.4	2-10.0 / 3-28.0	1 / 3
Youngstown St.	6-11 / 0-10	0-0 / 0-2	38:10 / 21:50	16:20	2.9 / 2.6	10.8 / 5.6	6.8 / 4.2	3-41.7 / 8-34.1	10-74.0 / 7-46.0	2 / 4
NIU	10-16 / 6-15	2-2 / 1-1	33:49 / 26:11	07:38	2.9 / 3.9	11.7 / 7.7	6.7 / 5.5	3-46.3 / 6-47.8	2-8.0 / 6-45.0	0 / 5
Ole Miss	7-14 / 7-14	1-2 / 0-1	36:53 / 23:07	13:46	2.9 / 4.8	9.2 / 7.3	5.4 / 5.9	2-51.5 / 4-43.0	4-15.0 / 3-31.0	0 / 3
South Carolina	3-12 / 6-14	2-2 / 0-2	31:05 / 28:55	02:10	3.4 / 4.3	6.6 / 9.3	4.7 / 5.8	6-33.3 / 4-41.5	5-25.0 / 4-26.0	3 / 6
Mississippi St.	6-15 / 3-11	4-5 / 1-2	39:22 / 20:38	18:44	4.9 / 2.2	9.6 / 5.5	6.5 / 4.8	1-42.0 / 4-36.5	11-84.0 / 13-109.0	1 / 1
Tennessee	2-13 / 5-12	2-3 / 2-2	35:11 / 24:49	10:22	3.0 / 4.4	3.6 / 9.8	3.3 / 6.5	6-39.2 / 3-42.7	5-31.0 / 6-50.0	2 / 4
Missouri	6-16 / 2-13	0-0 / 1-4	31:05 / 28:55	02:10	2.0 / 2.6	8.9 / 5.3	4.2 / 3.8	7-39.0 / 5-40.0	12-84.0 / 7-71.0	2 / 5
Vanderbilt	4-12 / 11-17	1-2 / 1-3	26:45 / 33:15	-06:30	6.9 / 6.0	4.7 / 8.0	6.0 / 6.7	2-35.0 / 1-39.0	4-50.0 / 7-71.0	1 / 4
Georgia	3-11 / 6-12	1-3 / 0-1	29:58 / 30:02	-00:04	3.6 / 5.4	6.6 / 6.1	5.3 / 5.6	3-46.7 / 2-45.5	3-12.0 / 4-55.0	0 / 1
Louisville	3-11 / 4-12	0-0 / 2-3	33:05 / 27:15	05:50	3.8 / 4.4	9.9 / 5.4	5.7 / 4.8	3-42.7 / 4-44.5	9-56.0 / 5-57.0	4 / 2
Totals	56-152 / 57-160	13-21 / 12-28	396:54 / 323:26	73:28	3.3 / 4.3	8.3 / 6.4	5.4 / 5.2	43-40.0 / 51-40.9	71-479.0 / 72-634.0	19 / 42

Note: Game totals are displayed in the format TEAM/OPPONENT for each category



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Games Played
All games**

##	Player	GP-GS	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
0	Kavosiey Smoke	12/4	START	START	START	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
0	Deone Walker	12/10	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
1	Keidron Smith	12/11	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
2	Barion Brown	12/6	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	START	XXX	START	START	XXX	START	START
3	Dekel Crowdus	9/0	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX
3	Alex Afari Jr.	12/3	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
4	DeMarcus Harris	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
4	Jalen Geiger	2/2	START	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	DeAndre Square	9/8	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	XXX
5	Mike Drennen	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Tyrell Ajian	11/11	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	START
6	Dane Key	12/11	START	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
7	Vito Tisdale	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Will Levis	11/11	START	START	START	START	START	...	START	START	START	START	START	START
8	Octavious Oxendine	12/7	START	START	START	XXX	START	START	START	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
8	Izayah Cummings	12/1	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
9	Tayvion Robinson	10/7	START	START	START	START	XXX	XXX	...	START	XXX	START	START	...
10	Jacquez Jones	6/5	START	START	START	START	START	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX
10	Chauncey Magwood	12/1	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
11	Zion Childress	12/1	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX
12	Chance Poore	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
12	Kaiya Sheron	4/1	...	...	XXX	...	...	START	XXX	...	...	...	XXX	...
13	J.J. Weaver	10/8	START	START	START	...	...	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START
13	Jordan Anthony	1/0	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Carrington Valentine	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
15	Jordan Wright	11/9	...	START	START	START	START	START	START	XXX	START	XXX	START	START
15	Destin Wade	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Deuce Hogan	2/0	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Kobi Albert	9/0	...	...	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
17	JuTahn McClain	9/0	XXX	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX
18	Brandon White	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Rahsaan Lewis	9/0	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX
20	Keaten Wade	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
21	Dee Beckwith	3/0	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	...	...	...
21	Andre Stewart	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Chris Oats	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Andru Phillips	12/3	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	START	XXX	XXX
24	Christopher Rodriguez Jr.	8/7	...	...	...	...	START	START	START	XXX	START	START	START	START
24	Elijah Reed	3/0	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	XXX
25	Jordan Lovett	12/10	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
26	Ramon Jefferson	1/0	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Chamarion Bush	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Kory Albert	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Jordan Robinson	3/0	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	XXX
29	La'Veil Wright	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
29	Jackson Schulz	1/0	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Taj Dodson	8/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX
31	Maxwell Hairston	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX
32	Trevin Wallace	11/5	...	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START
33	Tomiwa Durojaiye	2/0	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	Trey Dennis	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34	Bradley Pierce	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Londyn Craft	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Sean O'Horo	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36	Adrian Huey	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	Isaac Dixon	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	Edward McKee	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
38	William Nalty	7/0	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
39	Dillon Wheatley	1/0	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
39	Jackson Smith	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



**2022-23 Kentucky Football
Games Played
All games**

##	Player	GP-GS	Miami	UF	YSU	NIU	OM	USC	MSU	UT	MIZ	Vandy	UGa	LOU
40	Luke Fulton	5/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX
42	Tyreese Fearbry	2/0	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	Angelo Washington	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
44	Martez Thrower	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
45	Jase Bruner	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
46	Cade Degraw	10/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
46	Braxton Eiserman	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47	Justice Dingle	8/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...
47	Jarard Mosely	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
48	Jack Varga	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
49	Jai Williams	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50	Darrion Henry-Young	4/0	...	...	XXX	...	...	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	XXX
52	Justin Rogers	12/11	START	START	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
54	Jordan Morrow	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
54	D'Eryk Jackson	12/8	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
55	Clay Perry	10/0	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
55	Noah Matthews	3/0	XXX	...	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
56	Deondre Buford	12/2	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX
57	Jonathan Berry	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
58	Lucas Padgett	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
59	Connor Long	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
60	Quintin Wilson	4/1	...	...	START	XXX	...	...	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...
62	Jager Burton	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
63	Alex Bascom	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
64	Richard Bascom	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	Grant Bingham	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
67	Paul Rodriguez	9/0	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX
68	Kenneth Horsey	11/10	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	...	START
70	Nikolas Hall	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
71	John Young	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
72	Josh Jones	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
74	David Wohlabaugh Jr.	8/1	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...
75	Eli Cox	12/12	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
77	Jeremy Flax	11/11	START	START	START	START	START	...	START	START	START	START	START	START
78	Kiyaunta Goodwin	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...
79	Tashawn Manning	11/11	START	START	...	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
80	Brenden Bates	11/7	XXX	START	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	XXX	XXX	...
81	Cole Lanter	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
82	Tae Tae Crumes	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
83	Jack Monday	1/0	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
84	Josh Kattus	11/3	...	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START
85	Jordan Dingle	12/11	START	START	START	XXX	START	START	START	START	START	START	START	START
86	Dylan Gary	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
87	Josh Terrell	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
88	Keaton Upshaw	12/2	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	XXX	XXX
89	Chris Lewis	8/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...	...
90	Tre'vonn Rybka	11/7	START	START	...	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	START	START	START	START
91	Sam Anaele	2/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	...	...	...	XXX
92	Kahlil Saunders	11/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...
93	Wilson Berry	4/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
94	Colin Goodfellow	9/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	...	...
95	Jamarius Dinkins	8/0	XXX	...	XXX	...	...	...	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
96	Matt Ruffolo	12/0	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
98	Isaiah Beasley	0/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
99	Josaih Hayes	10/1	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	START	XXX	XXX	XXX	...	XXX	XXX

Deondre Buford fits Big Blue Wall recruit and develop blueprint

Adam Luckett
Kentucky Sports Radio
July 21, 2022

Following the end of the 2021 season, the Big Blue Wall lost two starters to the NFL Draft and another was signed by the Atlanta Falcons in free agency. The program is also on its third offensive line coach in three years. Signs are pointing to a trench play regression in Lexington.

Kentucky's offensive line room has other plans.

With the addition of Auburn transfer Tashawn Manning along with the return of Kenneth Horsey and Eli Cox, Kentucky should be very good along the interior with a load of SEC experience. However, there are some big holes to fill on the edge.

Last fall, Darian Kinnard and Dare Rosenthal teamed up to give Kentucky one of the best tackle duos in college football. That won't be the case heading into 2022. Instead of dipping into the transfer portal, Kentucky is leaning on its established development blueprint to find its left tackle of the future.

Deondre Buford (6-3, 312) was a top-500 recruiting win for Kentucky in the class of 2020 out of Detroit (Mich.) Martin Luther King. After spending two years on the sidelines, the redshirt sophomore is expected to step into the starting lineup in 2022. The young player received a vote of confidence from the head football coach in Atlanta.

"Really pleased with Deondre," Mark Stoops told local media at SEC Media Days about Buford. "Really felt like he had a great spring."

In the past, we've seen multiple redshirt sophomores step into the lineup and become multi-year starters in the Stoops era. Logan Stenberg was the first, and the left guard became a three-year starter before being drafted. Luke Fortner jumped into the rotation in 2018 and became a third-round pick after a position switch to center. Horsey was the next, and now the redshirt senior is one of the best left guards in the SEC. Cox continued that list last year and is making the same position move as Fortner.

A pattern has been created, and Buford is the

next one in line. Horsey will be there as a veteran to help lead the way.

"It was the same thing with me two years ago when I had my first start during the COVID year I just filled in right behind Stenberg after he got drafted," Horsey told reporters. "It's just about recruiting and developing and being patient and waiting for your time. I feel like we got guys that have bought in and seen the blueprint ready to take it one step forward."

Kentucky is a developmental program. Not every solution can be solved in the transfer portal. The Wildcats are leaning on a proven method as the program is asking Deondre Buford to take over at one of the most important positions on the field. Recent results tell us there is a good chance the young prospect turns into a good player.

Buford will have some veterans to lean on the interior. Both Horsey and Cox have had the same path and will be there for the youngster to provide guidance.

"I know what it's like to not have much playing time and step out on the field," Horsey said. "I take it as my responsibility to make sure that these guys know what's in store for them because you can't actually understand what to do and how you need to do it until you go through it. Being able to have older guys in the room to help you along the way is definitely helpful because I remember how helpful it was for me being able to play in between Landon [Young] and Drake [Jackson]."

Buford will be joined by redshirt junior Jeremy Flax at right tackle as expected new starters on the Big Blue Wall. Kentucky needs both to take over important positions. Each will be leaning on veterans for assistance. The program seems to have a proven plan that will again be used this season.

How the Big Blue Wall is Keeping John Schlarman's Legacy Alive

Nick Roush
Kentucky Sports Radio
July 28, 2022

At the epicenter of Mark Stoops' success at Kentucky is the Wildcats' offensive line. The emergence of the Big Blue Wall coincided with the start of UK's historic six-year bowl streak. After five NFL Draft picks in four years,

multiple All-American honors and a couple of coaching changes, the 2022 version of the Big Blue Wall will look different, without changing its identity.

The values John Schlarman brought to his meeting room shaped the offensive line's winning culture.

"He was just the man that embodied everything you wanted about Kentucky football," said senior guard Kenneth Horsey. "He embodied everything we wanted to represent. Our core principles: attitude, toughness, discipline and pride; he was all of that and more. I think it starts with Coach Schlarman."

Sadly, Schlarman is no longer with us. Now almost two years removed since he passed away, Zach Yenser will coach a room that about half of the players shared with Schlarman. For veterans like Horsey and Eli Cox, they've assumed an additional responsibility. Not only are they tasked to perform at a high level, they must keep Schlarman's legacy alive on the offensive line.

"It's the effect that you leave on other people when you're not even in the room with them. Coach Schlarman, he was always the type to lead by example first. I take it as my responsibility to make sure we carry on those values because we understand how far those values have gotten us..." said Horsey. "... It's our job to make sure that we carry on that legacy in everything that we do."

A "winning culture" is not unique to the Kentucky football program. You'll hear about it in every head coach's introductory press conference. However, there is something about the Kentucky offensive line that's just different.

Tashawn Manning spent five years at Auburn. Not to put down his former teammates, but as soon as he stepped foot in Lexington, he knew something was different.

"Those guys have a good connection here. They've had a good connection way before I got here because of Coach Schlarman and everything they've been through together. You can tell coming into the room all the guys are close," he told KSR.

"Not just like close, but 'brother' close and that was the first time I have experienced that in a locker room. We had a brotherhood at Auburn, but it's kind of like, fend for yourself, get it how you can. Here everyone's like okay, well, I'm gonna go workout. Let me get a couple of guys to workout with me, or I'm gonna watch film. Let's go watch film together. You know what I'm saying? Everybody's bringing somebody up

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at the same time so they're all ready to work. I feel like you can't ask for too much more, just a great group of guys."

Not only did John Schlarman lead by example, he made sure nobody was left behind. In spite of the unit's success in 2021, it was primarily accomplished by only five players. Yenser, a former Schlarman disciple, has been tasked to revitalize the depth of the Big Blue Wall from the top to the bottom.

The faces may have changed, yet one thing remains the same: Big men lead the way for the Kentucky football program.

"The O-line always leads the way," said Horsey. "We need to be the guys always watching the most film. We need to be the guys that have the best grades. We need to be the guys that's on top of everything because we understand how much UK loves and supports the O-line. In the SEC, it's a physical league and it all starts in the trenches, it all starts with the O-line. I'm blessed to be a part of a legendary group."

Tayvion Robinson on Dane Key: "He's gonna be special."

Jack Pilgrim
Kentucky Sports Radio
Aug. 2, 2022

It didn't take long for Kentucky freshman wide receiver Dane Key to separate himself as a clear instant-impact player for the Wildcats. Coming in as an early enrollee, coaches raved about the four-star signee throughout the spring, capped off by a 43-yard, two-catch, one-touchdown performance in the program's annual Blue-White Spring Game.

There's typically a steep learning curve for true freshmen. Key, though, isn't like most true freshmen.

"He's a bad dude, man," associate head coach Vince Marrow told KSR in May. "I'm telling you this. I knew Dane was good; I did not know he can be that good. He has the potential to be really good. He's tough and he's a student of the game. He's up here every day. Dane is a sponge, man. When Rich [Scangarello] looked at all our receivers, he said, 'This kid will play for us and he will be invaluable.'"

"(Key) is the guy I've been blown away by, who I think will be a big-time player in the NFL someday," offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello told The Athletic. "He is special. For an 18-year-old kid, he's picked it up faster than just about anybody in the NFL as a rookie. Honestly, since I walked in the door, he's impressed me as much as anybody in our building. I just feel like he's going to be a freakin' really good wideout."

Key, ranked No. 261 overall in the 2022 On3 Consensus, signed with Kentucky over Michigan, Oregon and South Carolina, among others, out of high school. Standing 6-foot-3, 195 pounds, he racked up 959 receiving yards and nine touchdowns as a senior at Frederick Douglass High School, earning Paul Hornung Award honors as the Kentucky Player of the Year.

After joining the program in January, the four-star receiver made his presence known early. Now going into fall camp, it's no secret around the Joe Craft Football Training Facility that Key has emerged as a likely starter in year one.

"Dane, ever since the third or fourth spring practice, it was kind of apparent that this kid was going to be a competitor for the starting job," Kentucky star quarterback Will Levis told KSR on Tuesday. "He left the spring starting."

Has that reality set in for Key yet? Not quite, Levis says, adding that the standout freshman actually surprised himself with just how good he was from the start. He expected to contribute early, sure, but maybe not as a day-one starter with expectations of serious production right away.

"I talked to him the other day. I was like, 'Hey, did you like picture yourself in this situation when you first got here? Like, pretty crazy, isn't it? You don't have to hide it anymore, you're gonna be starting for us,'" Levis said. "He was like, 'I just tried to come in here and work as hard as I can, but to be honest, I didn't expect all of this. I was like, 'Did you know how good you were?' He was like, 'Honestly no.'"

"Honestly, I think he surprised himself with how good he actually was when he was able to get to a place like Kentucky, get taught by these level of coaches and be pushed by the players."

Don't believe Levis? Ask Key's pass-catching partner, Tayvion Robinson — a 1,555-yard career receiver in his own right.

"He's been doing great," Robinson told KSR on Tuesday. "He was an early enrollee in January and the second he got here, he was nothing short of what people thought of him, the expectations people had."

Watching him play, you'd have no idea Key was a true freshman just starting to find his footing

as a Kentucky football player. He's already earning reps as a starter and showing off major long-term potential.

His ceiling? A "special" football player in Lexington.

"He came in and just started making plays," Robinson added. "He didn't look like a freshman when he was on the field till you asked him what class he was in. He's getting starting reps, a guy who knows his information (on) guys X, Y, Z. He's special, he's gonna be special."

Deone Walker as-advertised to open camp: "He's a special talent."

Jack Pilgrim
Kentucky Sports Radio
Aug. 6, 2022

Standing 6-foot-6, 330 pounds, you won't find many players built like Kentucky freshman defensive lineman Deone Walker. You also won't find many players who can move the way the Detroit, Mich. native can, either.

Combine the two, and there's a reason Walker was rated as a four-star, top-300 prospect out of high school and held offers from the likes of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, LSU, Michigan and Penn State, among others.

Arriving on campus this summer, it hasn't taken long for the highly-touted freshman to turn heads. For head coach Mark Stoops, that's to be expected. The program had high hopes for Walker when he signed with the Wildcats, and to open fall camp, he's lived up to the hype.

"Deone has done a really nice job," Stoops said Saturday. "You know, he's a really great young man who works hard. You can see the athletic ability in him. He's just got to stay the course. There are going to be ups and downs, but unbelievable talent. He's exactly what we thought when we recruited him."

Walker was named to the Detroit Free Press All-State Dream Team in 2021 after racking up 43 tackles, 15 tackles for loss and six sacks in seven games. Now, he's hoping to bring a similar level of production with him to Lexington.

If you ask Kentucky linebacker Jacquez Jones, you may not have to wait long for that production to start rolling in.

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“Man, Deone, that’s a different cat right there,” Jones said. “He’s so big and the way he moves, I feel like Deone, he’s just special. He’s special. Nobody that big should be able to move like that. He’s a special talent.”

He was a late commitment on National Signing Day in December for the Wildcats, a pledge that left the Kentucky coaching staff giddy for him to arrive on campus.

“No. 3 player in Michigan in Deone Walker, and you talk about size, the length on him is amazing. Terrific player,” Stoops said on NSD. “... (He) was a big, big get. (Our coaches) did a great job going into Detroit and keeping that streak alive and continuing to recruit and beat some terrific teams on him, and we felt good but never really secure.”

“Big, long, massive young man, very explosive,” Kentucky defensive line coach Anwar Stewart added. “Very athletic, very active. I’m gonna tell you guys something, one thing that’s really special about this young man is he’s big, he’s athletic, but he also has a motor. ... Really, really excited about the future of this young man, can’t wait to get my hands on him.”

It hasn’t taken long for the four-star signee to prove he’s as good as advertised.

Kentucky football needs Keidron Smith to be a contributor at corner – and a mentor

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Aug. 15, 2022

LEXINGTON — It started in high school with memorizing wide receivers’ routes. Maybe just one for any given game.

Talent could take Keidron Smith a pretty long way in those days — to three-star cornerback status and a scholarship to Ole Miss — and so he didn’t need much more than that. In time, he came to crave it.

Fast forward to this fall, and Smith is finishing his college football career at Kentucky. He’s a fifth-year senior and a certified film-room fiend. The film study he used to do in passing has become a passion.

“(Film study) slows the game down so much more,” Smith said. “It makes the game so much slower, and that allows you to play so much faster.”

It’s a lesson Smith absorbed at Ole Miss and, as importantly, one the Kentucky coaches hope he can start to impart the Cats’ younger corners.

Though he hopes to set an example for Kentucky’s corners, Smith is foremost here to play.

He came to UK not merely to follow friend and former roommate Jacquez Jones, the Wildcats linebacker who came from Oxford before last season and became a fixture on the UK defense, but because he saw “the opportunity here.”

After moving from corner to safety last season at Ole Miss, Smith — who also played at nickel back for the Rebels — is back in his original position at Kentucky. A stout 6-foot-2 and 204 pounds, he has the size Mark Stoops favors at the position and saw UK as an ideal schematic fit.

“It’s basically free agency,” Smith said of the transfer portal. “I took my time, and I think — well, I don’t think, I know — that I made the right decision.”

In his four seasons at Ole Miss, Smith — who’s taking advantage of the extra season of eligibility the NCAA afforded players during the COVID-19 pandemic — played in 45 games, totaling 131 tackles, a sack, five interceptions and five forced fumbles.

He’s experienced. And he’s studious.

The first thing UK defensive coordinator Brad White brings up when he talks about Smith is “a savviness, an intelligence” that he brings to the secondary.

“Can play big picture,” White said. “Sees quarterbacks’ shoulder angles. Understands which way the ball is going to come out — is it high? Is it low? Are they looking intermediate? Are they looking deep?”

Smith understands “when he can sit at the top of the route, when he has to go,” White said, because he has a keen understanding of the pace of receivers’ routes.

That started with the early study of routes on film. But Smith has gradually expanded his understanding — not just of the routes his matchups run, but the nuances of quarterback movement and offensive lineman alignment.

That comes in part from his work under then-

Ole Miss cornerbacks coach Terrell Buckley, now the head coach of the XFL’s Orlando franchise, scheduled to debut in 2023.

Smith has long liked to study hard. At Ole Miss, Buckley — the former NFL Pro Bowler and Super Bowl champion who coached cornerbacks at Louisville from 2014-15 — taught him to study smarter.

“He really expanded my football IQ,” Smith said.

Now Smith watches film closely but takes minimal notes. He might jot down, for example, that when a tackle lines up with one foot all the way back in a formation, it’s more often a pass play than a run. But the goal is to commit as much as possible to memory.

“On the field, you don’t have notes,” he said. “You got to be able to visualize and have memorization. That’s one thing I really key on.”

Chris Collins, UK’s defensive backs coach, said that level of preparation is what’s stood out most about Smith since he arrived on campus.

“He prepares extremely hard,” Collins said. “He takes pride in it. So that does allow him to feel the game. It slows down for him out there.”

The expectation is for Smith to be a major player in his one season at UK. He opened camp behind sophomore Andru Phillips at one cornerback spot opposite junior Carrington Valentine. But at the end UK’s fan day open practice, Smith ran with the first-team defense during some live team drills.

But the hope is that he can be as much mentor as on-field contributor, passing on some of what he’s learned about preparation to a UK cornerback corps that beyond Smith and Valentine is potentially gifted but currently green.

Collins said Smith has “been really good for the room.” He’s helped Phillips understand some pieces of the defense. He’s organized film sessions with the corners “on top of what we have with them as coaches,” Collins said.

The way Smith sees it, a player can get good with athletic talent. He can be good by studying film and obsessing over preparation.

“A great player, he brings both aspects to the game,” Smith said.

Smith won’t be at Kentucky long, but he’s hoping to leave that lesson behind when he goes.

“The only way those young guys can grow and develop is if you have somebody like me that’s

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been in their shoes before and actually learned the game,” Smith said. “I have so much more knowledge than them, so I’m just bringing it back to them, trying to give it to them at that age right now. So when they get to my age and get that experience that I got at the game, they’ll be much more farther along.”

Can Kentucky football win without Will Levis? Backup QB competition could be key.

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Aug. 17, 2022

Will Levis understands the concern.

No Kentucky quarterback has entered a season with more hype since Tim Couch. His most experienced backup transferred just before the start of preseason practice. The gap between a projected first-round NFL draft pick and any of UK’s backup quarterbacks looks so large that a significant injury to Levis might end hopes of Kentucky contending in the SEC East on its own.

It does not take long when watching the highlight reel of Levis’s first season at Kentucky to wonder if that concern becomes more pressing the first time the Wildcats’ star quarterback tries to hurdle a defender or pound through a tackle for an extra yard.

“He has approached this summer — he did it in the spring as well — to understand the importance of the value of you to the community of Lexington, this university and your teammates versus the 8 yards you think you can make,” offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said.

No shortage of coaches, fans and advisors have suggested Levis take fewer risks in order to protect his health this season. The Connecticut native appears to have taken those directions to heart, but a conversation with former Florida star Tim Tebow at SEC Media Days might illustrate how difficult achieving that goal might actually be.

“He kind of took the opposite approach,” Levis said. “. . . He said his favorite feeling in his career always was getting picked up by his offensive linemen. It’s the dudes you try to earn

their respect by how you treat them and how you operate as a unit. You know that they’ve got love in their hearts for you when they’re willing to chase down, get everyone away from you and pick you up every time.”

No matter how hard Levis tries to be more cognizant of the risk his physical style of play may cause, his natural instincts will not be easy to overrule.

So, the battle to see who serves as Levis’s primary backup might be one of the most important storylines to watch this month.

Following the transfer of former Lexington Catholic star Beau Allen to FCS Tarleton State, former Somerset star Kaiya Sheron and Iowa transfer Deuce Hogan are the two candidates for the job. Freshman Destin Wade, rated as a four-star recruit as an athlete, should add additional depth but is headed for a redshirt season, according to Scangarello.

Hogan, a sophomore, and Sheron, a redshirt freshman, have combined for one career appearance.

“Each day you could point to a guy who’s probably outplayed the other,” Scangarello said. “I think that they’ve done a nice job, they’ve gotten a lot of opportunity. There’s been a lot of reps the way we’ve done things, and it provides them (the chance) to show they can play.

“I think they’ve done that. But, there’s a long way to go and until you take that red jersey off and play for real, you really never know. But I like where they’re both at and if we had to play them, I’d feel comfortable with both of them.”

Scangarello does not anticipate an end to the backup competition by the opener.

One of the quarterbacks will know he is the designated replacement if Levis is forced to the sideline during a game, but if Levis suffered a significant injury that forced him to miss an extended period, Kentucky coaches would probably open the starting job for competition again in practice.

A former four-star recruit out of Grapevine Faith Christian High School in Texas, Hogan actually arrived at UK as a walk-on transfer in January. He appeared in one game at Iowa last season without attempting a pass but elected to enter the transfer portal after Hawkeyes Coach Kirk Ferentz made a joke at his expense in an interview in November.

“When I entered the portal, I had a lot of schools hitting me up, Twitter DMs and Instagram, stuff like that,” Hogan said. “Kentucky, I

just felt love. I felt very desired here and felt like I had a cool opportunity.”

The two-time Class 2A Player of the Year at Somerset, Sheron graduated high school a semester early to enroll at UK in January 2020. He did not play in a game while redshirting last season but has reportedly made a jump this summer after completing his second spring practice with the team.

Hogan has the stronger arm of the two quarterbacks, but Sheron is more mobile. Kentucky Coach Mark Stoops praised Sheron for his ability to extend plays in Saturday’s first scrimmage of preseason camp, allowing him to complete several passes even after protection on a make-shift offensive line had broken down.

“I’ve had some good coaches,” Sheron said. “Coach (Liam) Coen from the NFL, Coach (Scangarello) from the NFL. I’m learning a lot from them, and then when the guys come in gives me motivation.

“Iron sharpens iron, so I’m just competing against Deuce and competing against Will personally. Just having fun with it.”

Hogan and Sheron received an extended look during Saturday’s scrimmage when coaches elected to limit Levis’s workload. Both quarterbacks realize that Levis, projected in several mock drafts as a possible top-10 pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, is the locked-in starter for Kentucky.

Being able to learn from Levis’s example has proven valuable as they compete to be the insurance policy in case Levis is injured, but it could also pay dividends in the future after Levis makes the jump to the NFL. Kentucky coaches are expected to pursue another quarterback in the transfer portal next offseason to join the competition to replace Levis, but the winner of the backup competition this year could have an early edge in the battle to start next season.

Whether either quarterback is ready to perform at the level needed to match Kentucky’s lofty preseason expectations in the event Levis is injured remains a significant question. It is too early to count either quarterback out for the future though.

“It’s been close,” Scangarello said. “They’ve both done great things, they’ve both done good things, they’ve both done things they need to improve. It’s been pretty even. I have liked what I’ve seen out of them, and I do see futures for both those guys here in this program as being really good quarterbacks.”

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Baby-faced and bringing the thump: How Josh Kattus is turning heads as freshman tight end

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Aug. 18, 2022

If nothing else has been made clear through the first two weeks of Kentucky football's preseason practices, fans can rest assured that new offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello loves his tight ends.

"I really believe there's three or four or five in that room that are going to play on Sundays," he declared after the first practice.

Entering camp, the depth chart already looked crowded. Returners Brenden Bates, Keaton Upshaw, Izayah Cummings and Jordan Dingle brought a combined 84 games, 14 starts, 51 catches and eight touchdowns to the room.

There did not appear to be any snaps available for a newcomer.

Someone forgot to tell freshman Josh Kattus that he was destined for a redshirt season though.

"I love him," Scangarello said. "I'm a big fan of Josh. He's got a long road to go, but he's got some special qualities. He's kind of become a favorite, I think, among the offense too as a young player. He's nasty, plays hard, plays to the whistle.

"I think he aggravates the defensive guys at times, which I love. He's got a little something to him that's going to make him a really good football player here."

With Upshaw battling a minor hamstring issue as he worked his way back from missing all of last season due to injury, Kattus was already receiving some first-team reps in certain packages at UK's Fan Day open practice three days into preseason camp. Kattus arrived on campus with a reputation as a physical blocker, but he made an early statement with multiple catches during the 11-on-11 periods that afternoon.

It quickly became apparent that Kattus was not only a temporary injury-replacement, either.

"He's turned heads ever since he got here," quarterback Will Levis said. "Obviously, not the biggest dude at the tight end position, but he's got a really good feel for the game. He's a smart kid, physical kid, brings the energy.

"... I think he'll get some burn this year. He's a good player. I trust him. He's as prepared as any of the freshmen we have going into practice."

The son of former Cincinnati Bengals and New York Jets tight end Eric Kattus, Josh recorded 42 catches for 553 yards and one touchdown as a senior at Moeller High School in Cincinnati, the same program that produced Bates.

The recruiting services rated the 6-foot-4, 232-pound Kattus as a consensus three-star prospect, letting him fly under the radar in a 2022 Kentucky signing class that ended up as the highest-ranked in the Mark Stoops era.

Even tight ends coach Vince Marrow, Kattus's primary recruiter to Kentucky, acknowledges he was uncertain of how quickly Kattus would make an impact as a pass-catcher in college.

So how does a freshman few expected to play right away make such an early impact?

"He's tough, he plays hard," Upshaw said.

"We love him out there," Cummings added. "He plays hard. Every rep he's going to make it count. We just love seeing him work."

Kattus's physicality and energy have drawn the attention — and occasional ire — of Kentucky defenders already.

But his willingness to go the extra mile in a situation where many freshmen naturally defer to older teammates has brought a level of respect, too. Outside linebacker Jordan Wright remembered one practice where he beat Kattus on a pass rush and the freshman tight end was visibly disappointed in himself. Wright instructed him to keep his head up and not let one mistake overshadow his vast potential.

The next day Kattus took that direction to heart and held his own in another one-on-one matchup with Wright, a super senior expected to be one of Kentucky's best pass rushers.

"You want (the energy) because that's going to give the older guys a better chance of coming every day to work hard," Wright said. "If you don't have anybody behind you to push you, you're probably just out there lollygagging.

"I love how he came in first day and he's still consistent with it."

Finding enough snaps for four tight ends was a challenge even before Kattus emerged. Scangarello has made no secret of his desire to make heavy use of formations with multiple tight ends on the field at the same time, but competition remains fierce.

Asked if he had seen any separation among the group this week, Scangarello again applauded the depth.

Then he again singled out Kattus as a "gem" making his presence known.

"Usually when you get some freshman tight ends that come in here, you've got some pretty boys used to being bigger than everybody and catching the balls," Bates said. "Kattus can catch the ball very well, but Kattus has that nasty mentality. I don't know if that's a Moeller High School thing or not, but Kattus is really, really physical.

