



# KENTUCKY

## FOOTBALL

### KENTUCKY

Date	Opponent (TV)	Time
9/2	BALL STATE (SECN)	NOON
9/9	EKU (SECN+)	3 P.M.
9/16	AKRON (ESPNU)	7:30 P.M.
9/23	at Vanderbilt (TBA)	TBA
9/30	FLORIDA (TBA)	TBA
10/7	at Georgia (TBA)	TBA
10/14	MISSOURI (TBA)	TBA
10/28	TENNESSEE (TBA)	TBA
11/4	at Mississippi State (TBA)	TBA
11/11	ALABAMA (TBA)	TBA
11/18	at South Carolina (TBA)	TBA
11/25	at Louisville (TBA)	TBA

\* SEC game; Home games in bold



### RV/RV KENTUCKY VS. BALL STATE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

NOON ET • SEC NETWORK

LEXINGTON, KY.

KROGER FIELD AT C.M. NEWTON GROUNDS



### WILDCATS

2022 Record / SEC Record	7-6 / 3-5
AP / AFCA Coaches Poll	RV / RV
Head Coach	Mark Stoops
Record at Kentucky (Years)	66-59 (11th)
Career Record (Years)	Same
Last Game	

### CARDINALS

2022 Record / MAC Record	5-7 / 3-5
AP / AFCA Coaches Poll	NR / NR
Head Coach	Mike Neu
Record at Ball State (Years)	33-48 (8th)
Career Record (Years)	Same
Last Game	

### KENTUCKY HOSTS BALL STATE IN SEASON OPENER

The University of Kentucky football program begins an anticipated season in 2023. There is a lot for Big Blue Nation to be excited about this season, from a coordinator combination that has proven success in the Bluegrass, to well-versed leaders in the locker room, to developing talent primed to take a step up, to an impressive group of transfers that are itching to stand out.

In the Kentucky-Ball State season opener, fans will get a first look at a remodeled offensive line, an anticipated wide receiver room and a revamped running back room, paired with transfer quarterback Devin Leary. They'll also see a younger but still talented UK defense, highlighted by linebacker J.J. Weaver, who returned for his senior season after opting out of the 2022 NFL Draft, and sophomore defensive lineman Deone Walker, who earned All-SEC honors as a true freshman.

### ABOUT THE GAME

#### TV | SEC NETWORK

Play-by-Play	Dave Neal
Analyst	Derek Mason
Sideline	Taylor Davis

#### RADIO | UK SPORTS NETWORK

Play-by-Play	Tom Leach
Analyst	Jeff Picoro
Sideline	Dick Gabriel

#### SATELLITE RADIO

Sirius	134 or 190
SXM APP	<a href="https://siriusxm.us/SXM961">https://siriusxm.us/SXM961</a>

#### INTERNET RADIO | UKATHLETICS.COM

Free live audio

#### LIVE STATS | UKATHLETICS.COM

Free live stats

#### TICKET INFORMATION | UKATHLETICS.COM

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 2** 10-WIN SEASONS IN PAST SIX YEARS
- 7** STRAIGHT BOWL APPEARANCES (UK RECORD)
- 16** STRAIGHT REGULAR SEASON VICTORIES VS. NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS
- 40** WINS SINCE START OF 2018, THE 19TH MOST AMONG POWER FIVE PROGRAMS
- 66** COACH STOOPS CAREER WINS, MOST IN SCHOOL HISTORY

### QUICK NOTES

- Kentucky begins its 133rd season on Saturday.
- UK was picked to finish fourth in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division in a 2023 SEC Preseason Media Poll, behind defending national champion Georgia, then Tennessee and South Carolina.
  - Three Wildcats were named to the 2023 Preseason Media Days All-SEC Teams, including sophomore Deone Walker (Second Team Defense), graduate students Eli Cox (Third Team Offense) and J.J. Weaver (Third Team Defense).
- In 2022, UK earned a 7-6 record overall and a 3-5 record in the conference, reaching its school-record seventh consecutive bowl game (TransPerfect Music City Bowl).
  - It marked the sixth time in the last seven seasons that UK won at least seven games, with the lone exception being the COVID-shortened season in 2020.
- In 2023, the Wildcats celebrate its 50th anniversary of the opening of Kroger Field, which was formerly named Commonwealth Stadium.
  - The Cats are 182-141-4 (.563) all-time in Kroger Field, including 46-25 (.648) under Mark Stoops.
  - The Cats have won 13 of their past 17 games at Kroger Field.
  - The Cats are 16-4 in their last 20 home night games.
- The Wildcats begin the season receiving votes in both the Associated Press Poll and AFCA Coaches Poll.

- continued on page 6-





# 2023 GAME NOTES

## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

21	Nasir Addison	DB	6-0	187	Fr-HS
3	Alex Afari Jr.	DB	6-2	214	So-1L
21	Santos Alvarez	WR	5-11	163	Fr-HS
82	Khamari Anderson	TE	6-5	238	Fr-HS
15	Jareemiah Anglin Jr.	DB	6-1	185	Fr-HS
87	Ardell Banks	WR	6-3	187	Fr-HS
80	Brenden Bates	TE	6-5	251	%Sr-4L
98	Isaiah Beasley	DL	5-11	292	Sr-Sq
38	Henry Bennett	RB	5-10	203	Fr-HS
37	Michael Bernard	K	6-3	205	Sr-Tr
93	Wilson Berry	P	6-4	213	So-Sq
59	Lincoln Billiter	DL	6-3	272	Fr-HS
65	Grant Bingham	OL	6-5	321	Fr-RS
51	Tanner Bowles	OL	6-5	306	Sr-Tr
5	Anthony Brown	WR	5-10	168	Fr-HS
7	Barion Brown	WR	6-1	174	So-1L
34	Jayvant Brown	ILB	6-0	226	Fr-HS
45	Jase Bruner	OLB	6-2	227	Sr-Sq
14	Ty Bryant	DB	6-0	187	Fr-HS
64	Jackson Bunn	OL	6-2	285	Fr-HS
62	Jager Burton	OL	6-4	307	So-1L
45	Darius Cannon	WR	5-9	175	Fr-HS
11	Zion Childress	DB	6-0	201	Jr-1L
52	Ben Christman	OL	6-6	321	So-Tr
38	Cannon Coffee	DB	5-11	167	Fr-HS
75	Eli Cox	OL	6-4	311	Sr-3L
69	Marques Cox	OL	6-5	311	Sr-Tr
3	Dekel Crowdus	WR	5-10	171	So-1L
8	Izayah Cummings	TE	6-3	232	Sr-3L
48	Mason Dailey	ILB	5-11	220	Fr-HS
53	Hayden Dawahare	ILB	6-3	228	Fr-HS
1	Ray Davis	RB	5-10	216	Sr-Tr
27	Max DeGraff	WR	5-11	154	Fr-HS
34	Trey Dennis	WR	5-8	138	Jr-Sq
85	Jordan Dingle	TE	6-4	238	So-1L
47	Justice Dingle II	FB	6-3	261	%Sr-Sq
95	Jamarius Dinkins	DL	6-5	280	So-1L
10	Jantzen Dunn	DB	6-0	182	So-Tr
42	Tyreese Fearbry	OLB	6-5	233	Fr-RS
77	Jeremy Flax	OL	6-6	325	Sr-1L
74	Courtland Ford	OL	6-6	315	Jr-Tr
40	Luke Fulton	ILB	6-4	225	Sr-Sq
94	Tavion Gadson	DL	6-5	275	Fr-HS
46	Ron Gaines	LS	6-5	250	%Sr-Tr
86	Dylan Gary	WR	6-4	198	So-Sq
4	Jalen Geiger	DB	6-1	199	Sr-3L
99	Kendrick Gilbert	DL	6-5	292	Fr-HS
22	Grant Godfrey	OLB	6-3	227	Fr-HS
36	Da'min Green	DB	5-10	190	Fr-HS
31	Maxwell Hairston	DB	6-1	181	So-1L
70	Nikolas Hall	OL	6-6	314	Fr-RS
19	Shane Hamm	QB	5-11	209	So-Tr
6	Jonquis "JQ" Hardaway	DB	6-3	194	So-Tr
97	Josaih Hayes	DL	6-3	317	Sr-3L
50	Darrion Henry-Young	DL	6-4	264	Jr-1L
56	Walker Himebauch	LS	6-0	228	Fr-HS
16	Deuce Hogan	QB	6-4	217	Jr-Sq
68	Kenneth Horsey	OL	6-3	311	%Sr-4L
57	Max Ishmael	OL	6-3	316	Fr-HS
54	D'Eryk Jackson	ILB	6-1	245	Sr-3L
26	Ramon Jefferson	RB	5-10	210	%Sr-Sq
33	Jaquez Keyes	RB	6-0	214	Fr-Tr
81	Cole Lanter	WR	5-11	182	So-Sq
37	Spencer Leadbetter	WR	6-3	200	Fr-HS
13	Devin Leary	QB	6-1	217	Sr-Tr

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

0*	Demie Sumo-Karngbaye	RB	6-0	210	Jr-Tr	Willingboro, N.J. (NC State/Willingboro)
0*	Deone Walker	DL	6-6	348	So-1L	Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)
1	Ray Davis	RB	5-10	216	Sr-Tr	San Francisco, Calif. (Vanderbilt/Temple/Blair Academy)
2	Shamar Porter	WR	6-2	205	Fr-HS	Nashville, Tenn. (Ensworth)
3*	Alex Afari Jr.	DB	6-2	214	So-1Lk	Cincinnati, Ohio (Lakota West)
3*	Dekel Crowdus	WR	5-10	171	So-1L	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
4*	Jalen Geiger	DB	6-1	199	Sr-3L	Columbia, S.C. (Spring Valley)
4*	JuTahn McClain	RB	5-9	198	Sr-3L	Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)
5	Anthony Brown	WR	5-10	168	Fr-HS	Springfield, Ohio (Springfield)
6*	Jonquis "JQ" Hardaway	DB	6-3	194	So-Tr	Columbus, Ga. (Cincinnati/Central-Phenix City, Ala.)
6*	Dane Key	WR	6-3	195	So-1L	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
7	Barion Brown	WR	6-1	174	So-1L	Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)
8*	Izayah Cummings	TE	6-3	232	Sr-3L	Louisville, Ky. (Male)
8*	Octavious Oxendine	DL	6-1	276	Sr-3L	Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)
9*	Tayvion Robinson	WR	5-11	194	%Sr-1L	Virginia Beach, Va. (Virginia Tech/Cox)
9*	Keeshawn Silver	DL	6-4	322	So-Tr	Rocky Mount, N.C. (North Carolina/Rocky Mount)
10*	Jantzen Dunn	DB	6-0	182	So-Tr	Bowling Green, Ky. (Ohio State/South Warren)
10*	Jamarion Wilcox	RB	5-10	184	Fr-HS	Douglasville, Ga. (South Paulding)
11	Zion Childress	DB	6-0	201	Jr-1L	Houston, Texas (Texas State/New Caney)
12*	Chance Poore	K	6-2	213	%Sr-4L	Anderson, S.C. (Westside)
12*	Kaiya Sheron	QB	6-3	210	So-Sq	Somerset, Ky. (Somerset)
13*	Devin Leary	QB	6-1	217	Sr-Tr	Sicklerville, N.J. (NC State/Timber Creek)
13*	J.J. Weaver	OLB	6-5	244	Sr-3L	Louisville, Ky. (Moore Traditional)
14	Ty Bryant	DB	6-0	187	Fr-HS	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
15*	Jareemiah Anglin Jr.	DB	6-1	185	Fr-HS	Lake Wales, Fla. (Lake Wales)
15*	Destin Wade	QB	6-3	223	Fr-RS	Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)
16*	Deuce Hogan	QB	6-4	217	Jr-Sq	Southlake, Texas (Iowa/Grapevine Faith Christian)
16*	Alex Raynor	K	6-0	178	Sr-Tr	Kennesaw, Georgia (Georgia Southern/Harrison)
17	Daveren Rayner	ILB	6-2	217	Sr-Tr	Indianapolis, Indiana (Northern Illinois/Lawrence Central)
18	Brandon White	WR	5-9	167	Fr-RS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)
19	Shane Hamm	QB	5-11	209	So-Tr	North Jackson, Ohio (Dayton/Hoban)
20	Keaten Wade	OLB	6-5	250	So-1L	Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)
21*	Nasir Addison	DB	6-0	187	Fr-HS	Newark, N.J. (Irvington)
21*	Santos Alvarez	WR	5-11	163	Fr-HS	Cincinnati, Ohio (Anderson)
22	Grant Godfrey	OLB	6-3	227	Fr-HS	Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)
23	Andru Phillips	DB	6-0	187	Jr-2L	Mauldin, S.C. (Mauldin)
24	Elijah Reed	DB	6-3	185	Fr-RS	Louisville, Ky. (Pleasure Ridge Park)
25	Jordan Lovett	DB	6-2	195	So-1L	Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)
26	Ramon Jefferson	RB	5-10	210	%Sr-Sq	Bronx, N.Y. (Sam Houston State/Garden City CC/Maine/Truman)
27	Max DeGraff	WR/K	5-11	154	Fr-HS	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Catholic)
28	Jordan Robinson	DB	6-4	208	So-RS	Columbia, S.C. (Livingstone College/Westwood)
29*	Jackson Schulz	DB	6-2	202	So-Sq	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity)
29*	La'Ve'll Wright	RB	6-0	214	So-1L	Louisville, Ky. (North Hardin)
30	Avery Stuart	DB	6-2	186	Fr-HS	Montgomery, Ala. (Alabama Christian)
31	Maxwell Hairston	DB	6-1	181	So-1L	West Bloomfield, Mich. (West Bloomfield)
32	Trevin Wallace	ILB	6-2	241	Jr-2L	Jesup, Ga. (Wayne County)
33*	Jaquez Keyes	RB	6-0	214	Fr-Tr	Ironton, Ohio (Wake Forest/Ironton)
33*	Carson Wright	ILB	5-10	205	Fr-HS	Pikeville, Ky. (Pikeville)
34*	Jayvant Brown	ILB	6-0	226	Fr-HS	Deerfield Beach, Fla. (St. Thomas Aquinas)
34*	Trey Dennis	WR	5-8	138	Jr-Sq	Lexington, Ky. (Sayre)
35	Jackson Moore	K	5-10	156	Fr-HS	Waxhaw, N.C. (Marvin Ridge)
36*	Da'min Green	DB	5-10	190	Fr-HS	Lexington, Ky. (Bryan Station)
36*	Chy Rivers	WR	5-8	164	Fr-HS	Baton Rouge, La. (Parkview Baptist School)
37*	Michael Bernard	K	6-3	205	Sr-Tr	Clayton, Mo. (Fordham/Clayton)
37*	Spencer Leadbetter	WR	6-3	200	Fr-HS	Glenview, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
38*	Henry Bennett	RB	5-10	203	Fr-HS	West Palm Beach, Fla. (Cardinal Newman)
38*	Cannon Coffee	DB	5-11	167	Fr-HS	Indianapolis, Ind. (North Central)
39*	Jackson Smith	K	5-11	204	Fr-RS	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)
39*	Josh Terrell	WR	5-10	189	So-Sq	Fort Worth, Texas (Grapevine Faith Christian)
40	Luke Fulton	ILB	6-4	225	Sr-Sq	Youngstown, Ohio (Michigan State/Cardinal Mooney)
42	Tyreese Fearbry	OLB	6-5	233	Fr-RS	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Perry Traditional Academy)
43	Landon Marcum	OLB	6-2	195	Fr-HS	Winchester, Ky. (George Rogers Clark)
44	Martez Thrower	ILB	6-2	224	Jr-2L	Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)
45*	Jase Bruner	OLB	6-2	227	Sr-Sq	Science Hill, Ky. (Somerset)
45*	Darius Cannon	WR	5-9	175	Fr-HS	Gainesville, Ga. (Gainesville)
46	Ronald Gaines	LS	6-5	250	%Sr-Tr	Chicago, Ill. (Temple/Simeon)
47*	Justice Dingle II	FB	6-3	261	%Sr-Sq	Bowling Green, Ky. (Georgia Tech/Bowling Green HS)
47*	Jarard Moseley	DB	6-2	183	So-Sq	West Palm Beach, Fla. (Cardinal Newman)



## ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

88	Tanner Lemaster	TE	6-5	253	Fr-HS
25	Jordan Lovett	DB	6-2	195	So-1L
43	Landon Marcum	OLB	6-2	195	Fr-HS
55	Noah Matthews	OLB	6-5	237	Fr-RS
4	JuTahn McClain	RB	5-9	198	Sr-3L
66	Tino Merlo	OL	6-2	279	Fr-HS
83	Jack Monday	TE	6-1	224	So-Sq
35	Jackson Moore	K	5-10	156	Fr-HS
47	Jaraid Mosely	DB	6-2	183	So-Sq
60	Braiden Myers	OL	6-3	274	Fr-HS
8	Octavious Oxendine	DL	6-1	276	Sr-3L
58	Lucas Padgett	OL	6-4	315	Jr-Sq
61	Nick Pearson	OL	6-3	291	Fr-HS
55	Clay Perry	LS	6-0	199	Sr-2L
23	Andru Phillips	DB	6-0	187	Jr-2L
12	Chance Poore	K	6-2	213	%Sr-4L
2	Shamar Porter	WR	6-2	205	Fr-HS
76	Austin Ramsey	OL	6-4	335	Fr-HS
73	Dylan Ray	OL	6-6	305	So-Tr
17	Daveren Rayner	ILB	6-2	217	Sr-Tr
16	Alex Raynor	K	6-0	178	Sr-Tr
24	Elijah Reed	DB	6-3	185	Fr-RS
36	Chy Rivers	WR	5-8	164	Fr-HS
28	Jordan Robinson	DB	6-4	208	So-RS
9	Tayvion Robinson	WR	5-11	194	%Sr-1L
67	Paul Rodriguez	OL	6-5	324	So-Sq
90	Tre'vonn Rybka	DL	6-4	276	Jr-2L
92	Kahlil Saunders	DL	6-5	285	So-1L
29	Jackson Schulz	DB	6-2	202	So-Sq
12	Kaiya Sheron	QB	6-3	210	So-Sq
9	Keeshawn Silver	DL	6-4	322	So-Tr
63	Edric Simmons	DL	6-2	276	Fr-HS
39	Jackson Smith	K	5-11	204	Fr-RS
30	Avery Stuart	DB	6-2	186	Fr-HS
0	Demie Sumo-Karngbaye	RB	6-0	210	Jr-Tr
39	Josh Terrell	WR	5-10	189	So-Sq
44	Martez Thrower	ILB	6-2	224	Jr-2L
48	Jack Varga	FB	5-11	222	Sr-Sq
15	Destin Wade	QB	6-3	223	Fr-RS
20	Keaton Wade	OLB	6-5	250	So-1L
0	Deone Walker	DL	6-6	348	So-1L
32	Trevin Wallace	ILB	6-2	241	Jr-2L
13	J.J. Weaver	OLB	6-5	244	Sr-3L
18	Brandon White	WR	5-9	167	Fr-RS
10	Jamarion Wilcox	RB	5-10	184	Fr-HS
49	Jai Williams	OLB	6-5	214	Jr-Sq
71	Malachi Wood	OL	6-8	283	Fr-HS
33	Carson Wright	ILB	5-10	205	Fr-HS
29	La'Ve'll Wright	RB	6-0	214	So-1L
96	Tommy Ziesmer	DL	6-2	257	Fr-HS