"Brings the thump, doesn't care who he's going against. He'll bring that physicality, and that's what you need to be able to play in this room. I think that's why he's turning so many heads. ... He's a youngling, baby faced and he's bringing the thump."

Will Levis 'unapologetically himself' as Kentucky QB, NFL prospect: Inside life of Connecticut native

Mike Anthony
CTPost.com
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LEXINGTON, Ky. — In a conference room on the top floor of the Kentucky football facility, far away from the social media prism he has used to share fractions of his complex personality, Will Levis, Type A all the way, has suddenly become a little tense. He exhales sharply, leans back in a chair, arms out to his sides.

"I said I've got a twisted mind," Levis says.

This was 20 minutes into a half-hour discussion about the intersection he's reached, with an incredible year of football and resulting fame behind him, the most important few months of his young life ahead, the hype and expectations

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gaining momentum with every mention of his name and every breakdown of his physical gifts. Levis, 23, of Madison, and Xavier High in Middletown, transferred to Kentucky from Penn State last year, earned the starting quarterback job and helped produce one of the program's best seasons in recent history. He has since been celebrated across campus and up and down South Limestone Street, the vibrant Lexington strip lined with bar patios on one side and dorms on the other.

Levis has become a national figure, too. At 6-foot-3 and 235 pounds, he is built similarly to Josh Allen. He has been compared, stylistically, to Tim Tebow and Dak Prescott. He is mentioned as a first-round pick in all conversations worth taking seriously about the NFL Draft, and a recent CBS Sports mock draft even had Levis being selected No. 1 overall.

Heading into his fifth year in college, but just his second as starter, Levis is the seemingly overnight Saturday household name, arriving on the scene with a flash-bang that is also the culmination of a long journey from the Connecticut shoreline. These are times of high reward and opportunity.

Yet there's a certain edge to Levis, a healthy one, the kind many successful people in life and sport tend to ride or create. He is fueled by others' doubt, real or perceived, and that was the subject of the question that briefly put him in a state of deep analysis and minor agitation.

Do you really still feel doubted, Will?

"One hundred percent," Levis says. "You said I'm projected as a high pick. What does the media try to do? They try to get clicks. They try to get people to disagree with them. So why are they putting the Kentucky quarterback, who didn't have nearly as good a year as these other guys, at the top of their list? It's because they want to spark a conversation. I don't even know if the guys making those lists even really believe in me. And that could be not true. But that's just how screwed up I am."

"I know there are always going to be naysayers and always going to be people who disagree with my confidence and my ability," he says, and there is no nonsense in his voice, no tone that feels cliché.

There is no fruit on the conference room table, either, no condiments in sight. The beauty of a prominent part of Levis' public image is in its irony. He's introduced himself to the nation by eating unpeeled rotten bananas and drinking coffee with absurd amounts of mayonnaise stirred in, all to the revulsion and fascination of social media audiences that may view him as

someone without capacity for proper contemplation.

He started with the banana days after being named Kentucky's starter last year, chewing through the brown-spotted peel. By season's end, after the Citrus Bowl victory, he was biting ferociously into an unpeeled orange. Those scenes were personality flashes, sure. They were also simple entry points to a world with new avenues for college athletes to explore, engagement initiatives.

"People find out about you in a variety of ways," Levis says.

Heck, some of these video productions might have been entered into his packed Google schedule ahead of time. None of this is to say they were inauthentic, only that he recognized their initial value as part of a well-rounded platform that probably no longer needs such shock and awe. If they were put together with the careful consideration that Levis seems to apply to everything in life, they were done so as part of a meticulous effort to showcase something he knew would partner well with his dynamic play to land him at the forefront of the name, image and likeness movement.

"I don't even see that part," Kentucky coach Mark Stoops, entering his 10th season, said in his office. "I just chuckle because all I see is the business side of him. When I see him, he's dialed in. He's so self-motivated. He wants to be the very best and he's driven that way. So it's fun to decompress, that part of it. But that's such a small piece of who he is. He's a professional, right now. He's a professional the way he carries himself, the way he works. He's the furthest thing from goofing around — I mean, the furthest. Here, it's all business. Some guys can't separate it. Some guys don't know when to turn it off, or how to turn it off. I only see an intensity from him in here.

"He's not out to please me or the public. He's out to be the very best. He's out for much bigger things than getting a pat on the back."

'Unapologetically himself'

The latest viral video came out of SEC Media Days last month in Atlanta.

"Will Levis, quarterback at the University of

Kentucky," Levis, wearing a blue suit, said into the camera. "And I have been known to put mayonnaise in my coffee sometimes."

So he did once again — reluctantly, but viewers could not have known that. He squeezed an amount of mayo sufficient for several bologna sandwiches into a cup of black coffee, stirred, engaged silently but charismatically with the camera and took a sip as a woman in the background could be heard exclaiming, "Oh, Will ..."

That woman was Susan Lax, known throughout the Kentucky football orbit as "Slax," the behind-the-scenes energy and organization and promotion and protection at the heart of this particular SEC engine and its people.

Lax, director of athletics communications and public relations for the football program, has been heavily involved in Levis' life, especially since Kentucky defeated Florida and LSU in consecutive weeks to reach No. 11 in the national rankings last season. She coordinates most of Levis' media engagements. She's often by his side. She works with him on where to be and when during obligations to events such as SEC Media Days at the College Football Hall of Fame.

When Lax pulled Levis into a room for his 1-on-1 interview, a bottle of mayonnaise, a pitcher of coffee, a mug and stirrers were already situated on a table. Levis wasn't thrilled. Under his breath to Lax, he said something to the effect of: Are you kidding me? We're still doing this?

Probably not so often from here.

"The banana and the mayo, he called me and he was like, 'Slax, no more,'" Lax said. "I said, 'You got it, we're done.' That narrative will fizzle out and I will help it fizzle. Anyone who brings it up, I'll say, 'We've moved on from that.' In the blink of an eye last year we were 6-0 and I'm carrying bananas around because you never knew when someone was going to ask him to eat a banana."

But it's time now to more acutely appreciate the accomplishments that have made Levis such an impactful player, and the physical and mental traits that make him such an intriguing prospect.

In his first season as a college starter, Levis threw for 2,827 yards with 24 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. He ran for 376 yards and nine touchdowns, too, leading the Wildcats to 10 victories for just the fourth time in program history with a New Year's Day victory over Iowa in the Citrus Bowl. He racked up weekly awards

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from the SEC, gained recognition from national bodies along the way and after the season.

Was his play perfect? No. Levis' turned the ball over too often, probably ran through traffic at risk too many times and has improvements to make in footwork, accuracy and decision making. And he's correct in mentioning that there were other quarterbacks at other schools (Bryce Young of Alabama, C.J. Stroud of Ohio State) who had better seasons — players he's now grouped with on NFL draft boards.

Was his approach perfect? Probably. Close, at least. Still irked at how his abilities were perceived by the media while in high school, then overlooked in State College, Levis quickly went from taking snaps with backups at Kentucky to taking over swaths of this state of bluegrass, bourbon, basketball and horse barns. Levis has a next-level magnetism absent from the program since, perhaps, Randall Cobb's dazzling days as a receiver in 2009-10.

"Will is so talented," said senior offensive lineman Kenneth Horsey, and the discussion hadn't even yet turned to football.

Horsey was standing on the blazing hot turf of 61,000-seat Kroger Field for media day interviews earlier this month. About an hour earlier, he had spotted a Levis photo shoot from afar. Hands to his cheeks, Horsey shouted in a high-pitched voice, "Is that Will Levis?" playfully mocking his quarterback's fame.

On the NIL front, Levis has aligned himself with a local restaurant, Malone's, making sure the agreement included free rib dinners every Sunday for the Kentucky offensive line. His endorsement deal with Boone's Trace National Golf Club in nearby Richmond includes the ability to have 16 guests play every Wednesday at no charge.

He has partnered, too, with a horse — 2019 Preakness Stakes winner War of Will — in establishing an advertising campaign around Claiborne Farm's breeding options. He has a deal with a Lexington car dealership, Paul Miller Ford, with a commercial included.

One of his most recent partnerships, with Cameo, allows him to create personalized messages for fans — with all proceeds from the first 100 posts being donated to the American Red Cross to assist those impacted by the recent flooding in Eastern Kentucky. He helped load a relief truck on Saturday, too. Last year, he participated in a telethon to provide relief when tornadoes ripped through Western Kentucky, killing dozens.

Levis, making a comfortable NIL living, has a

good amount of money and not much time. He shares both, wastes none.

"The entire process, it's been fun to watch, because you have seen Will gain the respect — not only gain, but demand the respect — of the locker room," Horsey said. "He's one of those guys who leads by example. The best way I can describe Will is just unapologetically himself. He's very balanced."

He's got a bit of a chip on his shoulder, too.

"He walks around with it every day," Horsey said. "It pushes him to get better and, honestly, it pushes the entire team to get better."

'Living the dream'

Kentucky held its first practice of the season earlier Wednesday, Aug. 3, before media day events, in the comparatively cool morning breeze. Levis left the field with Lax, veins popping from his long arms, and later approached her in the team dining hall for a rundown of the day, peering over her shoulder to examine an itinerary.

Just about every media outlet had requested time with Levis, so to reduce chaos a decision was made for him to hold a press conference, during which he was asked why he is so hard on himself.

"You've got to be your No. 1 supporter, the No. 1 person who is confident in you, but you've always got to be your No. 1 critic," Levis told a packed media room, with maybe 75 reporters on hand.

Levis, Stoops, offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello and defensive coordinator Brad White held individual press conferences. All other players and coaches were available on the field in position groups.

"You're the only one who knows why you made the decisions you did or what you're capable of, physically," Levis said. "You have to judge yourself on your performance based on what you know about yourself. ... If I keep that same mentality of both having the utmost confidence in myself, being my number one supporter, but also being the one to give myself honest constructive criticism, I feel like I can just improve and be better one way or the other by being both of those types of people for myself."

Levis is not someone who lets a box go unchecked or a thought left unexplored. At Penn State, where he redshirted one season and served as backup to Sean Clifford in 2020 and 2021, he sensed early that it might ultimately make sense to transfer. So he took on an

accelerated academic schedule and earned a degree in finance, graduating magna cum laude with a 3.97 GPA. He is now carrying a 4.0 in the masters of finance program at Kentucky and is just 12 credits shy of finishing his coursework toward another degree.

He has a long list of NIL obligations that take up just an hour or two each week. Levis also fits in pieces of the life any college kid deserves, grabbing the occasional round of drinks here and there on South Limestone. That is becoming more difficult, though. The more people recognize Levis and approach him, the more he leans into homebody life, because "There's an accountability factor. I'm not going to be going out and making a fool of myself"

The perks of being a minor celebrity: Levis was in Los Angeles for Super Bowl week. He attended the Master's, the Kentucky Derby and The Match, the golf competition in Las Vegas featuring Allen, Patrick Mahomes, Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers. He met all those quarterbacks. Every trip was through one NIL deal or another and/or arranged by his marketing firms. He is represented by one locally and one nationally: Athlete Advantage in Lexington and WME out of Chicago.

Levis chatted with Tebow at SEC Media Days about the reckless joy of something that others around him want him to temper — carrying the football through oncoming tacklers. He played golf recently with Tim Couch, the No. 1 overall pick out of Kentucky in the 1999 NFL Draft. When classes start up again later this month Levis will probably be as busy as he ever will be. But he is not distracted. And he is not a distraction.

"He's living the dream," Scangarello said. "I would worry about some people when the spotlight gets put on you as quickly as it has with Will, but part of what his greatness will be, and is, he's very mature, he's very well thought out in his decision making, and he just has the makeup of what you'd expect a great one to have."

Levis is exceptionally bright, meticulously organized, go-go-go in how he approaches days that are carefully designed to maximize every moment, eyes simultaneously on all the prizes, which are the following day's practice, the season ahead and his NFL future.

"I want to be the best quarterback in the country now," Levis said. "I feel like I definitely am. I feel like I can accomplish that. I feel like this is what I've been put on Earth to do."

'He ain't playin' around'

Levis was stressed out during the final week of

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Kentucky's spring practice period in March.

He was named the Walter Camp 2021 Connecticut Player of Year, sharing the honor with Miami quarterback Tyler Van Dyke of Glastonbury, and needed to be in New Haven for the foundation's gala.

From there, he would spend a week in Spain with his girlfriend, Gia, a Penn State student from the Reading, Pa., area who was studying abroad during the spring semester. Levis had a paper due, too, and his no-wiggle-room travel itinerary was going to force him to miss the Wildcats' final practice. That was driving him crazy.

In stepped Lax, the Kentucky native and former college tennis player who makes her way around the football facilities calling players "babe" or "bud," cell phone in one hand, papers in the other hand, a bag over her shoulder, all organization and positivity.

This relationship, fundamental to what has become of Levis' life, was already a season-plus in development but it took this trip to Connecticut for both to fully appreciate it.

"It took me a minute with Will," Lax said. "At first, he was almost scary to me. I usually get to know players so fast and we become buds so fast. He and I, I was almost scared to talk to him because he was so intense. I would get nervous. But when we traveled together and did that, the walls broke down."

Lax suggested Levis attend that practice, and he did. She was waiting for him in his off-campus apartment parking lot, car running, when he returned home. She drove to the airport. They flew together. Upon reaching New Haven, she told Levis to relax in the Omni Hotel, work on his paper, that she'd head over to that night's Walter Camp event and find out if he was needed in attendance.

He was not, she assured him. The awards wouldn't be presented until the following night's gala, which Levis attended. The day after that, Lax sent Levis off to Europe, better understanding the person that College Football America may think it has figured out by viewing a bunch of highlights and a few TikTok videos.

"I had already learned I better have all my ducks in a row when dealing with Will," Lax said. "I better have my details ready of who, what, when, where and why. Because he ain't playin' around."

Yet, America sees him playing around.

"Here, at football, he's one way," Lax said. "Outside, he's a totally different way."

There's a really serious side. There's that edge. But it softens. Because there's a really sweet side, depth.

Levis and Lax talked about life on that trip. He told her about Gia's birthday plans and the gift he was most proud to give: He wrote Gia a letter, showing he's adept at the lost arts like he is the Gen Z new ones.

When Lax returned home to Lexington, a care package awaited on her doorstep, candles and the like, with a thank-you note from Levis.

"That tells you everything," Lax said.

Striving for the next level

Kentucky went on a three-game losing streak (Georgia, Mississippi State, Tennessee) after that 6-0 start last season but rebounded to win four in a row, closing with the Citrus Bowl victory before a crowd of 50,000-plus in Orlando and an ABC audience over the Hawkeyes — the team against which Levis, in his only start at Penn State the year before, had been pulled.

"There were times in my life when I didn't even know if I wanted to be a quarterback, or didn't know if I was good enough to play, even in high school, and in college," Levis said. "It just makes me think about the hard work I've put in from seventh grade until now and just never gave up on chasing my dreams. It hasn't paid off yet. But I know I'm on the right track"

The hope around campus now is that, come December, Kentucky will be near the top of the SEC and Levis will be playing himself toward the top of the draft. This basketball-centric community had an appetite for such football attention.

The South Limestone bars are packed on Saturday gamedays. At the Tin Roof and The Paddock, popular spots on that strip, is where the wild scenes come together, shoulder to shoulder crowds, lines down the street.

To continue to capture Lexington's interest is to push the 2021 momentum into 2022, and Levis has challenges. Scangarello, who was the Broncos offensive coordinator in 2019 and the 49ers quarterbacks coach last year, was brought in to replace offensive coordinator Liam Coen, who took the same position with the Rams. Wan'Dale Robinson, Levis' top target by a wide margin, is gone, a second-round draft pick of the Giants. Major components of the offensive line need to be replaced.

The season begins Sept. 3 at home against Miami of Ohio. Week two brings a trip to Gainesville for a game Sept. 10 at Florida. Kentucky was ranked No. 21 in the USA Today coaches poll released last week. Levis will nearly double his college playing experience with a full slate of starts in 2022. Levis' parents, Michael and Beth Levis, will attend every game.

"Like any quarterback, the game slows down the more you play," Scangarello said. "Guys who succeed at the next level have banked a lot of starts and are usually the better players. That's where Will will ascend. You've seen guys like Joe Burrow and, historically, how guys have gone through and are very talented like Will. We're hoping for that same kind of ascension."

The past year, since Levis was named starter on Aug. 15 2021, has really been a meteoric rise.

He has proven worthy of the SEC and ESPN ... because of his play.

He has proven worthy of The Today Show ... because of a brown banana.

"People think I actually do it [regularly]," Levis said. "That's what all the headlines are. I did this because I thought it would be funny one time. It's not something I want to string out for the rest of my career. ... I like to use social media as a way to give fans an inside look into who I am as a person and my personality, rather than me as just a player. Sometimes I just like to do a couple things that might make a couple people laugh. I think being quarterback adds another layer to that. You have to be cautious with how you operate. As soon as you do something wrong or you're not playing the way you're supposed to, people can turn around and say this guy cares too much about whatever and not football. So I just try to do what I can to make sure that's never that thought with anybody."

That comes naturally. Levis is past arrival time now. He'll spend the next 12 or 13 games building on what he's created, not celebrating it.

"There's a lot of pressure," Levis said. "That means there are high hopes for you and for the team. I think I thrive in those type of situations. I think I thrive on the pressure of people trying to doubt me and trying to tell me I can't do something. I try to motivate myself and twist whatever I hear and turn it into motivation however I can. It's kind of just how I operate, I guess."

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How Kentucky football's offensive menu can feed deep, talented group of tight ends

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Aug. 19, 2022

LEXINGTON — In hindsight, Vince Marrow had set the bar too low.

Going into Saturday's scrimmage, the Kentucky football tight ends coach made "a little B.S. bet," he said, with his position group: Catch six passes in Saturday's scrimmage and a future dinner was on Marrow.

As much faith as Marrow has in his room, deep with talented tight ends, he had reason to doubt it would get a half-dozen catches in a single scrimmage. The Wildcats have a plethora of offensive weapons. The UK defense is loaded with linebackers who make matchups miserable.

Marrow figured his guys would need a pretty good day to get six receptions.

"They had six on the first two drives," he said.

And kept going. Marrow was pretty sure the UK tight ends got to 13 catches. Offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello estimated it was 15. Brenden Bates, a starter at tight end last season, thought it was 12.

The point is, it was more than six.

"Now (Marrow) owes us Jeff Ruby's," junior Izayah Cummings said. "We just got to get a date on that."

The hope in the Kentucky camp is that the tight ends will keep feasting on the field all season.

The Wildcats are stocked with broad shoulders and good hands at tight end, loaded with prototype size, solid speed and blocking expertise.

"There's some really dynamic players in that room," Scangarello said. "I don't know if there's a room that I'm more excited about or more happy with the depth, the talent and the types of players we have."

There are five tight ends — seniors Bates and

Keaton Upshaw, junior Cummings, redshirt freshman Jordan Dingle and true freshman Josh Kattus — who probably can expect to see snaps this season.

Freshman 5: Which Kentucky football freshmen will play a part from the start?

It's conceivable four of them could do it at once.

"I'm not going to tell you if we have anything like that in (the playbook) or not," Bates said. "But yeah, it's definitely something I think is very realistic, especially with all we can do. That'd be really exciting to see. I'd love it. Maybe put me in at running back or something."

Scangarello will have to get creative to use all his options.

Cummings caught 20 passes last season, Bates 11 and Dingle two. But the 6-foot-6 Upshaw was the tight end who seemed poised for a breakout year after catching 16 passes for 193 yards in 2020. Instead, he suffered a season-ending injury last summer.

He's back now, paired with Bates and Cummings, who's settling in at tight end after the former Male High School star moved from wide receiver.

Dingle is a candidate to break out this season. And Kattus — a 6-4, 232-pound freshman who's added muscle in the offseason — has been among the most buzzed-about Cats in fall camp.

"When I recruited him, I knew he was gonna be a good blocker," said Marrow, also UK's recruiting coordinator. "But what surprised me is how well he catches the ball and how well he's picking up everything."

If any coach can exploit the excess at tight end, it might be Scangarello, who spent last season as the quarterbacks coach of the NFL's San Francisco 49ers, who consistently target tight ends and feature star George Kittle at the position.

When Kentucky hired Scangarello, Bates said he immediately thought "this is gonna be good for us" in the tight ends room. Bates had watched in December as Kittle dismantled his hometown Cincinnati Bengals in a narrow 49ers win, racking up 13 catches for 151 yards and a TD.

Scangarello "loves tight ends," Cummings said, and the feeling so far has been mutual.

"They find different plays, different type of schemes that set up all of us to be great," Up-

shaw said of UK's offensive coaches. "So I feel like it works right into (our) good hands."

Mark Stoops feeling much better about secondary; Maxwell Hairston impressing

Aaron Gershon
Cats' Pause
Aug 20, 2022

Kentucky made it clear that it needed to improve its secondary following the spring football season.

The team added three players in cornerbacks, Keidron Smith (Ole Miss) and Jordan Robinson (Livingstone College) and added a safety with the addition of Zion Childress (Texas State).

Now, as the team works through fall camp and is two weeks away from the season opener, Mark Stoops is feeling much better about his defensive backfield compared to the start of last season.

"I feel much better about the secondary in general going into this year than I did a year ago," Stoops said. "I feel like the guys that are returning are playing at a higher level. We have some different guys that are rotating in. Overall it's very good."

"You add Keidron and the guys that are there are playing better."

Last season the UK secondary finished as the country's 52nd best pass defense allowing 218.6 yards per game through the air.

However, cornerback Cedrick Dort who started 12 games, transferred to Wisconsin and both starting safety Yusuf Corker and cornerback Quandre Mosely are in the NFL.

That leaves the unit relying on returning starter Carrington Valentine to be its top cornerback and overall playmaker in the backfield.

"I've got to give Carrington Valentine some props. He's done a good job at the corner position, making some good plays, breaking up contested balls, breaking on stuff well," quarterback Will Levis said.

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Jalen Geiger, who is expected to start at free safety, Tyrell Ajian who is the projected starting strong safety and junior cornerback Andru Phillips, are the biggest returning names however, another has begun to catch Stoops' eye.

Redshirt freshman corner Maxwell Hairston has caught the eyes of his head coach and is now expected to be an important depth piece this fall.

"A guy like Maxwell, a young guy, but he's got some length and he's really got top-end speed," Stoops said. It's been really good to see him emerge as kind of like the fourth corner but guys you can trust.

"You need four guys. At times we've rotated three, but we'd like to have two deep, especially early on with this heat and things like that."

Hairston is a native of West Bloomfield, Michigan, who signed with Kentucky as a member of its 2021 recruiting class. The corner was ranked the 950th best player in the nation, 80th ranked cornerback and the 24th best player in the state of Michigan.

He picked the Cats over offers from Arkansas, Minnesota, Purdue, Kansas and Virginia Tech, among others.

Last season Hairston did not play as he picked up a redshirt year, but that is expected to change this fall.

"All of our young guys will have to play this year," Valentine said this spring. "Maxwell Hairston, Elijah Reed, Dre Stewart (Andre Stewart), Adrian Huey, all those guys will have to step up ... the whole cornerback room."

Kentucky football linebacker J.J. Weaver at peace with mental and physical health

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Aug. 22, 2022

LEXINGTON — J.J. Weaver's probably eating.

He's supposed to take in somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,000 calories a day, and the Kentucky linebacker — who's working on

weight gain — sweats off pounds (plural) daily at practice.

So when he finishes, it's off to the nutritionist for guidance on building them back.

"I'm like 240 (pounds) now," Weaver said. "I'm trying to get to 255. If not, I'm good at 245."

That Weaver's preseason focus is on adding weight is a testament to how much of it he's taken off his shoulders in the past two years.

He's still dealing with the loss of his father, killed in a 2020 shooting in Albany, Georgia. But he's finding ways to cope.

And unlike this time a year ago, Weaver is playing unhindered by the uncertainty of a surgically repaired right knee. Now 20 months removed from the anterior cruciate ligament tear he suffered in a 2020 game at Florida, he can think less and feel more.

"My knee, I'm healthy," Weaver said. "I'm just out there having fun, for real."

A former high school star at Moore, Weaver played last season after ACL rehab and had a strong year — 34 tackles, 10.5 for loss, 6.5 sacks. But the knee remained on his mind. Could he plant the way he used to? Could he cut? Was he the same player he was before?

And beyond that, he had a heavy heart.

Weaver's parents divorced when he was young, and though he moved to Louisville with his mother as a third grader, he remained close with his father, whose death rocked him. It still does.

Football was a respite at first, a release. "My peace," Weaver said.

On the field Weaver could block out his sadness and channel his anger. But the knee injury — five months after his father's death — took away all that.

Weaver already had lost "close friends," he said. Then he lost his father. Sometimes it seemed like too much. Even now it sticks with him.

"It's a pain I can't get rid of," he said.

But he needed to find ways to manage it.

Kentucky coach Mark Stoops, who lost his own father at a young age, suggested talking through his issues might help Weaver, who's since been open about how therapy aided him.

He's become something of a mental health

advocate, shooting a video this offseason for UK Health Care to promote the topic. Though Weaver said he's "still dealing with" the loss of his father, he credits his therapist for helping him to learn how.

"Me, I'll hold everything in and just go play football and just come home and cry and stuff like that," Weaver said in the UK Health Care video. "But she helped me actually express and talk to my teammates. I'm a leader now with my team because of my therapist. She helped me open up more and tell my story."

So did teammate Jordan Wright, a graduate student in his sixth year at UK whom Weaver has known since they were kids in Florida.

"He's like a big brother of mine," Weaver said. "So we talk deep. We talk about my father. Jordan really helped me get through my father's death, because he knew my father personally. And so that relationship helped me, most definitely."

Weaver lost his father a little more than two years ago. It's natural not to be over it.

But he's making progress, emotionally and physically.

On the latter front, Stoops said, "you see a big difference in him" a year out from ACL rehab. When Weaver watches film from last season, he looks at his right knee and sees "every time I tried to plant on it, I was slipping." That's gone now.

And defensive coordinator Brad White sees "a confidence" in Weaver that was absent last season even as he made on-field strides.

"He's a guy that's very much in control of his position right now, and that's a great thing to see," White said. "Because even when he was playing at a really high level there in 2020 right before the injury, he didn't have the command of the position that he has now. So now you put that athleticism together with the command of the position, a focus and an understanding of, 'Hey, this could be a big opportunity, a big year for me,' and we're expecting big things from him."

Weaver is aware of the opportunity.

He has two seasons of eligibility remaining, but he's dreamed of the NFL, and Weaver can see it in front of him. Maybe this year, maybe the next. He's grown to value the time he spent unable to play football, the ways it molded him as a man and a player.

"I think it was like God gave me a battle to

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fight," Weaver said. "When I got hurt and my dad died, I matured so much. And I needed that, I ain't gonna lie. I really needed that. I sat back and learned football, the techniques. Like, I couldn't play the game so I started learning the game."

And though he's found ways off the field to process the emotions from his father's death, the game remains a respite, an important piece of his therapy.

"Football has really taken it off my mind," Weaver said. "It really takes it off my mind, and I play through it. That makes me want to play even better."

Jordan Dingle may be a secret weapon in the tight end room

Tristan Pharis
KY Insider
Aug. 24, 2022

Being ranked AP preseason top 25 for the first time since 1978, the Kentucky Wildcats are entering this season with high expectations. Given those high expectations, Mark Stoops and Co will attempt to take another big step for the program.

Of course, it will ultimately be up to how the players perform on the field, but there is a lot of talent on the roster, including a loaded tight end room that the staff has a lot of confidence in.

According to offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello, "three or four or five in that room that are going to play on Sundays," as he said earlier this month on media day.

A notable member of that group that Scangarello has been impressed with is in-state redshirt freshman, Jordan Dingle.

Last season, the Bowling Green native appeared in only four games in his freshman campaign and was able to retain his redshirt. In his limited appearances, Dingle caught two catches for 54 yards.

Through the summer and fall camp, Dingle has been a name that has consistently been mentioned, and he seems to be ready to make

an impact.

After last Saturday's scrimmage - the final scrimmage before the regular season - Stoops called Dingle "a complete tight end". In the scrimmage, Dingle used his impressive catch radius and caught four passes.

With all the talent in the tight-end room, playing time will be at a premium, but Dingle is a versatile piece that can line up at fullback, receiver, or tight end.

Despite having many talented tight ends in recent years, the Big Blue Nation has expressed concern over the inconsistent use of tight ends. With Scangarello coming from a San Francisco 49ers system that is heavily reliant on multiple tight-end personnel, and with a talented tight-end group, this could be the year we see that narrative change.

However it plays out, it looks like it is going to be difficult to keep Dingle off the field in some fashion.

Eli Cox to anchor 2022 version of the Big Blue Wall

Greg Goins
A Sea of Blue
Aug 29, 2022

It's been a competitive fall camp for the Kentucky Wildcats' Big Blue Wall as new offensive line coach Zach Yenser will have a deep rotation for the 2022 season. However, there's little doubt who will be the anchor up front this year as Eli Cox will lock down the coveted center position.

Gone from last year's offensive line are Darian Kinnard, Dare Rosenthal, and Luke Fortner, who made the successful jump from offensive lineman to center, on his way to the NFL where he's projected as a starter in his rookie season with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Now it's time for Cox to make that same transition, moving over to the center position after starting at right guard in the first nine games last season before suffering a season-ending hand injury vs. Tennessee. The Nicholasville, Kentucky, native already has a strong foundation at his new position, playing center as a freshman and sophomore at West Jessamine High School before becoming a 3-star recruit at guard in 2019.

Cox officially took over center duties during spring practice and has made great strides during fall camp, working closely with Drake Jackson, twice named first-team All-SEC at center after making 44 consecutive starts between 2017 through 2020. Jackson is now in his first year as a graduate assistant coach.

"He's done a phenomenal job of studying and taking on that role, but I think he's had good ones to learn from the past," said Yenser of Cox's transition. "Obviously, having Drake (Jackson) in the room has helped him with his confidence with the snapping position, the calls and all that stuff. I just think his mentality, and how physical he is, a lot of his characteristics just make a good offensive lineman, whether that's playing center or guard we have a lot of confidence in him."

New offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello has continued to have high praise for Cox, who like quarterback Will Levis, has a high football IQ and a great feel for the new offense.

"I feel very good about where we're at at center," said Scangarello. "Eli is an outstanding player and that helps solidify the whole group. When your quarterback and center are as smart as they are, it can take you a long way. That's usually what will hold you back, but fortunately for us, those two guys (are) the one percenters where they can handle a lot."

With Cox and left guard Kenneth Horsey the only returning starters up front, this year's O-Line remains a work in progress as fall camp has created a healthy competition under the watchful eye of Yenser, who's in his first season at Kentucky after coaching the past three years with the San Francisco 49ers.

The current plan is to start Auburn transfer Tashawn Manning (guard) and Jeremy Flax (tackle) on the right side, while David Wohlbach Jr. and freshman Kiyaunta Goodwin continue to battle for the left tackle job. Deondre Buford and Jager Burton will also be in the rotation for the Wildcats, who can go eight deep up front.

With so many new faces, Cox knows that this year's O-Line will have to prove itself to maintain its status as one of the top offensive lines in the country. The Wildcats have been listed as a finalist the past couple of seasons for the Joe Moore Award, recognizing the Most Outstanding Offensive Line in college football.

"That Big Blue Wall name is something we have to earn every season," said Cox, who has been named to the preseason Outland Trophy Watch List. "We still have a lot of ways that we can

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improve. The run game is going to be different, it's different than it has been. We're going to run different schemes and different looks that we're going to try to be very multiple to give defenses trouble, so we need to keep getting better."

Fortunately, Cox says that going up against a dominant Kentucky defense each day has accelerated the learning curve for both sides of the ball.

"It's a battle in the trenches every day," said Cox. "Iron sharpens iron, everyone knows that, so having a talented defensive unit to go against every day...I mean I think we have some of the best linebackers in the country, I think we have some of the best defensive linemen so being able to go against those guys every day is only making both sides of the ball better."

The first big test for the Big Blue Wall comes in the season opener on September 3rd against Miami (OH) at Kroger Field.

Kentucky backup quarterback strong man of faith

Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today
Aug. 31, 2022

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky quarterback Deuce Hogan sees the football field as his platform on and off turf.

"I always tell people it's a 100-yard stage," said Hogan, who was named the No. 2 quarterback behind starter Will Levis this week. "(I'm) using this platform to be able to speak to people on a really big scale and I think football can open doors there."

Hogan, a sophomore transfer from Iowa, played prep football for his father, Kris Hogan, at Grapevine Faith Christian in Texas. His life is deeply rooted in his faith and knows football is secondary compared to his status as a believer.

"(My faith) is everything. I would walk away from football if I felt called to, if that was something that I felt like the Lord was pulling me to do," he said. "My faith is everything and it's the reason I do what I do. And I really do feel like this provides the biggest stage to make the biggest impact. And that's why I'm doing

it. I just know that I'm called to impact people. Right now, I think this is the biggest avenue."