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

48*	Mason Dailey	ILB	5-11	220	Fr-HS	Milton, Ga. (Saint Francis)
48*	Jack Varga	FB	5-11	222	Sr-Sq	Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier)
49	Jai Williams	OLB	6-5	214	Jr-Sq	Lake Forest, Ill. (Lake Forest)
50*	Darrion Henry-Young	DL	6-4	264	Jr-1L	Cincinnati, Ohio (Ohio State/Princeton HS)
50*	Koby Keenum	OL	6-4	295	Fr-HS	Florence, Ala. (Mars Hill Bible School)
51	Tanner Bowles	OL	6-5	306	Sr-Tr	Glasgow, Ky. (Alabama/Glasgow)
52	Ben Christman	OL	6-6	321	So-Tr	Akron, Ohio (Ohio State/Revere)
53	Hayden Dawahare	ILB	6-3	228	Fr-HS	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Catholic)
54	D'Eryk Jackson	ILB	6-1	245	Sr-3L	Dublin, Ga. (West Laurens)
55*	Noah Matthews	OLB	6-5	237	Fr-RS	Bridgeville, Del. (Woodbridge)
55*	Clay Perry	LS	6-0	199	Sr-2L	Upton, Ky. (Central Hardin)
56	Walker Himebauch	LS	6-0	228	Fr-HS	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Palmer Ridge)
57	Max Ishmael	OL	6-3	316	Fr-HS	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian)
58	Lucas Padgett	OL	6-4	315	Jr-Sq	Birmingham, Ala. (La Cueva)
59	Lincoln Billiter	DL	6-3	272	Fr-HS	Virgie, Ky. (Shelby Valley)
60	Braiden Myers	OL	6-3	274	Fr-HS	Somerset, Ky. (Southwestern)
61	Nick Pearson	OL	6-3	291	Fr-HS	Milton, Ga. (Blessed Trinity)
62	Jager Burton	OL	6-4	307	So-1L	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)
63	Edric Simmons	DL	6-2	276	Fr-HS	Nashville, Tenn. (Brentwood Academy)
64	Jackson Bunn	OL	6-2	285	Fr-HS	Oxford, Ala. (Oxford)
65	Grant Bingham	OL	6-5	321	Fr-RS	Johnson County, Ky. (Johnson Central)
66	Tino Merlo	OL	6-2	279	Fr-HS	Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney)
67	Paul Rodriguez	OL	6-5	324	So-Sq	Mason, Ohio (William Mason)
68	Kenneth Horsey	OL	6-3	311	%Sr-4L	Sanford, Fla. (Sanford Seminole)
69	Marques Cox	OL	6-5	311	Sr-Tr	Peoria, Ill. (Northern Illinois/Peoria)
70	Nikolas Hall	OL	6-6	314	Fr-RS	Austin, Texas (Akins)
71	Malachi Wood	OL	6-8	283	Fr-HS	Richmond, Ky. (Madison Central)
73	Dylan Ray	OL	6-6	305	So-Tr	Noblesville, Indiana (West Virginia/Noblesville)
74	Courtland Ford	OL	6-6	315	Jr-Tr	Peoria, Ill. (Southern California/Cedar Hill (Texas))
75	Eli Cox	OL	6-4	311	Sr-3L	Nicholasville, Ky. (West Jessamine)
76	Austin Ramsey	OL	6-4	335	Fr-HS	Philadelphia, Pa. (Roman Catholic)
77	Jeremy Flax	OL	6-6	325	Sr-1L	Detroit, Mich. (Independence CC/Robichaud)
80	Brenden Bates	TE	6-5	251	%Sr-4L	Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)
81	Cole Lanter	WR	5-11	182	So-Sq	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)
82	Khamari Anderson	TE	6-5	238	Fr-HS	Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)
83	Jack Monday	TE	6-1	224	So-Sq	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Catholic)
84	Josh Kattus	TE	6-4	231	So-1L	Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)
85	Jordan Dingle	TE	6-4	238	So-1L	Bowling Green, Ky. (Bowling Green HS)
86	Dylan Gary	WR	6-4	198	So-Sq	Sugar Hill, Ga. (North Gwinnett)
87	Ardell Banks	WR	6-3	187	Fr-HS	Massillon, Ohio (Massillon)
88	Tanner Lemaster	TE	6-5	253	Fr-HS	Washington Court House, Ohio (Washington)
90	Tre'vonn Rybka	DL	6-4	276	Jr-2L	Dickson, Tenn. (Dickson County)
91	Heath Jehu	P	6-0	163	Fr-HS	Birmingham, Ala. (John Carroll Catholic)
92	Kahlil Saunders	DL	6-5	285	So-1L	Huntsville, Ala. (Grissom)
93	Wilson Berry	P	6-4	213	So-Sq	Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)
94	Tavion Gadson	DL	6-5	275	Fr-HS	Savannah, Ga. (Jenkins)
95	Jamarius Dinkins	DL	6-5	280	So-1L	Columbus, Ohio (Walnut Ridge)
96	Tommy Ziesmer	DL	6-2	257	Fr-HS	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)
97	Josaih Hayes	DL	6-3	317	Sr-3L	Horn Lake, Miss. (Horn Lake)
98	Isaiah Beasley	DL	5-11	292	Sr-Sq	Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Khamari Anderson (kuh-MAR-ee)  
 Barion (bear-EON) Brown  
 Lincoln Billiter (BILL-eh-ter)  
 Jager (Jagger) Burton  
 Marques (MARK-us) Cox  
 Dekel (da-KEL) Crowdus (CROWD-us)  
 Jamarius (jah-MAR-ee-us) Dinkins  
 Jalen Geiger (GI-ger)  
 Josaih (joe-SIGH-uh) Hayes  
 Walker Himebauch (hime-BOCK)  
 D'Eryk (dee-ERIC) Jackson

Tanner Lemaster (LEE-master)  
 JuTahn (juh-TAWN) McClain  
 Daveren (DAVE-ren) Rayner  
 Tayvion (TAY-vee-on) Robinson  
 Kaiya (Ki-yah) Sheron (Sharon)  
 Demie (DEHM-ee) Sumo-Karngbaye (SUE-moh KARNG-bay)  
 Deone (dee-ON) Walker  
 Jai (Ji) Williams  
 Tommy Ziesmer (ZEES-mer)



UK Athletics Comm./PR  
Susan Lax

WEEKLY MEDIA SCHEDULE - GAME 1 - BALL STATE

(859) 608-5019  
slax0@uky.edu

Monday - 28	Tuesday - 29	Wednesday - 30	Thursday - 31	Friday - 1	Saturday - 2	Sunday - 3
Stoops news conference - Noon EDT <a href="#">Live on UKAthletics.com</a> Mark Stoops Call-In Show 6-7 p.m. ET	Post-Practice Interviews: OC Coen, offensive player 5 p.m. ET	Post-Practice Interviews: DC White, defensive/special team players 5 p.m. ET	Post-Practice Stoops 5 p.m. ET	No availability	UK vs. Ball State Noon Lexington, Ky. Kroger Field SEC Network	No availability

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACTS



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collegepressbox

collegepressbox is the official media website for Division I football. Access and download game notes, quotes, statistics, media guides, headshots, logos and more for all FBS schools, conferences, postseason games, awards and the College Football Playoff. Please register for an account at collegepressbox.com/register.

MEDIA SERVICES

CREDENTIAL APPROVALS/DENIALS

For the Ball State game, credential requests are being accepted through Sportssystems and the deadline to apply is Monday, Aug. 28 at Noon ET. No approved credentials will be distributed prior to game day.

CENTRAL BANK PRESS BOX WIFI INFORMATION

Wireless Internet access through campus requires a unique username and password to log onto our ATHMEDIA wifi. If this is your first game to cover this season, you will receive a username and password prior to game day that allows a calendar year of access to the ATHMEDIA network. If you have not received an email from UKIT with log in information, please email Wesley.crane@uky.edu.

**How to log in with your username and password?** When you arrive at Kroger Field, connect to the ATHMEDIA network. If your Internet browser does not open automatically, open your preferred Internet browser, go to www.uky.edu and type in your unique username and password to connect. This username and password can connect up to three devices. For more information, see a member of UK's Athletics Communication and PR office.

UK WEBSITE -- UKATHLETICS.COM

For notes, player bios, rosters and stats, visit the official University of Kentucky Athletics website at UKAthletics.com/football. The official Southeastern Conference website is secsports.com.

UK WEEKLY NEWS CONFERENCE

Every Monday head coach Mark Stoops will host a news conference at noon ET from the media room at Kroger Field. The news conference is streamed live on UKAthletics.com.

UK game notes will be released at approximately 11:35 a.m. ET on Monday. A transcript of the news conference will be emailed on Monday afternoons.

SEC HEAD COACHES' TELECONFERENCE

The SEC head coaches' teleconference is on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. Coach Mark Stoops' time slot is 12:40 p.m. The call-in number (877) 692-8954 (Confidential). A passcode will be issued each week by the SEC office (205-458-3010) and UKCPR will email it as well. Contact Susan Lax with questions.

POST-PRACTICE INTERVIEWS

Interviews will be conducted at the Joe Craft Football Training Center or by telephone at the conclusion of each practice on Tuesdays (offensives coaches and players) and Wednesdays (defensive coaches and players/special teams). Coach Stoops will speak to the media on Thursdays post practice. Contact Susan Lax, Matt May or Cami Moore for assistance.

VIDEOS/PHOTOS

Every Monday press conference, post-practice press conferences and post-game press conference after home Saturday games will be here >> <https://vimeo.com/showcase/kentuckyfootball>

For photos this season, go here: <https://bit.ly/3Knpovk> PASSCODE: ukmedia2022-23





### THE UK HEALTHCARE MARK STOOPS SHOW

The UK HealthCare Mark Stoops Show is Monday from 6-7 p.m. ET and is hosted by The Voice of the Wildcats, Tom Leach. Fans will have the opportunity to ask questions of Coach Stoops by tweeting to @UKSportsNetwork or by calling 1-800-606-GAME (4263) or 859-280-2287 (CATS).

The show airs in Lexington on 630 WLAP, online at UKathletics.com and on UK Sports Network affiliates throughout Kentucky. A live video stream of the show will be available on UKathletics.com as well as on the Official Kentucky Football Facebook page.

### GAME DAY

#### GAME DAY MATERIALS

Everything you need to cover Saturday's game has been made available in one place at ukathletics.com/fbmediacenter.

#### MEDIA PARKING

All media parking this season will be distributed electronically. You will have to setup a myUK Ticketmaster account to accept the parking pass if you don't already have an account. Instructions for how to access your parking is available at ukathletics.com/mobiletickets. It is recommended that you do this before game day and save the pass to your Apple/Google Play wallet. Please make sure the email address for the attendee is accurate in SportsSystems. If you have not received an email to access your parking by Friday morning, please email wecran2@uky.edu. Please ignore the row/seat on the parking pass, that is for internal use only.

#### MEDIA SHUTTLE

A media shuttle will be provided to working media 3 hours prior to kickoff from Parking Structure 1 (Yellow Y permit) to Gate 11 and 3 hours after the conclusion of the game from Gate 11 back to PS1. The shuttle will pick up/drop off from the entrance of the parking structure, which is the side facing the hospital.

#### MEDIA FIELD ACCESS

- Media are NOT allowed field level access pregame or in-game unless approved an on-field green background credential by the ACPR office for the game. Scouts will be provided pregame field access.
- Media are allowed field access through Field

Gate 12 for the final five minutes of the game. Field access is available for photo/scout through Field Gate 12 pregame and in-game only.

- Postgame, all media/photo/scout should exit through Field Gate 1, which is closest to the UK postgame media room.
- AT NO TIME SHOULD ANY MEDIA MEMBER GO THROUGH THE KENTUCKY TUNNEL TO GET TO THE UK POSTGAME MEDIA ROOM.
- Due to the presence of prospective student-athletes on the field pregame, media/photo are required to stay in the west endzone (between Field Gate 9 and Field Gate 4) to the start of the UK and visiting team bench areas. NFL scouts are allowed access to the full exterior of the field pregame. The Kentucky and visiting team bench areas and the east endzone are not available to media pregame. A map showing the pregame media/photo area is on the back.

#### FIELD PHOTO AREA TO SERVICE PHOTOGRAPHERS

The field-level photo area is located inside Gate 11 at Ramp 28/29. There will be box lunches and water served in the room. Flip cards will be available. Space is limited. Security has been positioned outside the room to keep equipment safe during the game. If you wish to just store your equipment, please store it on the floor and not on table tops.

#### GET LIVE STATS ON YOUR LAPTOP!

StatBroadcast live stats are available at kentucky.statbroadcast.com. There is no passcode to access these live stats.

#### MEDIA MEAL

A media meal will be provided in the media dining room. No voucher is needed, but please sign in for each trip you make through the buffet line. If you want to pack additional snacks in your backpack/briefcase, it will be permitted as long as you are entering through Gate 11.

#### POSTGAME MEDIA WORK HOURS

The Central Bank Press Box will be available for working media for 3 hours after the end of the game before closing. A member of the UK media relations office will be in the press box for any postgame needs.

#### KROGER FIELD IS A FREQUENCY COORDINATED VENUE

Kroger Field is an RF coordinated venue. All wireless transmitters, such as those used for broadcasting must be registered by Tuesday pre-

ceding each game for approval at daryldoss@gmail.com.

#### PROSPECT VISITS

Media members should be familiar with NCAA/SEC rules as they relate to student-athletes and prospective student-athletes. If you have a question related to NCAA/SEC rules, please do not hesitate to contact Rachel Baker in the Compliance Office at rachel.baker@uky.edu.

#### PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

A prospect may not be interviewed during the broadcast or telecast of an intercollegiate contest. Coaches and staff cannot make comments about a prospect. An institution shall not publicize or arrange publicity for a prospect's visit to campus. Photographers cannot provide prospective student-athletes with photographs.



## 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

### 2023 COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** Mark Stoops (Iowa, '89)

#### Overall College Coaching Record:

Record at Kentucky (Years): 66-59 (10 years)  
 Career Record (Years): 66-59 (.528, 10 yrs.)  
 SEC Record: 32-50 (.390)  
 Bowl Record: 4-3 (.571)

#### Assistant Coaches:

**Jay Boulware (Texas, '96)**

Running Backs/Special Teams Coord., 1st year

**Frank Buffano (Arizona, '06)**

Safeties, 4th year

**Liam Coen (UMass, '08)**

Offensive Coord/QBs; 2nd year overall at UK,  
1st in current term

**Chris Collins (Western Carolina, '10)**

Defensive Backs, 3rd year

**Vince Marrow (Toledo, '92)**

Assoc. HC/TE/Recruiting Coord., 11th year

**Anwar Stewart (Kentucky, '17)**

Defensive Line, 4th year

**Mike Stoops (Iowa, '87)**

Inside Linebackers, 2nd year

**Brad White (Wake Forest, '05)**

Defensive Coord/OLBs, 6th year (5th as DC)

**Scott Woodward (UMass, '09)**

Wide Receivers, 3rd year

**Zach Yenser (Troy, '07)**

Offensive Line, 2nd year

#### Quality Control:

Bryan Berezowitz (Kentucky, '19)  
 Josh Estes-Waugh (Kentucky, '12)  
 Mark Perry (Kentucky, '01)  
 Brian Picucci (Syracuse, '94)  
 Mike Preifer Jr. (Wisc.-Eau Claire, '17)  
 Joe Scola (Dartmouth, '07)

#### Graduate Assistants:

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)

- This is the second consecutive season UK has been ranked or receiving votes in the preseason edition of both major polls.
- Three of Kentucky's opponents (Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee) are ranked in the top 12 of the polls and eight opponents are ranked or receiving votes in the polls.
- UK head coach Mark Stoops is in his 11th year at the helm of the program in 2023, the longest in program history, which was an accomplishment he set last season. He also is the second-longest tenured active head coach in the SEC, behind Alabama's Nick Saban, and he is the eighth-longest nationally.
  - In that time, Stoops has accumulated a 66-59 overall record.
  - Stoops became the winningest head coach in program history last season after No. 20/20 Kentucky upset No. 12/19 Florida in Gainesville, 26-16, on Sept. 10, 2022. Stoops passed former UK head coach Bear Bryant (1946-53), who set the previous record at 60.
  - Stoops began his tenure in Lexington 12-26 (.316) (2013 - through first two games of 2016). He has since gone 54-33 (.621) (2016 - present).
  - Stoops has guided UK to three second-place SEC East finishes in the last eight seasons, which are the program's only second-place SEC East finishes in program history.
- Stoops made a couple of changes to his coaching staff in the offseason, including adding Jay Boulware (Running Backs / Special Teams Coordinator) and Liam Coen (Offensive Coordinator).
  - Coen returned for his second stint at Kentucky in the offseason, having served as UK's offensive coordinator in 2021, then the Los Angeles Rams' offensive Coordinator in 2022.
- The Wildcats returned 36 letterwinners, including 13 offensive and defensive starters, for the upcoming season. The Cats also bolstered the roster with the addition of 16 newcomers from the transfer portal.
  - The offensive starters returning include wide receivers Dane Key and Tayvion Robinson, offensive linemen Jager Burton, Kenneth Horsey, Eli Cox and Jeremy Flax, and tight ends Brenden Bates and Jordan Dingle.
  - The defensive starters returning include linemen Deone Walker and Tre'vonn Rybka, inside linebacker D'Eryk Jackson, outside linebacker J.J. Weaver, and defensive back Jordan Lovett.
  - The specialty starters returning include punter Wilson Berry and kicker Chance Poore.
- Other updates that occurred during the offseason include the renovation of Nutter Field House, with the help of a lead donation from Brett and Billie Jo Setzer, allowed the playing surface inside the facility to be named Rich and Karen Brooks Field, and a the new turf at Kroger Field.
- In 2022, Kentucky concluded its regular season with a win over in-state rival Louisville, 26-13, which marked the Cats' fourth-straight win over the Cards. It was also the Cats' fifth-straight triumph in the regular-season finale, which marked the first time in program history that has been accomplished.
- Former quarterback Will Levis was selected No. 33 overall in the 2023 NFL Draft, marking the fifth straight season Kentucky has had one or more players selected in the first three rounds.

### KENTUCKY-BALL STATE SERIES

- The Kentucky-Ball State contest marks the second all-time meeting between the two teams, with UK leading the series, 1-0.
  - The Wildcats and the Cardinals lone match up was on Sept. 8, 2001, when the Cats beat the Cardinals, 28-20, at then-Commonwealth Stadium in Lexington, Kentucky.
- Kentucky will face two Mid-American Conference opponents in 2023, including Ball State and Akron (Sept. 16).
  - UK has a 35-7-1 all-time record against the current alignment of the MAC.

### KENTUCKY-BALL STATE CONNECTIONS

- Ball State has three players on its roster who are from the state of Kentucky:
  - Freshman offensive lineman Tristan Cook (Woodford County High School)
  - Freshman running back TJ Horton (Frederick Douglass)
  - Redshirt freshman linebacker Caden Johnson (Frederick Douglass)



## CATS IN THE SEASON OPENERS

- Saturday is the season opener for both teams.
- UK is 90-37-5 in all-time season openers, including 7-3 under Mark Stoops.
- The Wildcats have won 12 of their past 16 season openers, including five of the last six.
- The Wildcats have won the last four times they opened the season at home (2018, 2019, 2021, 2022), the most since the Cats opened at home and won them all from 1987-1994.

## A UK WIN WOULD...

- Give UK its 20th nonconference win in its last 21 non-conference games and 17 straight in the regular season.
- Give UK its 15th straight nonconference win at Kroger Field.
- Give UK its fifth straight season-opening win.
- Extend head coach Mark Stoops' all-time school record for wins to 67.
  - Extend Stoops' record in season openers at UK to 8-3.

## OFFENSIVE NOTES

### SIRI, WHO IS LEARY?

- In four seasons at NC State (2019-22), Devin Leary made 26 starts through 30 games, connecting on 568 of his 944 passes for 6,807 yards and 62 touchdowns. In that time, he had just 16 interceptions.
  - Between 2021 and 2022, he aided NC State to a 17-4 record, helping him earn ACC Preseason Player of the Year praise in 2022. He got off to a promising start through just six games in 2022, before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury against Florida State.
  - The last time he was healthy for a full season was in 2021, when he threw for 35 touchdowns and just five interceptions. He also added two rushing touchdowns that season. Leary finished that season ranked in the top 25 in the nation in completion percentage, completions per game, passing efficiency, passing touchdowns, passing yards, passing yards per game, total offense, points responsible for and points responsible for per game.
- The signal caller is best known for his timing and precision as a pocket passer, while he also has the ability to break down defenses in play action and can throw the deep ball when needed.
- While his experience combined with his talent is exciting for Big Blue Nation in 2023, it doesn't stop there when you consider what else is around him, including a renovated offensive line, experienced running backs, dangerous pass catchers and a proven offensive coordinator in Liam Coen.

### RUN, CATS, RUN

- For the past few years, there has been little doubt as to who would be the featured running back at Kentucky, from Stanley "Boom" Williams to Benny Snell to Chris Rodriguez.
- While there may not be a clear starter in the position in 2023, there are several options, returners and transfers, that make for a (very, very) competitive room.
  - **Ray Davis**, a senior transfer from Vanderbilt, already has success at Kroger Field after rushing 129 yards and earning one touchdown in Lexington in 2022. He led the Commodores in rushing with 1,042 yards on 232 carries and five touchdowns last season, producing five 100-plus yard games.
  - **Ramon Jefferson**, who is in his seventh year of college football, returns for an additional season after suffering an injury to the knee in 2022. He has amassed 2,954 yards rushing in his career, and prior to last season, was ranked fifth on the Division I active career rushing yards list.
  - **JuTahn McClain**, a senior, has gotten better with each season in the Bluegrass, including his most productive season yet in 2022. Then, he was the second leading rusher

## STAT SUPERLATIVES

### Most Games Played (min. 30):

Chance Poore (49), Tayvion Robinson (47), Brenden Bates (45), Kenneth Horsey (37), Zion Childress (37), Marques Cox (36), Alex Raynor (36), Ramon Jefferson (35), Izayah Cummings (35), J.J. Weaver (35), Justice Dingle (32), Ray Davis (31), Eli Cox (30), Devin Leary (30), JuTahn McClain (30)

### Most Games Started (min. 20):

Tayvion Robinson (44), Marques Cox (34), Kenneth Horsey (33), Devin Leary (26), Ramon Jefferson (25), Ray Davis (24), Eli Cox (22)

### Consecutive Games Started (min. 12):

Kenneth Horsey (32), Ray Davis (22), Devin Leary (21), Jager Burton (13), Eli Cox (13)

### Consecutive Games with a Tackle (min. 12):

Trevin Wallace (13), J.J. Weaver (12)

### Consecutive Games with a Reception (min. 5):

Barion Brown (13), Ray Davis (13), Dane Key (13)

## WHERE ARE THE COACHES?

### Sideline

Mark Stoops, Head Coach  
 Jay Boulware, RBs/Special Teams  
 Liam Coen, Offensive Coordinator, QBs  
 Chris Collins, Defensive Backs  
 Vince Marrow, Assoc. Head Coach, Tight Ends  
 Anwar Stewart, Defensive Line  
 Mike Stoops, Inside Linebackers  
 Brad White, Defensive Coordinator, Outside LBs  
 Zach Yenser, Offensive Line

### Press Box

Frank Buffano, Safeties  
 Scott Woodward, Wide Receivers



## 100-YARD RUSHERS

Player	2023	Career	'23 Op.
Ramon Jefferson	0	8	
Ray Davis	0*	6	

\*First season at UK

## 100-YARD RECEIVERS

Player	2023	Career	'23 Op.
Barion Brown	0	2	
Tayvion Robinson	0	2	

## 300-YARD PASSERS

Player	2023	Career	'23 Op.
Devin Leary	0*	8	

## INTERCEPTIONS

Player	2023	Career
Jordan Lovett	0	2
Trevin Wallace	0	2
J.J. Weaver	0	2
D'Eryk Jackson	0	2
Jalen Geiger	0	1

## TRACKING SACK LEADERS

Player	2023	Career
J.J. Weaver	0.0	9.5
Trevin Wallace	0.0	4.5
Daveran Rayner	0.0*	3.5
Octavious Oxendine	0.0	2.0
Darrion Henry-Young	0.0	2.0
Jamarius Dinkins	0.0	1.5
Keaten Wade	0.0	1.5
Alex Afari Jr.	0.0	1.0
Zion Childress	0.0	1.0
JQ Hardaway	0.0*	1.0
Josaih Hayes	0.0	1.0
Tre'vonn Rybka	0.0	1.0
Deone Walker	0.0	1.0
Kahlil Saunders	0.0	0.5

for Kentucky, racking up 278 yards on 59 attempts.