That avenue was paved by his parents, Kris and Amy Hogan, from childhood. Hogan credits his parents for their godly influence in his life.

"I was in a home with two parents that were madly in love, and they put Jesus first," he said. "I was in church every Sunday, every Wednesday my whole life.

"Outside of the church we had people coming to my house to hear and get advice from my dad and my mom. My mom's written books, my dad's traveled the country. My parents are everything and the foundation of my faith."

Prior to leaving Iowa, Hogan didn't take his future lightly and took his case to the cross for direction and was able to watch his dad and brother Zeke win a state championship at Cypress Christian in Houston, Texas.

"I really was in prayer ... (and) when God speaks, he speaks loudly," he recalled. "I went home and watched my little brother and dad win a state championship."

While at home in Texas, Hogan received the call from Kentucky and didn't balk at the opportunity to play for the Wildcats.

"I felt like this was the best door of opportunity," he said. "It's also an awesome conference and for the SEC to call and say, 'Hey, we'll give you a chance' ... you don't get that call every day. I felt like it was the smartest place to go."

Since he arrived on campus, Hogan has worked his way into the backup quarterback slot and hasn't second-guessed his decision to transfer.

"I knew that the opportunities that I had were not far off," he said. "One of them is where God wanted me to be. I'm a big believer in the idea that God talks all the time about how he blesses the steps and it will take time.

"The concept of deciding and then making that decision the right decision. I think God gives the people that follow him options sometimes. I had a peace knowing that the Lord was with me, and he was going to bless my steps and I was walking in faith."

Outside of football, Hogan studies the Bible and is "in the word daily" and understands the balance between life and sports.

"It's nothing really new to me," he said. "It's just operating with intentionality and routine. As long as I have a routine, the schedule is not bad. It's what I know."

He also knows he will be deeply rooted in his faith no matter where the path of life leads him in the future.

"I'm just trying to always represent the things that I say I stand for because I know that I'm being watched and I know that people label me with Christianity," he said. "I'm trying to always be a witness, just by the way that I practice."

Now that he has reached his goals, he's not taking the role for granted.

"(The) Lord's been sovereign," he said. "It doesn't change my approach. I've got to perform every day because, you know, spots are never secured."

The twitch is back for a healthy and happy J.J. Weaver in 2022

Greg Goins
A Sea of Blue
Sept. 1, 2022

Outside linebacker J.J. Weaver has seemingly found his happy place, getting back to full strength, both on and off the field this fall, as the inspirational leader for the Kentucky defense.

The Louisville native has had to overcome numerous challenges during his Kentucky football career, including the loss of his father and high school coach, a torn ACL during the 2020 season, and some well documented mental health struggles. He's also had to overcome constant bullying during his youth from a rare condition known as polydactyly, as Weaver has six fingers on his right hand.

During Kentucky's media day, Weaver shared his story that includes seeking out therapy, leaning on former teammate Josh Paschal, a cancer survivor who took him to church last season, and finding support from Kentucky defensive coordinator Brad White.

"To be honest, it took me a while to even open up," said Weaver. "It was hard. One night it really hit me. I was crying in my room and I called Coach White at 3 o'clock in the morning and said I need to talk to somebody...I'm not myself. I've matured so much better. Now I tell them (his teammates) to talk to me if they need anything. Just talk to me. I'm here for you all."

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After going down with a knee injury at Florida in 2020, Weaver bounced back last season to record 34 tackles and six sacks on his way to being named a Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year. He is one of six returning starters for the Kentucky defense along with inside linebackers DeAndre Square, Jacquez Jones, follow outside linebacker Jordan Wright, and defensive backs Carrington Valentine and Tyrell Ajian.

White, now in his fifth season at Kentucky, said Weaver's progression during fall camp has been all about confidence and a consistency that's been at a higher level this year.

"You can see that twitch is back," said White. "Between spring, summer and first day of practice, you see him brimming with confidence. He's playing fast. He's communicating out there. He's a guy that's very much in control of his position right now and that's a great thing to see because even when he was playing at a really high level in 2020, right before the injury, he didn't have the command of the position that he has now. So now you put that athleticism together with the command of the position and a focus and understanding that this could be a big year."

In 2021, the Kentucky defense held opponents to 21.7 points and 340.1 points per game, finishing the season ranked fourth in the SEC in total defense. The trio of Paschal, Weaver and Wright combined for 29.5 tackles for loss and 12.5 sacks during a 10-3 season. Paschal was drafted by the Detroit Lions in the second round.

"This year, I think we're more mature," said Weaver of the defensive unit. "We learned from mistakes. We learned from the Tennessee game. We learned from the Mississippi State game, plus Coach White recruited a lot of DBs and a lot of positions that we needed help with. They're going to help for sure."

Weaver, a former standout at Moore Traditional School, has also been leader off the field this summer, hosting his own youth football camp at his alma mater and lending his name and support to the "Back To School With J.J. Weaver" School Supply Drive in Louisville.

"We expect big things from him," said White. "I am not going to shy away, and he will not shy away from understanding that we need him to take that next step and be a guy-guy. He has got to be a difference maker for us on defense."

The No. 20-ranked Wildcats will get a big test early when they travel to "The Swamp" to play the Florida Gators on September 10th, a game Weaver has circled on his calendar.

"I tore my ACL down there two years ago so Florida for sure," said Weaver when asked about what game he's looking forward to the most this season. "Florida - back in the swamp - that's the second game too so I'm ready."

Tashawn Manning looks to be an anchor on Kentucky's offensive line

Zac Oakes
Advocate Magazine
Aug 27, 2022

After the Big Blue Wall lost some key pieces from last season, Kentucky went to the transfer portal. In Auburn transfer Tashawn Manning, the Wildcats coaching staff believes they found a guy who will be an anchor in the middle of the line.

Manning comes to Kentucky as a graduate transfer after spending the past four years at Auburn. He was actually considered a defensive line recruit but eventually settled in along the offensive line.

After redshirting in 2017 and seeing action in just one game in 2018, Manning began to find a role for the Tigers in 2019. He saw action in four games and earned a starting spot for the Tigers in 2020, where he started 11 games.

Manning saw action in 12 games for Auburn last season, and performed well, grading out as Auburn's best run blocker by Pro Football Focus.

Those skills should serve him well as he makes his way to Lexington where he'll be a part of the Big Blue Wall, which has been among the best run-blocking groups in the country in recent years.

What makes Manning's journey even more incredible is he battled cancer to get to this point. He was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia in 2015 and began chemotherapy treatment. He was a class of 2016 recruit but ended up spending most of that year undergoing chemo and took community college classes.

"I started taking community college courses while I was taking chemo and I wasn't that excited about where I was," Manning said in August of 2021. "I was frustrated and disap-

pointed."

After undergoing treatment for eight months, Manning was declared cancer free.

"The one thing I'll look back on through the ups and downs is always trying to keep a positive outlook on life," Manning said. "Whatever I did on and off the field, I just tried to enjoy the experience while I was in the moment because you don't get these moments back. From play to play, day to day, I just tried to take everything in and just tried to make the most of it every day."

Thus far, Manning has had a strong training camp and looks primed to win the starting right guard spot along Kentucky's offensive line this fall. The physically imposing Manning drew some attention through spring practices and should help form a strong trio in the middle of the line with center Eli Cox and fellow guard Kenneth Horsey.

This spring, some of Kentucky's defenders talked about Manning's strength on the offensive line.

"He's strong. He's real strong. When he puts his hands on you it's hard to get them off," said Tre'vonn Rybka. "Don't let him touch you."

"I call him the little refrigerator because once he gets his hands on you it's over with," said Jacquez Jones.

There's a lot to like about what Manning brings to the table. At his size, he'll certainly be hard to miss in Kroger Field this year.

Expect to see Kentucky run the ball between the tackles early and often this season, with Manning, Cox, and Horsey leading the way.

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How UK football's Jacquez Jones formed 'a bond for life' by mentoring a boy from Lexington

Brooks Holton
Louisville Courier-Journal
Sept 2, 2022

The first thing Jacquez Jones noticed about TJ was his smile.

Then, the 6-year-old boy asked the Kentucky linebacker a question: "You want to see how many push-ups I can do?"

"He started knocking out push-ups," Jones said.

Jones met TJ in the fall of 2021, when he and other Wildcats delivered Thanksgiving food baskets to families around Lexington through a partnership with Southland Christian Church. While the group visited the home of TJ's grandparents, Jones learned about the boy's connection to an organization called Amachi Lexington, which supports children affected by incarceration.

It just so happened that, with TJ turning 6 earlier in the year, he was eligible for the organization's mentoring program and eagerly awaiting a match.

"He was on our waiting list for a while," said Maggie Middleton, the program director of Amachi Lexington. "It just takes a while for us to find mentors at times, especially for our boys. It's a little bit harder to find men to be mentors."

According to Middleton, the organization was on the verge of matching TJ with someone else when the UK football players showed up at his grandparents' house. Like a good linebacker is prone to do, Jones disrupted that game plan – by the end of the visit, he'd been asked to take the boy under his wing.

"I was like, 'Man, that's great,'" Jones said. "'I'll do it right now.'"

Nearly a year later, Jones said he and TJ have developed "a bond for life." The linebacker is even looking to his mentee for motivation heading into his final season with the Wildcats.

"He's one of my reasons why I keep going so hard," Jones said, "because he looks up to me."

These are exciting times for both Jones and TJ on the gridiron.

Jones, an Ole Miss transfer who led UK in tackles last season, was named a team captain Tuesday ahead of the season opener. He and Kentucky's veteran linebackers will anchor the defense as the Wildcats pursue their first trip to the Southeastern Conference championship.

TJ, meanwhile, is suiting up for his first season with the Lexington Ravens youth organization as a member of its 7U team. Like his mentor, he's playing linebacker.

It's a heartwarming detail, but also smart coaching on the Ravens' part. How many kids can say they've been trained at linebacker by someone who starts at the position in the SEC? Jones said TJ frequented the Joe Craft Football Training Center with him this offseason to lift weights and work on his tackling form.

"He has muscles," said TJ's grandmother, Iris Sidney. "They're not big muscles, now, they're little muscles."

"Whenever he comes into our community center and he sees me, he'll come up and he'll give me a big hug and then he'll say, 'See my muscles, Miss Maggie,'" Middleton added.

While TJ keeps building his muscles — and flexing for the camera — Jones said speed isn't an issue: "I watched him play baseball. He (was) the fastest kid out there."

According to Middleton, TJ is one of 185 kids participating in Amachi Lexington's mentoring program. Fifty of those children are waiting for a match like TJ was before Jones walked through his grandparents' door.

TJ's father "is not involved in his life, nor has he ever been," Middleton said. "His mom is involved, but he is very much so being raised by his grandparents."

In a 2017 report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kentucky ranked second in the country with 15% of children having experienced losing a parent to incarceration. A 2022 report from the Prison Policy Initiative says nearly half of the approximately 1.25 million people in state prisons nationwide are parents of minor children, and about 1 in 5 is age 4 or younger.

"Research does suggest that kids with an incarcerated parent have a really high rate of going to jail themselves if there's not an intervention around, and we don't want that to happen,"

Middleton said. "A kid like TJ, who's just so incredible already at 7 and full of joy and he's so bright and so smart, I don't want that in his future."

"He needs someone like a Jacquez who can keep up with him, because he's full of energy," Middleton added. "Especially being raised by his grandparents, too. They work really hard and are doing all they can, but this is their second go-round of parenting."

Jones said he has not experienced losing a loved one to incarceration but saw the mentorship program as an opportunity to "inspire the next generation."

"No matter your circumstance, no matter what you go through, you can always do what you dream," he said. "With TJ, his dream is to be an athlete, and so that's my goal, to make sure he does that."

Amachi Lexington tells its mentors that their job isn't to be a stand-in parent, Middleton said, because "no one can take the place of a parent." That hasn't stopped Jones from taking up at least one parental challenge — getting TJ to be less of a picky eater — to little success.

"All he wants to eat is McDonald's chicken nuggets," Jones said. "I'll take him out to a steakhouse, and all he wants is McDonald's chicken nuggets."

Jones' time in Lexington is almost up, and the linebacker is already dreading saying goodbye to TJ when he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

"It's gonna be hard on me, for real," Jones said, "because I got close to him."

According to Middleton, children stay on Amachi Lexington's caseload until they turn 18, but mentor/mentee relationships often continue unofficially because of the bonds the two parties form.

That will soon be the case for former UK linebacker Courtney Love, who is going on Year 6 with his mentee, a 13-year-old named Antonio.

"It's a life thing for me," said Love, who now works on Mark Stoops' staff as a director of player development. "I like to say, 'I've taught him a lot,' but he's taught me a lot about life and patience."

"I think it's essential and critical that we do it," Love added. "If we can do that and have an impact as student-athletes, as men in the community, having somebody that looks like you, you know. Those guys, they come from broken

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homes, so it's great to be a part of that."

Love, who said he played a role in recruiting Jones to Kentucky, was with the linebacker when he met TJ during the fall of 2021. After experiencing Amachi Lexington's impact firsthand, Love encouraged Jones to be the boy's mentor. Now, they sometimes take TJ and Antonio out together for movies.

"He's a huge family guy," Love said of Jones, "(and) also took a step this year. He continued to become a leader on that defense and, not only that, but in our locker room. I just got a chance to see him grow, and I look forward to seeing him continue to grow."

Jones will also bring his parents, Kendrick and Lakeshia, around TJ when they visit Lexington, according to Sidney, the boy's grandmother. Sidney said TJ "loves them, too," and there's a good chance he'll be at Kroger Field with the Joneses to watch his mentor play several Saturdays this season.

To return the favor, Jones said he will catch as many of TJ's games with the Ravens as his schedule allows to see how their training pays off. No matter what, the linebacker said he's hoping to make time every Sunday for the 7-year-old while he still can.

If all goes according to plan, Jones should hear his name called at some point during the 2023 NFL Draft. As a super senior, the linebacker could leave Lexington when the Wildcats' season ends to begin preparations for the jump to the pros.

Jones can't take TJ along for the ride, but they'll no doubt stay in touch. And there's at least one thing from their relationship that Jones will have with him wherever he goes; it's the first thing he noticed about the boy: his smile.

"He never goes without smiling," Jones said. "So (on) days where I get down on myself and think about other stuff, I just got to lock in and be like, 'I'm smiling because I got this little kid right here who's looking up to me.'"

Will Levis has another Robinson - this time Tayvion - as his go-to receiver at Kentucky

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept. 5, 2022

They might share a last name, a position and a high-profile recruitment out of the transfer portal to Kentucky football, but Tayvion Robinson and Wan'Dale Robinson are different players.

Four days before his Kentucky football debut, Tayvion made sure to emphasize that point when asked how he felt about the ongoing comparisons to the player he was replacing in UK's offense.

After Tayvion totaled six catches for 136 yards in the season-opening 37-13 win over Miami (Ohio), the comparisons are not going away anytime soon, though.

"He's a baller," offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said of Will Levis's new go-to target. "I mean, he is a really good football player. I've said that. He is a leader. He can do a little bit of everything, the stability he provides us all because we have a lot of youth out there."

The near-capacity crowd at Kroger Field surely had Wan'Dale flashbacks when Tayvion caught an intermediate pass and scrambled 45 yards on Kentucky's first offensive play of the game. Dubbed "Sweet Feet" as a freshman at Virginia Tech, Tayvion repeatedly backed up that nickname by tallying 103 of his 136 receiving yards after the catch.

The emergence of freshmen wide receivers Dane Key and Barion Brown, who combined for seven catches for 98 yards and one touchdown, as well as a deep tight end group should make Kentucky's passing game more versatile this year, but it was clear in the opener that Levis will go to the receiver named Robinson most often for a second consecutive year.

Tayvion led Kentucky with eight targets, most of which came while the game was still in doubt. Like Wan'Dale, he also showed glimpses of the electric ability as a punt returner that earned him preseason All-SEC honors by multiple media outlets.

"They're very comparable," Kentucky wide receivers coach Scott Woodward said of the two Robinsons before the game. "They've both got a great football mind. They're both very smart kids. That's what helped Wan'Dale be who he is today. I think Tayvion has got that similar mindset to him."

"Tayvion is a little bit smoother, I'd say, than Wan'Dale. Wan'Dale has some more quickness than Tayvion does. But they both have great feel when they're on the football field, they both have excellent hands and they're both great route-runners."

Woodward predicted before the opener it would be difficult to take the Virginia Tech transfer off the field this season. While backup slot receiver Chauncey Magwood did catch a touchdown, nothing about the season-opening win refuted that point.

Brown and Key both provide the type of dynamic outside receiving threats that Kentucky's offense lacked a year ago. Levis's reliance on Wan'Dale did not prevent the Frankfort native from breaking Kentucky's school records for catches and receiving yards in a single season, but the passing game as a whole stands to benefit from more capable receiving options this fall.

Perhaps that is why Kentucky head coach Mark Stoops felt comfortable predicting to Wan'Dale that his replacement would have a big game when chatting with the New York Giants second-round draft pick as he visited with former coaches and teammates on the field before the game.

"The nice thing about him is he's experienced," Stoops said. "He's a good football player. He has a good feel for it. He's talented. He works hard."

The presence of the other competent receiving options all but ensures Tayvion will not approach Wan'Dale's record-breaking numbers for Kentucky, but he did come out on top of the head-to-head comparison in the two UK debuts. A year ago, Wan'Dale totaled five catches for 125 yards with two touchdowns in his Kentucky debut versus Louisiana-Monroe.

In three years at Virginia Tech, Tayvion did not record a 100-yard receiving performance. He had reached that number by halftime in his first game as a Wildcat.

"They're different players," Levis said during preseason camp when asked to compare Tayvion to Wan'Dale. "I think Wan'Dale is probably a little faster than him. ... Tayvion has a really good feel. Being a little bigger, his catch radius

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is a little bigger, too. Dale was amazing. He could do some incredible things with his body, but he is limited by his size. He's not going to let anyone tell him that.

"I'm going to try to give him an accurate ball, but even if it is six inches off Tayvion might be able to make the catch whereas Wan'Dale might not be able to. It's just little things like that."

There could be more wrinkles for Tayvion in Kentucky's offense coming, too.

Scangarello, who also joined the program in the offseason, acknowledged after the season-opening win he held back parts of his scheme to prevent showing week-two opponent Florida what to expect in the SEC opener. Former Kentucky offensive coordinator Liam Coen had to get creative with ways to find Wan'Dale the ball a year ago as defenses knew he was often the only target in the passing game.

Kentucky fans can expect similar strategies to emerge in the coming weeks now that Tayvion has shown his big-play ability.

Of course, to truly match Wan'Dale's impact at Kentucky Tayvion will have to contribute to a historic season and provide game-changing highlights like Wan'Dale's performance on the game-winning drive in the Citrus Bowl win over Iowa.

Tayvion credited his offseason work with Levis for the immediate impact in the opener. He acknowledged wanting to make an early statement to prove to fans that he could be counted on as a playmaker after his transfer.

Tayvion's goals are the same as Wan'Dale's a year ago. He just wants to reach them for his own reasons.

"I love that guy," he said of Wan'Dale before the game. "He helped me get here. He was my host on my visit. He's a great player, obviously with what he did last season, but we're two completely different guys. Both playmakers but have a different game.

"I'm here to make a name for myself this season."

True freshmen prove to be dayone impact pieces for Kentucky

Jack Pilgrim
Kentucky Sports Radio
Sept. 4, 2022

Mark Stoops didn't shy away from setting lofty expectations for Kentucky's true freshmen during the preseason. Not only did the head football coach say it was the program's best freshmen class since he arrived in Lexington, he added that as many as seven newcomers would play from day one.

No downplaying the abilities of the vets and certainly no disrespect. The kids are just that talented.

"This class that we have right now — Vince (Marrow) and I haven't talked about this but I imagine he'd say the same thing — I think this class, this group of freshmen we have on our campus right now is the best we've ever had, the most ready to contribute."

"No-brainers," Stoops said of the freshmen, simply too good to keep off the field. "Those guys go on the field and they're electric. They make you more dynamic and more explosive right away."

It didn't take long for Stoops to put his money where his mouth is, listing seven true freshmen on the first depth chart of the season, including two starters in Dane Key and Barion Brown.

In return, the freshmen justified Stoops' early faith with standout play across the board in Kentucky's season-opening victory vs. Miami (OH).

"Some youngsters step up and really flash and show you how athletic they are," Stoops said after the 37-13 win.

It starts with the two freshmen wideouts, Key and Brown, with the two combining for two total scores and 98 receiving yards on seven catches. The former finished second on the team with four catches for 53 yards to go with a one-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter. He converted on all four targets, including a 19-yard grab to take it to the Miami six-yard line on Kentucky's first drive.

"It's what I've seen," Stoops said of Key after the win. "Competitive, tough catches with people

draped on him and that's what we've seen him do."

As for Brown, he added three catches for 45 yards, but broke things open for the Wildcats in the second half with 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown — the highlight of the game.

The standout freshman became the first Kentucky player to score on a kickoff return since Derrick Locke did so against Louisville back in 2009. It's also just the 19th time in program history a player has scored on a kickoff return, with only 15 different players accomplishing the feat. He's the first UK freshman to take one back to the house since Kio Sanford in 1994.

The former high school track star showed off the top-end speed that made him a five-star recruit and a day-one home run threat in Lexington. Literally.

"Man, it felt great knowing that I made a big play to help the offense," he said. "... It just felt great."

The coolest part? Brown called his shot earlier in the week when Kentucky's zero kickoff return touchdowns under Mark Stoops came up in a team meeting.

"We were talking about that Monday. As soon as he said that to me, I looked at my wide receivers coach and we just started laughing," Brown said after the game. "... I knew I was going to do it."

His teammates had faith in him, too.

"I told him it was coming," wide receiver Tayvion Robinson said. "We've been talking about it since Friday in the hotel. I was saying he was going to get one, this is the week to get it. He's a very fast guy, and when he hit the sideline, I knew nobody was going to catch him."

Those are just the offensive playmakers. On defense, true freshmen Alex Afari, Deone Walker and Keaten Wade all stood out as clear difference makers, combining for 13 tackles as backups.

Is it a lot to ask of the newcomers to produce with expanded roles so early? Maybe. Their numbers wouldn't be called, though, if they weren't ready.

"It is (a lot to ask of them)," Stoops said of the talented newcomers on defense. "And they can handle it. And they will and they'll get better. You can see the talent in them. You know, really good players. They'll continue to work, they'll get coached."

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"And getting this kind of action is invaluable for them to get out on the field and play somebody different. You get in the comfort zone when you play the same offense every day because you get used to it."

Afari was second on the team in total tackles with six and led the team in tackles for loss (1.5) and sacks (1.0).

"I just take it play by play and go hard in practice," he said after the win. "(The coaches) have been liking what they've been seeing."

Backing up Octavious Oxendine at defensive tackle, Walker — standing an absurd 6-6, 330 pounds as a true freshman — added four tackles, including three solo.

"I feel like people knew I was here and athletic, but I don't think they knew I was like this," the former four-star recruit said after the game. "I feel like I came out and showed myself."

Wade, backing up J.J. Weaver at outside linebacker, finished with three tackles (two solo) and one pass breakup. His biggest play? A bone-crushing hit on a screen, a perfect read for the native of Spring Hill, TN.

Wade looks the part of a seasoned vet with years of college football experience — until you remember he was suiting up in the first game of his young (and very bright) career.

"We know what the roster was going to look like, especially this week. Knew some young guys were going to have to step up," defensive coordinator Brad White said after the game. "We talked about it going into the game, knew those three especially were going to get a lot of reps. I thought they handled themselves well."

Stoops said before the season this true freshmen class was the best he's brought in since arriving in Lexington back in 2012. The newcomers came out looking to prove him right.

"This '22 class, we knew we had to come in and produce," Walker said.

"We had a lot of young guys make a lot of plays. It felt good to finally play our first game," Afari added "... We were all ready to play when our opportunity came. We're a good class and we wanted to show it in front of everybody."

"It just felt good," Brown said. "From my standpoint, some people said we didn't have the best, this and that. Just to show that we can be the best and we're working to be the best, it feels really good all around."

Mark Stoops ties Bear Bryant's UK football coaching milestone. Why his players had no idea

Brooks Holton
Louisville Courier-Journal
Sept. 4, 2022

During his first nine seasons leading the Kentucky football team, head coach Mark Stoops didn't shy away from enjoying victories.

At first, wins were hard to come by. Now, they're piling up — and redefining expectations.

So, how did the man who once broke a ceiling tile crowd-surfing at Missouri and called into Kentucky Sports Radio to talk about the cigar and bourbon he planned to savor after beating Tennessee in Neyland Stadium for the first time since 1984 celebrate the victory that tied him with Paul "Bear" Bryant for the most by a head coach in UK history? In a manner so unassuming that one player said he and his teammates had no idea anything historic had occurred.

"I'm gonna be honest, I don't think we knew that he did that," junior offensive lineman Eli Cox said after Kentucky defeated Miami (Ohio) 37-13 on Saturday for Stoops' 60th win at the helm. "He didn't mention it to us at any point, and he didn't mention it after the game."

"That's just kinda how he is, you know? This week's over; we're moving on to next week. He's not much for gloating or things like that."

Stoops' record-tying win fittingly came against the same team he beat for victory No. 1 at UK on Sept. 7, 2013. His program, however, couldn't be at a more different place in Year 10 than it was back then.

On Saturday, fans flew flags in the Kroger Field parking lot that proclaimed Kentucky is a "football school," a reference to Stoops' public beef with basketball coach John Calipari that prompted a response from athletics director Mitch Barnhart in August. Those same fans likely walked into the stadium with the expectation that the Wildcats are destined for the postseason after winning the last four of their six consecutive bowl appearances.

Not a bad turnaround for a head coach who inherited a two-year bowl drought that stretched

to five years before he first led UK back to the postseason.

"Coach is so humble he'll deflect all the praise, but he deserves the majority of it," said defensive coordinator Brad White, who joined Stoops' staff prior to Kentucky's 10-win 2018 season.

"I've been lucky. I've been sort of on the uptick, you know?" White added. "I didn't have to be on the ground floor and really grind through some of the tough building-block moments, but it's just a testament to how much he loves this program, how much he loves the kids (and) the coaching staff."

Stoops' milestone was mentioned by a UK Athletics staffer when the head coach sat down for his postgame news conference, but it appeared to be the last thing on his mind. He instead chose to focus on where his team needs to make the most improvement before beginning Southeastern Conference play in Week 2 at Florida, which upset No. 7 Utah on Saturday.

"I don't have any thoughts," Stoops said when asked about tying Bryant's record, which has weathered 11 coaching changes across 69 years. "I want to make it very clear that I absolutely respect (the record) and I'm very appreciative to be here a long time and have the opportunity to win this many games."

The head coach then turned to a bit of self-deprecation to underscore the Wildcats' room for growth.

"You can't put my name in the same (sentence) as Bear Bryant, you know, in the long run," Stoops said. "If I was competing for six national championships, let's talk about that. But I am grateful to win that many games, to be here this long, and we have a long way to go. I'm excited to keep building this program. Really, the focus is on next week. Normally, we talk about enjoying it, you know, but it seems like everybody in there is ready to get to work and get on next week and try to get better. That's not just coach-speak — it's really just kinda how we feel."

So the celebration is on hold, for now. A record-breaking victory in The Swamp next Saturday may be enough to warrant some bourbon and a cigar, but beating the Gators isn't the anomaly it once was for a team that thinks it has a shot at reaching the SEC championship for the first time in program history with Stoops calling the shots.

"We'll try to heap the praise on him," White said, "cause he won't do it on himself."

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How new receivers powered Kentucky football to win over Miami (Ohio)

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Sept. 3, 2022

Wan'Dale Robinson was on the field for the start of the game as a spectator, a reminder that Levis' favorite target a season ago is an NFL rookie now. But it turns out that — in Week 1, at least — Levis-to-Robinson remains a thing.

Tayvion Robinson made waves in his Big Blue Debut, catching six passes for 136 yards in his first game after an offseason transfer from Virginia Tech. Even as the UK offense sputtered in the first half, Robinson was running smoothly, catching five passes for 123 yards before halftime.

With so much youth in the wide receiver room — the other two starters Saturday were freshmen — Tayvion Robinson always was the most likely target to be Levis' early favorite. He played three seasons at Virginia Tech and caught 113 passes for 1,555 yards and nine touchdowns.

Kentucky offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello this week compared Robinson's football IQ to a quarterback's and called him "a fixer," the kind of guy who can solve some problems offensively and help young teammates adjust.

"He's just gonna be that calming guy you can trust," Scangarello said. "He's played a lot of college football. He's tough, he's competitive and he's talented. And we've got to rely on that."

Kentucky leaned on him against the RedHawks — and not just in the passing game. Robinson also had a punt return for 23 yards. Not that it was the standout play by a wide receiver on special teams.

Freshman wideout Barion Brown returned the opening kickoff of the second half 100 yards for a touchdown, the first kick return for a TD by a Wildcat in Mark Stoops' tenure and the first since Derrick Locke scored one against Louisville in 2009.

That return helped change the tenor of a tight game. Kentucky followed by forcing a Miami fumble — knocked loose by Tyrell Ajian and recovered by Keidron Smith — that led to an 8-yard TD pass from Levis to Chauncey Mag-

wood to put UK in front 27-10.

Freshman receiver Dane Key joined in the parade of impactful newcomers, catching a third-quarter touchdown pass from Levis and finishing with four catches for 53 yards.

Kentucky's offensive line issues are fixable

Adam Haste
Sea of Blue
Sept. 5, 2022

The Kentucky Wildcats came away with a 37-13 victory Saturday night to start the season with a 1-0 record.

Despite the win, there was one area that has reason for concern and that is this year's Big Blue Wall.

Under Mark Stoops, the offensive line has been the Cats' strength and has been ranked as one of the best in the country the last several years.

On Saturday, Will Levis was dealing with a lot more pressure than he did a year ago and more than any other QB has dealt with in recent seasons.

Levis was sacked 4 times (3 times on 3rd down) Saturday night, and for comparison, he was sacked on average just over 1 time a game last season.

The difference this season is the lack of experience the line has overall. Eli Cox started last season but wasn't the starting center like he is now. Saturday night also saw two redshirt freshmen, David Wohlabuagh and Jager Burton, get the start at left tackle and left guard.

On the right side, Tashawn Manning and Jeremy Flax have experience, but this is the first time they are consistent starters.

After the game, Cox spoke to the media where he acknowledged that the line didn't play up to the standard of the Big Blue Wall.

"A win is a win. We are not going to apologize for that," Cox stated. "It was a great team win. A lot of guys got to play in some new spots. But I mean obviously that is not the standard with our Big Blue Wall. We've got to earn that title back, and we have to have good preparation and have more snaps under our belts so the group can gel and start to be a cohesive unit."

The issues that we saw on Saturday night aren't an issue of lack of talent, rather it is an issue of lack of previous playing time together as a unit.

"They just haven't played together," Kentucky offensive coordinator Rich Scaganrello said. "Kenneth had played with those guys, so we eased him in last week, and he didn't even really run with the 1s. He just wasn't there yet in football shape. Excited to get him back because he's so important.

"But Jager is showing promise, Tashawn is showing promise, I know Eli gave up a sack on a play where he'll learn from that. The tackles, starting a freshman at left tackle ain't easy. We'll learn from all that, and they'll come together, and I would like to think that we'll only get better from this day forward."

Cox agreed that the issue was a lack of playing time together, but also said the Saturday issues are fixable.

The Cats will have one week to get some of their week 1 issues worked out as they will face their toughest test of the young season with a week 2 road trip to face the Florida Gators.

UK Football Player Shares Comeback Success Story to Teach Lifesaving Skill

Mallory Olson
UK Now
June 15, 2021

The game of football is as much a mental game as it is physical. Remain calm under pressure, stay focused, adapt, be resilient. These are lessons athletes must learn along the way to remain sharp and competitive.

Looking at the University of Kentucky's football team roster, you'll find an example of resilience in No. 68. The 6'3", 300-pound junior offensive guard fights hard every day to stay in the game, after a near career-ending diagnosis the spring before his freshman year.

April 1, 2018: Kenneth Horsey remembers like it was yesterday.

"I was at home in Florida, eating dinner with my family and suddenly, I just started having stomach pains," Horsey said.

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At first, he thought that maybe he had eaten too fast. But it quickly became evident that this was something much worse.

“Next thing you know, I am in the bathroom throwing up, I am in and out of consciousness, and my dad is spraying me down with water,” Horsey said. “The pain continued to grow, and I spiked a fever.”

Horsey’s parents called 911. After a myriad of tests and scans, doctors diagnosed him with endocarditis, a dangerous infection on a heart valve, caused by bacteria. The bacteria produce what is known as a vegetation. Pieces of vegetation can break off and travel elsewhere in the body, potentially causing major issues. In Horsey’s case, a piece of this vegetation had broken off and traveled down to his kidney, causing it to malfunction and creating the sharp, shooting pains that Horsey was feeling.

Two days later, Horsey’s parents, Shari and Ken, made the decision to move forward with open-heart surgery on the mitral valve. At stake was the possibility that the mitral valve would have to be replaced, probably ending Horsey’s football career. However, at surgery, the physicians were able to remove the growth, causing no damage to the mitral valve. They then repaired the sternum with titanium plates.

To this day, Horsey said doctors have not been able to figure out what the growth was, where it came from and why.

“I was just trying to wrap up my senior year, you know?” he said. “I already signed with UK to play football, I had prom in a few weeks, and I was set to graduate the next month. I had to just rely on my faith in God to keep me going, to keep me strong.”

Horsey remained in the hospital for two weeks after his surgery and knew he would need to dedicate himself to cardiac rehabilitation if he ever wanted to play football again. The process was slow and, at times, frustrating.

“I could not lift anything over five pounds for weeks,” he said. “I incrementally worked my way back up, but only to about 25 pounds after eight weeks.”

Before he knew it, the time came for Horsey to head to Lexington to pursue his dream of playing college football.

Reintegrating a college athlete into full strength and conditioning training after injury or illness is a process. For Horsey, it was a long one.

“You can’t just expect him to jump right back into what everyone else is doing,” said Gabe Amponsah, the UK Athletics director of Sports Medicine and head athletic trainer for UK Football. “On top of his cardiovascular condition, you have to remember that he came in as a freshman and he is learning a whole different type of training. The transition from high school to collegiate football training is intense.”

Horsey had to start slow, using the stationary bike to determine his cardiovascular base point. Then, he was able to progress to an elliptical and Stairmaster training before some running after several weeks.

Ensuring an athlete’s safe return to the field after injury or illness is a team effort — not just by UK Football staff and coaches, but by a group of professionals across the UK community.

“Kenneth’s comeback would not have been possible without physicians from UK HealthCare,” Amponsah said. “Not only are they following up with his care, but they have a good understanding of the demands that are being placed on Kenneth as an athlete. They do their best to provide him an avenue to return to doing what he loves — that’s huge.”

Upon Horsey’s arrival to UK, Dr. David Booth, a cardiologist with UK HealthCare’s Gill Heart & Vascular Institute, performed a scan of Horsey’s heart to determine the necessary steps for his follow-up care.

“Kenneth’s mitral valve shows no evidence whatsoever that he went through this,” Booth said. “His sternum has healed completely. We keep up with his echocardiogram to make sure that his valve continues to function normally.”

Horsey has learned when to push through the pain and when to stop. Listening to his body is key, as his offensive line position requires great strain on his chest. Having a plate and screws on his breastbone can be challenging when your main job is to press and push people away, activating your chest muscles.

“He deserves a lot of kudos for his hard work,” Amponsah said. “He had a long road that was not always easy, and he continues to impress us with his perseverance and determination to fight through adversity.”

Horsey was named a Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year in 2020. He says while the physical comeback was challenging, being in the right headspace and staying focused mentally helped his success.

“I know God does not put anything in my life that I can’t handle,” Horsey said. “Throughout this whole deal — from surgery to recovery — I had to remember that God had something bigger in store for my life than my current situation.”

After his health scare, Horsey now uses his platform through UK Athletics to educate others about the importance of heart health. Horsey is teaming up with UK HealthCare, the UK Gill Heart & Vascular Institute, UK Athletics and the American Heart Association to help Kentuckians learn hands-only CPR.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Kentucky, and the Commonwealth has one of the highest rates of heart disease in the country. For many people, heart disease leads to emergent, life-threatening situations, like cardiac arrest. According to the American Heart Association, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in the United States each year, with about 70% happening in homes. When someone has cardiac arrest, the chance of survival goes down by 10% for every minute without CPR, so every second counts. The chances of survival double or even triple if they receive CPR.

Hands-only CPR is easy to learn. Horsey and his teammates recently welcomed a visit from Jacob Stone, director of cardiac rehab at UK HealthCare Gill Heart & Vascular Institute, who taught them how to perform the lifesaving skill.

“It is very simple. We literally learned this in less than five minutes, and not only is it quick and easy, but it can save somebody’s life,” Horsey said. “We are in a time right now where people need to be able to rely on one another. Having that CPR training in your back pocket is an important skill that I am thankful to know.”

It is important to note that performing hands-only CPR on someone who is in cardiac arrest does not increase your risk of transmission of coronavirus. While hands-only CPR is an appropriate technique for adults, breaths are still important for infants and children.

Hands-only CPR involves two simple steps, and anyone can learn it from a 90-second video.

Step 1: If a teen or adult in your home collapses, call 911 immediately.

Step 2: Place one hand on top of the other and push hard and fast on the center of the victim’s chest.

You can join Horsey and the UK HealthCare,

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UK Athletics and American Heart Association team in their quest to train a community of heart-savers. Challenge your friends to join you in learning hands-only CPR through the social media challenge #AHACPRChallenge.

"I have never personally been in a situation where somebody around me has needed CPR, but it is so important that I know how to help, just in case," Horsey said. "Ninety seconds of my time to save a life? Worth it — absolutely."

Kentucky beats Florida: 4 things to know and postgame banter

Nick Wheatley
BVM Sports
Sept 10, 2022

The Kentucky Wildcats beat the Florida Gators in the Swamp on Saturday night by a score of 26-16.

Kentucky appeared to display their weaknesses early on as the offense struggled, but they didn't falter. The defense stood tall and the offensive line grew as the game went on.

Despite multiple scares, the Cats were able to go into the Swamp and grind it out. What a win.

Next up, the Cats will return to Lexington to take on the Youngstown State Penguins on Saturday.

Jordan Wright is back:

What an impact Jordan Wright made in his first game back. After sitting out with a suspension for the same reasons as Chris Rodriguez, Wright made his presence felt.

Wright was presumably important in this game because of his size and athleticism against Anthony Richardson. Well, he played the part perfectly. Not only did Wright have a sack and multiple tackles for loss, but he also intercepted a pass on an incredible play that set up UK to score before the half.

Wright has struggled with injuries throughout his career, so he's always been more potential than production, but he's shown flashes, and he was enormously bright in this one.

Run game still struggling:

Well, it wasn't just a Miami (Ohio) problem. Kentucky's got a serious problem. The problem is no Chris Rodriguez and a weak offensive line.

The hope was that there were some communication issues to begin the year, but it would work itself out. That's not the case. The running back room is low on players and the offensive line is...bad.

Thankfully, Kentucky's line played better in the second half, allowing Kavosiey Smoke and La'Vell Wright to do just enough for Kentucky to win.

Maybe it'll get better once Rodriguez gets back, but what's been a strength for the last five years appears to be a major weakness this season. The Big Blue Wall needs some experience and time to develop before it returns to form.

Dane Key is here:

Has Kentucky ever seen true freshman shine the way they did in a season opener against Miami (Ohio)? Multiple freshmen contributed and stood out, but the real challenge came this week. Who would step up, if anyone?

Dane Key stood up. When the Cats needed someone to step up in the Swamp, of all places, the true freshman showed what he could do on a 55-yard, contested touchdown reception that completely changed the game.

Key showed poise in game one, but he showed his potential NFL ability in game two. What a performance in a time of need.

Contain, contain, contain:

The name of the game against Florida quarterback Anthony Richardson is contain. The return of Jordan Wright was no doubt influential in doing so, but UK didn't let Richardson do anything on the ground.

Richardson and Levis came into this game on even ground in the NFL Draft projections, but Richardson showed he's severely limited. He's an explosive-play type guy and against a Kentucky defense that limits such plays, it wasn't the game for him.

UK ensured that Richardson wouldn't beat them deep or with his legs, so what it came down to was intermediate throws and fundamental plays. The Florida QB flopped.

Three takeaways from Kentucky football's win over the Florida Gators in Gainesville

John Clay
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept. 11, 2022

Three takeaways from Kentucky football's 26-16 victory over the Florida Gators at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Saturday night:

1. GIVE ROMAN HARPER A GAME BALL

The SEC Network analyst not only predicted that Florida would handle Mark Stoops' Wildcats easily in "The Swamp" on Saturday, the former NFL defensive star took it one step further, calling the Cats "soft."

UK recruiting coordinator Vince Marrow heard it — or heard about it — and made sure that everyone in the Joe Craft Football Training Football Facility heard it, too, from Stoops to quarterback Will Levis to everyone else on the Wildcats' roster. "We may be a lot of things," said Stoops on Saturday, "but soft is not one of them."

This game certainly proved that. It's running game struggling in the first half, its offensive line unable to keep a clean pocket for Levis, its special teams uncharacteristically shaky, UK found ways to win. Outside linebacker Jordan Wright, back from a one-game suspension, made a key first half interception. Keidron Smith, the cornerback transfer from Ole Miss, took a second-half interception to the house.

Best of all, the Cats contained Florida's star quarterback Anthony Richardson to a mere four yards on six carries. Forced to try and beat UK with his arm, Richardson was scattershot all night, completing just 14 of 35 passes for 143 yards with two interceptions.

"Hats off to the guys," Brad White said afterward. "They executed so well. There's no magic plan calls. It's just about guts and determination, and they had that." On second thought, give White the game ball.

2. A CHANGE IN KENTUCKY'S RUN GAME HELPED CHANGE THE GAME

Over the first six quarters of the 2022 college football season, Kentucky went from having

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one of the best running games in the country to having no running game. UK managed but 50 net yards on the ground in last week's win over Miami (Ohio). Through the first 30 minutes Saturday, the Cats had managed a net two yards on 15 attempts.

Then something changed in the second half. With some tweaks here and there from new offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello, along with some better execution, the Cats finally began to eat some yardage on the ground over the final 30 minutes.

The final stats of 70 net yards on 38 carries didn't tell the story. When the visitors had to run the football, they were able to run the football.

After a three-and-out on UK's first series of the third quarter, Kavosiey Smoke ripped off a 13-yard run to start the second possession. Two plays later, Chauncey Magwood caught a tipped ball from Levis for a 25-yard gain. Four plays later, Smoke ground out another 13-yard gain that helped set up Matt Ruffolo's 24-yard field goal to tie the game at 16 with 6:35 left in the third quarter.

Then in the fourth quarter, Smoke had an 18-yard run, plus a critical 11-yard run that gave UK a first-and-goal at the Florida 5-yard line with 1:38 left. That forced the Gators to use all three of their timeouts before Ruffolo's chip-shot 26-yard field goal with 1:24 left sealed it.

"We made a few adjustments," Scangarello said afterward. "And more importantly, I felt like the drives that didn't finish the way they could have, but I felt like early on (Florida) was going to try to consume us in the run with their front and they did. So you have to run some play-action, and I think that softens them up. And over time ... they eventually have to be a little more disciplined and when they do, you can be more balanced as a play-caller."

3. KENTUCKY IS CURRENTLY THE BETTER FOOTBALL PROGRAM

Saturday's win marked the first time since 1976-77 that the Wildcats have beaten the Gators in back-to-back years. More than that, UK is now 3-2 over Florida over the past five years. Had a couple of bounces gone UK's way in that 28-27 loss to the Gators in Lexington in 2017 and that 29-21 loss to Florida at Kroger Field in 2019 and Stoops' team would be 5-1 over its SEC East rival in the past six years.

What does this do for the rest of the season? It's early, of course, but Kentucky is now 1-0 in the SEC with a conference road win, to boot. Tennessee is off to a 2-0 start. That game in

Knoxville will be a tough one. And there are no easy SEC games — not South Carolina at home or Ole Miss and Missouri on the road.

Still, Saturday's win was the first step, an important step, toward making that Nov. 19 matchup with Georgia in Lexington mean something.

It was also a confidence boost for a team, that did not play particularly well on offense, but still made the big plays — the 55-yard TD pass from Levis to Dane Key; the Wright interception; the Keidron Smith pick-six — you need in these types of games to win these types of games.

Remember, once upon a time, Kentucky lost 31 straight games to Florida. Times have changed.

Give Brad White's defense the game ball for Kentucky football's huge win at Florida

John Clay
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept. 11, 2022

Of all the Kentucky football comings and goings during a busy offseason, perhaps the most important development was on full display Saturday night in "The Swamp."

"Brad White," said Kentucky offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello after the 20th-ranked Wildcats' 26-16 win over the 12th-ranked Florida Gators, "is one of the best coaches I've been around at any level."

Over the summer, new LSU coach Brian Kelly wanted White, courting the Kentucky DC to make the move to Baton Rouge. Alas, UK head coach Mark Stoops and athletics director Mitch Barnhart stepped to the plate and convinced the 40-year-old White to remain in Lexington, though White would be the first to tell you he didn't need all that much convincing.

Saturday night showed why the man was in such demand as White's defense put the cuffs on Florida's highly touted quarterback, Anthony Richardson, limiting the athletic freak to a net four yards rushing on six attempts. This, it should be noted, was just seven days after Richardson had become the talk of the college football world by ripping then seventh-ranked

Utah for 106 yards on 11 attempts in a 29-26 Florida victory.

Different night, different opponent, different story. With New York Giants general manager Joe Schoen in attendance, Kentucky forced Richardson to win with his arm. The quarterback responded by reverting to his scattershot self, completing just 14 of 35 passes for 143 yards with a pair of interceptions, including a pick that former Ole Miss cornerback Keidron Smith returned 65 yards for a Kentucky touch-down.

"Hats off to the guys," White said when asked about how the Cats contained Richardson. "They executed so well. There's no magic plan calls. It's just about guts and determination, and they had that."

Since the day he stepped on campus, the former Indianapolis Colts assistant has been quietly and consistently going about his business, first developing edge rusher Josh Allen into the No. 7 overall pick in the 2019 draft. When Matt House left for the Kansas City Chiefs in 2019, Stoops promoted White to defensive coordinator. (Kelly ended up hiring House to be his DC at LSU, by the way.)

Under White, Kentucky finished 20th nationally in total defense in 2019, 45th in 2020 and 25th last season. The Cats opened 2022 by allowing a touchdown on Miami of Ohio's initial drive before holding the RedHawks to a pair of field goals in a 37-13 UK win. Florida, however, presented a much tougher challenge.

And White's crew was more than up to the challenge. As the Kentucky offense struggled early to find its footing, the UK defense kept the visitors in the game until outside linebacker Jordan Wright made the interception "that changed the game," White said.

Wright's theft set up a 6-yard touchdown drive that cut Florida's lead to 16-13 with 1:25 left before halftime, and gave Kentucky momentum going into intermission.

Florida failed to score in the second half. After gaining 188 total yards the first half, the Gators were held to 91 the second. They were 0-for-4 on third downs in the fourth quarter and failed to convert a pair of fourth downs deep in UF territory — fourth-and-3 from its town 40; and fourth-and-6 from its own 24 — when head coach Billy Napier rolled the dice in a one-score game.

On a key third-and-5 with approximately five minutes left, UK true freshman defensive lineman Deone Walker broke through to drop Florida running back Nay'Quan Wright for a

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1-yard loss at his own 24. An incomplete pass on fourth down gave the ball back to Kentucky and set up Matt Ruffolo's clinching 24-yard field goal.

"I didn't even see what happened or how he created it," Stoops said of Walker's tackle. "But I saw him in the backfield. He put that big bear hug on him."

Consider this: Florida scored one touchdown all night, and that was on a 34-yard drive set up by a Gators interception.

"Every time (our guys) came to the sideline there was a steely determination and they were ready to go back out there," White said afterward. "I'm just so proud of those guys." Hats off to Brad White.

No. 20 Kentucky shuts down Anthony Richardson, No. 12 Gators

Aaron Gershon
247 Sports
Sept. 11, 2022

Mark Stoops became the winningest coach in Kentucky program history in style Saturday as his No. 20 Wildcats earned a 26-16 victory over the No. 12 Florida Gators at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

"I'm just really proud of our football team, proud of our coaches, the preparation, the improvement that we made between week one and week two," Stoops said postgame.

"You got to be a tough son of a b, to come into this environment. And when and we all understand that. And we know this team is built that way."

Kentucky's defense shut down Florida quarterback Anthony Richardson. After being touted as a potential Heisman finalist for his Week 1 performance against Utah, the Wildcat defense held the Gator quarterback to 14-for-35 passing for 143 yards with two interceptions and no touchdowns and held him to just four yards rushing.

"There the MVPs of the game," UK quarterback Will Levis said of the Kentucky defense post-game., I think Coach White (Brad White) does

such a great job preparing them and taking away the run and the pass. And just kind of making them just think on their toes all game and not really giving them much at all, a couple plays here and there. But that didn't affect them at all. And they came back with great concepts to counter what they were doing to them. But defense deserves all the credit in the world.

"They won this game for us plain and simple."

In total, Kentucky held Florida to just 279 total yards and one touchdown.

The quarterback battle was won by Levis, who threw for 202 yards and a touchdown both on the ground and through the air while posting a 130.3 passing rating in a game that saw NFL scouts fill the press box, including New York Giants general manager Joe Schoen.

"He's a monster man. He's just a tough guy," Stoops said of his quarterback. "And you know, he got took one right on the chin earlier and just got on straight up and didn't miss a beat and has the confidence to hang in there and make plays. And this is a really, again, hostile environment with a really good defense, you know, and that place is loud and gets rocking. And that guy just keeps on playing, throwing the freshmen and throwing other guys and just just making plays.

"And, you know, very, very grateful he's on our football team."

After both teams exchanged punts to open the game, the Gators found the scoreboard first as Adam Mihalek hit a 39-yard field goal to give Florida a 3-0 lead just 4:57 minutes into the game for the lone score of the first quarter.

The game would remain 3-0 until the 11:36 mark in the second quarter, when Kentucky quarterback Levis broke UK out of its slump with a 55-yard touchdown strike to freshman Key to give UK a 7-3 lead.

"It meant something special," Key said of the touchdown grab. "You know, I knew that we just needed to make a play and I just felt like I should take it in my hands to go make that play."

Florida would get three points back on its ensuing drive as Montrell Johnson's 40-yard run set up a 50-yard Mihalek field goal.

With 8:31 left in the half, Florida forced the game's turnover as Brenton Cox hit Levis as he threw and defensive lineman Gervon Dexter was able to make the catch for a Gators interception at the UK 34-yard-line.

Set up in Kentucky territory, Florida finally found the end zone as Trevor Etienne ran in an 11-yard touchdown. The Gators would add a two-point conversion and take a 14-7 lead with 5:49 left until halftime.

After going three and out on its ensuing possession, Kentucky's special teams unit made a critical mistake as long snapper Cade Degraw's snap on a punt attempt sailed over the head of punter Colin Goodfellow who was forced to kick the ball through the back of the UK end zone giving the Gators two points on a safety.

Down 16-7, Kentucky's defense came through as Jordan Wright picked off Richardson and returned it to the Gators' six-yard-line.

"Jordan Wright has made more big plays that maybe he hasn't gotten credit for since he's been here. That's all he does," UK defensive coordinator Brad White said. "And he did it to-night. I mean, that to me that was the play that really changed the game, the interception that set up a short field for the offense so they could score and get their rhythm going. I think there was, you know, Richardson got a little bit rattled after that one."

In his return after a one-game absence, Wright logged six total tackles, two tackles for a loss, a sack, forced a fumble and grabbed the interception to swing momentum.

"Jordan is he's the same person 24/7," UK cornerback Keidron Smith said. "Like he's not going to change like, That is him and you see he's an impact player on that impact play on our defense.

"So I mean, it was his first game back and he did well for us."

UK's offense would take advantage of the turnover as Levis snuck in a one-yard touchdown run, but another botched Degraw snap resulted in the score staying 16-13, which would be the score heading into halftime.

After both teams punted on their opening possessions of the first half, Kentucky's offense moved to the Gators' 36-yard-line after Levis connected with Chauncey Magwood, who hauled in a deflected pass for a 25-yard gain.

Kentucky would drive down to the Gators' six-yard line but was stopped on third down and settled for a Matt Ruffolo 24-yard field goal that tied the game at 16 with 6:35 left in the third quarter.

Momentum would continue to shift in the Wildcats' favor on Florida's ensuing drive as

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Richardson threw an interception to Smith that was returned 65-yards for a touchdown by the UK cornerback to Kentucky a 23-16 lead.

"I read there throughout the week in film study when the back motioned out he was lining up at number one," Smith said. "I knew we're getting a little smash concept with No.2 (Montrell Johnson) running an inside fade and him running a sit-down route at five yards and I was just ready for it. I was waiting on it the whole game.

After turning the Gators over on downs with 8:36 left, Kentucky drove down to the Gators' 20-yard line but failed to score as Ruffolo missed a 38-yard field goal with 6:13 left in the game.

Kentucky's defense would again come through as with 4:02 left in the game, the Gators went for it on fourth down from its own 24-yard-line and Richardson threw incomplete, turning the balls over on downs.

UK would move the ball to the Gators' eight yard-line, where with 1:24 left to play, Ruffolo hit a 26-yard field goal to push Kentucky's lead to 26-16, icing a road victory.

The win at Florida gives Kentucky two straight win over the Gators for the first time since earning wins in 1976 and 1977. UK moves to 2-0 overall on the year and 1-0 in conference play.

"Just looking back to where the program was when Coach Stoops first got here, it's a little thing we talked about after the game, compared to now I mean," Levis said. "Beating them two years in a row is crazy. And that's kind of what's expected now for us. And to do it here in The Swamp, at home last year and away this year. Even the last couple times, I know how much it means to our fans, especially after just not being able to beat them for so long."

Kentucky will be back in action next Saturday as it returns home to Kroger Field for a match-up with FCS foe Youngstown State at noon.

Why Jordan Wright's emphatic return has Kentucky football defense drawing 2018 comparisons

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Sept. 11, 2022

Jordan Wright hoped maybe he'd deflect the ball.

The Kentucky linebacker didn't want Florida to make a momentum-changing play late in the first half of Saturday's game at The Swamp. He'd seen it happen here before.

And so when Wright saw Gators quarterback Anthony Richardson go to make a sidearm throw to a tight end on the right side, the UK senior stuck out a hand and hoped to make something happen.

"When I put my hand out, I was just thinking, like, disrupt this throw or something," Wright said. "And then when it hit my glove, I thought it was gonna fall out, but I squeezed. I said, 'Oooh, I got it! Let me just run.'"

Wright didn't run quite far enough, intercepting Richardson at the Florida 24-yard line and returning it to the the Gators' 6. Still, the Wildcats scored three plays later, making the pick pivotal in No. 20 Kentucky's 26-16 upset of No. 12 Florida.

But even if Wright hadn't made the game-changing play — "top three" in his career, he'd later say — he would have been impactful Saturday.

Kentucky coach Mark Stoops — whose win Saturday was his 61st at UK, surpassing Paul "Bear" Bryant for the school record — had called his team's effort in a season-opening win against Miami (Ohio) "a touch flat" and "a little bit mundane," and Wright, who'd missed the game, is an instant fix for those issues.

Wright was absent from the opener for reasons Stoops has said he's been told he "can't comment on." Sports Illustrated reported Friday the NCAA is conducting a "multiplayer eligibility inquiry" at UK that includes running back Chris Rodriguez, who has not played in the Cats' first two games.

It's unclear if that involves Wright, who said he learned Thursday he would be able to play.

"I knew the storm was gonna pass, so I wasn't too much worried about it," Wright said.

But he was determined to bring energy in his return.

And the spark that had been missing against Miami was evident against the Gators. In addition to the interception, Wright had six tackles with a sack among his two tackles for loss.

His presence "brings joy, but it brings — I don't even know the word for it," cornerback Keidron Smith said. "It's just Jordan."

On Saturday, Wright keyed a defense UK quarterback Will Levis called "the MVPs of the game." It probably won't be the last time that side of the ball anchors a Kentucky win.

Wright is one of three linebackers in the Kentucky rotation — along with Jacquez Jones and DeAndre Square — using the sixth season of eligibility granted by the NCAA to athletes who played through the COVID-19 pandemic. Between the three of them, they've logged 135 games.

The Cats' leading tackler Saturday was J.J. Weaver, a junior linebacker who's played 24 career games.

"They're very steady, and they see a lot of things," Stoops said of his linebacking corps. "So if (a team fools) them once or twice, they can get it corrected. They understand. They understand situational football, and our young guys look to them because they know they have a lot of snaps under their belt."

And though Kentucky doesn't have as much experience elsewhere, its starting defensive line has "plenty of snaps," defensive coordinator Brad White said. The Cats start one corner in Smith who played 45 games at Ole Miss before an offseason transfer to UK and another, Carington Valentine, who's played 21 games.

"We're more experienced than I think maybe people give us credit for," White said.

It showed Saturday in the way Kentucky contained Richardson.

He'd thrown for 168 yards on 17-of-24 passing in Florida's season-opening upset of then-No. 7 Utah and been even more efficient with his feet, carrying 11 times for 106 yards.

But Weaver proclaimed during the week Richardson wouldn't be able to run on Kentucky,

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and he was proven prophetic.

"We stand on what we say," Wright said. "So in our defensive room, you say something, you got to stand on that."

The Cats locked up Richardson not just with a strong performance up front, White said, but by staying connected in the defensive backfield to Florida's receivers, not letting them get loose to create opportunities for Richardson to find them in space — or use the threat of them to take off running.

Richardson carried six times for 4 yards Saturday. He completed 14 of 35 passes for 143 yards without a touchdown. Smith picked off one of those passes and ran it back 65 yards for a touchdown, dodging would-be tackler Richardson en route to the end zone.

It was a read Smith said he made in part because he'd spotted offensive tells in the Florida game tape — another benefit of such an experienced defense.

"I mean, it comes to the point where we don't even need a coach," Smith said. "We've seen so much ball that we're in there ourselves watching film. It makes it easier on the coaches. They just make an adjustment ... and we're able to go out there on the field and get it done right away."

That veteran savvy could prove critical as Kentucky's season continues.

Coaches have drawn some comparisons between this defense and the vaunted 2018 UK unit that sparked a 10-win season and featured the No. 7 pick in the NFL Draft, linebacker Josh Allen.

With Wright helping spark a defense that took a significant step forward even from a solid showing against Miami, that 2018 comparison on Saturday seemed fair.

"No disrespect or nothing, but I feel like we're gonna be way better than them," Wright said. "We've got a lot of vets, and then everybody's just communicating. And then we're more player-led this year."

Dane Key's big-play ability adds new layer to Kentucky offense

Zack Geoghegan
Kentucky Sports Radio
Sept. 11, 2022

Kentucky football hasn't had a player of Dane Key's caliber in a long time. Speedy, 6-foot-3 wide receivers with baseball gloves for hands don't just grow on trees — and they certainly don't choose the Wildcats.

But the Kentucky staff has worked for years to land a prospect like Key. It surely helped that he grew up in Lexington, attended Frederick Douglass, and his dad played for the 'Cats, but Key could have gone almost anywhere in the country to play football. He was a consensus four-star recruit out of high school.

Instead, he decided to stay home, and he's wasted no time showcasing just how important it is to have a wide receiver who can change an entire game with one single route.

Early the second quarter of Kentucky's 26-16 win over Florida on Saturday night, the offense was stalling. The 'Cats trailed 3-0 with little coming from the pass or rush game. When nothing was going right, offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello turned to his budding superstar with one message: go make a play.

"I just felt like it was the time to go make a play," Key said postgame. "We needed a play to get the momentum going and I just took it in my hands to go out there and win our one-on-ones like coach talked about all week."

Key won the most important one-on-one of the entire night. The true freshman caught a 55-yard bomb from QB Will Levis, who placed the ball where only Key could reach high enough to snag. After a quick review, it was ruled Kentucky's first score of the game and the first major momentum shifter in the contest.

"That's a ball we haven't completed in a long time, even in practice, so pretty cool for that to happen," Levis said postgame.

"It's plays like that that we need to make. Because we were struggling," Head coach Mark Stoops said of Key's catch. "That's a good (Florida) defense in this environment, I mean this place was rocking. (Florida is) just coming off a huge win. Heck, we must jump into the top 10 I

guess now right?"

Stoops was joking at the time, but Kentucky did wind up cracking the top 10 in both the AP and Coaches Polls, in large part due to Key's game-altering catch. In his decade as head coach at UK, Stoops hasn't had many — if any — players who could have made the catch Key made Saturday night in The Swamp.

Through two games this season, Key has registered seven catches for 136 yards and two touchdowns. He finished with three receptions, 83 yards, and the highlight touchdown catch against Florida.

"Dane Key is going to be a great player here," Kentucky associate head coach Vince Marrow said on Sunday Morning Sports Talk. "He has great parents. He has great people surrounding him. And the moment was not too big for him. I joked with him yesterday right before kickoff and said all right, don't you be scared and you ain't shaking in your pants. He looked and me like 'coach, you're about to see me make some plays.'"

"And I'm telling you, that catch he made, is one of the big all-time catches I've seen here. And then he made some other good catches but he's blocking well. I mean the kid is a great kid, he's a 3.8 GPA, he's really just a good, all-around young man, and we really got a gem in him."

Key is a superstar in the making just two games into his college career. He knew his team needed a big play in the first half against Florida. Who knows how the game plays out if he doesn't make that catch. But he did, and his legend grows because of it.

"Just make a play, that's all that goes through my mind," Key said. "Make a play."

Mark Stoops passes Bear Bryant on Kentucky Football's all-time wins list

Jack Pilgran
Kentucky Sports Radio
Sept. 10, 2022

Step aside, Bear Bryant. Mark Stoops is now the winningest coach in Kentucky football history.

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With the Wildcats' win at Florida, Stoops has now racked up 61 career wins, pushing him to No. 1 on the school's all-time list. Paul "Bear" Bryant was the school's previous wins leader for almost seven decades with 60 total victories.

Now, the record is Stoops' and Stoops' alone.

"Fortunate. A lot of great players, coaches have been here," the Kentucky head coach said after the win. "To be able to persevere playing in this conference, I'm fortunate."

Stoops now sits at 61-53 overall during his ten years in Lexington.

The Kentucky head coach deservingly received the game ball after the win, presented by Vince Marrow in the locker room.

"Coach Stoops came here in 2013 when this program was on the rocks," Marrow said. "He stayed here, and now he's the all-time winningest coach at UK."

"It's on all the coaches, all the players, it really is," Stoops responded. "I'd say it to you, I'd say it to me: none of us can do this without each other. That's the honest-to-God truth. I love you. We've got something special to prove and do this year."

Build the statue.

Looking back at Mark Stoops' milestone wins en route to a Kentucky football record

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Sept. 12, 2022

A part of Mark Stoops wanted this to work out differently.

It would have been fun for the Kentucky football coach to break Paul "Bear" Bryant's school record for wins at home in Kroger Field with a win Saturday against visiting Youngstown State, Stoops' hometown school.

But Florida came first. And Stoops didn't seem to mind his 20th-ranked Wildcats knocking off

No. 12 Florida at The Swamp on Saturday, giving him 61 career wins at Kentucky, one more than Bryant, the legendary Alabama coach who spent eight seasons in Lexington.

"I'm glad it's here," Stoops said. "I'd like to be at home with my fans and family and friends and all that, but that's OK. There's time for that, and we need this win."

It was a momentous one for Stoops in more ways than one.

He's consistently downplayed the significance of passing Bryant's Kentucky win total. The Bear won 71% of his games at UK — Stoops is at 53.5% — and racked up 232 wins at Alabama. Stoops has never been comfortable with the comparison.

But even setting Bryant aside, it's a meaningful achievement in UK history and a testament to Stoops' accomplishment and longevity in Lexington.

Beyond that, it was a third win against Florida in five tries, a stunning success given Stoops' first win against the Gators, in 2018, snapped a 31-game UK losing streak in the series.

Florida turns up a lot in a list of Stoops' most meaningful wins at Kentucky. Here's a look at some of the milestone victories for the Wildcats' wins leader:

Sept. 7, 2013: Kentucky 41, Miami (Ohio) 7:

Stoops took over a program in decline, and though he immediately made recruiting waves, his first career coaching victory was one of only two he managed in that first season.

Maxwell Smith and Jalen Whitlow split the snaps at quarterback. Junior Bud Dupree — making the move from linebacker to rush end — led the defense with seven tackles.

This year's season-opening win also came against Miami, giving Stoops 60 career wins at UK to tie Bryant. He hadn't realized the parallel entering game week, he said.

"It does seem like a long time ago," Stoops said. "But, grateful. You know, year 10. That was a long time ago. A much different team."

Sept. 27, 2014; Kentucky 17, Vanderbilt 7:

It took until Stoops' second season to get his first SEC win, and it wasn't always easy to watch. The Cats controlled the game statistically but couldn't put it away until the closing quarter.

"That was a thing of beauty," Stoops said afterward.