- **La'Vell Wright**, a sophomore, is young but provides great size at 6-foot, 214 pounds, and is growing in experience after seeing action in all 13 games in 2022, rushing 120 yards on 39 carries.
- **Demie Sumo-Karngbaye**, a junior transfer from NC State, already has a connection with quarterback Devin Leary in Raleigh. Last season, he was the Wolfpack's second leading rusher thanks to 305 yards on 55 carries and three touchdowns.

### TRIPLE THREAT

- The Wildcats return one of the most exciting wide receiver corps in the Southeastern Conference in sophomores Barion Brown and Dane Key and redshirt fifth year Tayvion Robinson.
- In 2022, all three of those guys were new to the program, but you wouldn't guess it, as the trio combined for 127 catches for 1,644 yards and 13 touchdowns.

### THE YOUNG ONES: BARION BROWN & DANE KEY

Just one season removed from leading the receiver room in both yards and touchdowns as freshmen, wide receivers and True Freshmen All-Americans Barion Brown and Dane Key return to the program for anticipated sophomore seasons. In 2022, Brown and Key each set their share of school records:

#### Most Receiving Yards (Freshman School Record)

1. 628 Barion Brown 2022
2. 519 Daney Key 2022

#### Most Touchdown Pass Receptions (Freshman School Record)

##### Season

1. 6 Dane Key 2022
2. 4 Barion Brown 2022

##### Game

1. 2 Barion Brown vs. Northern Illinois (Sept. 24, 2022)  
Dane Key vs. Missouri (Nov. 5, 2022)  
(and five others)

#### Most Pass Receptions (Freshman School Record)

##### Season

1. 50 Barion Brown 2022
2. 40 Derek Abney 2000

### BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

- Barion Brown also returns as one of the nation's leaders in kickoff returns.
- In 2022, he concluded the regular season ranked 31st in the nation and fifth in the Southeastern Conference in kickoff return average at 28.3 yards per runback. He was also ranked 13th in the SEC in all-purpose yards per game (88.17).
  - The rookie was also the only player in the nation with two 80-plus yard kickoff returns (vs. Miami (Ohio), at then-No. 14/11 Ole Miss).
- He made a stunning debut against Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 3, 2022, 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 was named the SEC Special Teams Player of the Week for his efforts.





## WHAT CAN BROWN DO FOR YOU?

- You already know about wide receiver Barion Brown, but be on the look out for wide receiver **Anthony Brown-Stephens**.
- The freshman from Springfield, Ohio, has received some preseason praise from the coaching staff after fall camp, and it has nothing to do with his famous uncle - John Legend.
  - "He's everything everybody thought of him. He's poised, he's a good route-runner, he's smart. He takes coaching." - Tayvion Robinson
  - "He really took a jump, from the spring, to the summer, to now. Anything you tell AB to do, he's doing it 110%." - Scott Woodward
  - "I thought he's handled this go-around extremely well, in terms of being somebody we can count on to go play, somebody we can be able to push the ball down the field to. Diligent worker, smart kid. Bright future ahead of him." - Liam Coen

## HERE'S TO YOU, MR. ROBINSON

- Tayvion Robinson, a redshirt fifth year, returned to Kentucky for a second season in Lexington in 2023. Last season, he finished second on the team in catches (40) and third on the team in yards receiving (497) and touchdowns receiving (3).
  - Before Kentucky, he spent three seasons at Virginia Tech (2019-21), recording 113 catches for 1,555 yards and eight touchdowns. He also averaged 11.4 yards on punt returns, including a 60-yard touchdown jaunt.
- Despite missing two games in the back half of the schedule due to injury last season in 2022, Robinson had numerous standout performances that revealed his potential here.
  - He began the season with at least six receptions in three of the first four games in 2022. That includes making a career-high seven catches for a career-high 147 yards and a career-high two touchdowns in Kentucky's triumph over Northern Illinois on Sept. 24. In the game, he had a 69-yard catch-and-run in the second quarter, which was the longest play of his college career and his first touchdown in Blue and White.

## BRICK-BY-BRICK

- The Big Blue Wall went under construction in the offseason, and players have referenced its rebuild as a brick-by-brick process.
- The Wildcats brought in veteran transfers Tanner Bowles (*Alabama*), Courtland Ford (*Southern California*), Marques Cox (*Northern Illinois*), Dylan Ray (*West Virginia*) and Ben Christman (*Ohio State*).
- Those transfers, combined with veterans like Jager Burton, Eli Cox, Kenneth Horsey and Jeremy Flax, UK has one of the most experienced lines in the nation entering the season, ranking in the top 25 in career games played and the top 15 in career games started.

## DEFENSIVE NOTES

### WHITE-OUT

- Brad White is entering his fifth season as the defensive coordinator, and his sixth season overall at Kentucky, since Mark Stoops plucked him from the NFL in 2018. In his four seasons as the defensive coordinator, UK has steadily become more stout on that side of the ball.
  - Other programs have taken notice, too, as White has turned down several other coaching opportunities in that time.
- Kentucky's defense has remained constant under White, and that is evident by the bench marks he continues to reach year-in and year-out.
  - For the first time since 1986-89, UK has allowed 26 or fewer points per game in four straight seasons (2019-22).
  - For the first time since 1959-62 it has yielded 160 rushing yards or fewer per game for four straight seasons (2019-22).
  - In today's high-scoring offensive game, the UK defense has held opponents to 30 or fewer points in 43 of 50 games with White as the defensive coordinator (2019-present).
  - UK defense has held opponents to 24 or fewer points in 16 of the last 17 games.

## TOP 25 POLLS

### 2023 PRESEASON AP TOP 25

- Georgia
- Michigan
- Ohio State
- Alabama
- LSU
- USC
- Penn State
- Florida State
- Clemson
- Washington
- Texas
- Tennessee
- Notre Dame
- Utah
- Oregon
- Kansas State
- TCU
- Oregon State
- Wisconsin
- Oklahoma
- North Carolina
- Ole Miss
- Texas A&M
- Tulane
- Iowa

**2023 UK Opponents Receiving Votes:** South Carolina 73, Louisville 10, Mississippi State 4, Florida 4

### 2023 PREASON AFCA COACHES POLL

- Georgia
- Michigan
- Alabama
- Ohio State
- LSU
- USC
- Penn State
- Florida State
- Clemson
- Tennessee
- Washington
- Texas
- Notre Dame
- Utah
- Oregon
- TCA
- Kansas State
- Oregon State
- Oklahoma
- North Carolina
- Wisconsin
- Ole Miss
- Tulane
- Texas Tech
- Texas A&M

**2021 UK Opponents Receiving Votes:** South Carolina 89, Florida 63, Mississippi State 13, Missouri 11



## #LAFAMILIA

Kentucky football has several set of sons or grandsons of former Kentucky Wildcats:

- Senior TE Brenden Bates is the grandson of former UK basketball player Gene Neff (1951-52)
- Senior OL Tanner Bowles is the son of Matt Bowles, who played on UK's baseball team from 1991-95
- Freshman DB Ty Bryant is the son of former Wildcat Cisco Bryant (1983-85)
- Junior Dru Phillips is the son of former Wildcat Carlos Phillips (1986-90)
- Junior walk-on WR Trey Dennis is the son of former Wildcat Harold Dennis (1994-96)
- Sophomore 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
- Redshirt freshman OL Nik Hall is the son of Antonio Hall, who played at UK from 2000-03 and was an All-SEC selection.
- Freshman walk-on OL Max Ishmael is the grandson of former UK safety and quarterback David Lee "Dutch" Ishmael (1963-65)
- Sophomore 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
- Sophomore walk-on 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 national titles in 1996 and '98 ... 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)
- Redshirt 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 sophomore TE Jordan Dingle. They are from Bowling Green, Ky.
- Redshirt freshmen QB Destin and sophomore OLB Keaten Wade, from Spring Hill, Tennessee, are twins.

## LOOKIN' BACK

The Wildcat defense finished the season in the nation's top 10 in two categories and in the nation's top 25 in seven categories at the end of 2022.

### Kentucky Stats and National Ranking in the 2022 Season

Stat	Number	Rank
First down defense	197	5
Passing yards allowed	170.8	7
Total defense	311.4	11
Scoring defense	19.2	13
Team passing efficiency defense	116.85	16
4th down conversion pct defense	0.400	19
3rd down conversion pct defense	0.333	22
Rushing defense	140.6	48
Red zone defense	0.818	49

## LEADERSHIP ON THE DEFENSE

- Despite losing seven of the top players on the defense from 2022, still numerous names return this season that are primed to bring a unique level of leadership.
  - "It's huge when the older guys take charge because when they do, it shows you that they have assumed ownership. They don't just rely on the coaches to make all the corrections because at that point, they have passed along the ownership to the coaches (that means players think) 'I only worry about myself.'" - Brad White
- The top two leaders in tackles from last season return in 2023, including middle linebacker D'Eryk Jackson (67 tackles) and free safety Jordan Lovett (62 tackles). Outside linebacker J.J. Weaver, who was the sack leader last season, also is back after deciding not to pursue the 2023 NFL Draft. Inside linebacker Trevin Wallace, who had 54 tackles last season, returns to the Bluegrass, while defensive linemen, both young and old, Deone Walker and Octavious Oxendine are expected to be leaders on this year's defense.
  - "The old guys help correct old guys. Old guys have to correct young guys, then they ask good, quality questions of the coaching staff. Practice would be really hard and dull if the coaches were the only ones coaching." - Brad White

## GENERAL NOTES

### NONCONFERENCE COMPETITION

- Kentucky has won 20 of its last 21 non-conference games, which is highlighted by a streak of 20 straight non-conference wins, including four straight bowl wins, dating back to the beginning of the 2018 season.
  - UK's 26-13 triumph over UofL in the regular season finale last season extended its nonconference winning streak to 20 games, which was the longest active streak in FBS at the time.
- The Wildcats have won their last 16 straight nonconference games in the **regular season**. That streak ranks tied for second nationally with Georgia. Alabama leads the nation with 56 straight nonconference wins in the regular season.
- UK has won 14 straight nonconference games at Kroger Field.



## PORTAL PICKUPS

Mark Stoops took advantage of the NCAA Transfer Portal to fulfill needs in key positions for the upcoming season and beyond, welcoming 16 new Wildcats to the program.