He was joking, but it probably felt pretty sweet from his seat. The win snapped a 17-game conference losing streak for UK and improved Stoops to 1-9 against the league.

Sept. 26, 2015: Kentucky 21, Missouri 13:

Stoops' 10th career win also was his first against a ranked opponent. The Tigers entered the game ranked 25th.

Like the Vanderbilt win a season before, the game snapped a streak — UK had lost 18 straight against ranked opponents — and established a sort of trend of the Stoops tenure. The Wildcats had their sights set on reversing historic trends, proving they weren't the same old Kentucky.

"It's just gratifying to win a game like that against such a quality opponent," Stoops said. "There's good and bad that happens, but you have to be able to overcome it and make the plays to win the game. We're really starting to grow."

Nov. 26, 2016: Kentucky 41, Louisville 38:

This was more than an ordinary rivalry win. The 11th-ranked Cardinals had won five straight in the series and boasted QB Lamar Jackson, who was less than a month away from being awarded the Heisman Trophy.

But UK quarterback Stephen Johnson spoiled what was supposed to be Louisville's 10th win of the season. The Cardinals had been favored by 28 points. Austin MacGinnis put UK ahead for good via a 47-yard field goal with 12 seconds to play.

"I had great confidence in him," Stoops said. "I was numb. I just wanted to finish it."

He meant the game, but he could have been talking about the U of L streak. The upset shifted the series in Stoops' favor. Though Louisville would bounce back to win in 2017, Kentucky has won three straight in the rivalry by a combined 109 points.

Oct. 28, 2017: Kentucky 29, Tennessee 26:

Over the years, the Volunteers have haunted many a UK football coach. Tennessee won 26 straight in the series from 1985-2010 and had beaten the Cats five times in a row entering the 2017 game.

More: 3 takeaways: Kentucky football defense silences Anthony Richardson, No. 12 Florida

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Stoops is 2-7 against the Volunteers. But the first win established a piece of UK's identity in his best years. UK turned to its power running game, riding Benny Snell's 180 yards and three touchdowns on the ground to the victory.

"I think it was real important to get that identity," Stoops said. "You hear me talk about it, and I think our players really had a strong mindset that we were going to be efficient at running and throwing."

Sept. 8, 2018: Kentucky 27, Florida 16:

Joker Phillips snapped that Tennessee streak to keep it from looming over Stoops, but nobody had done him the favor versus Florida, and for Stoops' first five seasons, the mounting losses to the Gators were a talking point every fall.

Stoops' teams had come close before, losing 36-30 in overtime in 2014, 14-9 in Lexington a year later, and 28-27 in 2017, surrendering two touchdowns in the final 8 minutes to blow a 27-14 lead.

A year later, Kentucky sprang an upset at The Swamp. The Florida media relations staff had included a page in its notes package putting perspective on the Gators' 31 straight wins against the Wildcats, referencing the cost of Apple stock shares (63 cents) and the nation's No. 1 movie at the box office, "Top Gun" — the first one — the week UK last won a game in the series.

"We know how we can play with just about anybody in this league and that is gratifying because we don't have to deal with that no more," Stoops said. "So, they can get all that updated. The game notes and all that updated real quick."

Jan. 1, 2019: Kentucky 27, Penn State 24:

Even as he built the Wildcats back to prominence, postseason success had eluded Stoops. But after missing out in his first three seasons and losing in the TaxSlayer and Music City bowls, respectively, to end the 2016 and 2017 seasons, he finally got his bowl-game breakout in the Citrus Bowl.

It capped his finest season as the Kentucky coach, a 10-3 campaign that marked UK's first double-digit-winning year since Fran Curci's Cats went 10-1 in 1977.

The 16th-ranked Wildcats went toe-to-toe with No. 13 Penn State, never trailing and holding off a Nittany Lions rally late.

"We had a great belief in our locker room," Stoops said. "We didn't have to do anything special, just be us. I was so proud of this team."

Dec. 5, 2020: Kentucky 41, South Carolina 18:

The Cats capped a strange regular season — a 10-game, all-SEC slate, the result of COVID-19-impacted scheduling — with a fifth win.

It had been an understandable step back for the program, but the oddity of the season kept some momentum alive. UK went to a bowl despite a 4-6 regular season and beat No. 24 N.C. State in the Gator Bowl.

But the South Carolina game had set up what was to come for Stoops. Before he could ultimately pass Bryant, he had to pass Curci, the second-leading winner in UK coaching history.

He did it with the win against the Gamecocks, Stoops' 47th at UK.

Oct. 2, 2021: Kentucky 20, Florida 13:

Stoops' second win against the Gators was his first against a top-10 opponent. The Gators entered the game in Lexington ranked 10th, the Wildcats unranked — though they'd vault to No. 16 after the win.

It was UK's first win over Florida in Lexington since 1986.

"It was beautiful in so many ways," Stoops said. "Just shows the character of this football team and the resiliency they have, the toughness. Things like that aren't easy. It hasn't happened in a while because it's not easy."

Sept. 10, 2022: Kentucky 26, Florida 16:

In the days leading up to his record-setting win, Stoops had downplayed the significance of a comment by SEC Network analyst Roman Harper, who said the Cats had looked "a little softer" in their season-opening win over Miami.

But UK players made it clear they'd been made aware of the slight, and cornerback Keidron Smith said Stoops "did not like that at all."

"One thing we're not is soft," Stoops said after the game. "I think you could all understand that. We may be a lot of things, but we're not that."

Stoops became Kentucky's winningest coach in part by building his program on toughness, a rugged running game, and physical defense. And he's been known to bristle at public comments.

"We wanted to get Coach Stoops his all-time victory win; that was a big motivating factor for us," said quarterback Will Levis. "The only

thing I took from the media this week was people calling us soft, which none of us can really take and believe in. That's one thing I definitely did hear about and use as motivation."

Mark Stoops brought toughness to Kentucky football. Youngstown taught him how

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Sept 15, 2022

There was a little leftover talent, but it hadn't been enough to keep the team from going 2-10 the year before. The facilities didn't compare to the competition — and they were falling further behind.

And the block was bustling with bullies, SEC powerhouses where football, frankly, just meant more.

Those were the circumstances of Mark Stoops' arrival to coach the Kentucky football program a decade ago. The Wildcats had fallen behind, and Stoops had a fight ahead.

But he could handle a fight.

Youngstown taught him that.

That was win No. 61, pushing Stoops past Paul "Bear" Bryant to become the school's all-time win king.

It's fitting that the first game of his reign will come against Youngstown State, a program from the Ohio football hotbed where the Stoops family learned the game — and how not to back down from a fight.

"Growing up in Youngstown has much to do with the identity of myself and anybody that comes from there," Stoops said this week. "It's a very unique place, great pride coming from that area, and a toughness. It's the Rust Belt, blue-collar, steel-mill town."

And the DNA of that place is all over Stoops' UK rebuild. His approach, assistant coach Vince Marrow said, is "totally" a product of their shared hometown.

"We don't back down from nobody," Marrow said. That Youngstown-tough attitude has served

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Stoops well as he's built the Kentucky football program, from a two-game winner his first season to 10-win seasons in 2018 and 2021. Since starting 12-26, he's gone 49-27.

Stoops' current team is ranked No. 9 in The Associated Press Top 25, the first time since 2007 that UK has cracked the top 10.

It's a testament to Mark Stoops' leadership, brother Bob Stoops said, that he could overcome those lean early years, that he could make do with the facilities he had and recruit players who fit his system.

The odds were against him. Kentucky hadn't managed a 10-win season or finished above .500 in the SEC since 1977. It was a chore.

But Mark Stoops grew up in a hometown, and in a home, where hard work was a way of life. His father, the late Ron Stoops Sr., was the long-time defensive coordinator at Cardinal Mooney High School. Mark was the youngest of six siblings — four boys, two girls — who Ron and Dee Stoops raised to appreciate what they had, even if it wasn't much.

"I had no idea what I had and didn't have," Mark Stoops said.

But he knew how to work and how to compete. The town taught him that.

"The importance of football in the area was bred into us," Bob Stoops told The Courier Journal. "It's just part of us. The area breeds that competitiveness, that toughness that I think helps you as a coach."

Bob won 79.9% of his games and a national championship in 19 seasons at Oklahoma. Mike, now coaching inside linebackers at Kentucky, is a former defensive coordinator at OU and a onetime head coach at Arizona. Ron Jr., like his father, was defensive coordinator at Cardinal Mooney before going on to coach special teams at Youngstown State. He retired in 2019 after 40 years of coaching.

With the Penguins in town this weekend, "hundreds" from Youngstown will make the trip to Lexington, Mark Stoops said. They're not all his guests. Marrow and player development director Courtney Love — a former UK linebacker who played at Cardinal Mooney — will have visitors too.

"It's going to be really big for Youngstown State and for my community and so many people I know," Stoops said.

Many are coming solely to salute him. And he'll probably hate the attention.

'He just keeps his head down and goes'

Kentucky Wildcats head coach Mark Stoops is doused with Gatorade after defeating the against the Penn State Nittany Lions in the 2019 Citrus Bowl at Camping World Stadium on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, in Orlando, Florida. Mark Stoops has all but bristled at questions about the record he broke last weekend, downplaying any comparison between him and Bear Bryant, whose time at Kentucky is a career footnote compared to the epic success at Alabama for which he's best known.

"He's like, 'Man, I don't even want my name in the same breath as Bear Bryant,'" Marrow said. "But I said, 'Listen, when we took over, it took a Bear Bryant to probably do that.'"

Marrow remembers the first game of the Mark Stoops Era, a loss in Nashville to Western Kentucky. It's almost poetic when he recalls in rhyme "the early pains of losing games and then, starting to win."

Mark Stoops' persistence through that — "He just keeps his head down and goes," Marrow said — is worth celebrating. And this weekend, his family and friends intend to do just that.

Ron Stoops Sr. died in 1988 of a heart attack, just after coaching in a Cardinal Mooney game. But Dee Stoops is following football still. She plans to be in Lexington for the weekend with her sons.

"Everybody knows the youngest is always the parents' favorite," Bob Stoops said. "So we're all elated that our mother's able to come down and experience it all and to see him in that atmosphere. It's fantastic."

Odds are, the out-of-towners at Kroger Field on Saturday will watch Mark Stoops notch Kentucky win No. 62.

Youngstown State is "tough," Mark Stoops said; they're "not gonna be intimidated." Like the Kentucky coach, they reflect a town with hard edges. But the Penguins are heavy underdogs, an FCS David battling an SEC Goliath.

Still, it feels like football fate, Youngstown State trekking to Lexington a week after Stoops becomes Kentucky's all-time wins leader.

Folks would have flocked south regardless, but to spend a weekend celebrating Mark Stoops' achievement "is awesome," Bob Stoops said, for the friends and family from a place so much a part of his record-breaking success.

"The people that's coming here this week, that's family," Marrow said. "We'd rather break it on

Florida than break it on them."

Defense dominates, passing game erupts in Kentucky's shutout win

Adam Luckett
Kentucky Sports Radio
Sept. 17, 2022

The result was never in doubt between Kentucky and Youngstown State on Saturday afternoon at Kroger Field. But there was some sloppy football played by the Big Blue in Week 3.

The passing game and the defense flexed their muscles in the 31-0 victory, but turnovers and a slow start kept the offense from having a monster performance. KSR is live from the press box to provide some instant takeaways as Kentucky is now 15-3 in its last 18 games. Will Levis post big numbers

For the second time this season, Will Levis powered the offense with an impressive passing performance. The redshirt senior was dialed in from the start and flashed some of the athletic traits that make him such a tantalizing prospect.

Levis threw for 377 yards in the blowout win on 35 passes averaging 10.8 yards per attempt. The leader of Kentucky's passing offense posted a high success rate (62.9%) and connected on eight completions of 15-plus yards. Levis got off to another very fast start completing 12 of his first 13 passes as he looked to be in total control.

However, it wasn't all smooth sailing for QB1.

On the offense's third possession, Levis attempted to thread the needle to Barion Brown and ended a red zone possession with an interception. Holding a 28-0 lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter, a ball sailed on the quarterback over the middle of the field ending a scoring opportunity with an interception.

Taking care of the football was a big emphasis in the offseason for Levis, and the Penn State transfer has now thrown five interceptions in his last four games dating back to last season. Meanwhile, the quarterback took some

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avoidable sacks as the offense allowed four and has given up 11 through three games this season. Levis currently has a very high sack rate (10.8%) through four games.

There are many things to clean up, but the quarterback is producing a high level of efficiency (54.9% success rate) and is creating a lot of big plays (9.7 yards per attempt). Now the offense just needs to eliminate all of the havoc plays defenses are producing with the pass rush.

Defense makes another statement

Kentucky's defense entered Saturday having not recorded a shutout since 2009. We're in year 10 of the Mark Stoops era, and the Cats had yet to post a donut on the scoreboard.

That changed on Saturday afternoon.

Kentucky limited an explosive Youngstown State offense to a low success rate (20%) as the Penguins produced only three plays of 20-plus yards on 45 snaps. The defense logged a high havoc rate (31.1%) led by a strong pass defense that created seven pass breakups.

On the ground, All-American tailback Jaleel McLaughlin was limited to 36 yards on 10 rushes as the Penguins averaged 4.3 yards per play. Backed up, Kentucky allowed zero points on three second-half scoring opportunities for the Penguins highlighted by a huge red zone interception on a great effort play from Carington Valentine.

Since the first possession of the season that saw Miami (Ohio) march 75 yards, no offense has put together a long TD drive against the Cats. The defense has only allowed two touchdowns total through 12 quarters of football.

Defensive coordinator Brad White has a dominant unit.

Now we wait on J.J. Weaver's status

It wasn't all great news for Kentucky's defense. On the first possession of the game, Kentucky lost the redshirt junior J.J. Weaver on what appeared to be a left elbow injury. That would be a significant loss.

The Louisville (Ky.) Moore product was outstanding in last week's win against Florida. The Cats have a real schematic advantage against offenses as the versatility of Weaver and Jordan Wright allows the defense to play with size but not give up a ton of athletic ability.

A sustained absence for Weaver would lower the ceiling for the defense. Mark Stoops does not believe the former four-star recruit will be

out for the season but the status of the injury is currently unknown. Kentucky needs No. 13 back as soon as possible.

Negative plays torpedo run game

Kentucky did have some promising results in the traditional run game on Saturday. Kavosiey Smoke and La'Vell Wright combined to record a solid 47.8 percent success rate on 23 attempts but the negative plays eliminated nearly all of the progress.

Smoke recorded five carries for negative yardage as the bad plays ruined what could have been a solid rushing performance. For the game, Kentucky posted 129 non-sack rush yards on 32 attempts but the numbers should have been much higher.

Youngstown State recorded 10 tackles for loss in 71 snaps as the Big Blue Wall had a lot of issues in limiting penetration without starting right guard Tashawn Manning. There is still a lot to clean up before the Cats host Northern Illinois next week.

Lost turnover battle

After struggling with turnover margin last season, Kentucky had done a good job through eight quarters. The Cats won the battle (+1) against Florida after recording two interceptions and played Miami (Ohio) to a draw.

Against Youngstown State, the Cats lost the turnover battle (-2) for the first time this season.

Two interceptions by Levis ended scoring opportunities without points, and a fumble by Wright gave YSU great field position on a Middle 8 possession. Luckily, Kentucky's defense was there to save the day.

The three turnovers took away a potential 14-21 points as a blowout was kept closer longer than it should've been on Saturday.

Dane Key tied a Kentucky Football freshman record today

Tyler Thompson
Kentucky Sports Radio
Sept. 17, 2022

Not to sound like Ryan Lemond, but that Dane Key is pretty special. Today, the former Frederick Douglass star had a season-high six catches for 90 yards vs. Youngstown State, including a three-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

Not to sound like Ryan Lemond, but that Dane Key is pretty special. Today, the former Frederick Douglass star had a season-high six catches for 90 yards vs. Youngstown State, including a three-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

"It's a great feeling but we didn't play how we wanted to today so there's a lot to come back and work on," Key said. "We really started off slow today. We just need to come out with the intensity like we come out with in practice when we're playing our defense like we do in practices and just come ready to play from the first quarter, the first whistle to the last whistle."

All that aside, Key did admit it was pretty cool to brush the history books in only his third game as a Wildcat.

"Just coming in, I just really wanted to play a role on the team and come out and just make plays when my number's called. And I just feel like it's pretty cool to be one of the first freshmen but I'm just doing what I can do to help the team to win.

A big day for Kentucky's wide receivers

Thanks to almost 400 passing yards from Will Levis, ten Kentucky receivers had catches today, the most since the win over Vanderbilt in 2020. Key was eager to praise his teammates, particularly Chris Lewis, whose first career reception ended up being his first career touchdown, a two-yard pass from Levis to put the Cats up 21-0 in the second quarter.

"I loved seeing everybody in the room get involved because we're so close in the receiving room that it's just great when somebody else goes and makes a play. When [Chris Lewis] made his touchdown, you could see all the receivers on the sideline just excited for him because he got his touchdown."

Kentucky football has matched its best ranking since 1977 season after shutout win

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept 18, 2022

Kentucky football's first shutout win since 2009 was enough to move the Wildcats up one spot in the Associated Press Top 25.

Despite the eight teams previously ranked ahead of the Wildcats also winning Saturday in blowout fashion, Kentucky leapfrogged Oklahoma State to move from No. 9 to No. 8 in the new poll released Sunday, one day after its 31-0 win over FCS Youngstown State. Oklahoma State fell behind Kentucky after a 63-7 win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

Kentucky moved up from No. 10 to No. 9 in the new USA Today Coaches Poll thanks to Michigan State's loss to unranked Washington. The Spartans fell from No. 9 to No. 21 in that poll.

Kentucky is the third highest-ranked Southeastern Conference team in the AP poll behind No. 1 Georgia and No. 2 Alabama. No. 10 Arkansas, No. 11 Tennessee, No. 16 Ole Miss, No. 20 Florida and No. 23 Texas A&M are the other SEC teams in the poll. Kentucky must still play Georgia, Tennessee and Ole Miss from that group.

The No. 8 ranking in the AP poll ties UK's high water mark in that poll in 2007, when the Wildcats were twice ranked eighth. The last time Kentucky was ranked higher than No. 8 in the AP poll was when it was slotted at No. 6 in the 1977 postseason poll. The 1977 season also was the last time the Wildcats were ranked in the top 10 for more than two weeks.

Kentucky's depth in the WR room continues to grow

Zack Geoghegan
Kentucky Sports Radio
Sept 18, 2022

Kentucky has a stable of wide receivers that is arguably more talented than anything the Big Blue Nation has seen in decades. Virginia Tech transfer Tayvion Robinson has quickly filled the gap left in the wake of Wan'Dale Robinson's departure for the NFL while freshmen Dane Key and Barion Brown are more than living up to their four-star hype.

But it's not just those three pass catchers making serious noise on offense. QB Will Levis has seemingly endless options surrounding him.

During Kentucky's 31-0 shutout win over Youngstown State on Saturday, offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello made sure to get the bulk of his wide receiver room on the field at some point. Redshirt freshman Dekel Crowder recorded his first-ever reception as a Wildcat, finishing the afternoon with a pair of catches for 17 yards. Fellow redshirt freshman Chris Lewis hauled in his first career touchdown off a two-yard fade near the goal line.

"It was cool to see Dekel play," Scangarello said postgame. "We got a lot of guys and we're trying to get them all involved, trying to call a game and let them all play a little bit. But along the way we got to tighten the ship up. Those are the challenges with those, but I thought Dekel made a couple of nice plays. I like this demeanor on the field today. I thought he was really locked in. I thought he had a good week of practice. Dekel earned the right to play by practicing well for two weeks. That's the deal. There's great competition, and you do things right, we're gonna reward you the right way."

"I noticed Dekel, we got him in there, got him going," Mark Stoops added. "He's a guy that we still feel can really help us soon, help us this year. He's got that — he's got that juice that I talk about, that speed. And so it was good to get him some reps. And, of course, Dane and Barion continue to do good. Christian (Lewis) is a guy we feel like could definitely help us. And, of course, Tayvion, as well. So good to get him some touches again today."

In an unusual twist under head coach Mark Stoops, Kentucky has multiple weapons on the outside who can all make plays in their own right. Through three games in the 2022 season,

13 'Cats have hauled in a catch from Levis, including 11 of them with at least two receptions. Key and Robinson are tied with 13 catches apiece while Brown isn't far behind with nine. The tight ends are becoming more and more involved, too.

"I love seeing everyone in the room getting involved," Key said after the win. "We're so close in the receiver room it's great when somebody else goes makes a play. When C-Lew (Chris Lewis) made his touchdown you could see all the other receivers on the sideline just excited for him because he got his touchdown."

With a weakened running game to begin the season, Kentucky has needed additional help from the wide receivers in the worst way. Luckily, there is plenty of budding talent to go around.

Kentucky football's shutout win displays how secondary has gone from worry to strength

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept. 18, 2022

Kentucky football quarterback Will Levis noticed something was different only a couple days into the Wildcats' preseason camp.

A year ago in his first season at UK, Levis made it through the entire camp without throwing an interception. But this year, despite his soaring NFL Draft stock, Levis was picked off by Kentucky defenders twice in the first week.

"I was like, is it me?" Levis said with a laugh after Kentucky's 31-0 shutout of Youngstown State on Saturday. "They've got some really good players."

Few positions on the roster faced more questions than Kentucky's secondary after spring practice. UK coaches did not shy away from the concern, either, boosting depth with the addition of three transfers this summer.

The same early impression those defensive backs made on Levis in camp was apparent to the coaching staff, too, who quickly began speaking of the secondary in the same glowing

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terms it did two years ago when NFL Draft picks Brandin Echols and Kelvin Joseph started at cornerback for the Wildcats.

Chief among the reasons for optimism at that position was junior cornerback Carrington Valentine.

Valentine started 12 of 13 games a year ago but took on much of the criticism for a defense that ranked 53rd nationally in passing yards allowed per game (218.6) and 80th in interceptions (nine). The secondary came under particular fire during a three-game losing streak that saw Georgia, Mississippi State and Tennessee combine for 910 total passing yards. Those three teams completed 82.3% of their passes against Kentucky.

"I feel like every year we have doubts," Valentine said Saturday. "It kind of comes and goes, and we're still looking to strive. So we hear the media, but we don't really take it personally. We keep in the back of our head that every year we lose someone to the draft, or they have doubts about us.

"But at the end of the day, you just got to go out there and play."

Valentine accomplished that goal and more against Youngstown State.

After surrendering a 27-yard reception to former UK teammate Bryce Oliver on Youngstown State's first play of the second half, Valentine rallied for two pass breakups on the drive. The second came in the end zone when Oliver appeared to catch a touchdown before Valentine ripped the ball out of his hands as he was falling to the ground.

The Penguins' best scoring opportunity came on their next drive when a 64-yard catch-and-run on a screen pass set up a red-zone opportunity. A pass interference penalty against Valentine gave Youngstown State first-and-goal at the 2-yard line, but this time he answered by tipping a pass into the air and then caught it in the end zone for his first career interception.

"I think it's kind of who he is," Kentucky Coach Mark Stoops said. "He's a super competitive guy. Just really tough. ... Gave up that one shot. But a great one in response, comes right back. And he did that."

Valentine's improvements could give Kentucky the lockdown corner Stoops' best defenses have boasted, but he is not the only Wildcats defensive back to make an impact this season.

At Florida, Ole Miss transfer Keidron Smith returned an interception for a go-ahead

touchdown. Smith appeared to grab his second interception against Youngstown State, but the play was ruled an incomplete pass on the field and officials did not find enough evidence on review to change the call.

Five UK defensive backs have tallied at least 10 tackles through the first three games. Even after losing starting free safety Jalen Geiger to what is expected to be a season-ending injury, the secondary did not miss a beat Saturday with redshirt freshman Jordan Lovett and Texas State transfer Zion Childress taking on larger roles. Freshman nickelback Alex Afari led the Wildcats with five tackles against Youngstown State, including a tackle for loss.

Kentucky was one of 15 teams yet to surrender a passing touchdown entering the weekend. That streak continued for the Wildcats as they recorded their first shutout since the 2009 season opener.

"We're a work in progress, but we've talked about it a lot," defensive coordinator Brad White said. "We've got a standard that we've set for ourselves and whoever is in the game has to meet it."

The challenge will get tougher for Kentucky's defensive backs in the coming weeks when dynamic passing offenses like Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Tennessee and Georgia are the opposition, but it is impossible to argue with the early results. Facing a Kentucky offense with an NFL quarterback and improved receiver play throughout camp should help in those matchups.

Valentine credited the natural maturation process that has helped him dwell less on mistakes and accept receivers will catch some passes as key in his growth. With that lesson, he has taken on a larger leadership role to help bring his younger teammates along, as well.

Continue on that path, and one of Kentucky's biggest offseason questions might turn out to actually be one of its biggest strengths.

"Coach White does a really good job with scheme and putting a lot of the offense to think about a couple different things they could possibly throw at them," Levis said. "They handle it really, really well. We've got some great young guys, great vets, good balance and just some elite playmakers."

'That's a different cat right there.' Meet the UK freshman lineman already turning heads.

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept. 22, 2022

Anyone who was surprised when Kentucky football freshman defensive tackle Deone Walker threw a Florida offensive lineman to the side and swallowed a Gators running back in the backfield late in the fourth quarter to help the Wildcats clinch a win in Gainesville was not paying attention during preseason camp.

"That's a different cat right there," super senior linebacker Jacquez Jones said of Walker after one scrimmage. "... He's special. Nobody that big should be moving like that." Perhaps it's the visual juxtaposition of a 6-foot-6, 330-pound lineman wearing No. 0 on his jersey, but there is something about the Wildcats' behemoth that is impossible to miss on the field.

A four-star prospect in Kentucky's much-hyped 2022 signing class, Walker arrived on campus at a position where freshmen typically struggle to make an early impact in the Southeastern Conference. The fact that Kentucky's defensive line rotation was already loaded with former four-star prospects with multiple years of college experience made it easy to overlook Walker in the projections of which freshmen might play key roles this season. But when seen in person, Walker is impossible to overlook.

"He's been told he needs to be an impact player," said Marvin Rushing, Walker's former coach at Cass Tech High School in Detroit. "Kentucky told him that they were bringing him to be an impact player. Day one opportunity to play and compete for a starting job. They looked at him to help take this team to the next level, along with the pieces they already had in place."

Walker has backed up his preseason hype with nine tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss and one pass breakup through three games.

In his first career start last week against Youngstown State, Walker tallied three tackles, one-half tackle for loss and one pass breakup, but it was the week before at Florida where Walker announced his presence to the college

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football world. With Kentucky nursing a 23-16 lead and having just missed a 38-yard field goal that could have clinched the victory, the Wildcats' defense forced Florida into a third-and-5 play. Given the time and score, it was a likely four-down scenario where the Gators would use two plays to gain the 5 yards. Walker had different plans though as he powered by Florida center Kingsley Eguakun to meet running back Nay'Quan Wright shortly after he was handed the ball. Any hope of eluding the tackle was quickly diminished as Walker threw Wright to the ground for a 1-yard loss before any other Kentucky defenders could even reach the play.

Instead of an incremental gain toward the first down, Florida had moved backward. A fourth-down stop from the Kentucky defense followed, setting up the possession in which the Wildcats converted the game-clinching field goal. "A lot of it is natural ability," UK defensive coordinator Brad White said of Walker's eye-popping tackle for loss. "But also understanding sort of the structure of our defense and what has to get done from that essential stunt movement we were running at that point. He did a great job of executing, and then the physicality sort of took over in violently shedding a really talented offensive lineman and making a play on a really good back.

"That's a really good play that we need to build off of, and we need more of those throughout the season. Hopefully we'll see them." Rushing has no doubts more plays like that are coming from Walker. His older Kentucky teammates agree.

Super senior linebacker DeAndre Square, a fellow Cass Tech graduate, was impressed with Walker's attitude after he arrived on campus. Despite recruiting hype large enough to match his massive frame, the freshman did not act like anything had already been given to him.

That same work ethic stood out to junior center Eli Cox, who lined up against Walker often in preseason practices. "Deone is young and he's raw, but he's very physically gifted," Cox said. "He's very tall, but he plays with a lot of length. He plays with good explosion and strength for a young guy. Just something he'll be able to provide a great look for us on offense because he's built like every other SEC defensive lineman we see every day." Walker is far from a finished product, too. "Physically, he's probably more developed than most freshmen d-linemen would be at this point," White said. "I think he works hard at it. Mentally, he's in a good spot, but he's still a freshman."

Kentucky Coach Mark Stoops said Walker's play dipped late in his college debut against Miami (Ohio) as the physical toll of playing a

full college game took effect. There is still work to do on the fundamentals of pass rushing, too. Brute strength alone will not be enough to win one-on-one matchups against SEC linemen who are almost as big as Walker. Walker played offense and defense for Cass Tech, but White was quick to note playing both ways in high school is still less physically taxing than playing a whole game on defense in the SEC. Rushing noticed smaller opponents shying away from contact with the massive Walker at times in high school. He cautioned that players as large as Walker are often told to take it easy on smaller teammates in practice and smaller opponents in games at lower levels of football.

Now that he can pick on players his own size, Walker must master the amount of preparation it takes to ready his body for that physical toll each week. "I really just learned if I go north nobody can stop me," Walker said. "I've got to cool down and let the game slow down for me."

An introvert by nature, Walker does not seem to have much trouble flipping the switch from mild-mannered off the field to violent on it. Rushing was impressed by the leadership role Walker took on as a senior at Cass Tech, going out of his way to help teammates who did not share his physical tools prepare to play despite his quiet nature. Kentucky does not need Walker to lead in a defensive line room with more experienced players, but it does need him to make rapid progress in his own game for the more difficult SEC tests that lie ahead. Rushing estimates Walker has already shed close to 30 pounds from his playing weight in high school, and predicts after a full year in a college strength program Walker will even more closely resemble the type of defensive linemen selected on the first day of the NFL Draft. Walker's former coach is clear that is his pupil's ceiling.

Expectations are high. The future is bright. But as evidenced by the play at Florida, even a raw version of Walker is a significant weapon for a veteran Kentucky defense. "Deone is a freak in terms of his agility, quick twitch," Rushing said. "... As athletic as I've probably had as an offensive and defensive lineman. The stuff he does comes naturally. I just know they're going to get the best out of him. "So, I'm not surprised that he's starting, I'm not surprised that he's having this level of success. It's what we've told him. I see him as a Sunday player. We saw him being a huge impact player at the collegiate level."

What's in a name? Kentucky football players aim to be college sports' next great Jordan.

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept. 22, 2022

Walk into the Kentucky football locker room and ask for Jordan and you will need to be a little more specific.

The elder statesman is Jordan Wright, a team captain and super senior outside linebacker. Redshirt freshman safety Jordan Lovett ranks fourth on the team in tackles and is coming off his first career start. Redshirt freshman tight end Jordan Dingle has tallied four catches for 42 yards through three games.

Freshman wide receiver Jordan Anthony made his debut against Youngstown State. Sophomore cornerback Jordan Robinson is another player to watch for the future after transferring from Division II Livingstone College. Senior walk-on long snapper Jordan Morrow rejoined the team after preseason camp.

So how do Kentucky players and coaches keep all the Jordans straight?

"We've just got a lot of nicknames for a lot of people," Wright said with a laugh.

Wright answers to "J Dub." Lovett goes by "J Love." Robinson is "J Rob" to teammates. Morrow is known as "J M."

Dingle is often called by his last name, but sometimes that adds confusion since his older brother, Justice Dingle, is also on the team. Justice is then "Big D" and Jordan is "J Dingle."

Anthony seems to have the most diverse group of nicknames.

One teammate called him "J Ant." Another listed his nickname as "J A."

"You can call me Flash if the fans want to use that," Anthony said, alluding to his elite speed as the U.S. under-20 200-meter dash champion.

All of Kentucky's Jordans were born in 1998 or later.

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Yes, at least a couple of the Jordans think there is a tie between their names and basketball legend Michael Jordan, who won the last of his six NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls in 1998, but that isn't the only common theme in how they were named.

Wright and Dingle both report they are named after the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized according to the Christian Bible. Lovett and Anthony both credit Michael Jordan as at least part of their namesake.

But there isn't always a story behind the name either.

"My mom just liked the name," Robinson said. "She didn't know any Jordans when she named me."

At least three of Kentucky's Jordans are projected to play significant roles this season.

Dingle might be the best receiving threat in a deep tight end room. Tight ends coach Vince Marrow has called him the position's Swiss army knife thanks to his versatility.

Lovett opened the season as the Wildcats' backup free safety but has been pushed into a starting role after what is expected to be a season-ending knee injury for previous starter Jalen Geiger. He has totaled 12 tackles and one pass breakup through three games.

No Jordan is more important to the Wildcats' 2022 chances than Wright though.

He was suspended for the opener but returned to post a momentum-swinging interception in the win at Florida. With J.J. Weaver expected to miss at least one game with an arm injury, Wright will take on an even larger role as the Wildcats' top pass rusher.

"Especially his leadership and his character, it brings joy," cornerback Keidron Smith said of Wright. "But I don't even know the word for it. It's just Jordan. It's the same person 24/7. He's not gonna change. That is him. He is an impact player on the defense."

While Robinson has a year of college football experience, coaches spoke of him like a freshman they hoped to develop in the future when they signed him as a transfer. At 6-foot-4, 202 pounds, he boasts the length that Stoops covets in his cornerbacks, but he faces a difficult jump from Division II to the Southeastern Conference.

This season could also be viewed as a developmental year for Anthony thanks to the stacked depth chart in front of him at slot receiver,

but offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello has hinted in the last week there are still plays that can showcase Anthony's elite speed. That was on display on his first career target against Youngstown State when he was open for a deep touchdown but quarterback Will Levis was unable to get him the ball because of pressure forcing him to scramble.

Whether Anthony makes an impact this season or not, we'll give him the last word on what makes Kentucky's Jordans special.

"I was projected to be a big star in life," he said. "My first name is Jordan, my middle name is Jamar and my last name is Anthony. ... Michael Jordan, Ja'Marr Chase, Carmelo Anthony."

If there is really power in a name, Kentucky looks in good shape.

Kentucky football freshman WR Barion Brown makes history against Northern Illinois

Jake Adams
Louisville Courier-Journal
Sept. 24, 2022

Barion Brown accomplished two feats not seen at the University of Kentucky in eight years.

The freshman receiver became the sixth player in UK history with 100 yards in a game when he hauled in his fourth pass Saturday night against Northern Illinois, a 6-yarder in the third quarter. The Wildcats went on to win 31-23 at Kroger Field and improved to 4-0 before a pivotal SEC tilt at Ole Miss next week.

Earlier in the quarter, Brown put the Wildcats ahead 21-14 with an electric 70-yard catch-and-run TD. The long touchdown was his second of the game — he caught a 15-yard TD in the first quarter to tie the game 7-7 — making him just the sixth player in Wildcats history to score two receiving touchdowns in a game.

The last time a UK freshman receiver had 100 yards or two touchdowns came in 2014 when Garrett Johnson caught six passes for 154 yards and two TDs in a 36-30 loss at Florida.

Brown entered the game with nine catches for

99 yards and a 3-yard run. He had reached the end zone already this season when he broke off a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the season-opening win against Miami (Ohio), the first time a Wildcat had taken a kickoff to the end zone since 2009.

Brown finished with four catches for 102 yards on five targets. Tayvion Robinson also had a big night, catching all seven passes thrown his way for 147 yards and two more scores.

Brown is not the only rookie receiver impressing in Lexington this season. Dane Key had 13 catches, 226 yards and three TDs (tied for the most in UK freshman history) entering Saturday. The Frederick Douglass High School product had two catches for 15 yards against NIU and nearly took over sole possession of the touchdown record when he dropped a deep ball in the end zone early in the fourth quarter.

Pair of former Rebels defenders boosts Kentucky football's hopes of winning at Ole Miss

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Sept. 26, 2022

Kentucky football has played at Ole Miss just 10 times in program history, but familiarity with Vaught-Hemingway Stadium should be no problem for the Wildcats' defense in a top-25 matchup.

Two of UK's defensive starters have combined for 45 games played in the Rebels' home stadium. Now, linebacker Jacquez Jones and cornerback Keidron Smith will return to the place they started their college careers with a chance to establish Kentucky as one of the best teams in the Southeastern Conference.

"It's a bittersweet moment," Jones said after Kentucky's 31-23 win over Northern Illinois on Saturday. "That's where I started. Took me as an 18-year-old, a teenager. It's going to be a bittersweet moment, but at the end of the day we know we're going there for one reason."

The transfer portal era has created unusual homecomings for players across the country since the NCAA changed its rules to allow most athletes to transfer once without sitting out a season.

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But many of those players are transferring to a higher profile program or to somewhere with a clearer path to snaps. Seeing two starter-caliber players hop from one SEC program to another without clearly increasing their chances of competing for the College Football Playoff remains unusual.

Kentucky can thank new Troy head coach Jon Sumrall for paving that path.

Sumrall first recruited Jones to Oxford as the Rebels' linebackers coach in the high school class of 2018. He coached Jones for one season there, helping him earn SEC All-Freshman honors, before returning to his alma mater to coach at Kentucky.

When Jones decided to enter the transfer portal after the 2020 season, Sumrall was the first coach to make contact.

"We had a relationship," Jones said. "I feel like he was a big part of me coming here. If he wasn't here, I probably wouldn't be here."

Jones made an immediate impact for Kentucky, starting 12 games at middle linebacker and leading the team with 86 tackles in 2021. He added a fumble recovery, a forced fumble, an interception and 3.5 tackles for loss.

The Tuscaloosa, Alabama, native then elected to use the extra year of eligibility granted all players in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic to return to Kentucky for the 2022 season. Around that same time, Smith was making a similar decision to return to college football for his extra year, but he chose to do it at another school.

"As soon as he hit the portal, I got him on speed dial," Jones said in August. "Told him to get up here. We're trying to do something special. We came in together at Ole Miss and we're about to leave out together at Kentucky, so let's do something special."

While Jones was quick to give Smith his breakdown of what made Kentucky special, he actually respected his former teammate's decision-making process enough to avoid piling on the recruiting pitch too thick.

Smith, who had bounced around multiple positions in the defensive secondary at Ole Miss, was looking for a school who would let him play cornerback. Kentucky happened to be in the market for one after an inconsistent 2021 season from its secondary.

"I knew they had something special before I signed," Smith said. "I wasn't coming here if they didn't have something special."

Smith backed up his confidence in his ability to play cornerback by winning a starting job in preseason camp for Kentucky.

In the 2022 season opener versus Miami (Ohio), he recovered a fumble and returned it 23 yards to set up a Kentucky touchdown. In his second game, he returned an interception 65 yards for a go-ahead touchdown at Florida. Through four games, Smith has totaled seven tackles and four passes defended.

"What (Jones) does at middle linebacker is certainly different than what I do at DB, but seeing him and how he talked about it, we always kept communicating about how much he loved Kentucky and how much Coach (Brad) White, Coach (Mark) Stoops and those guys treated the players," Smith said. "It was something I really looked at during the recruiting process when I entered the transfer portal."

Smith acknowledged the chance to return to Ole Miss was an added perk of picking Kentucky, but his primary goal was finding the perfect fit.

The early returns from Kentucky's 2022 defense suggest both Jones and Smith made a wise decision.

The defense led Kentucky to its upset win at Florida then posted its first shutout since 2009 a week later against FCS Youngstown State. While the defense did not play its best in the Northern Illinois win, the game was in hand by the time the Huskies did most of their damage.

For Kentucky to win at Ole Miss, the Wildcats will undoubtedly need a big game from quarterback Will Levis and the rest of the Kentucky offense. Jones and Smith will not be able to carry the load alone on defense, either.

The duo will need to avoid trying to do too much to prove to their former team how big their impact could have been if they had stayed in Oxford.

But if UK wins for just the third time in program history in Oxford, their track record suggests a big play from Jones or Smith could help tip the scales.

"They mean a lot," linebacker and Kentucky captain DeAndre Square said. "They take the pressure off my back. They lead in many ways. They don't have to be the most vocal people, but they lead by example. Fifth year, they've been there, done that. I feel like it's very important.

"We got off to a hot start these first four games, first three games. They've been a big part of that

because of the work they do and how much they care about the game, how much they care about this team and this defense. I'm just excited to have people like that so I don't have to take all the pressure."

QB Will Levis says Kentucky football's late-game mistakes are 'on me' after Ole Miss loss

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Oct. 1, 2022

A split second later, Will Levis is a hero.

If the Kentucky football quarterback calls for a snap a moment later on the seventh-ranked Wildcats' final drive here — if he holds off a beat longer before he lofts a pass to wide receiver Dane Key in the end zone — UK takes a late lead and probably leaves Vaught-Hemingway Stadium with a win.

Instead, Levis jumped the gun.

He took the snap before the Cats were set. Key's leaping catch was waved off for an illegal motion penalty. And on the next play, No. 14 Ole Miss sacked Levis, forcing and recovering a fumble and sealing a 22-19 win.

"We were obviously trying to catch them off guard with that call, but I've got to make sure everyone's set," Levis said. "That's my job. It's on me. That's the game if we complete that."

It was that kind of afternoon for Kentucky (4-1, 1-1 SEC) and for Levis, who completed 18 of 24 passes for 220 yards and a touchdown but lost fumbles on each of the Cats' final two drives and just missed on some pass plays that might have powered UK to a win.

There was no more critical blown opportunity than that final negated connection to Key. It came with less than a minute remaining in the game, an opportunity for Kentucky to stun the Rebels (5-0, 1-) and for Levis to add to his legacy.

"We get our guys set, he throws a dime and wins the game, everybody's saying, 'Wow, pretty impressive to lead us back on two drives late in the game there,'" UK coach Mark Stoops said.

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But Kentucky lost. And the postgame conversation about Levis was drastically different.

It was about whether he's holding the ball too long in an effort to make plays out of nothing, a sin he certainly committed when he took a first-half grounding penalty in the end zone for an Ole Miss safety.

And about whether the progressive pummeling he's taking this season — Levis was sacked three times Saturday, raising his season total to 19 — ultimately will take a costly toll on him and the offense he engineers.

That was of considerable concern against Ole Miss, which put Levis under pressure much of the game. At one point in the first half he walked off the field with a finger out of place on his left hand, representative of the way he's been battered for much of the year.

Levis "just popped it back in place," he said, fortunate the finger was on his non-throwing hand. It didn't appear to significantly impact him in the game.

The same can't be said of the Rebels' pass rush.

Rich Scangarello, UK's offensive coordinator, said this week that he welcomed the blitz from opponents, that his offense, with Levis and the weapons at his disposal, is "built for pressure."

"Keep bringing it," Scangarello said. "I hope you do."

Those comments rubbed the Rebels the wrong way. Coach Lane Kiffin told ESPN in a post-game interview that his defense was "motivated all week" by Scangarello "saying bring the blitz and we'll light you up."

"So there you go," Kiffin said.

The Cats had chances to burn the Rebels' pressure. Most of Levis' big plays came on short passes, including a screen that Barion Brown turned into a 51-yard gain — and nearly a game winner — on UK's final drive.

Levis was 0 for 3 on passes thrown 15 yards or longer.

Ole Miss pressured Levis largely with three- and four-man rushes. And though Levis said his offensive line did a "great job" and Stoops called UK's pass protection "pretty good," the QB had little time to make plays out of a collapsing pocket — and sometimes took longer than he had.

Levis' first fourth-quarter fumble came with 2:55 to play, the result of a good hit on a quar-

terback keeper.

On the second, Levis said, he needed to "get the ball out earlier," but Ole Miss' Jared Ivey was on him in a blink, blazing by UK right tackle David Wohlabaugh, who was in the game for the injured Jeremy Flax.

It might not have mattered if not for the penalty the play before.

On a difficult afternoon for Levis, that might be the play that needles him most.

"It was one of those deals where we had plenty of time, shouldn't have been rushing in any way, shape or form, and we have to make sure we're set," Scangarello said. "It's on us as a quarterback and us as an offense to make sure we're set."

If Levis had done it, he'd have been the star of Saturday, the guy who led Kentucky down the field for an improbable come-from-behind win.

Instead, he's left to wonder what if.

"They're a really good football team and they played really well, but I felt like we were the better team toward the end there," Levis said. "But we shot ourselves in the foot when it mattered. I need to be a better game manager at the end there, especially on that touchdown pass."

Late fumbles, special teams miscues doom No. 7 Kentucky football in loss at No. 14 Ole Miss

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Oct. 2, 2022

Driving for a possible go-ahead touchdown or game-tying field goal, Kentucky star quarterback Will Levis lost two fumbles late in the fourth quarter that helped No. 14 Ole Miss hold on for a 22-19 win over the No. 7 Wildcats.

Facing third-and-2 at the Ole Miss 19-yard line, Levis faked a handoff to running back Chris Rodriguez and kept the ball with 2:55 remaining. He appeared to gain enough yardage for the first down, but had the ball pop loose as he was being tackled in the air.

Kentucky regained possession for one final drive and drove to the Ole Miss 7-yard line before an illegal formation penalty negated what looked like a go-ahead touchdown pass from Levis to Dane Key. On the next play, Levis fumbled again while being hit in the backfield.

The loss was Kentucky's first of the 2022 season, dropping the Wildcats to 4-1 on the season and 1-1 in SEC play.

Ole Miss looked on the verge of turning the game into a blowout after jumping out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, but UK freshman wide receiver Barion Brown finally gave the Wildcats some life with an 85-yard kickoff return with less than a minute left in the quarter.

Two plays later, Rodriguez scored his first touchdown of the season on a 10-yard carry. UK kicker Matt Ruffolo, who had missed a 39-yard field goal attempt earlier in the quarter, had his extra-point attempt blocked after the touchdown.

An Kentucky safety on which Levis was flagged for intentional grounding while being hit in the end zone put Ole Miss up 16-6 in the second quarter. Ole Miss then stretched its lead to 19-6 with a 53-yard field goal attempt later in the quarter.

UK finally found some offensive momentum on the ensuing drive. Levis capped that nine-play, 70-yard drive with 5-yard touchdown on a shovel pass to Tayvion Robinson, but Kentucky failed on the point-after attempt again, this time because of a poor snap.

Kentucky tied the game at 19 with a 17-yard touchdown pass from Levis to tight end Jordan Dingle on its second drive of the third quarter. With backup long snapper Clay Perry inserted into the lineup, Kentucky converted its first point-after attempt in the game.

Ole Miss regained the lead four minutes later with a 26-yard field goal.

After Kentucky failed to convert a fourth-and-3 play at the Ole Miss 32-yard line on the first play of the fourth quarter, redshirt freshman safety Jordan Lovett kept the Wildcats' hopes alive with a pass breakup in the end zone on an Ole Miss fourth-down attempt at the Kentucky 5-yard line on the following drive.

Kentucky drove to the Ole Miss 19-yard line to set up the play where Levis fumbled.

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Barion Brown Nearly Ran Kentucky to Victory Against Ole Miss

Hunter Shelton
Cats Illustrated
Oct. 2, 2022

Freshman wide receiver Barion Brown did all he could with his legs to try and swipe Kentucky a road win on Saturday.

Brown needed the ball in his hands just five times to notch a grand total of 245 all-purpose yards against Ole Miss. He did most of his damage on the kick return front.

In three returns, the WR managed 164 yards, a killer 54.6-yard average. Two of the plays were oh-so-close to going for six points, but the Rebels managed to catch him both times. Brown said after the game that he thought both plays were going to the endzone when he hit his holes.

"When I'm back there, something big will happen," Brown said after the 22-19 loss.

Late in the fourth quarter, Brown caught one of just two receptions, but as he always does, made a swift move up-field, turning a small third-down conversion into a 51-yard gain, setting Kentucky up at the Ole Miss 7-yard line. That final drive would come up empty via a Will Levis strip sack recovered by the Rebels, but the Cats wouldn't have been in that position in the first place if not for the lightning-quick freshman.

Kentucky has gotten tastes of what the speedster can do throughout the season, but the results came in hot and heavy on Saturday, even drawing the attention of former Georgia and NFL running back Todd Gurley II:

Through five games, Brown has 15 receptions for 282 yards and six kickoff returns for a whopping 286 yards.

Saturday wasn't all positives for the freshman, however. Two passes from Levis down field grazed the fingertips of Brown, both of which would have completely turned the tides of Saturday's contest, setting the Wildcats up in the redzone or even going for scores.

"We felt like we had a couple of opportunities,

(Brown) missed the one there late in the last drive as well, just out of reach," Mark Stoops said of Brown after the loss. "He'll continue to work on that, I expect him to make that play. I've seen him make it in practice...he's a very talented young man and he also plays extremely tough."

Stoops went on to mention that Brown wasn't fully healthy, which unfortunately was a common theme for the Cats in Oxford.

"They'll be fine, but it was a rough game, a bunch of our guys got beat up. We're just sore, beat up and bruised," Stoops said.

Though Brown's performance wasn't enough, he noted that the team wasn't taking the loss in a bad way. While a freshman, he's already showing that maturity that becomes engrained in Stoops-coached players:

"We really weren't too much down on ourselves because we know we can still reach the goals we have set," Brown said. "Just come ready to work on Monday."

Meet Kaiya Sheron, the Kentucky football QB who could play Saturday if Will Levis is out

Brett Dawson
Louisville Courier-Journal
Oct. 7, 2022

If quarterback Will Levis can't play Saturday, when the No. 13-ranked Kentucky football team hosts South Carolina, the Wildcats likely will turn to backup Kaiya Sheron.

And though UK coach Mark Stoops has expressed his faith in backups Sheron and Deuce Hogan, this isn't a move Kentucky (4-1, 1-1 SEC) hoped to have to make this season.

Levis is a top NFL draft prospect with nearly a season and a half as a starter under his belt. He's taken every meaningful snap for UK in 2022.

Sheron, on the other hand, is a redshirt freshman who hasn't thrown a collegiate pass.

But while Stoops said Thursday that Levis has

not been ruled out for Saturday's game, speculation about his status has significantly altered the betting line, dropping Kentucky from a 10-point favorite to a 6.5-point favorite in the span of less than a day.

So who is Sheron, Kentucky's likely QB2?

Here are some things to know about the Wildcats' potential starter:

Kaiya Sheron was QB3 to start the season

Hogan — who transferred from Iowa after last season — technically won the No. 2 spot entering UK's season opener against Miami (Ohio).

But this week's depth chart listed Sheron and Hogan both as potential second-stringers, with Sheron's name listed first. And Sheron is the only one of the backups to appear in a game this season. He got in late against Youngstown State on Sept. 17 but didn't record any statistics.

It's no surprise that the backup race has been back and forth. Stoops said prior to the season opener that Hogan's "consistency" won him the spot but that both quarterbacks had "done a lot of good things throughout camp."

"Kaiya (Sheron) really showed some flashes that excites us," Stoops said then. "So, you never know where that's going to go and how it'll end up as the season plays out. We have confidence in both of the backup quarterbacks and we'll see where it goes."

Kaiya Sheron has a dramatic win at Kroger Field

Though he's never played for Kentucky, Sheron led Somerset High School to the 2019 Class 2A state title game at Kroger Field.

He did it in dramatic fashion.

With time expired and one untimed down remaining in the game, Sheron threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Tate Madden for a game-winning score.

That Somerset team went 14-1 en route to the state title.

The championship was the team highlight of Sheron's high school career, but he posted big numbers at Somerset, where he was named Class 2A Player of the Year by the Kentucky Football Coaches Association in 2019 and 2020.

As a senior, he threw for 2,016 yards and 15 touchdowns. His junior year, Sheron threw for 3,218 yards and 28 touchdowns.

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Liam Coen saw good things in Kaiya Sheron

Though he was always a long shot, Sheron was a potential starter last season, when Levis was an incoming transfer from Penn State who hadn't claimed the starting job or made his name at UK.

Sheron, who had committed to Kentucky in March 2020, graduated early at Somerset and enrolled at UK in January 2021. So he'd been through spring practice. Levis hadn't arrived in time to do so.

But Sheron wasn't the only QB who'd been through a spring with then-offensive coordinator Liam Coen, and Joey Gatewood and Beau Allen were bigger threats to Levis. Still, Coen — now the offensive coordinator of the NFL's Los Angeles Rams — saw signs in Sheron's practice performance.

"He's really kind of a cool customer who's got some stuff too him," Coen said in the spring of 2021. "He's got a big arm."

Life without Levis was a letdown, but let's not give up on Kentucky football just yet

John Clay
Lexington Herald-Leader
Oct. 9, 2022

You're ready, right? You've seen enough. The fumbles. The bad snaps. The missed field goals. The sacks. All those sacks. If you're a Kentucky football fan in the middle of a two-game losing streak, you're not just ready to hit the panic button, you're ready to stand on it.

In the words of the late, great Cawood Ledford, hold the phone. Yes, Kentucky's 24-14 loss to visiting South Carolina on Saturday at Kroger Field was a letdown — head coach Mark Stoops seemed more disappointed than angry — but let's not fold the tailgate tent on this 2022 season just yet.

After all, the Cats were minus Will Levis on Saturday. You remember him, right? The quarterback. Not just a potential first-round NFL Draft pick, but possible first pick overall. The team's leader. The Cats' heart and soul. Out with a foot/toe injury, Levis spent Saturday night walking around in a boot, chatting up South Carolina Coach Shane Beamer in the pregame

warmups before coaching up his replacement, redshirt freshman Kayia Sheron, during the game.

Life without Levis was not pretty. Did we expect it to be otherwise? Since the day backup quarterback Beau Allen placed his name in the transfer portal, UK's nightmare scenario involved a Levis injury. Saturday, nightmare became reality. For his first college start, Sheron turned in a decent performance — "I thought he did some good things when he had time," Stoops said — but he's not Will Levis.

Here's what was disappointing Saturday: Just when Stoops needed his team to rise up, it looked deflated and defeated. In the previous week's 22-19 loss at Ole Miss, the Cats were competitive but mistake-prone. Saturday, they were just mistake-prone. The fumble that spotted South Carolina 7-0 lead 13 seconds into the game. A blocked punt. A missed field goal.

Kentucky's defense reversed course. The first half, Brad White's men allowed the Gamecocks all of 90 yards. They reclaimed the football via fumble after the blocked punt. For the second straight week, they intercepted a pass in the final minute of the first half. (Last week it was Jacquez Jones; this week Trevin Wallace.) The second half was different. The first five games, UK allowed a grand total of 15 second-half points. Saturday, it allowed 17. "We've got to be better," White said.

"We've got to do a good job of providing that assistance for a first-time starter."

Regardless of who is under center, Rich Scangarello's offense continues its wheel-spinning. Minus the pick six at Florida and UK's offense has produced 52 points in three conference games. It now ranks 99th nationally in total offense, 81st in yards per play. Chris Rodriguez did rush for 126 yards on 22 attempts. With the Cats playing catch-up, however, Rodriguez was limited to six second-half carries.

Give South Carolina credit. Having lost seven of the last eight to Kentucky, the Gamecocks were due. They were 0-5 against Stoops in Lexington. They had circled this matchup. With Levis out, they were ready to pounce. And pounce they did.

To be sure, the Cats are banged-up. Starting right offensive tackle Jeremy Flax didn't play Saturday. Jacquez Jones is out indefinitely. Receivers Tayvion Robinson and Dane Key were both hurt near game's end. Then there's Levis. The main man. He told the SEC Network crew in pregame that he would be back this Saturday for Mississippi State.

That's right, another top-25 team is next up on UK's to-do list. No rest for the weary. Mike Leach's Bulldogs are 5-1. Then, after a much-needed off week, Kentucky travels to Tennessee. At 5-0, the Vols are on fire. Get this: Some are predicting that Tennessee might actually be favored when Alabama comes to Knoxville next Saturday.

"No one is going to feel sorry for us," Stoops said afterward.

Nor should they. It's life in the SEC. Eat or be eaten. Deal with it. And so must the Cats. A promising Kentucky football season might be on the brink. The faithful might be mashing down on that panic button. Me? My hand might be hovering over that button, but I'm not quite ready to push.

Why Kentucky coaches said lopsided loss to South Carolina isn't on backup QB Kaiya Sheron

Brooks Holton
Louisville Courier-Journal
Oct. 9, 2022

Kaiya Sheron turned around, and South Carolina had the ball on Kentucky's 2-yard line.

Sheron said he didn't see the botched reverse handoff from Chris Rodriguez to Barion Brown to open Saturday's game against the Gamecocks. He said he was focused on being Brown's lead blocker, but an ominous roar from the crowd at Kroger Field told him something had gone awry. Only 13 seconds into his first collegiate start, and the redshirt freshman from Somerset was tasked with engineering a comeback.

If that was supposed to rattle Sheron, he said it didn't work.

"I had full confidence in the offense, the guys that I'm around (and) the plan that we had coming into the game," the quarterback said after No. 13 UK fell to unranked South Carolina 24-14. "I had complete confidence in the coaches and the players, so I wasn't worried at all."

Stepping in for the injured Will Levis, Sheron

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credited his teammates for "having confidence in me" and "building me up" throughout Saturday's game, even when the Wildcats' chances of pulling out a victory seemed all but impossible.

"No matter how we finished last drive, they were just very confident in me," he said. "It felt good."

When the dust settled on a second straight loss, however, Kentucky head coach Mark Stoops was left thinking about how the rest of the team — staff included — could have done a better job helping Sheron feel comfortable during his first time under center against a Southeastern Conference opponent.

"He did some good things when he had time, I thought, when we put him in a position to be successful," Stoops said after the Wildcats dropped to 4-2 overall and 1-2 in conference play. "I don't think we played very good around him. One thing that I put on all of us — myself, the coaches and the team — I told the team, 'I don't think we responded and played very well around him.' I thought we played as poorly as we have all year at certain positions around a first-time starter, and I don't think that's right for that young man."

Sheron completed 15 of his 27 pass attempts for 178 yards and two touchdowns. He threw a desperation interception with Kentucky down multiple scores and less than three minutes remaining in the fourth quarter and was sacked six times for a net loss of 54 yards, bringing UK to 25 sacks allowed on the season.

"I didn't feel like (the moment) was too big for him," first-year offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said. "I felt like he was seeing it, composed and all that, but we just got off to a poor start and never found a rhythm. I don't know that we had a good enough plan to give him a chance to be successful the way it played out, quite honestly. That's on me."

Sheron didn't shy away from admitting Levis "can do things that I can't" and that coaches wouldn't "give me the rein that Will has" in his first start. But, after practicing all week with a starter's mindset, he said the lopsided result had nothing to do with the game plan — "it was just on us."

"Kaiya's an SEC quarterback. He's here on scholarship. It's nothing different, you know, he's here just like everybody else," Rodriguez said. "I trusted him to get the job done."

"You will not see him be nervous. He's always calm, composed and, whenever coach finally told us (Saturday) that he was gonna start, it was the same old Kaiya."

For all of Sheron's poise during and after a jarring loss, the issues Stoops, Scangarello and defensive coordinator Brad White identified need to be addressed.

South Carolina's defense entered Saturday's game with just four sacks to its name through five games. After facing the Wildcats' spotty offensive line without starting right tackle Jeremy Flax, the Gamecocks left Lexington with 10 quarterback takedowns.

"Even on a max protection we got pressure, which is inexcusable," Stoops said. "We got to do a better job."

"You want to take shots down the field, but you get conservative with protection and different things at times and you don't want to make a mistake," Scangarello said. "The defense was playing really good in the first half, so we felt like we were in the game and we were willing to be conservative with a young player, and that's how it played out. We missed some opportunities on third down — a dropped ball, an assignment mistake in protection. It was really just not good."

To compensate for the shaky pass protection, Scangarello said UK tried "all the little tricks," including changing up its cadence at the line of scrimmage. That didn't stop South Carolina from getting to Sheron, and the Wildcats were flagged for five false-start penalties.

Sheron was also quick to take the blame for taking "unnecessary sacks."

"They like to pressure and they brought the corner on one play and literally just came free because we just didn't look out at him, but yet the same guy got it right in practice," Scangarello said. "I have to own it. We'll evaluate in every way, but you know, it's — we gotta be better at it. It's hard to drop back and throw if the pocket's on top of you or the quarterback doesn't move up in the pocket when they give him good protection, which I thought happened tonight, as well."

Stoops also placed some blame on Kentucky's receiving corps, which was down senior transfer Tayvion Robinson for much of the second half due to injury. The group, Stoops said, didn't make enough "competitive catches" and wasn't as assignment sound as it needed to be.

"I mean, you got a guy out there that's making his first start," the coach said. "We gotta play the way we can play."

White owned up to his unit not helping Sheron when it could during the second half. The Wildcats forced two turnovers and limited

South Carolina to 90 yards of total offense before the break but wasn't as opportunistic and struggled to get off the field once play resumed, allowing 266 yards from scrimmage.

"Today had everything to do with just execution and tackling," White said. "We've got to be better at the end of the day. We've got to do a good job of providing that assistance for a first-time starter."

Stoops said after the game that Levis is still "day to day" with an undisclosed foot injury. Levis told the SEC Network before Saturday's game that he'll be "good" to play against Mississippi State next week.

Regardless of if Levis is back against the Bulldogs, UK's problems go beyond who is under center.

3 takeaways: Kentucky football, Chris Rodriguez grind down Mississippi State in SEC clash

Brooks Holton
Louisville-Courier Journal
Oct. 15, 2022

On the verge of losing three consecutive Southeastern Conference games for the second time in as many seasons, the Kentucky football team delivered a bounce-back win Saturday night at Kroger Field.

The No. 22 Wildcats (5-2, 2-2 SEC) knocked off No. 16 Mississippi State 27-17 behind a gritty performance from quarterback Will Levis, a dominant night from tailback Chris Rodriguez and an impressive defensive showing against the nation's leading passer, Will Rogers.

UK trailed the Bulldogs 10-6 with less than nine minutes remaining in the third quarter but outscored head coach Mike Leach's squad 21-7 from there.

Levis threw for 230 yards and a score in his return to the starting lineup from a reported case of turf toe, but Rodriguez stole the show with 196 yards and two touchdowns on 30 carries. The tailback was seen cramping multiple times Saturday night but powered through

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the discomfort en route to his best game since returning to action in Week 5.

With Rodriguez leading the way, the Wildcats rushed for 239 yards on 48 attempts. Their defense returned the favor by holding the Bulldogs' run game to 22 yards on 10 carries.

"I knew we would play like that," head coach Mark Stoops said after the victory, "I knew we'd play like we play: tough, resilient, together."

Here are three observations from the game, which marked the eighth year in a row that the home team has won the cross-division matchup:

With 13:48 remaining in the third quarter, Levis ran off the field and into Kentucky's locker room favoring his left, non-throwing arm. The projected first-round NFL draft pick fell hard to the ground on the previous play after completing a 33-yard pass to Barion Brown.

After watching the Wildcats struggle offensively during a lopsided loss to South Carolina with Levis on the sideline, the Big Blue Nation had every reason to hold its collective breath.

"I didn't really know what it was or how serious it was," Levis said after the game. "It hurt enough to not be able to keep playing, so it wasn't great."

Levis remained in the locker room long enough for an X-ray to come back negative on his shoulder and to get what he called "the magic shot" on the SEC Network after the game.

Almost on cue, he returned to the field and a chorus of cheers after Mississippi State took its final lead of the night and proceeded to orchestrate an eight-play, 76-yard drive capped off by a touchdown pass to Rahsaan Lewis.

Levis completed 17 of his 23 pass attempts and didn't shy away from throwing the ball when he reentered the fray. His lone blemish was throwing a pick-6 when UK made a questionable decision to go for it on fourth down and 2 with a 10-point lead and less than nine minutes remaining in regulation.

As for the turf toe, Levis said on the SEC Network that his left foot felt "good" after the game. After sitting down to answer questions from the media with a sling on his left arm, he went outside the Joe Craft Football Training Center to sign autographs for fans.

How do you stop Mississippi State quarterback Will Rogers? Stoops called it a "million-dollar question" on Thursday.

"Have you watched much film of them?" he asked. "People have tried everything."

Rogers entered Saturday's game averaging more than 350 yards and three touchdowns through the air per contest. Kentucky's defense held the SEC's leader in career completions to a season-low 203 yards and one score despite tallying just one sack and allowing Rogers to convert 68% of his passing attempts. So, how did the Wildcats stop Rogers? Stoops said it was a "team effort." The head coach credited his offense for winning the time-of-possession battle (39:22 to 20:38) and praised defensive coordinator Brad White's game plan.

Linebacker DeAndre Square, who effectively iced the game by picking off Rogers with 4:01 remaining in the fourth quarter, said the defense knew heading into the matchup it was going to have to rely primarily on a three-man pass rush. From there, it all came down to breaking on the ball and wrapping up tackles to limit the Bulldogs' yards after catches.

"What hurt us was the 21 missed tackles we had last year," said Square, who was referring to a 31-17 loss on Oct. 30, 2021, in Starkville, Mississippi. "We knew this year that we just had to tackle. We knew that they're gonna drop it off; they're gonna get big plays; but as long as we tackled we'll be fine."

"I'm beaming with pride for this guys," White added. "It had nothing to do with the stats. It had nothing to do with the score. It's how they play. ... This was the most complete game we've played to date."

Kentucky and Mississippi State entered halftime tied 3-3 after penalties negated several early opportunities for the Wildcats to reach the end zone.

Heading into Saturday's game, UK led the country with just 27 penalty yards per game. In the first quarter alone, the Wildcats were flagged eight times for a net loss of 60 yards, spoiling multiple chances to strike first in the top-25 showdown.

The most glaring missed opportunity came when an illegal block in the back erased a 78-yard punt return for a touchdown by freshman wideout Barion Brown with less than seven minutes to play in the first period.

The Wildcats' offense averaged 5.1 yards per play and reached Bulldogs territory on each of its four drives before the intermission. Flags for holding and having 12 men on the field, however, forced Will Levis and company back to their side of the 50-yard line on two of those drives, and another ended with Matt Ruffolo's

third missed field goal in as many games.

UK finished the game with 11 penalties for a net loss of 81 yards. The program record for most penalties in a game is 18, which occurred against Arkansas in 1998 and against Georgia Tech in 1951.

Mississippi State committed 13 infractions for 109 yards.

How Kentucky star RB Chris Rodriguez delivered a vintage performance vs. Mississippi State

Ryan Black
Louisville Courier-Journal
Oct. 16, 2022

When Chris Rodriguez received his 26th handoff of the night Saturday, he was 11 yards away from the end zone. Four yards later, he met his first sign of resistance. One Mississippi State defender latched on. Then two. On the precipice of the goal line, three Bulldogs had at least one hand on him.

Rodriguez never stopped moving his legs. Nor his arms.

He reached the ball to the goal line for one of the most hard-fought touchdowns — it was officially designated as a 7-yard score — an observer will see.

A fifth-year senior running back for Kentucky, Rodriguez beat his chest and saluted the adoring crowd at Kroger Field, which erupted as soon as officials signaled a touchdown. The score pushed the Wildcats' lead to 20-10 with 11:43 to play.

The celebration, however, momentarily halted, as the play underwent review to assess whether he was down before breaking the plane.

It was upheld, though Rodriguez didn't understand why those in stripes needed a second look in the first place.

"I knew, in my mind, that I was in. I knew it," said Rodriguez, who finished with 196 rushing

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yards and two touchdowns on 31 attempts in Kentucky's 27-17 victory. "I saw it. I was looking down at (the goal line) the whole time."

With starting quarterback Will Levis still not at 100% health entering Saturday's game — he sat out last week's home loss to South Carolina because of a foot injury, then left Saturday night's game briefly in the third quarter with an arm ailment before returning — Rodriguez's already sizable role on the team took on even greater import.

And he delivered with a vintage performance, his best of the season, and joined some exclusive UK company in the process by cracking the 3,000-yard mark.

Rodriguez earned 196 tough yards on 30 carries Saturday, scoring twice against the Bulldogs. He seemed to need some time to get up to speed after he debuted following a four-game absence the team didn't classify a suspension but appears to be linked to a UK self-report of a few student-athletes being paid for hours not worked at UK HealthCare. His debut against Ole Miss ended with 72 yards and a score on 19 carries.

He's only got better with each game since, and his hard running extended drives and allowed the Wildcats to break open a game that was noted at 3-3 at halftime. He was at his best in the second half when he picked up 135 of those yards and both touchdowns.

"We had to get into some bigger sets," Kentucky coach Mark Stoops said, "because (Mississippi State does) a lot of things, a lot of pressures — as you have seen — and they created one again tonight. They've created a lot of turnovers and a lot of points off turnovers, so I thought our big sets in the running game really helped us."

Wildcat offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said what makes Rodriguez so lethal, particularly after initial contact, can't be boiled down to one factor.

"He just runs behind his pads. He's always able to get an edge on (a defender) and he never stops his feet on contact. He's got incredibly strong lower body power ... one guy is just not going to bring him down," Scangarello said. "When you're that kind of back, you're going to be successful. If you don't run 4.4 (in the 40-yard dash), you have to be that kind of player. There have been some really, really great backs who have that kind of mindset. I think he's one of them."

Rodriguez, who on Saturday became just the fourth Wildcat ever to surpass 3,000 career rushing yards, is a big-time back in every sense of the word, Scangarello said.

"You have to be able to rely on those guys to make hard yards. It can't be blocked perfectly all the time," Scangarello said. "When you can trust that, it makes the game easier to call and it makes your mind feel better, and yeah, everyone feeds off that energy. He's just one of those special backs in this conference."

Kentucky's Chris Rodriguez Jr. scores a touchdown run against Mississippi State.

Oct. 15, 2022

Teammates couldn't help singing Rodriguez's praises, either.

"Chris is a beast," said receiver Raheem Lewis, who considers Rodriguez one of his closest confidants. "He's just a machine. Sometimes you've just got to feed him. He might be tired, but he'll let you know if he needs to come out. He just means everything to us."

After sitting out the first four games of the season, Rodriguez is trying to make up for lost time. Saturday's stellar performance boosted his career rushing total to 3,135. He's just 735 yards behind the school's all-time leader, Benny Snell Jr. (3,873). With five regular-season contests, and likely a bowl game, still to go, Rodriguez has the record within his sights.

He's confident he can do it. He just won't lose sleep over it if he comes up short.

"That's the plan," Rodriguez said. "But if I don't, I don't. It is what it is."

'He's a superhero.' The legend of Will Levis grows with Kentucky football's huge win.

John Clay
Lexington Herald-Leader
Oct. 16, 2022

Peyton Manning got it right.

Before the Hall of Fame quarterback/media personality/entrepreneur/all-around good guy was smoking celebratory cigars in the Tennessee locker room after his alma mater's epic victory over Alabama, Eli's older brother was nailing it as a pigskin prognosticator.

When all of his ESPN "College GameDay" colleagues on Saturday morning were picking a surging Mississippi State to beat a sinking

Kentucky at Kroger Field on Saturday night, Manning went against the grain, picking the underdog Cats.

I like Will Levis," Manning said. "This guy is an NFL quarterback."

Surely by the end of Kentucky's 27-17 win over Mike Leach's Bulldogs, even the toughest Levis skeptic had to be nodding in agreement. Not just for Levis' physical traits, his prototypical size, his howitzer arm strength. Most of all, they had to tip their hat to his leadership and toughness.

"It's hard to give it the recognition it deserves," UK Coach Mark Stoops said afterward.

Indeed, if there turns out to be a seminal moment of this 2022 Kentucky football season, it will be the Levis Sprint. First there was his sprint to the locker room after suffering a left shoulder injury while being hit on a 33-yard completion to Barion Brown with 13:48 left in the third quarter, the game tied at 3-3. Then, a few minutes later, there was Levis' sprint out of the same locker room and back to the UK sideline, all to thunderous approval from the 61,451 in attendance.

"I knew with that guy, being that it was a non-throwing shoulder, that if it wasn't broke, he'd be back out there," Stoops said. "And sure enough, he was."

Next series, Levis wasn't just back in the game, he was back in his groove. Post-injury, he connected on five of seven passes for 90 yards and a TD, with one interception. Even when that pick turned into a pick six that suddenly chopped Kentucky's lead to 20-17, Levis was undaunted. Next possession, the quarterback hung in the pocket and calmly lofted a perfect 50-yard pass to open receiver Dekel Crowder that set up Chris Rodriguez's 7-yard try-and-stop-me touchdown run that sealed the deal.

The pass to Crowder came on a third-and-4 play. No coincidence there. Levis was a third down master/monster all night, completing 8 of 8 eight passes on the money down for 186 yards. That included throws of 21, 31, 33, 31 and 50 yards.

Let's face it, this was a must-win game for the Cats. They were still stinging from shooting themselves in the foot at Ole Miss and failing to show vs. South Carolina.

"All of our pride was hurt a week ago, just the way we played," Stoops said.

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A third straight setback would have taken this UK campaign to a dark place. After all, Tennessee and Georgia are among those remaining on the schedule. Yikes. Drop to 4-3 before the bye week and you could almost hear BBN turning their full attention to basketball.

Levis refused to let that happen.

“He’s a superhero,” said receiver Rahsaan Lewis, who caught the QB’s scoring throw. “You can tell how much he loves the game, loves us, and loves UK, and doing something like that is a lot, so we all love him and fight for him.”

Kentucky’s defense played refuse-to-lose, as well. It bounced back from a poor second half against South Carolina to lock up Leach’s Air Raid. State entered the night averaging 40 points and 461 yards per game. It exited with a mere 10 points and 225 total yards. State had been averaging 107.6 rushing yards per game. Saturday, it finished with 22.

“I think they consistently whipped our defensive line with their offensive line,” Leach said.

Stoops concurred, agreeing that it was his embattled O-line’s best showing of the season. And surely it had to be inspired by the sight of its inspirational leader laying it on the line.

“He’s a great leader,” Stoops said. “And, you know, he has that belief about him, you know that — because he’s earned it. He’s worked for it.”

The lesson from all this: Listen to Peyton Manning. He knows his quarterbacks.

‘Tennessee fans, they don’t like me.’ Barion Brown key to Kentucky’s upset hopes vs. Vols

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Oct. 24, 2022

No. 3 Tennessee is not exactly lacking big-play threats at wide receiver this season. Junior Jalin Hyatt ranks fourth nationally in receiving yards per game (109.9) and leads the country in receiving touchdowns (12). He also leads the country in most receptions for at least 30 yards (nine), 40 yards (eight) and 60 yards (three). Hyatt is not even considered the best wide

receiver on the Tennessee roster.

That honor goes to senior Cedric Tillman, the No. 5-ranked wide receiver in the 2023 NFL Draft class according to ESPN analyst Todd McShay. Tillman has played in just three games this season due to an ankle injury — with 17 catches for 246 yards — but could return to the field to face Kentucky this week. If No. 19 Kentucky pulls off the upset of the undefeated Volunteers in Knoxville, Tennessee fans figure to ask why one more dynamic receiver is not on the roster though.

Wildcats freshman Barion Brown, a Midseason Freshman All-American, is from Nashville. He is already one of the most dangerous kick returners in the country and in recent weeks has become a featured part of the Kentucky passing game. “I just know Tennessee fans, they don’t like me because I committed here,” Brown told the Herald-Leader before the season. “But I feel like it was the best for me. My mom and dad didn’t want me to stay in Tennessee. I just feel like it was the best decision for me.”

Like most of the top programs across the Southeast, Tennessee offered Brown a scholarship as a four-star recruit from Pearl-Cohn High School. Brown chose instead to join Kentucky’s growing Nashville recruiting pipeline. The Wildcats also signed four-star Nashville twins Keaten and Destin Wade — Tennessee was a finalist for the brothers — in its 2022 recruiting class. Kentucky signed three-star cornerback Maxwell Hariston from Nashville in the 2021 class. The Wildcats hold a commitment from four-star Nashville prep wide receiver Shamar Porter in the 2023 class. “Coach Stoops and all those guys have really invested time in the area and made it a priority,” said Buck Fitzgerald, the president of National Playmakers Academy, a Nashville-based gym where Brown and the Wade twins trained. “People feel like it’s a priority. They’re present. They’re recruiting multiple guys in that area. And they play a high level of ball. They’re winning nine and 10 games.

“Guys my age, sometimes we look at things and look at the old blue bloods and say why doesn’t a kid go here? These kids, they have a different perspective. Different teams are relevant, different schools are relevant in their lifetime, so now Kentucky is cool. It’s hip, it’s fun, the fan base is amazing. And it’s right close to home where their family can see them play big-time Southeastern Conference football. They’re successful and guys are going to the league, so they’re checking every box.”

Destin Wade, who is on track to redshirt as a freshman quarterback, is unlikely to play against his home-state school unless Kentucky

star quarterback Will Levis is injured. Keaten Wade and Hairston could play as reserves for the UK defense. Brown will be key to the Wildcats’ game plan though. He ranks second on the team in receptions (24) and receiving yards (350). He is averaging 43.3 yards per kickoff return with one kickoff return for a touchdown. While serving as a fill-in punt returner for injured starter Tayvion Robinson in Kentucky’s win over Mississippi State, Brown appeared to return a punt for a touchdown but had the play called back by a block-in-the-back penalty that was not needed to break him free.

“He’s very, very explosive and getting better with every opportunity as he’s getting stronger, getting adapted to the speed of the SEC,” UK Coach Mark Stoops said of Brown earlier this month. “He’s a guy that is very, very talented. You see it every day.” Brown’s receiving numbers could be even better but he and Levis have just missed multiple deep connections by inches. Even as the pair work on that timing, Brown has been a weapon for the offense on a variety of short screen passes designed to get him the ball in space.

“He’s a special player,” offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said. “He’s got a real innate feel for it. ... To me, those are like run plays. You get your best players the ball in space and you let them do what they can do.” While Tennessee might not need another dynamic receiver right now, both Tillman and Hyatt could jump to the NFL Draft after the season. A big game from Brown this week then could add a new level of intrigue to the rivalry for years to come.

“I call him Big-play Barion,” Kentucky star running back Chris Rodriguez said. “He gets the job done.”

Blue Preview: Can Kentucky bounce back at improving Missouri?

Mark Story
Lexington Herald-Leader
Oct. 31, 2022

Coming off a disastrous showing in a 44-6 loss at Tennessee, Kentucky will seek to get its season back on the beam against an improving Missouri team that has either won or played its foe within one score in all five of its SEC games.

THE NUMBER TO WATCH

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How many tackles for loss Kentucky surrenders. UK is 106th in the FBS in tackles for loss allowed, giving up 6.75 a game. That could be a problem against a Missouri defense that is 15th in the FBS in TFL, averaging 7.1 a game. Miz-zou has 15 defenders with at least one tackle for loss and has three — linebacker Ty’Ron Hopper (7.5), safety Martez Manuel (5.5) and defensive end Isiah McGuire (5.5) — with more than five.

THE BIG THREAT

The Missouri defense. In SEC games, no one has scored more than 26 points vs. the Tigers — and that was No. 1 Georgia in a 26-22 come-from-behind victory. Otherwise, the Tigers have held South Carolina to 10, Vanderbilt to 14, Auburn to 17, Florida to 24. For the season, Missouri is 19th in the country in total defense (allowing 310.1 yards a game) and 31st in the country in scoring defense (21.5 points per game).

ON THE SPOT

Rich Scangarello. Through eight games of Scangarello’s first season running the Kentucky offense, the Wildcats’ attack has too often seemed disjointed and halting. Offensive line issues account for some of that, but it would certainly be a boon to the morale around the Kentucky football program if Scangarello’s offense could close 2022 on an uptick.

THE MOOD

Is deflated. A Kentucky season that began with talk of challenging Georgia for the SEC East title has fallen well short of that level. Approaching the time when the Big Blue Nation’s attention will be split between football and basketball, a road win over a rising Missouri team would at least keep Cats backers plugged into the football season.

'More like Great-fellow': Kentucky football fans are Venmoing punter Colin Goodfellow

Ryan Black
Louisville Courier-Journal
Nov. 5, 2022

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Colin Goodfellow’s game-saving play Saturday against Missouri turned some Kentucky fans into good fellows.

Goodfellow, a fifth-year senior punter, was able to track down an errant snap in the shadow of his own end zone and still kick the ball away late in the fourth quarter of Saturday’s contest, with the Wildcats clinging to a 21-17 lead. Not only did he manage a punt, but more importantly, he drew a roughing the kicker penalty that gave the Wildcats a fresh set of downs — and an opportunity to run more time off the clock.

But it came at a cost: Goodfellow had to be taken off the field on a cart following a hit from Missouri linebacker Will Norris.

After the game, Kentucky coach Mark Stoops said Goodfellow was “in severe pain.” The team, Stoops added, hopes the injury is “nothing major.”

Goodfellow’s sacrifice for the team led members of the fan base to donate money to what appears to be his personal Venmo account. The friendly gestures -- mostly just a few bucks with comments saying the cash is for things like beer, ice and wings -- appears to have started when a Twitter account named Mark Stoops Burner shared a screenshot of Goodfellow’s Venmo account shortly after the punter’s game-saving punt.

But in all likelihood, the generosity of the Wildcats’ fan base won’t help Goodfellow’s bank account.

Because his on-field feat is not related to his name, image and likeness, Goodfellow likely will have to return the money, stemming from NCAA rules on compensation.

Kentucky football WR Dane Key broke this freshman receiving record against Missouri

Ryan Black
Louisville Courier-Journal
Nov. 5, 2022

Dane Key now holds a Kentucky football freshman record to himself.

Key, a receiver, hauled in a 9-yard pass for a touchdown in the first quarter of Saturday’s game at Missouri. It marked his fourth TD catch of the 2022 campaign, setting a single-season program mark. He entered Saturday tied with Derek Abney (2000) and Tommy Cook (2001), who each had three touchdown receptions during their freshman seasons.

Key’s score Saturday gave UK a 7-0 lead at the 9:33 mark of the first quarter.

His four TD receptions — Key had one TD in each of the first three weeks — also are a team high; Tayvion Robinson has three, while Jordan Dingle and Barion Brown have two apiece.

Kentucky's inside linebacker duo of the future star in win over Missouri

Aaron Gershon
Cats Pause
Nov. 5, 2022

Kentucky’s starting inside linebacker duo of the future showcased star potential Saturday in the Cats’ 21-17 win over Missouri.

Junior D’Eryk Jackson, who made his fourth straight start at middle linebacker and sophomore Trevin Wallace made his first start of the year at weakside linebacker; both played a major role in the victory.

Both players filled in for injured fifth-year seniors. Jackson made another start in place of Jacquez Jones, who suffered an injury during Kentucky’s Week 5 loss at Ole Miss, while Wallace filled in for DeAndre Square, who suffered an injury in the Cats’ loss at Tennessee a week ago.

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"Obviously there's, there's always an excitement when somebody's able to play and see, ok, what does the next guy up have," UK defensive coordinator Brad White said before the game of the duo getting a chance to start next to one another. You go through the season and you're heartbroken for a guy like Jalen Geiger, and then you see that elevation of Jordan Lovett. You're heartbroken for Jacquez, watching him have to miss games and then the elevation of D'Eryk Jackson. The same thing. So it doesn't matter what position you're always interested to see that next person.

"Obviously, what you sort of lose and experience, you gain in youthful exuberance. But you also have to understand that there are going to be mistakes and some other guys are going to have to fix those mistakes that they make.

Knowing that they're the UK inside linebacker duo of the next year or two, Jackson and Wallace have become close friends off the field, making it easier to communicate on the field.

"We know how to communicate with each other," Jackson said. "We know what gets each other going. We know what makes each other tick and stuff like that. So I think that's really good for us."

"It helps out a lot like a whole bunch," Wallace added. "You want somebody that your cool with off the field because you can play with them comfortably on the field ... it feels real great having him by my side. I have a best friend on the field, too, because we can talk about it outside of football and on the football field, we can communicate even more."

Starting next to each other for the first time did not disappoint.

Wallace logged eight total tackles with two tackles for a loss in his first start of the season.

"We all love DeAndre (Square). I wish he could play another six years. I absolutely love that guy. He's one of the heartbeats of our team. But we have a really good player there in Trevin," UK head coach Mark Stoops said postgame. "There was no doubt he was going to go play."

Jackson logged six total tackles for the Wildcats, ranking tied for second on the team behind Wallace with Andru Phillips and JJ Weaver.

"Really pleased with how he (Wallace) played," White said. "I thought he was locked in all week at practice. He was excited for this opportunity and obviously, he took advantage of it. He was really good on the sidelines. Same thing with D'Eryk."

The moment of starting together is one both had been trained for by not only the Kentucky coaching staff but by Square himself.

"Sometimes he'll (Square) sit back and tell us, ok, think of it of me not here," Wallace said. Like think of me gone to the NFL or me going somewhere else because it's going to be you and D-Jack (Jackson) next year. So think of it as I'm not here no more and step up and do what I did or do it even better than I did. Go watch film do this and more because you're going to be the voice next year. It's good. He beats us sometimes, but sometimes he lets us take the role that he does and keep doing what he did."

That coaching continued Saturday as both Square and Jones made the trip to Columbia to help their younger teammates and be an extra set of eyes on the sidelines.

"I had butterflies in my stomach when we first started playing," Wallace said. "But Square came over and talked to me and was like. It's your game. If you want this position, you can go out there and take it. He was like just go out there and play ball and that's what I did."

"You can tell just how much they've soaked in from those two older guys (Jones and Square)," White added. "It was awesome to see those two older inside backers every time they came off the field. They were encouraging them. They were talking about them. They were making sure they understood everything. It's fun to watch. It's that older brother younger brother effect and they pull just as hard for when those guys are out in the field as when they're on the field."

Jackson and Wallace are the expected starting duo of the future, but there's also quality inside linebacker depth behind them that the coaching staff is excited about. Martez Thrower blocked a punt on special teams earlier this year and has served as Jackson's backup the last few weeks, while Michigan State transfer and second-year Wildcat Luke Fulton has a strong fall camp and has been added to the depth chart for the first time this season as a backup for the Missouri game.

"Inside linebacker we're really deep with Jacquez and DeAndre anchoring that but getting (D'Eryk Jackson) back at 100 percent and then Trevin (Wallace) is a guy we've got to get on the field," Stoops said back in August. "He's too good of a football player and the same with Martez (Thrower), and really Luke (Fulton) is playing well, so I feel like we could go three deep there, which is good because that's a very physical position and you're going to get banged up."

Kentucky's Trevin Wallace shined at Missouri in his second career start

Drew Franklin
Kentucky Sports Radio
Nov. 5, 2022

Kentucky's defense played exceptionally well in the Wildcats' win at Mizzou on Saturday, holding the Tigers to only 17 points scored and 3.9 yards per play. The defense was led in tackles by Trevin Wallace, a second-year linebacker in for the injured DeAndre Square who missed his first start since the 2020 season. Wallace was pivotal in keeping Missouri off the board and earning Kentucky's seventh win in the last eight meetings in the SEC East rivalry.

After the game, both Mark Stoops and Brad White raved about Wallace's play in his second career start in the middle of Kentucky's defense.

"Really pleased with how he played," said White in his postgame remarks. "I thought he was locked in all week at practice. He was excited for this opportunity and he obviously took advantage of it. He was really good on the sideline. Same thing with D'Eyrk (Jackson), those guys."

Jackson started in place of Kentucky's other injured veteran linebacker, Jaquez Jones.

"Obviously, you can tell how much they've soaked in from those two older guys. It was awesome to see those two older guys, those two older inside linebackers, every time they came off the field, they were encouraging them, they were talking about them, they were making sure they understood everything. It's fun to watch, it's sort of that older brother, younger brother effect and they pull just as hard for when those guys are on the field as when they're on the field. It was good."

When Mark Stoops looked back on the win, he admitted he wasn't worried about how Wallace would play in place of Square. He has seen enough of Wallace in practice and in Wallace's 20 game appearances to know not to be overly concerned about the second-time starter.

"I knew all along," he said of Wallace's big day with a team-high nine tackles. "I didn't blink an eye with Trevin in there. I knew for sure he would play well because he is a really good football player."

KENTUCKY FOOTBALL CLIPPINGS

Wallace needed a pep talk from DeAndre Square

Stoops may not have worried about Trevin Wallace, but Wallace admitted to early-game butterflies. The sophomore was feeling the pressure of standing in for a team captain and it wasn't until Square pulled him aside for a sideline conversation that he was able to shake the jitters.

Wallace said in his postgame interview, "I had butterflies in my stomach when I first started playing but Square came and talked to me and said, 'It's your game. You want this position, you go and take it. Go out there and play ball.' And that's what I did."

Sharing the field with Jackson, another backup linebacker in similar shoes, helped Wallace get settled in, too.

"It was real fun," he said of playing beside Jackson. "D'Eyrk is my best friend so we were out there having fun and sometimes I'd look at him and start laughing, saying, bro this is what we wanted. So it was real fun."

Kentucky holds off Missouri to clinch bowl eligibility for seventh straight season

Aaron Gershon
Cats Pause
Nov. 5, 2022

The Kentucky Wildcats are back in the win column as the Cats were able to hold off a Missouri fourth quarter comeback win to secure a 21-17 win at Faurot Field Saturday.

With the win, Kentucky is bowl eligible for a school-record seventh straight season.

"It's just another step. I hadn't thought of that. We're beyond that, but that doesn't mean we take it for granted," UK head coach Mark Stoops said of clinching bowl eligibility. "That doesn't mean it's easy because it's not. It's very difficult. It's an emotional game. Things change year to year so you don't take it for granted, that's for sure."

Kentucky's defense got off to a hot start as, on the game's opening possession, both Trevin Wallace and Keaten Wade logged tackles for a

loss to force a Missouri three-and-out.

Like the defense, Kentucky's offense got off to a quick start as, on its first play from scrimmage Will Levis connected with Barion Brown on a deep ball for a 39-yard gain to the Tiger 32-yard-line. Facing a third and 11 three plays later, Levis hit Jordan Dingle to move UK to the Tigers' 16-yard-line and later in the drive on third and goal from the nine, Levis hit Dane Key in the end zone to give UK an early 7-0 lead.

The touchdown catch was Key's first since Week 3 and fourth of the year setting a UK Freshman program record for touchdown catches in a single-season.

"It's awesome," Key said postgame about breaking the program record. "I just want to keep going out there and keep playing. It's cool to have my name right there, but I just want to go out there each week and just keep playing how I should play."

Missouri would move across midfield on its ensuing possession thanks to a 15-yard and 14-yard run by running back Cody Schrader, but the drive would stall at the Kentucky 32-yard-line forcing the Tigers to settle for a 49-yard Harrison Mevis field goal which would miss wide left, but UK was flagged for having 12-men on the field. Mevis would retry a 44-yard-field goal and knock it through, cutting the UK lead to 7-3.

Kentucky would start its next drive at its own 35-yard-line after Missouri's kickoff went out of bounds. UK would move across midfield after Levis hit Dingle for 17-yards on third down, moving the Cats to the Tigers' 41-yard-line. The drive would later stall at the 25-yard-line where Matt Ruffolo attempted a 43-yard-field goal but missed short.

After forcing a Tigers three and out and a shanked punt from Jack Stonehouse, Kentucky would take over at its own 47-yard-line where, on the final play of the first quarter, Levis was pushed out of bounds late on a three-yard run and a small fight broke out on the UK sideline. The lone flag was on Missouri's Josh Landry for unsportsmanlike conduct, moving Kentucky to the Tigers' 35-yard-line to start the second quarter.

Kentucky would be unable to take advantage of the quality field position as Levis was sacked on back-to-back plays by Joseph Charleston and Ty'Ron Hopper leading to a punt.

UK's defense would pick up the offense as Brady Cook fumbles on a scramble and Kentucky's Jordan Wright scooped it up at the

Missouri 43-yard-line.

Looking to return the favor to its defense, Levis hit tight end Josh Kattus for a 15-yard gain giving the freshman his first career reception, but the drive stalled, leading to another Ruffolo field goal attempt which would miss from 47-yards out.

After both teams exchanged punts, Missouri drove down to the UK 38-yard-line. with 2:06 left in the half, where it faced a 4th and 1. The Tigers attempted to go for it with a Cook quarterback sneak, but he was stopped short by Kentucky's J.J. Weaver, turning the ball over on downs.

Kentucky would not be able to turn the stop into points as its offense was forced to punt after Levis was sacked for the fourth time of the half, leaving the score 7-3 Cats heading into halftime.

The UK offense opened the second half with a 25-yard run from Chris Rodriguez to move up to the Tigers 35-yard-line but the drive would stall leading to another punt. Missouri would face a fourth down on its first drive of the second half where Stackhouse dropped the snap and was forced to try to run for the first down. The Missouri punter was stopped short of the first down by Kentucky's Keidron Smith leading to a turnover on downs at the UK 34-yard-line.

Kentucky would take full advantage of the Tiger special teams blunder as Levis hit Tavvion Robinson for 18-yards to move the Cats to the Missouri one-yard-line where on second and goal, Levis found Dingle for a one-yard touchdown pass extending the Wildcat lead to 14-3 with 5:47 left in the third quarter.

The score was Dingle's third touchdown grab of the year and the redshirt freshman now has 17 grabs for 188 yards on the season after making three catches for 35 yards and the score Saturday.

"He's so smart. And he's just he works his tail off," Levis said postgame. His attitude is as good as anyone on the team. Very quiet, doesn't say anything unless it's positive or adding to what's being said at the moment. He's established himself as the premier tight end on our team right now."

At the end of the third quarter, Missouri moved into the red zone as Cook hit Mekhi Miller for a 25-yard catch and run moving the Tigers to the UK 15-yard-line. The Tigers would end the quarter set up with a first and goal from the three-yard line after an eight-yard Luther

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Burden run and a four-yard Schrader run.

Kentucky's defense would keep Missouri out of the end zone on the first three plays of the fourth quarter, but on fourth and goal from the one, Cook found the end zone on a play action run. The Tigers would attempt a two-point conversion but Cook fired incomplete, leaving the score at 14-9 in favor of UK with 13 minutes left to play.

Missouri would maintain momentum after the touchdown as it sacked Levis for a sixth time to force another Wildcat punt.

Looking to take its first lead of the day, the Tigers moved into Kentucky territory on its ensuing possession as Cook hit Burden for a 35-yard-gain setting up Missouri at the Kentucky 30-yard-line.

Missouri would move inside the 20-yard-line with a 12-yard completion to Barrett Banister and two plays later the Tigers hit paydirt as Cook ran in a 20-yard score. Mizzou would add a two-point conversion with a Cook completion to Tauskie Dove giving the Tigers a 17-14 lead with 8:07 to play.

Needing to respond, Kentucky took over at its own 42-yard-line after an attempted squib kick that deflected off a Wildcat.

UK would begin to take advantage of the field position as Levis hit Key for a 19-yard run and on the next play Missouri's Darius Robinson was flagged for a horse collar tackle on Rodriguez to help move the Wildcats to the Tigers 21-yard-line.

There, Kentucky had a touchdown on a wide receiver screen pass to Brown called back after Dekel Crowdus was flagged for holding. Three plays later on third and 11, UK was able to bounce back as Levis hit Key for a 22-yard touchdown strike to put the Cats in front 21-17 with 5:18 left in the game.

Kentucky's defense would force a Tiger punt and take over at its own 35-yard-line with 4:13 to play.

Looking to milk the clock, Kentucky ran three straight times with Rodriguez but were unable to pick up a first down as Missouri called its second timeout and forced a UK punt with 2:34 left to play.

On the punt attempt, the snap soared over the head of punter Colin Goodfellow. Goodfellow recovered the punt within the UK five-yard-line and attempted to get a punt off and was roughed by Missouri's Will Norris leading to an automatic first down for the Wildcats.

"It was just a remarkable play by him," Stoops said. "At first, I was like, I wish he would have taken the safety. But he made a remarkable play. The way it was explained to me that we was in the tackle box still."

Goodfellow would be carted off after suffering an injury on the play.

"Unfortunately for him, he is injured, and he was in some severe pain," Stoops said. "So I hope it's nothing major. But I know he was hurting bad."

With the ball back at the Missouri 44-yard-line and the Tigers left with just one timeout, Kentucky got the clock down to 46 seconds where it faced a fourth and two from the Missouri 36-yard-line.

After a false start, backup punter Wilson Berry punted the ball away, with Burden returning it to the Tigers' 13-yard-line, leaving the Tigers' offense with 38 seconds and no timeouts. That would not be enough time for a Missouri miracle as Kentucky held off the Tiger comeback bid to win the game.

"I'm just very proud of our football team," Stoops said. "I told them, there's ups and there's downs, and you have to be able to respond and bounce back whether it's a big victory or a tough defeat."

Kentucky (6-3, 3-3) will be back in action next Saturday to host Vanderbilt. Kickoff at Kroger Field is slated for noon EST.

It hasn't been pretty, but a 6-3 Kentucky football team is nothing to take for granted

John Clay
Lexington Herald-Leader
Nov. 6, 2022

Despite the busts, the blunders and special teams sins Mark Stoops' team committed Saturday at Missouri, it's important to keep the main thing the main thing.

Kentucky won the football game.

Kentucky won a road SEC football game.

Kentucky is now 6-3 overall, 3-3 in the SEC.

Kentucky is now bowl eligible for a seventh consecutive season.

"We're beyond that, but it doesn't mean we take it for granted," Stoops said on Saturday after his Cats pulled out a 21-17 victory over Mizzou on an afternoon that began cold and windy and ended in bright sunshine.

To be sure, there was plenty to gripe about in UK's performance. There was a 12-men-on-the-field penalty that allowed Missouri to re-kick and make a field goal after a miss. ("That's one on me," said Stoops, whose late player substitution caused a miscommunication mistake.) There were two Matt Ruffolo missed field goals — a 43-yarder with the wind that he appeared to rush, and a 47-yarder into the wind that came up short. There was the offense's inability to turn short fields into first half points. And there was a fourth-quarter punt snap that sailed over the head of punter Colin Goodfellow.

"Don't even ask me questions about special teams; we've got to get that fixed," said Stoops, who quickly switched gears and related to questions. "We've got to get it fixed."

There was a lot of good, however, starting with Goodfellow, who made the play of the game. With just under three minutes remaining and Kentucky clinging to a four-point lead, the punter not only ran down the errant snap, collecting the bouncing ball just before the goal line with Missouri players in hot pursuit, he also got off a punt while being crushed by one of those Tigers.

The punt made it to the UK 40. More importantly, Missouri was called for roughing the punter — "He was still in the tackle box," Stoops said of the officials' explanation — allowing the visitors to keep the football and snap the ball four more times, causing Mizzou to burn its final two timeouts before taking possession at its 13-yard line with just 38 seconds left.

Meanwhile, as the Missouri fans booed the roughing call, Goodfellow needed a cart to be taken off the field. "He was in severe pain," Stoops said afterward. "It was just a remarkable play."

There were others. Replacing the injured DeAndre Square, UK's Trevin Wallace was all over the field, making nine tackles, three for loss with one sack. On offense, facing a Missouri

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defense ranked 18th nationally in yards allowed per game, the Cats responded after Missouri took a 17-14 lead with 8:07 remaining.

UK's winning drive covered 58 yards in six plays. Freshman wide receiver Dane Key made the two most important. His 19-yard reception from quarterback Will Levis started the drive. His 22-yard touchdown with 5:18 left ended it when on third-and-11 Key grabbed a Levis pass, broke a tackle and dove into the end zone. "Dane's a playmaker," said Levis.

It is true these Cats are not going to accomplish their original goal. They're not going to win the SEC East. They're not going to Atlanta. When Georgia comes to Kroger Field on Nov. 19, the best they can do is play SEC spoiler.

Still, all things considered, playing in the nation's toughest conference, given the program's history, or lack thereof, three SEC victories is nothing to downplay. A Kentucky win over Vanderbilt on Saturday would clinch at least a .500 conference record for this team, its fifth in its last seven years.

Remember, this is a Kentucky football program that did not post a winning SEC record from 1978 through 2015. Only six times during that span did the Cats break even in the conference — 1979, 1984, 1993, 1998, 1999 and 2006.

"It does a lot," Stoops said when asked what the win does for a team coming off that 44-6 shellacking at Tennessee the week before. "Our players, it's hard, it is. When you play this schedule with these teams, the grind that our players have on him, they want the results. We all do."

Stellar defensive performance not enough as Kentucky falls to No. 1 Georgia

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald Leader
Nov. 19, 2022

Kentucky football's attempt at a fourth-quarter rally against No. 1 Georgia fell short Saturday in a 16-6 loss that dropped the Wildcats to 6-5 on the season and 3-5 in SEC play.

The UK defense stymied a Georgia offense

that entered the day ranked sixth in points per game on a cold, windy day, but Kentucky's offense struggled to move the ball for much of the game against the nation's best defense. The Wildcats did finally find some offensive momentum in the fourth quarter, down 16-0, but Georgia was able to make just enough plays to keep the score at a comfortable margin.

Overshadowed in the loss was a stellar performance from freshman wide receiver Barion Brown, who caught 10 passes for 145 yards and one touchdown for Kentucky.

Kentucky's defense held Georgia to just six points in the first half, stepping up twice in the red zone after extended drives, but the Wildcat offense squandered its own first-half opportunities.

UK reached the Georgia 32-yard line on its first drive, which started at its own 4-yard line, but was stopped on a fourth-and-1 attempt. Kentucky's second offensive drive reached the Georgia 18-yard line before quarterback Will Levis threw an interception in the end zone. The interception was Levis' sixth turnover in the red zone this season.

The defense gave Kentucky more hope on the opening drive of the second half when redshirt freshman safety Jordan Lovett interception of a Stetson Bennett pass, but Kentucky went three-and-out on the ensuing drive, losing 6 yards. Georgia was finally able to impose its will after a punt, gaining 54 of 58 yards on the ground to score its first touchdown win a 9-yard run from Kenny McIntosh.

Kentucky's offense finally showed some life after the Wildcat defense stopped Georgia on fourth-and-goal at the 1-yard line on the first play of the fourth quarter. Levis completed 5 of 6 passes for 71 yards and gained 10 yards on the ground to lead Kentucky to its first touchdown, an 8-yard completion to Barion Brown on fourth-and-2. Kentucky was unable to convert the two-point attempt to pull within one possession but did earn some respect with the 99-yard drive.

After another stop from the UK defense, Levis hit Brown for a 47-yard gain on the first play of the following drive, but the possession eventually stalled at the edge of the red zone. Levis was initially flagged for intentional grounding when throwing the ball out of bounds on third down, but the officials picked up the flag after realizing Brown would have been in the area of the pass if he had not been knocked to the ground. No flag for holding or pass interference was thrown though, and UK had to settle for

a 38-yard field goal attempt that Matt Ruffolo missed wide left after a low snap.

Following Lovett's interception, Kentucky started a drive at its own 11-yard line. Chris Rodriguez gained 3 yards on a first-down carry, but that gain was quickly negated by a false start from wide receiver Dane Key before second down. A screen pass from Levis to running back JuTahn McClain was stopped for a loss of 4 yards. Levis then was unable to hit McClain through tight coverage on third down, forcing a punt. A favorable Kentucky bounce on the punt gave Georgia the ball at its own 42-yard line, but the Bulldogs gained at least 4 yards on each of the next six plays. McIntosh pushed the lead to 16-0 with his touchdown, a margin that it was clear Kentucky's offense was going to be unable to overcome.

Kentucky Showed "Guts and Determination" in Loss to Georgia

Nick Rousch
Kentucky Sports Radio
Nov. 19, 2022

For the third time this season, Kentucky left Kroger Field with a loss. This 16-6 loss to No. 1 Georgia felt different than the previous two. Despite similar problems in the red zone and on special teams, Kentucky put up a fight one week after a deflating loss to Vanderbilt.

"I am proud of the response of our football team. It was very difficult, as you can imagine. This season there's been tough games, some tough losses. There's some ups and some downs," Kentucky's head coach said after the game.

Many fans were already throwing in the towel on the 2022 season. The Wildcats could have done the same. Instead, they showed heart against the defending National Champs.

"(It) took a lot of digging and soul searching and competitive nature of our players to reinvest and commit and put in that kind of effort. We came up short but the effort was there, the preparation was there," Stoops said.

Guts on the Goal Line

The Kentucky defense has carried a heavy load all season long. Rich Scangarello's offense has not scored more than three touchdowns against an SEC opponent this fall. Kentucky must get

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stops to win. Even when they were backed up against it, they did not relent. The Cats forced the Dawgs to kick three field goals and they made goal line stand that paved the way for a potential fourth quarter comeback.

"It just showed some guts and determination and some of the personality of the way we play," Stoops said.

"I really appreciate them digging in like that because it's hard. That is a physical football team that is creative with their dynamic tight ends and in the run game, the way they create explosives down there and score touchdowns. I thought the guys really competed and played hard. When it comes down to it, yeah, there was good coaching, some good scheme by Brad and the defensive staff. But ultimately, the players showed some guts and determination in some critical short yardage plays against one of the most physical teams in the country."

The Kentucky defensive line stood strong at the goal line, breathing life back into the stadium. This time the offense did not leave them hanging. The Cats drove 99 yards down the field and scored a touchdown. Even though they did not get the two points to make it a one-score game, the Wildcats had confidence they could win the football game with just under ten minutes remaining.

Needing another stop, the Kentucky defense dug deep, again. The sideline shared the same resonating message Buster Douglas gave the team Friday afternoon.

"Mike Tyson knocked him down, but he got back up and kept fighting," said safety Zion Childress. "So all game you could hear Coach White, Coach Stoops telling us, 'Fight back. Keep swinging. Keep throwing punches.' We kept fighting."

In many ways, this loss looked like many others. What's important is that even though it kind of looked the same, nobody ever gave up.

"We definitely came out and played and we didn't roll over at any point in this game. We played from the first quarter to the end of the fourth quarter," said Childress.

Even though it's impossible to completely turn around a season with such high expectations, a big win over a rival can go a long way. Tonight proved the Cats are willing to fight to salvage what many thought was a lost cause.

"Our team needs to understand that's what people expect from our team, that we don't cave. We have done some things right, we have

done some things wrong, but that's the way this team, this program plays," said Stoops. "We got to get back to being that all the time, competing like that all the time."

Barion Brown delivers vs. top-ranked Georgia defense

Chris Fisher
Cats Pause
Nov. 20, 2022

Coming into Saturday's SEC finale vs. top-ranked Georgia, Kentucky already knew they had something special in freshman wide receiver Barion Brown.

Brown, a 4-star prospect and top-10 wide receiver nationally, had already set the school's single-season record for receiving yards by a freshman, had a 100-yard receiving game with two touchdowns vs. Northern Illinois, and returned a kickoff 101 yards for a score vs. Miami (Ohio).

Saturday, Brown showed just how special he is and can be in the future.

Brown set new career-highs with 10 receptions for 145 yards, including an 8-yard touchdown catch in the fourth quarter of the Wildcats' 16-6 loss to the No. 1 Bulldogs.

"Love him. He's a stud," UK offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said. "He got here in August or July. He's a buck-65. That guy going to put on 10-15 pounds and he is going to be a special football player. He's got the competitive greatness, he's wired the right way and love him to death as a person and a player. He's going to be a real special player here for a long time."

The Nashville native, who also hauled in receptions of 31 and 47 yards, broke UK's single-season freshman receptions record of 40 previously held by Derek Abney in 2000 and extended his single-season freshman receiving yardage record to 560.

His 10 catches were the most by a Kentucky freshman since Chad Scott's 10 vs. South Carolina in 2000 and his 145 receiving yards were the most since Garrett Johnson had 154 at Florida in 2014. The 145 receiving yards were

also the most by any Wildcat vs. a top-ranked team, second only to Rick Kestner's 185 vs. Ole Miss in 1964.

Brown's big breakout came after a 3-game stretch vs. Tennessee, Missouri and Vanderbilt where he combined for just seven catches for 65 yards.

"It's been important to me that I get him to keep his head up and keep his confidence up. And for him to know that he is a really special player and that we are going to target him and his big plays are going to come," quarterback Will Levis said. "I'm just glad that he has been able to keep that right mindset throughout the last few weeks. And trust in us and trust in the calls and my throws to get him down the field like that. And it was really cool to see him make a few of those plays today."

Brown, along with fellow true freshmen Dane Key and Josh Kattus and redshirt freshman Jordan Dingle, combined for 15 receptions and over 200 receiving yards against a Georgia, who ranked No. 1 nationally in scoring defense.

COMMENTS

"I couldn't be more excited for the future," Scangarello said. "That's 18- and 19-year-olds who are getting a ton of experience. Their best days are ahead of them — and that excites me."

The Wildcats (6-5, 3-5 SEC) return to action Saturday for its regular season finale vs. Louisville (7-4, 4-4 ACC) in the annual Governor's Cup.

After 'soul searching,' Kentucky football's morale is high heading into Louisville matchup

Brooks Holton
Louisville Courier-Journal
Nov. 20, 2022

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Coming off a 10-win 2021 campaign, Kentucky quarterback Will Levis had aspirations of reaching the Southeastern Conference championship heading into his second season with the Wildcats.

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So, how was the projected first-round NFL draft pick feeling after UK's fell to 6-5 on Saturday night with its third loss in the last four games against top-ranked Georgia? After seeing the way his teammates responded to one of the most jarring defeats of the Mark Stoops Era in the week prior, one of the words Levis used was "proud."

"Guys just wanted to get back on the right track," he said after UGA topped UK 16-6 at Kroger Field. "I feel like the morale after that game was pretty high."

Sure, Levis and offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello had to face more questions about squandering red-zone opportunities and a stellar defensive performance. Sure, the Bulldogs wore down defensive coordinator Brad White's unit to the tune of 247 rushing yards with an average of 5.4 yards per carry. Nearing the end of his 10th season at Kentucky, Stoops said he doesn't "need to take a shot for a moral victory," but he couldn't deny how encouraging it was to see his players bounce back from a 24-21 loss to Vanderbilt and the "soul searching" that followed.

"The guys emptied their tank this week both in preparation and competing," Stoops said. "That's what we have to do all the time."

Levis, Scangarello and sophomore defensive back Zion Childress credited Stoops's motivational tactics for getting the Wildcats in the right mindset heading into Saturday's showdown with the Bulldogs, who have now won 13 straight in the series. The head coach even had former boxer Buster Douglas, who is known for his upset knockout of Mike Tyson for the world heavyweight championship in 1990, speak to the team Friday about the power of perseverance.

"He has a real way of reading people and digging in on their personalities and bringing out the best in them," Scangarello said of his boss. "That's what makes him unique and special."

That message resulted in Kentucky defense holding Georgia's top-10 scoring offense to a season-low 16 points and coming up with multiple stops that kept the Wildcats within striking distance had their offense's trips to the red zone been more fruitful.

"All game, you could just hear Coach White and Coach Stoops telling us, 'Fight back. Keep swinging,'" said Childress, who finished Saturday's game second on the team with nine tackles.

After addressing the offense's missed oppor-

tunities, Levis was quick to point out a silver lining from his team's second straight loss: improvement on the offensive line. The unit has struggled to keep the star quarterback upright all season but surrendered only one sack against the stout Bulldogs, and a flag against UGA erased the negative play, anyway.

"I was joking how it's funny that this is the healthiest I've felt after a game all season against the best defense in the country," said Levis, who also got more involved in the run game with 26 yards on five carries.

Turning their attention toward next week's regular-season finale against Louisville, the Wildcats will need the big guys up front to repeat their performance — and for Levis to clean up his red-zone turnovers — against their in-state rival. The Cardinals entered Saturday ranked 12th in the country in tackles for loss and 26th in scoring defense; they had five more sacks to knock off North Carolina State 25-10.

It won't take much to get Kentucky's QB motivated to play in his second Governor's Cup battle.

"It's really important for us to get a better bowl bid, to get this last win and to obviously play against our in-state rival," Levis said. "A lot of fans have a lot riding on this game — a lot of emotions. It's a game that, each year, we gotta make sure we win. I just saw they had a great win against NC State and I'm excited for the challenge. They got a good team this year."

Childress, meanwhile, stole a phrase from his head coach.

"We got 24 hours to get over this," he said. "Come back on Monday, get ready to empty the tank again."

UK freshmen dominated U of L. In NIL era, can the Cats keep their young nucleus intact?

Mark Story
Lexington Herald Leader
Nov. 27, 2022

On a Saturday when the Kentucky football program honored a historically meritorious senior class, it was UK's precocious freshmen who took center stage.

Getting high-level contributions from at least five frosh, the Wildcats retained the Governor's Cup trophy for the fourth straight time with a 26-13 victory over archrival Louisville.

At the end of a season that began with the Big Blue Nation dreaming of SEC East title contention but instead produced a litany of frustrations, Kentucky (7-5, 3-5 SEC) at least gave its fan base a going-away gift.

"Obviously, the season didn't go as we had planned," UK quarterback Will Levis said. "But we knew we would feel a whole lot better about it with a win (over U of L) instead of a loss."

A Kroger Field crowd announced at 58,727 saw Louisville's season record drop to 7-5 (4-4 ACC) and Cardinals Coach Scott Satterfield's record in the Governor's Cup rivalry fall to 0-3.

The Cards were far more competitive along both lines of scrimmage vs. UK than they had been while being outscored 153-44 in their prior three defeats vs. the Wildcats. But the combination of three U of L turnovers and UK's fabulous freshmen meant that "Ls" were again turned down in the Governor's Cup.

Both of Kentucky's touchdowns were scored by true freshmen wide receivers. Dane Key got UK on the board first when he expertly ran a slant route that yielded an 8-yard touchdown pass from Levis.

Wildcats offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said the Key TD was uniquely rewarding to him because, after UK's Wednesday practice, he watched Key (three catches, 37 yards) and his fellow Frederick Douglass High School

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alum, Dekel Crowds, working on their own time on that route.

"I saw it come to life," Scangarello said. "The detail, the way (Key) set the corner(back) up and beat him, that's what it takes. That detail is the key."

The TD by Key was set up by a 70-yard catch and run by another true freshman — tight end Josh Kattus (two catches, 76 yards). "That guy," Scangarello said of Kattus, "has some real special traits."

Kentucky's other touchdown came on a 3-yard Levis pass to Barion Brown (four catches, 44 yards) on a fade route in the third quarter in which the Nashville product rose above a defender and came down with a score.

"All week, me and my coach (were) practicing fade balls consistently," Brown said. "Every day, after practice, we would get something in — and it paid off."

Throw in redshirt freshman tight end Jordan Dingle (one reception, 18 yards), and 10 of UK's 11 catches vs. U of L and 175 of its 188 receiving yards came from freshmen.

Referring to Key and Brown, Scangarello said "(Nos.) 6 and 2 are just blossoming. And those two tight ends (Kattus and Dingle) are really special."

Defensively, Kentucky tackle Deone Walker put the finishing touches on a massively impressive true freshman season with six tackles, two quarterback hurries, a tackle for a loss and a half-share of a sack.

As he often did this season, the 6-foot-6, 330-pound Walker, a Detroit product, appeared on various plays to have cratered an entire side of the U of L offensive line.

In the old days, such an exciting performance from so many freshmen in the final game of a regular season would leave a fan base with visions of future glories dancing in heads.

Alas, in our current era of allowing one free transfer and the name, image and likeness rights of players having evolved into booster collectives deploying their financial might in recruiting, that future is not promised.

When it was announced Nov. 14 that a UK-oriented collective to which the average fan can contribute was open for business, much focus was on what the launch of "The 15 Club" might mean for Wildcats recruiting.

Actually, in the short term, it is "retaining" that is the biggest key to Kentucky's immediate football future.

There is nothing more important to UK football success in 2023 than assuring that Walker, Brown, Key, Kattus and Dingle — as well as other of this season's promising freshmen performers such as defensive backs Alex Afari and Kobi Albert; outside linebacker Keaten Wade; starting offensive guard Jager Burton and free safety Jordan Lovett (the latter two redshirt freshmen) — are still on the Cats' roster when Kentucky kicks off against Ball State next Sept. 2.

Speculation has been acute that collectives with allegiances to some of the most traditional brands in college football have put out feelers to UK's standout freshmen.

The most-circulated rumor has a collective seeking to boost the Tennessee football program attempting to woo Brown away from UK and back to his home-state university. What about that, Barion? "I don't know who started that rumor, but I am BBN for life," Brown said Saturday.

Addressing a large gaggle of reporters, Brown had a question of his own. "Can you all stop the rumors, please?" Probably not.

What does seem clear, though, is that if Kentucky is going to ultimately reap the benefit of the freshmen whose star potential was on display Saturday as the Cats took down Louisville, then those who are emotionally invested in UK football success are likely going to have to make some financial contribution, too.

DeAndre Square and Jacquez Jones hit major milestones, and more post-game notes

Jason Marcum
Sea of Bue
Nov. 27, 2022

Saturday was a great way for the Kentucky Wildcats to send off their seniors, especially DeAndre Square and Jacquez Jones. The two veteran linebackers have missed much of the 2022 season due to various injuries, but they

were both able to suit up vs. the Louisville Cardinals.

Kentucky certainly needed them to help slow down one of the nation's better rushing offenses, which already had seven games of 190+ yards on the ground.

Thankfully, Square and Jones helped Kentucky hold the Cards to just 164 yards on 37 carries and one score while finishing with three tackles apiece. The 4.4 yards per rush was Louisville's lowest average since October 22nd vs. Pittsburgh.

In the process, Jones and Square both eclipsed 300 tackles for their careers, one of the biggest milestones a defensive player can reach at the collegiate level.

Jones actually hit that mark on one of the game's biggest plays. In the first quarter with Louisville facing 4th-and-1 from the UK 13 yard-line, Jones stuffed running back Jawhar Jordan to turn the ball over on downs and preserve the early 7-0 lead for the Cats, who then added a field goal to go up 10-0 when the game could have easily been 7-all if not for the senior's big play.

While their final collegiate seasons didn't go quite like they hoped, it was wonderful seeing both guys on the field and making plays in their final home game, especially Square, who has been making plays ever since arriving as a true freshman in 2018. He's been part of multiple 10-win seasons and is now set to play in his fifth bowl game with the program.

Kentucky football headed to the Music City Bowl in Nashville to face Iowa

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Dec. 4, 2022

Kentucky football is returning to its most familiar bowl game this December.

The Wildcats will face Iowa in the Music City Bowl on New Year's Eve. The game will represent a rematch of last season's Citrus Bowl, which Kentucky won 20-17 on Jan. 1, 2022.

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Kentucky has played in the Music City Bowl five times before but not since 2017. That game against Northwestern was Kentucky's last bowl loss. Star running back Benny Snell was ejected in the second quarter of the 2017 Music City Bowl for making contact with an official.

Kentucky is 12-9 all time in bowl games and 2-3 in the Music City Bowl.

With Will Levis out of the Music City Bowl, who starts at QB for Kentucky football?

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Dec. 8, 2022

Wednesday's announcement that Kentucky football star quarterback Will Levis would not play in the Music City Bowl was not unexpected.

But that doesn't mean the lack of a surprise has positioned the Wildcats any better to replace Levis in the Dec. 31 Music City Bowl versus Iowa. "I'm very confident in the quarterbacks we have," Kentucky Coach Mark Stoops said this week.

"I'm excited to see them in this bowl prep. I hope Will plays, but if he doesn't it will open up an opportunity for others."

With Levis out, the focus shifts to backup quarterbacks Kaiya Sheron and Destin Wade.

When Levis was forced to miss the Wildcats' Oct. 8 game against South Carolina due to turf toe, Sheron started but was unable to lead Kentucky to a victory. On the season, the redshirt freshman completed 17 of 29 passes for 187 yards, two touchdowns and one interception in four games.

Wade has yet to make his Kentucky debut but was listed alongside Sheron with an "or" between the two names at the No. 2 spot on Kentucky's depth chart for most of the second half of the season. A former four-star recruit rated as an athlete out of high school, the Nashville-area native could make his collegiate debut in his hometown in the Music City Bowl. He is the twin brother of UK freshman outside

linebacker Keaten Wade.

"We have very good options on our campus that are good players," Stoops said on his final radio show of the season when asked if he would pursue a transfer quarterback this offseason to replace Levis. "Not a lot of experience, but good football players. They're good leaders and good men."

Stoops may be high on the potential of Sheron and Wade, but Kentucky is almost certain to add a quarterback from the transfer portal in the coming weeks.

Wisconsin's Graham Mertz, Clemson's DJ Uiagalelei, Texas' Hudson Card and North Carolina State's Devin Leary are among the top options already in the portal. More starter-level transfers will probably emerge by the summer.

Sheron and Wade now have a chance to make an early case to truly make the competition to replace Levis an open one and not a foregone conclusion that whatever transfer signs with Kentucky will start the 2023 opener against Ball State.

"Where we go from there I don't know," Stoops said. "I tell our players this, so I'm not telling you anything that they don't already hear: I'm recruiting somebody to take their job. Period. I don't care how good they are. I love them, but I'm trying to get somebody better.

"... don't take that out of context with quarterback. That's every player on our team."

Iowa is set to start its third-string quarterback after starter Spencer Petras was sidelined by shoulder surgery and backup Alex Padilla entered the transfer portal. Since both teams boast defenses ranked in the top 12 nationally in fewest points allowed per game, it would be wise to expect a low-scoring Music City Bowl.

Kentucky's offensive situation is further complicated by the firing of offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello.

Even if Stoops hires a replacement for Scangarello before the bowl game, it is unlikely that coach would have much impact on the game. Stoops was not ready to name an offensive play-caller for the game when asked Monday, instead pointing to recruiting coordinator Vince Marrow, who called plays in the 2020 Gator Bowl win, and wide receivers coach Scott Woodward, a close friend and protege of former UK coordinator Liam Coen, as options to call plays in a "group effort."

Perhaps the most intriguing quarterback

option for the game is Kentucky backup Deuce Hogan.

Hogan, who transferred from Iowa to Kentucky last offseason as a walk-on, opened the season listed as Levis' backup on the depth chart but was eventually passed by both Sheron and Wade.

Wade's dual-threat ability likely makes him the more intriguing option for fans, but there is also a risk at dealing a significant blow to his confidence if he struggled against a defense as stout as Iowa's in a high-profile bowl game in his first collegiate experience.

Regardless of how Sheron, Wade or Hogan performs in the Music City Bowl, it is unlikely to change Stoops' outlook on the transfer portal needs this offseason.

"We'll see where it goes, and even players who are here and ones who may be talking about their role for next year," Stoops said. "I'll tell them the same thing. This is your role, if it's a player that we can believe in, believe they can be a starter, that's great. I'm going on the road and getting the best players I can get.."

Kentucky's Will Levis announces he won't play in Music City Bowl, declares for NFL Draft

Jon Hale
Lexington Herald-Leader
Dec. 9, 2022

Kentucky football will play its bowl game without star quarterback Will Levis.

Levis, who played through injuries for most of the 2022 season, announced Wednesday he would opt out of the Wildcats' bowl game in order to focus on returning to 100% in advance of the 2023 NFL Draft. Levis is widely projected as a first-round draft pick and one of the top quarterbacks in the draft class.

Kentucky is scheduled to face Iowa in the Music City Bowl on Dec. 31 in Nashville.

Despite playing just two seasons for Kentucky, Levis ranks fifth in program history in passing touchdowns (43) and total offensive yards (5,502) and sixth in passing yards (5,233). His

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3,203 yards of total offense in 2021 were sixth most by a Wildcat in a single season.

Kentucky was 17-7 in games Levis started at quarterback. He was behind center for just the second 10-win season for Kentucky since 1977 in his first season as starter. Levis started two wins against Florida and two wins against Louisville.

Levis announced his departure on Twitter on Wednesday.

“With most decisions in my life, I often think of this motivational quote: ‘Every great move forward in your life begins with a leap of faith, a step into the unknown.’

Levis’ statement included thanks to everyone who supported and encouraged him during his time in Lexington.

“As a Wildcat, I have met lifelong friends, learned from incredible coaches, and built connections with valuable mentors that will guide me through my journey. Because of Kentucky, I found belief and confidence in myself that had not been reached beforehand, and, most importantly, we won some incredibly memorable ball games in my college career. It has been a great move forward.”

Kentucky head coach Mark Stoops said after the Wildcats’ regular-season finale against Louisville that Levis is deserving of everything coming his way.

“Hard to put into words what he’s meant to us,” Stoops said. “His toughness, leadership, battling through adversity. Coming here and having a great year and going through an offensive coordinator change and getting beat up and having a year where he wasn’t at 100%, he fought through it.

“He’s a true professional. He set the tone for us here. We absolutely love him, whether it’s his last game or plays one more. I think the world of him, and love what he’s done for us and don’t want anything but the best for him and his future.”

Barring any additional roster movement, Kentucky (7-5) enters the Music City Bowl with three quarterbacks on its roster — redshirt freshman Kaiya Sheron, true freshman Destin Wade and sophomore Deuce Hogan, who transferred from Iowa after last season.

Sheron was the only Kentucky quarterback other than Levis to take a snap this season. When Levis missed the South Carolina game because of injury, Sheron started in his place

and completed 15 of 27 throws for 178 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. Sheron was sacked six times in a 24-14 defeat at Kroger Field.

Statistically, Levis’ senior season was something of a disappointment.

He entered the season hyped as a likely first-round pick in the draft and possible dark horse Heisman Trophy contender but was hampered by injuries.

In the Oct. 1 loss at Ole Miss, Levis suffered turf toe that would force him to miss Kentucky’s next game, a loss to South Carolina, and would hamper his mobility for the rest of the season. He also dislocated the middle finger on his non-throwing hand at Ole Miss and injured his non-throwing shoulder in the win over Mississippi State.

“He’s 10 out of 10 in toughness,” UK offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said after UK’s Governor’s Cup rivalry win over Louisville. “I don’t think people realize how injured he was this year. He played for five or six weeks where literally he would sprint out in practice and fall down. Like, his toe would give out on him. Bad habits can come from that with not transitioning your weight and your shoulder.”

Levis’ completion percentage dropped from 66% as a junior to 65.4% as a senior, but he did post slight improvements in passing yards per game (216.3 to 218.7) and quarterback rating (147.99 to 151.88).

As a junior, Levis ran for 376 yards and nine touchdowns. As a senior, thanks in large part to being sacked 36 times, he actually lost 107 rushing yards in 11 games with just two rushing touchdowns.

Scangarello, who replaced Liam Coen as UK’s offensive coordinator before the 2022 season and was fired after the regular season finale, made it clear before the season started he wanted to limit the number of hits Levis took on designed quarterback runs and scrambles, but Scangarello, Stoops and Levis later said he would have run more if not for the turf toe.

“The stuff that I’m dealing with is definitely not easy, but if anything I think it prepared me for not hopefully but what probably will happen at some point in my career in the future with similar injuries and more kind of annoying kind of nuisances,” Levis said. “I just kind of kept battling and trusting the coaching staff to put me in the right position to succeed. It’s tough calling plays when you have a different kind of physical nature with the quarterback than what

you were expecting, but I think Coach did a great job working around it.”

After the Louisville win, Levis admitted he would always look back on his senior season at Kentucky with a sense of regret because he and the team did not reach their preseason goals, but he likely has already secured his spot as a fan favorite for decades to come.

When Levis transferred to Kentucky in 2021 he was looking to prove himself after he felt he was unfairly pigeonholed as a run-first backup quarterback at Penn State. Working with Coen, he proved his arm talent was elite and made strides to develop himself as a top draft prospect.

Levis’ individual development coincided with one of Kentucky’s most successful seasons in his first year as a starter. His quickly endeared himself to fans with a physical mindset that saw him frequently lower a shoulder to plow through a defender or leap over a would-be tackler. Levis also took full advantage of new rules allowing players to profit off their name, image and likeness by crafting a social media persona that gained him national attention before he even started a game for the Wildcats.

“In this time of Thanksgiving, I’m thinking about the things I’m thankful for, and one of the first things I think about is just this community here, the people here,” Levis said before the Louisville game. “The coaching staff for believing in me here. The team for rallying around me and trusting in me to be their guy, be their leader. The community for just welcoming me with open arms. Could have gone very differently when you enter that transfer portal. If it weren’t for Kentucky, who knows where I’d be, who knows what the future looks like for me.”

Kentucky’s Chris Rodriguez to sit out Music City Bowl to begin preparations for pro career

**Herald-Leader Staff Report
Lexington Herald-Leader
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Chris Rodriguez’s final season in Lexington did not work out according to plan, but the Wildcats’ workhorse running back will leave

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Kentucky as the football program's third-leading rusher of all time.

C-Rod's place in history became assured Thursday when the senior from McDonough, Ga., announced he would bypass Kentucky's Dec. 31 appearance in the Music City Bowl to prepare for the NFL Draft.

One day earlier, quarterback Will Levis made the same choice, opting out of the bowl to begin preparations for his pro career.

"Thank you for everything!" Rodriguez said in his Thursday post on Instagram. "I can't tell you how much your support this past year has meant to me. Although I'm going to sit out the bowl game to focus on my health and prepare for my lifelong dream of playing in the NFL, I'll be in the Music City to support my brothers and I hope to see you there!"

Rodriguez's five-year Kentucky career ends with him having amassed 3,644 rushing yards. That leaves him behind only Benny Snell (3,873) and Sonny Collins (3,835) on UK's all-time list.

Rodriguez rushed for 43 yards as a true freshman in 2018, for 533 as a redshirt freshman, for 785 as a sophomore and for 1,379 as a junior in 2021. As the Southeastern Conference's leading returning rusher, Rodriguez entered his senior season with a realistic opportunity to eclipse Snell's record.

However, Rodriguez was suspended for Kentucky's first four games in 2022 and finished the season with 904 yards in eight games. Rodriguez finished his career with 32 rushing touchdowns.

Citing student privacy laws, Kentucky declined to provide specifics about why Rodriguez was held out of the first four games.

In September, the Herald-Leader reported UK launched an investigation in February into members of the football team filing inaccurate timecards for jobs worked at the university hospital, according to documents obtained through the state's open records law. That investigation determined multiple members of the team listed hours worked that they were not present at the hospital for when video surveillance showed them leaving the facility or there was a conflict with class or game schedules. Players, whose names were redacted from a letter sent to the NCAA and provided to the Herald-Leader, were declared ineligible.

UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart confirmed to the Herald-Leader there had been

an investigation into Rodriguez's eligibility. Rodriguez also pleaded guilty to a DUI charge in July.

Despite the suspension, Kentucky named Rodriguez one of its team captains before the season opener. He was able to practice with the team throughout the suspension.

"Chris Rodriguez has given an awful lot to this program and has played awfully hard and is an amazing football player," Barnhart said upon C-Rod's return to the lineup. "I want to see his career at the University of Kentucky end the right way. For him to be able to run the football, and for that to be the memory of our fans for him."