Name	Pos.	Yr.	Previous School
Michael Bernard	K	Sr.	Fordham
Tanner Bowles	OL	Sr.	Alabama
Ben Christman	OL	So.	Ohio State
Marques Cox	OL	Sr.	Northern Illinois
Ray Davis	RB	Sr.	Vanderbilt
Jantzen Dunn	DB	So.	Ohio State
Courtland Ford	OL	Jr.	USC
Ron Gaines	LS	Sr.	Temple
Shane Hamm	QB	So.	Dayton
JQ Hardaway	DB	So.	Cincinnati
Jaquez Keyes	RB	Fr.	Wake Forest
Devin Leary	QB	Sr.	NC State
Dylan Ray	OL	So.	West Virginia
Daveren Rayner	IL	Sr.	Northern Illinois
Alex Raynor	K	Sr.	Georgia Southern
Keeshawn Silver	DL	So.	North Carolina

## SMARTY CATS

Kentucky has 17 players on its roster who have already earned an undergraduate degree:

1. Brenden Bates - Consumer Economics & Family Financial Counseling
2. Michael Bernard (Fordham) - Finance and Marketing
3. Tanner Bowles (Alabama) - Operations Management, Minor - Real Estate
4. Eli Cox - Integrated Strategic Communication, Minor – Business
5. Marques Cox (Northern Illinois) - Marketing
6. Ray Davis (Vanderbilt) - Communication Studies
7. Justice Dingle - Bachelor of Science in Communication
8. Jeremy Flax - Bachelor of Science in Community Leadership Development
9. Luke Fulton - Management
10. Ron Gaines (Temple) - Innovation Management & Entrepreneurship
11. Jalen Geiger - Health, Society and Populations
12. Kenneth Horsey - Communication
13. Ramon Jefferson (Sam Houston State) - Humanities and Social Sciences
14. Devin Leary (NC State) - Sport Management
15. Chance Poore - Economics & Consumer Economics and Family Financial Counseling
16. Alex Raynor (Georgia Southern) - Business Administration
17. Jack Varga - Finance & Marketing

## CATS IN THE NATIONAL POLLS

- Kentucky opens the season receiving votes in both the Associated Press poll and AFCA Coaches Poll.
- Just last season, for the first time in program history, UK was ranked in both preseason polls, checking in at No. 20 in the AP poll and No. 21 in the coaches poll.
  - The Wildcats wound up being ranked for the first nine AP polls in 2022. That stretch included three straight weeks being ranked in the AP Top 10.
- Between the 2021 and 2022 seasons, Kentucky was ranked in one or both of the major polls for 12 straight weeks.
  - It marked the second longest streak in program history, only behind the 21 weeks UK spent in one or both of the major polls between 1949 and 1951.

## 2023 CAT SCRATCHES

### SOPHOMORE • 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

### FRESHMAN • TE • KHAMARI ANDERSON

- Older brother, Raheem Anderson II, currently is a sophomore offensive lineman at Michigan

### 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

### SENIOR • K • MICHAEL BERNARD

- Dad, Trent, was a pitcher on the baseball team at Kansas (1975-77)

### SOPHOMORE • 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 25 years old
- Married to the former Courtney Stewart of Paducah, Kentucky ... The couple has one son, Leo
- 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 recently was the punter for the Minnesota Vikings and the Pittsburgh Steelers ... Younger brother, Oscar, currently plays basketball at the University of North Florida

### R-FRESHMAN • OL • GRANT BINGHAM

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

### SENIOR • OL • TANNER BOWLES

- Father, Matt, was a pitcher on UK's baseball team from 1991-95, while brother, Hunter, was a tight end at Louisville from 2012-16

### FRESHMAN • WR • ANTHONY BROWN-STEPHENS

- Brother, Michael Brown-Stephens, is wide receiver at Minnesota
- Nephew of Grammy Award winner John Legend

### R-FRESHMAN • OL • JAGER BURTON

- Dad, Jeff, played football at Morehead State

### FRESHMAN • DB • TY BRYANT

- Father, Cisco, played at Kentucky for Coach Jerry Claiborne from 1983-85 ... Cisco was a big-play performer at wide receiver, with 29 career catches for 482 yards (16.6 yards per catch) and six touchdowns

### SOPHOMORE • DB • JANTZEN DUNN

- Dad, Mitchell, played basketball at Miami from 1994-95



2023 CAT SCRATCHES

SENIOR • ILB • LUKE FULTON

- Father, Jeff, played baseball at Pitt

SENIOR • DB • JALEN GEIGER

- Father, Tony, was a Chief Warrant Officer (CW3) in the US 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

FRESHMAN • OLB • GRANT GODFREY

- Dad, Randall, was a linebacker at Georgia who was named SEC Freshman of the Year in 1992 and earned All-SEC honors in 1993 and 1994
Randall played 12 seasons in the NFL (1996-2007) with the Cowboys, Titans, Seahawks, Chargers and Redskins
Brother, RJ, is currently a forward on the Clemson men's basketball team

FRESHMAN • LS • WALKER HIMEBAUCH

- Father, Jonathan Himebauch, was a center at USC from 1993-98, before a professional career that included stints at the Arizona Cardinals and the Kansas City Chiefs
Jonathan currently serves as the offensive line coach and special teams coordinator for the Arlington Renegades of the XFL under head coach Bob Stoops
Grandfather, Jack Himebauch, was a wide receiver and tight end at Miami (Ohio) from 1962-64
Uncle, Curt Himebauch, was a defensive back at USC from 1989-91

SENIOR • OL • KENNETH HORSEY

- Had open-heart surgery in April of 2018
Received the Mayo Comeback Player of the Year Award in 2020
Competed in martial arts for 14 years

R-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 • OL • KOBY KEENUM

- Father, Carl, was a long snapper at North Alabama

SOPHOMORE • WR • DANE KEY

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

SOPHOMORE • WR • COLE LANTER

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

SENIOR • QB • DEVIN LEARY

- Younger brother, Donovan, is a redshirt freshman quarterback at Illinois
Writes left-handed but learned to throw with his right because he used his right-handed brother's baseball glove as a kid

R-FRESHMAN • OLB • NOAH MATTHEWS

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

SENIOR • DT • OCTAVIOUS OXENDINE

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

IN GOOD COMPANY

Kentucky has the fifth-most wins compared to other Southeastern Conference teams since 2018.

Total Wins (2018-present)

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Wins, and another Rank. Kentucky is ranked 5th with 40 wins.

\*Doesn't include vacated wins from 2018, otherwise would be 26.

UK also has the sixth-best total winning percentage among conference foes since 2018.

Total Winning Percentage (2018-present)

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Winning Percentage, and another Rank. Kentucky is ranked 6th with 63.5%.

The Wildcats also have made Kroger Field a true homefield advantage, posting the SEC's sixth-best home record the past five years and third-most total home victories. (via SEC)

Total Home Record (2018-present)

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Home Record, and another Rank. Kentucky is ranked 6th with a 26-9 record.

^Two of its six losses are to UK.

FRESHMEN-TURNED-SOPHOMORES

- Last season, six freshmen made significant contributions to the team, among others. This season, all six of those players have returned to the Bluegrass and are expected to take a step up in 2023.
Alex Afari, defensive back, ranked 16th on the team in tackles with 21 total stops and was tied for sixth on the team in tackles for loss with three (-10 yards).
Barion Brown, wide receiver and kickoff returner, led the team with a pair of program freshman records, 50 catches for 628 yards, and four touchdowns. He also added a 100-yard kickoff return for a TD to his credit.
Josh Kattus, tight end, became the 17th player last season to record a reception when he caught a 10-year pass at Missouri on Nov. 5, 2022. He then proceeded to record at least one reception for the next three straight games. He also impressed the coaches with his blocking.
Dane Key, wide receiver, led the team and set the program's freshman record with six touchdowns receiving.
Keaten Wade, linebacker, made 16 tackles, including 2.5 tackles for loss (-13 yards) and 1.5 sacks (-8 yards).





- Deone Walker, defensive lineman, leads his position group in tackles with 40, including 4.5 for loss (-15 yards). He had two games last season with six total tackles.
- Those six freshmen, and others, received praise for the debut in 2022:
  - Brown and Walker were named freshman All-Americans by several outlets.
  - Brown, offensive lineman Jager Burton, tight end Jordan Dingle, defensive back Jordan Lovett and Walker were named to the SEC All-Freshman Team.
    - Burton became the first offensive lineman to earn that honor since Logan Stenberg in 2016.
  - Brown, Key and Walker were on the 247Sports Midseason True Freshman All-America Team for 2022.
  - Walker was named a Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Year Award semifinalist.

### 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 seventh 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 since 2018, 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)
- His 61st coaching victory win, breaking the school record held by Paul "Bear" Bryant (Sept. 10, 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 54-33 (.621) (2016 - present). Overall, Stoops is now 66-58 at Kentucky, surpassing Paul "Bear" Bryant's 60 victories to set a 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.

### STOOPS PICKED AMONG NATION'S TOP-20 COACHES

- Prior to the season, four national writers ranked the nation's top-20 coaches and Mark Stoops was in all four listings:
  - No. 18 Pro Football Focus, Max Chadwick
  - No. 18 CBS.com, Tom Fornelli
  - No. 18 The Athletic, Bruce Feldman
  - No. 20 The Athletic, Stewart Mandel
- It's not the first time that Stoops has drawn national acclaim for his accomplishments. In December of 2021, Tom Luginbill noted, "I think Mark Stoops is the best program builder in all of college football right now."

## 2023 CAT SCRATCHES

### SENIOR • 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

### JUNIOR • DB • ANDRU PHILLIPS

- Father, Carlos, was a LB 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

### SOPHOMORE • OL • DYLAN RAY

- Father, John, played offensive line at WVU from 1988-91 and went on to play professionally with the Indianapolis Colts

### SENIOR • K • ALEX RAYNOR

- Dad, Christian, played golf at Florida State (1990-94) and was inducted into the FSU Hall of Fame in 2012

### SOPHOMORE • OL • PAUL RODRIGUEZ

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

### R-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

### SOPHOMORE • WR • JOSH TERRELL

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

### JUNIOR • ILB • MARTEZ THROWER

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

### 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

### JUNIOR • ILB • TREVIN WALLACE

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

### R-FRESHMAN • WR • BRANDON WHITE

- Timed as fast as 4.28 seconds in the 40-yard dash
- Mother, Jeanita, played basketball at Mississippi State, while dad, Ben, was a running back at Mississippi State

### SENIOR • OLB • J.J. WEAVER

- Has six functioning fingers on his right hand
- Got custom gloves by Nike made to fit his hand
- Received the Mayo Comeback Player of the Year Award in 2021
- Played high school football in Louisville but grew up in Broward County, Florida

### JUNIOR • 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"

### SOPHOMORE • RB • LA'VELL WRIGHT

- Has a pet lizard, Dash

### FRESHMAN • OL • MALACHI WOOD

- Grandfather, Michael Wood, was an offensive guard at the University of Cincinnati (1979-81)



### CATS IN THE PROS

A total of 17 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 August 30, 2023):

(^ practice squad)

**Atlanta Falcons**

Josh Ali, WR (2017-2021)  
Bud Dupree, OLB (2011-14)

**Cleveland Browns**

Za'Darius Smith, OLB (2013-14)

**Detroit Lions**

Josh Paschal, DE (2017-21)

**Green Bay Packers**

Carrington Valentine, DB (2020-22)

**Jacksonville Jaguars**

Josh Allen, DE/LB (2015-18)  
Luke Fortner, C (2017-18)

**Kansas City Chiefs**

Mike Edwards, S (2015-2018)

**Miami Dolphins**

Kelvin Joseph, DB (2020)

**New Orleans Saints**

Landon Young, OT (2016-17, 19-20)  
Lonnie Johnson Jr., CB (2017-18)

**New York Giants**

Wan'Dale Robinson, WR (2021)

**New York Jets**

Randall Cobb, WR (2008-10)  
Brandin Echols, CB (2019-20)

**Tennessee Titans**

Will Levis, QB (2001-22)

**Washington Commanders**

Jamin Davis, ILB (2018-20)  
Chris Rodriguez Jr., RB (2019-22)



### 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

Micah Johnson (Saskatchewan Roughriders)

### SIMPLY BY THE "BIG BLUE" NUMBERS

#### Kentucky Before / After Mark Stoops

	1881-2012	2013-Pr.
Win Pct.	49.9%	52.8%
1st / 2nd Rd. Draft Picks	11*	8
Bowl Games	15	7

\*Modern draft era (1970-2012)

#### Most Career Wins By A Head Coach, School History

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

#### Most Career SEC Wins By A Head Coach, School History

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

#### Most Career Home Wins By A Head Coach, School History

- 46 Mark Stoops (2013-present)
- 33 Paul Bryant (1946-53)
- 32 Jerry Claiborne (1982-89)

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

- 161 Dabo Swinney Clemson
- 156 Mike Gundy Oklahoma State
- 154 Kyle Whittingham Utah
- 121 Troy Calhoun Air Force
- 109 Rick Stockstill Middle Tennessee
- 81 Kirby Smart Georgia
- 66 Mark Stoops Kentucky

### LONG-TERM STABILITY

Mark Stoops is the second-longest termed head coach in the Southeastern Conference, only behind Alabama's Nick Saban. Currently, Stoops has the eight-longest term of any head coach in the nation.

#### Longest Active Tenured FBS Head Coaches

Rank	Coach (School)	Hired
1.	Kirk Ferentz (Iowa)	Dec. 2, 1998
2.	Kyle Whittingham (Utah)	Dec. 9, 2004
3.	Mike Gundy (Oklahoma State)	Jan. 3, 2005
4.	Rick Stockstill (Middle Tennessee)	Dec. 12, 2005
5.	Troy Calhoun (Air Force)	Dec. 22, 2006
6.	Nick Saban (Alabama)	Jan. 3, 2007
7.	Dabo Swinney (Clemson)	Oct. 13, 2008
8.	<b>Mark Stoops (Kentucky)</b>	<b>Nov. 27, 2012</b>
9.	Dave Doeren (NC State)	Dec. 1, 2012



**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 High School)
  - Mike Stoops** – Inside Linebackers Coach (Cardinal Mooney)
  - Vince Marrow** – Associate Head Coach/Recruiting Coord./Tight Ends (Cardinal Mooney)
  - Frank Buffano** – Safeties (Cardinal Mooney)
  - Courtney Love** – Grad Assistant (Cardinal Mooney)
  - Luke Fulton** – junior, inside linebacker (Cardinal Mooney)
  - Tino Merlo** – freshman, offensive lineman (Cardinal Mooney)

**COACHING CHANGES**

- Jay Boulware** was named the running backs coach and special teams coordinator on Dec. 12, 2022. He brings more than 25 years of coaching experience to Lexington after most recently serving 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.
- Liam Coen** returned as Kentucky's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach on Jan. 10. He previously served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Kentucky in 2021 before spending 2022 as the offensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams.
- Stoops also announced during the offseason the promotion of **C.J. Conrad** from graduate assistant to a quality control coach for offense and the hiring of quality control coach for special teams **Mike Priefer Jr.**
  - Conrad was promoted to a quality control coach for offense after serving as an offensive graduate assistant since 2020. The former Kentucky tight end played for the Wildcats from 2015-18 and signed with the New York Giants practice squad following his UK career in 2019.
  - Priefer's name might be familiar to National Football League aficionados as his father Mike Priefer has almost two decades of pro coaching experience, including the last four as the special teams coordinator for the Cleveland Browns. His grandfather, Chuck Priefer, was a longtime college and NFL coach, including a special teams coach with the San Diego Chargers and Detroit Lions.

**TWO WILDCATS WIN SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP WITH KANSAS CITY CHIEFS**

- Two Kentucky Wildcats, defensive lineman Phil Hoskins and offensive lineman Darian Kinnard, earned a Super Bowl ring as the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles in 2022.
  - Kinnard was on the 53-man roster, while Hoskins was on the practice squad throughout the playoff run.
- Kinnard, who played at Kentucky from 2018-21, was in his rookie season with the Chiefs in 2022-23.
  - During his Wildcat career, the Knoxville, Tennessee, native, played in 46 career games with 39 consecutive starts. He was an essential component for the "Big Blue Wall" which has been under consideration for the Joe Moore Award, given to the nation's top offensive line, four of the last five seasons, including finalists in 2021.
- Hoskins played at Kentucky from 2017-20 and was in his second season in the NFL.
  - The Toledo, Ohio, native played one season with the Carolina Panthers after being drafted in the seventh round by as the 232nd overall pick in the 2021 National Football League Draft. He was picked up by the Chiefs in January of 2023. He saw action in eight games with the Panthers, totaling six tackles and one sack.
- Overall, 16 Wildcats have won a total of 18 Super Bowl championship rings.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

	2023	Stoops
Record	0-0	66-59
SEC	0-0	32-50
West	0-0	6-16
East	0-0	26-34
Non-Conference	0-0	34-9
Home	0-0	46-25
Road	0-0	16-30
Neutral site	0-0	4-4
Night	0-0	32-26
Day	0-0	34-33
TV Games	0-0	61-59
ABC	0-0	2-1
CBS	0-0	0-6
ESPN	0-0	5-13
ESPNU	0-0	3-5
ESPN2	0-0	6-3
ESPNNews	0-0	0-1
SEC Network	0-0	46-29
Fox Sports South	0-0	1-1
CBS Sports Network	0-0	1-0
August/September	0-0	28-12
October	0-0	17-19
November	0-0	16-24
December/January	0-0	5-3
Bowl Games	0-0	4-3
Coming off an open date	0-0	5-8
UK scores on 1st possession	0-0	31-16
Opp scores on 1st possession	0-0	18-26
UK scores first	0-0	41-19
Opponent scores first	0-0	25-40
UK leads after 1st quarter	0-0	38-9
Opponent leads after 1stQ	0-0	12-39
Teams are tied after 1stQ	0-0	16-11
UK leads at halftime	0-0	47-7
Opponent leads at halftime	0-0	10-47
Teams are tied at halftime	0-0	9-5
UK leads after 3rd quarter	0-0	57-4
Opponent leads after 3rdQ	0-0	5-52
Teams are tied after 3rdQ	0-0	5-3
Game goes to overtime	0-0	1-3
Scoring less than 20 pts	0-0	5-39
Scoring 20+ points	0-0	56-20
Scoring 30+ points	0-0	37-9
Allowing less than 20 pts	0-0	40-5
Allowing 20+ points	0-0	20-45
Allowing 30+ points	0-0	7-33
UK has more total yards	0-0	52-8
Opp. has more total yds	0-0	14-51
UK has more rushing yards	0-0	50-14
Opp. has more rushing yards	0-0	16-46
UK has more passing yards	0-0	33-18
Opp. has more passing yards	0-0	33-39
Rushing for < 100 yds	0-0	7-21
Rushing for over 100 yards	0-0	55-37
Rushing for 200+ yards	0-0	42-11
Passing for 200+ yards	0-0	24-17
Passing for 300+ yards	0-0	11-5
UK has 100-yard rusher	0-0	44-17
Opp. has 100-yard rusher	0-0	18-36
No turnovers	0-0	17-9
One or two turnovers	0-0	40-38
3 or more turnovers	0-0	9-11
No takeaways	0-0	14-15
3 or more takeaways	0-0	16-4
UK has more penalties	0-0	24-24
Opp. has more penalties	0-0	36-31
Teams have equal penalties	0-0	6-4
UK has more TOP	0-0	45-23
Opp. has more TOP	0-0	20-35
UK defense scores	0-0	15-5
Opponent defense scores	0-0	8-10
UK returns KO/Punt for TD	0-0	4-1
Opp. returns KO/Punt for TD	0-0	0-5
Playing on natural grass	0-0	16-35
Playing on artificial surface	0-0	50-23
In blue uniforms	0-0	18-7
In white uniforms	0-0	10-13
In white jerseys/blue pants	0-0	6-18
In blue jerseys/white pants	0-0	20-6
In black uniforms	0-0	1-3
In blue jerseys/grey pants	0-0	2-3
In grey uniforms	0-0	6-4
In grey jerseys/blue pants	0-0	3-5





**CATS IN THE NFL DRAFT**

- Kentucky had three selections in the 2023 NFL Draft - Will Levis (2nd Round, Tennessee), Chris Rodriguez Jr. (6th, Washington) and Carrington Valentine (7th, Green Bay).
- In total, 25 players have been drafted under head coach Mark Stoops since 2013, including 14 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, Josh Paschal and Carrington Valentine.
- 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.
- Kentucky has had a player selected in the first three rounds in five consecutive drafts.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- A picture of longevity, UK Equipment Manager **Tom Kalinowski** enters his 46th season in that role. He also was a student manager in 1974-77, now marking his 50th 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.

**2024 SEC OPPONENTS**

- Kentucky's 2024 Southeastern Conference opponents include Auburn, Georgia, South Carolina and Vanderbilt at home and Florida, Ole Miss, Tennessee and Texas on the road.
  - The dates will be announced at a later time.

**2023 TEAM CAPTAINS**

- Season captains are TBA.
- Game captains will be decided on a week-by-week basis.

**Game-By-Game Team Captains**

vs. Ball State	TBA
vs. Eastern Kentucky	TBA
vs. Akron	TBA
at Vanderbilt	TBA
vs. Florida	TBA
at Georgia	TBA
vs. Missouri	TBA
vs. Tennessee	TBA
at Mississippi State	TBA
vs. Alabama	TBA
at South Carolina	TBA
at Louisville	TBA





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 Tayvion 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

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

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

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Shut Out Kentucky: 0-21 by Iowa, Dec. 31, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



INDIVIDUAL/TEAM RECORDS

**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)

**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



# 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.**
- 2023 marks the 50th season at the facility.
- 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:** Video boards by Daktronics measuring at 39 by 79 feet, each, bring a total of 6,162 square feet of video capability. The video boards put UK among the nation's leaders in video square footage. 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 accompa-

## TOP ATTENDANCE AT 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 / 11TH SEASON / IOWA, 1989**

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

**Under Stoops, 25 players have been drafted in the NFL, including 14 defensive players.**

*“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 marked yet another year of achievement for Coach Mark Stoops and the Kentucky football program.

When the Wildcats took on Iowa in the TransPerfect Music City Bowl in December of 2022, it extended 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 enters his 11th season at Kentucky, longest term of any coach in school history. The Wildcats’ victory at Florida in 2022 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 54-33 (.621) 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 (2018-22), which was the nation’s longest active streak until being broken.
- 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)
- First win vs. Florida since 1986 (2018)
- First bowl appearance since 2010 (2016)



## STOOPS AND CO. MAKING A HIT IN RECRUITING

In 10 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 11 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 was 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 did not include four-year college transfers Tashawn Manning and Tayvion Robinson.)

Outlet	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rivals	#29	#17	#35	#29	#26	#30	#30	#20	#45	#10	#23
ESPN	#36	#20	#43	#34	#30	#36	#36	#23	#40	#13	#34
247Sports	#41	#23	#38	#34	#29	#38	#34	#22	#39	#11	#27

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 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 seven 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). 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 joined the UK staff in 2022 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 ca-

reers. 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 Mark Stoops' teams.

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 FILES

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	7-6	3-5	Music City
2023	Kentucky	Head Coach	0-0	0-0	
<b>Overall</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>		<b>66-59</b>	<b>32-50</b>	

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
Will Levis	2023	2	2	33	Titans
Chris Rodriguez	2023	6	16	193	Washington
Carrington Valentine	2023	7	15	232	Packers





# 2023 GAME NOTES

## 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 6

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

**TRANSPECTER MUSIC CITY BOWL**  
**0** Iowa **21** Nashville **Dec. 31**  
**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

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



## 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), Or-ange ('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	



## LIAM COEN

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/QBS

Liam Coen is in his second season at Kentucky, the first in his current term as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He returned to the Bluegrass in 2023 after serving one season as the offensive coordinator with the Los Angeles Rams.

Before Kentucky, Coen spent three years on the Rams' staff from 2018-20. He served as assistant wide receivers coach in 2018 and 2019 before taking on assistant quarterbacks coach in 2020, when he helped Jared Goff post his fourth-consecutive season with 3,800 or more passing yards.

Coen played collegiate football at UMass and had an illustrious career as a four-year starter at quarterback from 2005-08. He set nearly every career UMass passing record, including most yards gained (11,031), highest passing efficiency (152.92), completion percentage (63.9), completions (830) and touchdowns (90).

2010	Quarterbacks Coach	Brown
2011	Quarterbacks Coach	Rhode Island
2012-13	Quarterbacks Coach	Brown
2014-15	Pass Game Coord./QBs Coach	UMass
2016-17	Offensive Coordinator, QBs	Maine
2018-19	Assistant Wide Receivers Coach	Los Angeles Rams
2020	Assistant Quarterbacks Coach	Los Angeles Rams
2021	Offensive Coord./Quarterbacks Coach	Kentucky
2022	Offensive Coordinator	Los Angeles Rams
2023-present	Offensive Coord./Quarterbacks Coach	Kentucky



## CHRIS COLLINS

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

Chris Collins enters his third 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 letterwinner 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



### VINCE MARROW

#### ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH/TIGHT ENDS/RECRUITING COORDINATOR

Vince Marrow, aka the "Big Dawg," enters his 11th 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 10 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 sixth season at Kentucky as the outside linebackers coach and fifth 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 third 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





## 2023 DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (WEEK 1)

#### Left Tackle

69 Marques Cox, 6-5, 311, Sr-Tr, Peoria, Ill. (Northern Illinois/Peoria)  
 73 Dylan Ray, 6-6, 305, So-Tr, Noblesville, Indiana (West Virginia/Noblesville)

#### Left Guard

68 Kenneth Horsey, 6-3 311 %Sr-4L Sanford, Fla. (Sanford Seminole)  
 67 Paul Rodriguez, 6-5, 324, So-Sq, Mason, Ohio (William Mason)

#### Center

62 Jager Burton, 6-4, 307, So-1L, Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)  
 51 Tanner Bowles, 6-5, 306, Sr-Tr, Glasgow, Ky. (Alabama/Glasgow)

#### Right Guard

75 Eli Cox, 6-4, 311, Sr-3L, Nicholasville, Ky. (West Jessamine)  
 51 Tanner Bowles, 6-5, 306, Sr-Tr, Glasgow, Ky. (Alabama/Glasgow)

#### Right Tackle

77 Jeremy Flax, 6-6, 325, Sr-1L, Detroit, Mich. (Independence CC/Robichaud)  
 or 74 Courtland Ford, 6-6, 315, Jr-Tr, Peoria, Ill. (Southern California/Cedar Hill (Texas)

#### Tight End

80 Brenden Bates, 6-5, 251, %Sr-4L, Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)  
 or 84 Josh Kattus, 6-4, 231, So-1L, Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)  
 82 Khamari Anderson, 6-5 238 Fr-HS Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)

#### Tight End/FB

85 Jordan Dingle TE 6-4 238 So-1L Bowling Green, Ky. (Bowling Green HS)  
 or 8 Izayah Cummings, 6-3, 232, Sr-3L, Louisville, Ky. (Male)  
 47 Justice Dingle II, 6-3, 261, %Sr-Sq, Bowling Green, Ky. (Georgia Tech/  
 Bowling Green HS)

#### Wide Receiver (F)

9 Tayvion Robinson, 5-11, 194, %Sr-1L, Virginia Beach, Va. (Virginia Tech/Cox)  
 18 Brandon White, 5-9, 167, Fr-RS, Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)

#### Wide Receiver (X)

6 Dane Key, 6-3, 195, So-1L, Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)  
 3 Dekel Crowdus, 5-10, 171, So-1L, Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)

#### Wide Receiver (Z)

7 Barion Brown, 6-1, 174, So-1L, Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)  
 5 Anthony Brown-Stephens, 5-10, 168, Fr-HS, Springfield, Ohio (Springfield)

#### Quarterback

13 Devin Leary, 6-1, 217, Sr-Tr, Sicklerville, N.J. (NC State/Timber Creek)  
 12 Kaiya Sheron, 6-3, 210, So-Sq, Somerset, Ky. (Somerset)  
 or 15 Destin Wade, 6-3 223 Fr-RS Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)

#### Running Back

1 Ray Davis, 5-10, 216, Sr-Tr, San Francisco, Calif. (Vanderbilt/Temple/  
 Blair Academy)  
 4 JuTahn McClain, 5-9, 198, Sr-3L, Fairfield, Ohio (Fairfield)  
 or 0 Demie Sumo-Karngbaye, 6-0 210 Jr-Tr Willingboro, N.J. (NC State/  
 Willingboro)  
 or 26 Ramon Jefferson, 5-10 210 %Sr-Sq Bronx, N.Y. (Sam Houston State/  
 Garden City CC/Maine/Truman)

### SPECIALISTS (WEEK 1)

#### Kicker

16 Alex Raynor, 6-0, 178, Sr-Tr, Kennesaw, Georgia (Georgia Southern/  
 Harrison)  
 12 Chance Poore, 6-2, 213, %Sr-4L, Anderson, S.C. (Westside)

#### Kickoff

12 Chance Poore, 6-2, 213, %Sr-4L, Anderson, S.C. (Westside)  
 16 Alex Raynor, 6-0, 178, Sr-Tr, Kennesaw, Georgia (Georgia Southern/  
 Harrison)  
 or 37 Michael Bernard, 6-3, 205, Sr-Tr, Clayton, Mo. (Fordham/Clayton)

#### Punter

93 Wilson Berry, 6-4, 208, Fr-RS, Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)  
 39 Jackson Smith, 5-11, 204, Fr-RS, Danville, Ky. (Boyle County)

#### Long Snapper

46 Ron Gaines, 6-5, 250, %Sr-Tr, Chicago, Ill. (Temple/Simeon)  
 56 Walker Himebauch, 6-0, 228, Fr-HS, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Palmer Ridge)

#### Short Snapper

56 Walker Himebauch, 6-0, 228, Fr-HS, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Palmer Ridge)  
 46 Ron Gaines, 6-5, 250, %Sr-Tr, Chicago, Ill. (Temple/Simeon)

#### Holder

93 Wilson Berry, 6-4, 213, So-Sq, Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)  
 12 Chance Poore, 6-2, 213, %Sr-4L, Anderson, S.C. (Westside)

#### Kickoff Return

7 Barion Brown, 6-1, 174, So-1L, Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)  
 5 Anthony Brown-Stephens, 5-10, 168, Fr-HS, Springfield, Ohio (Springfield)

#### Punt Return

9 Tayvion Robinson, 5-11, 194, %Sr-1L, Virginia Beach, Va. (Virginia Tech/Cox)  
 7 Barion Brown, 6-1, 174, So-1L, Nashville, Tenn. (Pearl-Cohn)  
 or 18 Brandon White, 5-9, 167, Fr-RS, Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)

### DEFENSE (WEEK 1)

#### Defensive End

8 Octavious Oxendine, 6-1, 276, Sr-3L, Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)  
 or 90 Tre'vonn Rybka, 6-4, 276, Jr-2L, Dickson, Tenn. (Dickson County)

#### Nose Guard

97 Josaih Hayes, 6-3, 317, Sr-3L, Horn Lake, Miss. (Horn Lake)  
 or 9 Keeshawn Silver, 6-4, 322, So-Tr, Rocky Mount, N.C. (North Carolina/Rocky Mount)

#### Defensive Tackle

0 Deone Walker, 6-6, 348, So-1L, Detroit, Mich. (Cass Tech)  
 92 Kahlil Saunders, 6-5, 285, So-1L, Huntsville, Ala. (Grissom)

#### Nickelback/Strongside Linebacker

3 Alex Afari Jr., 6-2, 214, So-1Lk, Cincinnati, Ohio (Lakota West)  
 or 20 Keaten Wade, 6-5, 250, So-1L, Spring Hill, Tenn. (Summit)

#### Outside Linebacker

13 J.J. Weaver, 6-5, 244, Sr-3L, Louisville, Ky. (Moore Traditional)  
 55 Noah Matthews, 6-5, 237, Fr-RS, Bridgeville, Del. (Woodbridge)  
 or 42 Tyreese Fearbry, 6-5, 233, Fr-RS, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Perry Traditional Academy)

#### Middle Linebacker

54 D'Eryk Jackson, 6-1, 245, Sr-3L, Dublin, Ga. (West Laurens)  
 17 Daveren Rayner, 6-2, 217, Sr-Tr, Indianapolis, Indiana (Northern Illinois/  
 Lawrence Central)

#### Weakside Linebacker

32 Trevin Wallace, 6-2, 241, Jr-2L, Jesup, Ga. (Wayne County)  
 44 Martez Thrower, 6-2, 224, Jr-2L, Rochelle, Ga. (Wilcox County)

#### Field Cornerback

31 Maxwell Hairston, 6-1, 181, So-1L, West Bloomfield, Mich. (West Bloomfield)  
 6 Jonquis "JQ" Hardaway, 6-3, 194, So-Tr, Columbus, Ga. (Cincinnati/  
 Central-Phenix City, Ala.)

#### Boundary Cornerback

23 Andru Phillips, 6-0, 187, Jr-2L, Mauldin, S.C. (Mauldin)  
 28 Jordan Robinson, 6-4, 208, So-RS, Columbia, S.C. (Livingstone College/  
 Westwood)

#### Strong Safety

11 Zion Childress, 6-0, 201, Jr-1L, Houston, Texas (Texas State/New Caney)  
 or 4 Jalen Geiger, 6-1, 199, Sr-3L, Columbia, S.C. (Spring Valley)

#### Free Safety

25 Jordan Lovett, 6-2, 195, So-1L, Radcliff, Ky. (North Hardin)  
 14 Ty Bryant, 6-0, 187, Fr-HS, Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass)