



GO BIG BLUE

KENTUCKY FEED THE STUDS. FOOTBALL

KENTUCKY

Date	Opponent (TV)	Time
S. 5	YOUNGSTOWN STATE (SECN+)	W, 45-13
S. 12	No. 12/12 ALABAMA* (ABC)	3:30 P.M.
S. 19	at Texas A&M* (TBA)	3:30 P.M.
S. 26	SOUTH ALABAMA (SECN)	12:45 P.M.
O. 3	at South Carolina* (TBA)	TBA
O. 10	LSU* (TBA)	NIGHT
O. 17	at Oklahoma* (TBA)	TBA
O. 24	VANDERBILT* (TBA)	NIGHT
N. 7	at Tennessee* (TBA)	NIGHT
N. 14	FLORIDA* (TBA)	NIGHT
N. 21	at Missouri* (TBA)	NIGHT
N. 28	LOUISVILLE (TBA)	DAY

Home games in bold; *SEC game



KENTUCKY WILDCATS

2026 Record / SEC Record 1-0 / 0-0
AP / AFCA Coaches Poll NR / NR
Head Coach Will Stein
Career Record at UK (Years) 1-0 (1st)
On-Field Career Record Same
Last Game W, 45-13 vs. Youngstown State

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12
3:30 P.M. ET • ABC
LEXINGTON, KY.
KROGER FIELD



ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

2026 Record / SEC Record 1-0 / 0-0
AP / AFCA Coaches Poll 12 / 12
Head Coach Kalen DeBoer
Record at Bama (Years) 21-8 (3rd)
Career (Years) 125-20 (12th)
Last Game W, 48-10 vs. East Carolina

GAME INFORMATION

TV - ABC
Play-by-Play Sean McDonough
Analyst Greg McElroy
Sideline Katie George

RADIO - UK SPORTS NETWORK OR
UKATHLETICS.COM
Play-by-Play Tom Leach
Analyst Jeff Piccoro
Sideline Dick Gabriel

SATELLITE RADIO - SIRIUSXM
Channel: 84

TICKET INFORMATION - UKATHLETICS.COM

BY THE NUMBERS

- 6- STRAIGHT VICTORIES IN SEASON OPENERS AND NINE OF THE PAST 10
- 5- KENTUCKY SCORED ON EACH OF ITS FIRST FIVE POSSESSIONS VS. YOUNGSTOWN STATE
- 9- DIFFERENT RECEIVERS CAUGHT A PASS IN THE OPENER
- 0- THE CATS YIELDED NO SACKS AND GAVE UP JUST ONE QUARTERBACK HURRY IN THE SEASON OPENER

OPENING KICK NEED-TO-KNOWS

- Kentucky football opened the **Will Stein** era with a 45-13 victory against Youngstown State. Stein was named Kentucky's 39th head coach on Dec. 1, 2025.
- The Wildcats' 45 points in Stein's debut were the third-most for a UK coach in a debut in history. Only W.J. Juneau's 62 points vs. Southwestern Presbyterian on Oct. 2, 1920 and A.D. Kirwan's 46 points vs. Maryville on Sept. 24, 1938 had more.
- Kentucky has its only back-to-back home games of the season Saturday vs. Alabama, which will mark the opening game of the Southeastern Conference league schedule. The game time is 3:30 p.m. ET and it will be televised on ABC.
- SEC Nation and Marty & McGee will be telecast from the William T. Young Library on Saturday. The Paul Finebaum Show will be on Friday.
- Alabama will be making its seventh trip to Lexington since 1980, including UK's 40-34 overtime in victory in 1997.
- It is the first of the new nine-game SEC schedule.
- UK had 506 yards total offense in the opener, most in a season opener since 564 vs. ULM in 2021. It was also the most total yards of offense in a UK head coach's debut since Hal Mumme's squad posted 519 yards vs. Louisville on Aug. 30, 1997.
- Kenny Minchey** made his first collegiate start at quarterback against Youngstown State and was 18 of 27 for 301 yards, four touchdowns and no turnovers. He is the third QB in UK history to have 300 passing yards, four TDs and at least 65 percent completion in a season opener, also Will Levis in 2021 and Tim Couch in 1997 and '98.
- CJ Baxter Jr.** rushed for two touchdowns in the first quarter to become the first UK player with two rushing scores in the first quarter of a season opener since Derrick Locke at Louisville on Sept. 4, 2010. Baxter finished the day with nine carries for 49 yards.
- Freshmen receivers **Kenny Darby** and **Prince Jean** both caught a TD pass in their collegiate debut. It is the first time two UK freshmen had a receiving touchdown in the opener since Barion Brown and Dane Key against Miami (OH) on Sept. 3, 2022.
- Minchey found four different receivers for a touchdown -- the first time UK had four players with a receiving touchdown in an opener since six players caught scores in 1998 at Louisville.
- UK will be in search of its first win over a ranked opponent since Sept. 28, 2024 over No. 6 Ole Miss while on the road. UK has not won over a ranked foe at home since No. 22 Florida, 33-14, in 2023.





WEEKLY MEDIA SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No availability	Will Stein press conference Noon ET Kroger Field Media Room	Select player availability 10:45 a.m. ET JCFTC lobby UK HealthCare Will Stein Show 6 p.m. ET	No availability	Paul Finebaum Show at William T. Young Library 3 p.m.	SEC Nation at William T. Young Library 9 a.m. vs. Alabama 3:30 p.m. ET ABC Kroger Field	No availability

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACTS



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



Assistant AD / Athletics Communications and Media Relations
Tony Neely
(859) 576-9943 (cell)
tneely@uky.edu



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



Senior Associate Director of Athletics Communications and Media Relations / Secondary Football Contact
Deb Moore
(859) 559-5781 (cell)
deb.moore@uky.edu



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

Main Office No.: (859) 257-3838

Central Bank Press Row No.: (859) 323-2800

Office Address:

Joe Craft Center, 338 Lexington Ave.

Lexington, KY 40506-0019

Website: UKathletics.com

collegepressbox

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cess, please register for an account at collegepress-

MEDIA SERVICES

CREDENTIAL APPROVALS/DENIALS

For the Alabama game, requests are being accepted through Sportssystems and the deadline to apply is Monday, Sept. 7 at 5 p.m. ET. No approved credentials will be distributed prior to game day. All credentials will be picked up at Media Will Call at Gate 11 on game days.
Apply at www.sportssystems.com/Kentucky

UK WEBSITE -- UKATHLETICS.COM

For game 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 Tuesday (except Oct. 27, the week of UK's open date), head coach Will Stein 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 Tuesday.

SEC HEAD COACHES' TELECONFERENCE

UK head coach Will Stein will appear on the SEC Head Coaches' Teleconference at 12:20 p.m. ET on the following Wednesdays: Sept. 2, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 18 and Nov. 18.

Link/Number will be sent via email from the SEC Communications Office weekly. Replays will be available via: www.SECsports.com.

POST-PRACTICE INTERVIEWS

Interviews with select players will be conducted at the Joe Craft Football Training Center or by telephone at the conclusion of practice on Wednesdays at approximately 10:45 a.m. ET. Contact Susan Lax, Matt May or Deb Moore for assistance.

VIDEOS/PHOTOS

Every Tuesday press conference, post-practice press conferences and postgame press conference after home Saturday games will be here >> <https://vimeo.com/showcase/ukfootball?share=copy&-fl=sm&fe=fe>

2026 Fall Practice Photo Gallery Link >>> <https://bit.ly/3IY34Mg>

THE UK HEALTHCARE WILL STEIN SHOW

The Will Stein Show presented by UK HealthCare airs Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. ET, hosted by "The Voice of the Wildcats" Tom Leach. Fans can submit questions for Coach Stein by texting the Clark's Pump-N-Shop Text Line at (859) 203-1234 or submit questions on X @UKSportsNetwork.

The show airs in Lexington on 630 WLAP, online at UKSNallaccess.com, across UK Sports Network radio affiliates, and on the UK Athletics App. A live video stream will also be available on UKSNallaccess.com and the UK Sports Network Facebook and X pages.



NUMERICAL ROSTER

0*	Martels Carter Jr.	RB	6-0	205	So.
0*	Bo Barnes	ILB	6-1	242	So.
1*	CJ Baxter Jr.	RB	6-1	230	Sr.
1*	Andre Clarke Jr.	DB	6-1	176	Fr.
2*	Jovantae Barnes	RB	6-0	214	5th
2*	Sam Greene	OLB	6-2	251	Sr.
3*	Aaron Gates	DB	6-0	199	Sr.
3*	Kenny Minchey	QB	6-2	211	Sr.
4*	Antwan Smith	ILB	6-3	226	Jr.
4*	Nic Anderson	WR	6-4	205	5th
5*	Jordan Castell	DB	6-2	211	Sr.
5*	Ja'Kayden Ferguson	WR	6-2	184	So.
6*	Shane Carr	WR	6-2	185	Sr.
6*	Ahmad Breaux	DT	6-3	260	Jr.
7*	Jamarrion Harkless	DL	6-3	346	Sr.
7*	DJ Miller	WR	6-3	208	So.
8*	Lorenzo Cowan	OLB	6-3	250	Jr.
8*	Mikkel Skinner	TE	6-4	234	So.
9*	Alex Afari Jr.	LB	6-2	227	5th
9*	Matthew Ponatoski	QB	6-1	205	Fr.
10*	Dyllon Williams	DB	6-2	191	So.
10*	Callum Wither	QB	6-4	217	5th
11*	Braxton Urquhart	DB	6-3	200	Sr.
11*	Lincoln Watkins	TE	6-4	234	Fr.
12*	Brock Coffman	WR	6-0	181	So.
12*	Hasaan Sykes	DB	6-0	192	Jr.
13*	Cyrus Reyes	DB	6-1	192	Jr.
13*	Denairius Gray	WR	6-2	181	Fr.
14*	Ty Bryant	DB	6-0	196	Sr.
14*	Brennen Ward	QB	6-4	227	So.
15*	Carson Cruver	QB	6-3	203	Sr.
15*	CJ Works	OLB	6-5	247	So.
16*	Jesse Anderson III	DB	6-0	186	Sr.
16*	JacQai Long	QB	6-2	203	Jr.
17*	Justyn Hartley	ILB	6-1	192	Fr.
17*	William Drakeford Jr.	QB	6-2	195	Fr.
18*	Mark Manfred III	DB	6-2	171	So.
18*	Xavier Daisy	WR	6-3	212	Jr.
19*	Kevis Thomas	DB	6-0	181	Sr.
19*	Kenny Darby	WR	6-1	180	Fr.
20	Terhyon Nichols	DB	5-11	194	Jr.
21*	Nasir Addison	DB	6-0	191	Sr.
21*	Tovani Mizell	RB	6-0	213	Jr.
22*	Deuce Alston II	RB	6-0	210	Fr.
22*	Grant Godfrey	ILB	6-3	240	Sr.
23	Brian Robinson	DL	6-5	257	Jr.
24	Jaden Smith	DB	6-3	205	Jr.
25	Tavion Wallace	ILB	6-1	241	So.
26*	Jason Patterson	RB	5-10	204	Jr.
26*	Andrew Purcell	DB	5-10	201	So.
27	Isaiah McMillian	DB	6-1	176	Fr.
28	Demarcus Gardner	DB	6-0	177	So.
28	Ahmira Smith	RB	5-10	200	Jr.
29	Jordan Colbert	RB	6-2	215	Jr.
30	Grant Grayton	DB	6-3	194	So.
31	Quintavon Norman	ILB	6-3	223	Jr.
32	Devin Smith	ILB	6-0	231	Jr.

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

21*	Nasir Addison	DB	6-0	191	Sr.	Newark, N.J. (Irvington HS)
9*	Alex Afari Jr.	LB	6-2	227	5th	Cincinnati, Ohio (Lakota West)
73	Olaus Alinen	OL	6-6	329	Sr.	Pori, Finland (Alabama/The Loomis Chaffee School (Conn.))
22*	Deuce Alston II	RB	6-0	210	Fr.	Trussville, Ala. (Hewitt-Trussville HS)
16*	Jesse Anderson III	DB	6-0	186	Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Pitt/Cardinal Gibbons HS)
50	Max Anderson	OL	6-5	299	Jr.	Frisco, Texas (Tennessee/Reedy HS)
4*	Nic Anderson	WR	6-4	205	5th	Katy, Texas (LSU/Oklahoma/Katy HS)
74	Jermiel Atkins Jr.	OL	6-8	326	So.	Dayton, Ohio (Madison HS)
0*	Bo Barnes	ILB	6-1	242	So.	Dallas, Texas (Texas/Skyline HS)
2*	Jovantae Barnes	RB	6-0	214	5th	Las Vegas, Nev. (Oklahoma/Desert Pines HS)
1*	CJ Baxter Jr.	RB	6-1	230	Sr.	Boynton Beach, Fla. (Texas/Edgewater HS)
93*	Wilson Berry	P	6-4	206	5th+	Maribyrnong, Australia (Maribyrnong College)
87	Henry Boyer	TE	6-6	270	5th	Chicago, Ill. (Illinois/Brother Rice HS)
6*	Ahmad Breaux	DT	6-3	260	Jr.	Ruston, La. (LSU/Ruston HS)
85	Elijah Brown	TE	6-6	263	5th	Dayton, Ohio (UCF/FAU/Alabama/Wayne HS)
33*	Sam Brown III	DB	5-11	172	Fr.	San Clemente, Calif. (Capistrano Valley Christian Schools)
14*	Ty Bryant	DB	6-0	196	Sr.	Lexington, Ky. (Frederick Douglass HS)
6*	Shane Carr	WR	6-2	185	Sr.	Bakersfield, Calif. (Southern Utah/South HS)
0*	Martels Carter Jr.	RB	6-0	205	So.	Chattanooga, Tenn. (Paducah Tilghman HS - Ky.)
5*	Jordan Castell	DB	6-2	211	Sr.	Orlando, Fla. (Florida/West Orange HS)
79	Jay Clark	OL	6-4	318	So.	Cleveland, Ohio (Northmont HS)
1*	Andre Clarke Jr.	DB	6-1	176	Fr.	Richmond, Va. (Hermitage HS)
12*	Brock Coffman	WR	6-0	181	So.	Lexington, Ky. (Louisville/Sayre School)
29	Jordan Colbert	RB	6-2	215	Jr.	Merced, Calif. (Fresno City College/San Joaquin Memorial HS)
8*	Lorenzo Cowan	OLB	6-3	250	Jr.	Savannah, Ga. (Southern Cal/Jenkins HS)
80	Ashton Cozart	WR	6-3	202	Sr.	Flower Mound, Texas (SMU/Oregon/Marcus HS)
33*	Rico Crowder	WR	6-4	201	Jr.	Glasgow, Ky. (Glasgow HS)
15*	Carson Cruver	QB	6-3	203	Sr.	Austin, Texas (Florida Atlantic/St. Michael's Catholic Academy)
18*	Xavier Daisy	WR	6-3	212	Jr.	Norcross, Ga. (UAB/Greater Atlanta Christian School)
19*	Kenny Darby	WR	6-1	180	Fr.	Bossier City, La. (Airline HS)
68	Alexander DiMartino	OL	6-4	306	So.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Fort Lauderdale HS)
17*	William Drakeford Jr.	QB	6-2	195	Fr.	Gaithersburg, Md. (Quince Orchard HS)
92	Ben Duncum	DE	6-5	224	Fr.	Austin, Texas (Lake Travis HS)
93*	Kalen Edwards	DL	6-4	335	So.	Dyersburg, Tenn. (Dyersburg HS)
61	Jason Ekperuoh	OL	6-6	354	So.	Montreal, Quebec (The Webb School -TN)
5*	Ja'Kayden Ferguson	WR	6-2	184	So.	Houston, Texas (Arkansas/Thurgood Marshall HS)
70	Rob Fogler	OL	6-7	325	Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Ball State/St. Xavier HS)
94	Tavion Gadson	DL	6-5	303	Sr.	Savannah, Ga. (Jenkins HS)
28	Demarcus Gardner	DB	6-0	177	So.	Cedartown, Ga. (Cedartown HS)
3*	Aaron Gates	DB	6-0	199	Sr.	Newnan, Ga. (Florida/Trinity Christian School)
22*	Grant Godfrey	ILB	6-3	240	Sr.	Suwanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett HS)
13*	Denairius Gray	WR	6-2	181	Fr.	Boynton Beach, Fla. (Chaminade-Madonna HS)
30	Grant Grayton	DB	6-3	194	So.	Laurel, Md. (Good Counsel HS)
2*	Sam Greene	OLB	6-2	251	Sr.	Washington, D.C. (Southern Cal/St. Frances Academy)
7*	Jamarrion Harkless	DL	6-3	346	Sr.	Lexington, Ky. (Purdue/Frederick Douglas HS)
89	Cash Harney	WR	5-9	177	Fr.	Covington, Ky. (Covington Catholic HS)
17*	Justyn Hartley	ILB	6-1	192	Fr.	Hoover, Ala. (Hoover HS)
53*	Lance Heard	OL	6-6	325	Sr.	Bonita, La. (Tennessee/LSU/Neville HS)
60	Mason Howard	OL	6-4	321	Fr.	Fort Thomas, Ky. (Highlands HS)
39	Saxton Howard	WR	6-0	177	So.	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)
90	Mf'Quise Humphrey-Grace	DL	6-4	271	5th	Cincinnati, Ohio (South Dakota/Princeton HS)
34	Isaiah Jackson	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	Richmond, Ky. (Rockcastle County HS)
83	Prince Jean	WR	6-1	187	Fr.	Valdosta, Ga. (Valdosta HS)
75	Hayes Johnson	OL	6-4	310	Jr.	Campbellsville, Ky. (Taylor County HS)
78	Cameron Jones	OL	6-6	335	Sr.	Weirton, W. Va. (James Madison/Weir HS)
44	Justin Kattus	TE	6-1	216	Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (St. Xavier HS)
91*	Jacob Kauwe	K	6-1	216	Jr.	Billings, Mont. (Billings West HS)
57	Jordan Knox	OL	6-2	329	Sr.	Rock Hill, S.C. (Northwest Mississippi JC/Northwestern/Northwestern HS)
37	Spencer Leadbetter	WR	6-3	198	Sr.	Glenview, Ill. (Loyola Academy)
16*	JacQai Long	QB	6-2	203	Jr.	Hurricane, W. Va. (Marshall/Hurricane HS)
18*	Mark Manfred III	DB	6-2	171	So.	Marietta, Ga. (Missouri/Sprayberry HS)
40	Cole Marszalek	LS	5-11	197	Sr.	Goodyear, Ariz. (Jacksonville State/Arizona State/Millennium HS)



ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

84 Davis McCray	WR 6-2 196 Fr.	San Antonio, Texas (Cornerstone Christian Academy)
27 Isaiah McMillian	DB 6-1 176 Fr.	Katy, Texas (Katy HS)
64 Ryan Meeker	OL 6-1 311 Fr.	Wheelerburg, Ohio (Wheelerburg HS)
66 Tino Merlo	OL 6-2 278 Sr.	Youngstown, Ohio (Cardinal Mooney HS)
52 Cameron Miller Jr.	OL 6-5 341 Fr.	Hammond, Ind. (Morton HS)
7* DJ Miller	WR 6-3 208 So.	St. Louis, Mo. (Cardinal Ritter HS)
3* Kenny Minchey	QB 6-2 211 Sr.	Hendersonville, Tenn. (Notre Dame/Pope John Paul II HS)
21* Tovani Mizell	RB 6-0 213 Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Western HS)
62 Ben Myers	OL 6-4 286 Fr.	Ballard County, Ky. (Paducah Tilghman HS)
20 Terhyon Nichols	DB 5-11 194 Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Withrow HS)
31 Quintavon Norman	ILB 6-3 223 Jr.	Covington, Ga. (Newton HS)
48 Thomas O'Hara	P 6-1 201 Sr.	Melbourne, Australia (Murray State/St. Bedes College)
35 Matthew Obermeier	K 5-11 160 Fr.	Carmel, Ind. (Carmel HS)
26* Jason Patterson	RB 5-10 204 Jr.	Sneads, Fla. (Sneads HS)
9* Matthew Ponatoski	QB 6-1 205 Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Archbishop Moeller)
72 Coleton Price	OL 6-3 308 5th	Bowie, Texas (Baylor/Bowie HS)
26* Andrew Purcell	DB 5-10 201 So.	Enterprise, Ala. (Enterprise HS)
97* Spencer Radnoti	LS 6-3 237 Jr.	Canton, Ga. (Georgia State/Cherokee HS)
53* Ben Reeves	OLB 6-2 242 Jr.	Edgewood, Ky. (Georgetown College/Covington Catholic HS)
13* Cyrus Reyes	DB 6-1 192 Jr.	Katy, Texas (Mississippi State/Taylor HS)
23 Brian Robinson	DL 6-5 257 Jr.	Youngstown, Ohio (Westerville North HS)
67 Mark Robinson III	OL 6-5 328 Jr.	Altamonte Springs, Fla. (UTEP/Southeastern/Lyman HS)
81 Willie Rodriguez	TE 6-4 249 Jr.	Taylor Mill, Ky. (Covington Catholic HS)
55* Aba Selm	OL 6-4 327 Jr.	Independence, Ky. (Simon Kenton HS)
8* Mikkel Skinner	TE 6-4 234 So.	Greer, S.C. (Riverside HS)
28 Ahmir Smith	RB 5-10 200 Jr.	Santee, S.C. (Garden City CC/Northern Illinois/Calhoun County HS)
4* Antwan Smith	ILB 6-3 226 Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Westlake HS)
32 Devin Smith	ILB 6-0 231 Jr.	Brunswick, Ga. (Brunswick HS)
24 Jaden Smith	DB 6-3 205 Jr.	Charlotte, N.C. (West Charlotte HS)
12* Hasaan Sykes	DB 6-0 192 Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Western Carolina/Tucker HS)
82 Nelson Tambling	TE 6-5 240 Fr.	Gainesville, Fla. (Eastside HS)
19* Kevis Thomas	DB 6-0 181 Sr.	Perry, Fla. (Maryland/Lowndes HS)
97* Tyler Thomas	DE 6-5 260 Sr.	Mobile, Ala. (South Alabama/UAB/Cottage Hill Christian HS)
69 Hank Timon	OL 6-6 318 Fr.	Guilford, Ind. (East Central HS)
77 Tegra Tshabola	OL 6-6 329 5th	West Chester, Ohio (Ohio State/Lakota West HS)
11* Braxton Urquhart	DB 6-3 200 Sr.	Birmingham, Ala. (Butler CC/Hoover HS)
25 Tavion Wallace	ILB 6-1 241 So.	Jesup, Ga. (Arkansas/Appling County HS)
14* Brennen Ward	QB 6-4 227 So.	Gahanna, Ohio (Gahanna Lincoln HS)
11* Lincoln Watkins	TE 6-4 234 Fr.	Fort Gratiot, Mich. (Northern HS)
36 Andrew Weber	DB 6-0 179 Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (St. Xavier HS)
59 Jack Wheeler	LS 6-4 248 Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Cannon School)
10* Dyllon Williams	DB 6-2 191 So.	Demopolis, Ala. (Demopolis HS)
91* Jaden Williams	DL 6-4 290 5th	Inglewood, Calif. (Wyoming/Campbell Hall)
96 Dominic Wiseman	DT 6-2 298 5th	Davenport, Iowa (South Alabama/Iowa Western CC/Davenport North HS)
10* Callum Wither	QB 6-4 219 5th	Toronto, Canada (Ohio/Wilfrid Laurier/Clarkson HS)
71 Malachi Wood	OL 6-8 329 Sr.	Richmond, Ky. (Madison Central HS)
15* CJ Works	OLB 6-5 247 So.	Dayton, Ohio (Frederick Douglass HS)
38 Tyler Wright	DB 5-11 178 Fr.	Bixby, Okla. (Bixby HS)
88 Adam Zouagui	K 5-11 191 Sr.	Reston, Va. (USF/Davidson College/Herndon HS)

NUMERICAL ROSTER

33* Sam Brown III	DB 5-11 172 Fr.
33* Rico Crowder	WR 6-4 201 Jr.
34 Isaiah Jackson	RB 5-10 185 Fr.
35 Matthew Obermeier	K 5-11 160 Fr.
36 Andrew Weber	DB 6-0 179 Jr.
37 Spencer Leadbetter	WR 6-3 198 Sr.
38 Tyler Wright	DB 5-11 178 Fr.
39 Saxton Howard	WR 6-0 177 So.
40 Cole Marszalek	LS 5-11 197 Sr.
44 Justin Kattus	TE 6-1 216 Jr.
48 Thomas O'Hara	P 6-1 201 Sr.
50 Max Anderson	OL 6-5 299 Jr.
52 Cameron Miller Jr.	OL 6-5 341 Fr.
53* Ben Reeves	OLB 6-2 242 Jr.
53* Lance Heard	OL 6-6 325 Sr.
55* Aba Selm	OL 6-4 327 Jr.
57 Jordan Knox	OL 6-2 329 Sr.
59 Jack Wheeler	LS 6-4 248 Fr.
60 Mason Howard	OL 6-4 321 Fr.
61 Jason Ekperuoh	OL 6-6 354 So.
62 Ben Myers	OL 6-4 286 Fr.
64 Ryan Meeker	OL 6-1 311 Fr.
66 Tino Merlo	OL 6-2 278 Sr.
67 Mark Robinson III	OL 6-5 328 Jr.
68 Alexander DiMartino	OL 6-4 306 So.
69 Hank Timon	OL 6-6 318 Fr.
70 Rob Fogler	OL 6-7 325 Sr.
71 Malachi Wood	OL 6-8 329 Sr.
72 Coleton Price	OL 6-3 308 5th
73 Olaus Alinen	OL 6-6 329 Sr.
74 Jermiel Atkins Jr.	OL 6-8 326 So.
75 Hayes Johnson	OL 6-4 310 Jr.
77 Tegra Tshabola	OL 6-6 329 5th
78 Cameron Jones	OL 6-6 335 Sr.
79 Jay Clark	OL 6-4 318 So.
80 Ashton Cozart	WR 6-3 202 Sr.
81 Willie Rodriguez	TE 6-4 249 Jr.
82 Nelson Tambling	TE 6-5 240 Fr.
83 Prince Jean	WR 6-1 187 Fr.
84 Davis McCray	WR 6-2 196 Fr.
85 Elijah Brown	TE 6-6 263 5th
87 Henry Boyer	TE 6-6 270 5th
88 Adam Zouagui	K 5-11 191 Sr.
89 Cash Harney	WR 5-9 177 Fr.
90 Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace	DL 6-4 271 5th
91* Jacob Kauwe	K 6-1 216 Jr.
91* Jaden Williams	DL 6-4 290 5th
92 Ben Duncum	DE 6-5 224 Fr.
93* Wilson Berry	P 6-4 206 5th+
93* Kalen Edwards	DL 6-4 335 So.
94 Tavion Gadson	DL 6-5 303 Sr.
96 Dominic Wiseman	DT 6-2 298 5th
97* Spencer Radnoti	LS 6-3 237 Jr.
97* Tyler Thomas	DE 6-5 260 Sr.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Nasir (Nah-SEER) Addison
 Olaus (OH-louse) Alinen (AH-lee-nen)
 Jermiel (jer-MEEL) Atkins Jr.
 Jovantae (jo-VON-tay) Barnes
 Ahmad Breaux (BROH)
 Martels (mar-TELL-us) Carter Jr.
 Carson Cruver (CROO-ver)
 Jason Ekperuoh (ek-PEAR-ee-oh)
 Mi'Quise (mi-KEESE) Humphrey-Grace
 Denairius (di-NEH-ree-uhs) Gray
 Jamarion (juh-MAR-ee-on) Harkless
 Jacob Kauwe (COW-way)
 Prince Jean (sounds like gene)
 JacQai (juh KIE) Long
 Cole Marszalek (mar-ZAH-lek)

Kenny Minchey (min-CHEE)
 Tavoni (tuh-VONI) Mizell (mih-ZELL)
 Terhyon (tuh-RYAN) Nichols
 Quintavon (kwin-TAY-vee-on) Norman
 Matt Ponatoski (pawn-ah-TOSS-kee)
 Spencer Radnoti (Rad-not-ee)
 Cyrus Reyes (reh-jes)
 Aba (Abba) Selm
 Hasaan (HA-sahn) Sykes
 Kevis (KEE-vus) Thomas
 Hank Timon (TIE-mon)
 Tegra (TAY-gruh) Tshabola (sha-BO-la)
 Braxton Urquhart (UR-kart)
 Adam Zouagui (zoo-AH-ghee)



WEEK TWO: ALABAMA

- Kentucky will take on Alabama on Saturday in both teams' 2026 Southeastern Conference opener.
- The Wildcats are 2-39-1 all-time versus Alabama, including 2-15 in Lexington.
- Alabama has won eight consecutive meetings in the series.
- UK's last win the series was a 40-34 overtime victory in 1997 engineered by Tim Couch and Craig Yeast. Couch hit Yeast with a 26-yard touchdown pass for the game-winning score in OT. The duo will serve as honorary captains for Saturday's game.
- In that game, current UK defensive line coach Anwar Stewart returned a blocked field goal 68 yards for a touchdown.
- This will be the first SEC contest for first-year head coach Will Stein.
- Alabama will be making its seventh trip to Lexington since 1980, including UK's 40-34 overtime in victory in 1997.

OPENING KICK REVIEW

- Kentucky's 45-13 win over Youngstown State marked **Will Stein's** first game as a collegiate head coach.
- The Wildcats have won four of their last six coaching debuts.
- UK has won seven consecutive home-openers. It is the longest home-opening streak for the Cats since winning eight straight home lid-lifters from 1987-94.*
- The 45 points are the most for a Kentucky head coach in his first game since 1938, when A.D. Kirwan's Wildcats defeated Maryville 46-7.
- Kentucky completed a 7-play, 75-yard drive for a touchdown on the opening possession of the Will Stein era. It ended with a 15-yard rush by **CJ Baxter Jr.**
- Kentucky scored touchdowns on its first five possessions. The fourth possession was extended by a muffed punt that the Wildcats recovered.
- Coach Will Stein fulfilled a promise that UK would throw the ball to the tight ends. UK's two leading receivers were tight ends and the three players at that position totaled nine catches for 140 yards and two touchdowns.
- This marked the 10th consecutive season that UK has started the opener with a transfer from a four-year school at quarterback. The last UK high school QB signee to start a season opener was Drew Barker in 2016.
- UK's offense had seven pass plays of at least 20 yards.
- UK's offensive line did not allow a sack and only one quarterback hurry.
- This was the most points scored in a season opener since tallying 45 points vs. Louisiana-Monroe in 2021.
- UK had 506 yards total offense, most in a season opener since 564 vs. Louisiana-Monroe in 2021.
- This was the third time since 1985 that UK had at least 300 passing yards and 200 rushing yards in a season opener.
- This was the first time UK had four players with a receiving touchdown since 2012 vs. Kent State (also four in that game).
- This was the first time UK had four players with a receiving touchdown in the season opener since six players caught TDs in 1998 at Louisville.
- Defensive tackle **Ahmad Breaux** logged the first sack of the season for the Wildcats.
- Safety **Ty Bryant** notched the first takeaway of the season when he recovered a muffed punt in the second quarter, setting up Kentucky's fourth touchdown.
- UK held Youngstown to just 59 yards rushing. Texas (Oct. 18, 2025) was the last opponent to have fewer than 60 yards (47) on the ground.
- Youngstown QB Beau Brungard – the 2025 National Player of the Year in the FCS – is a dangerous runner and scrambler. The Wildcats limited him to 29 net rushing yards with a long run of only seven yards.

Notes above represented with an asterisk () do not include the vacated season-opening win in 2021.

RETURNING / LOST

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (1)

TE Willie Rodriguez

OFFENSIVE STARTERS LOST (10)

QB Cutter Boley
 LG Joshua Braun
 C Jager Burton
 RG Jalen Farmer
 TE Josh Kattus
 WR Kendrick Law
 WR Ja'Mori Maclin
 RB Seth McGowan
 LT Shiyazh Pete
 RT Alex Wollschlaeger

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING (6)

LB Alex Afari Jr.
 DB Ty Bryant
 DB Terhyon Nichols
 DB Nasir Addison
 OLB Sam Greene
 DL Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace

DEFENSIVE STARTERS LOST (6)

DB JQ Hardaway
 NG David Gusta
 FS Jordan Lovett
 MLB Daveren Rayner
 DT Kahlil Saunders
 DB Quay'sheed Scott

OFFENSIVE LETTERWINNERS RETURNING (7)

RB Jason Patterson
 WR DJ Miller
 WR Rico Crowder
 TE Henry Boyer
 TE Willie Rodriguez
 OL Hayes Johnson
 OL Malachi Wood

DEFENSIVE LETTERWINNERS RETURNING (16)

DL Kalen Edwards
 DL Tavio Gadson
 DL Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace
 DL Jaden Williams
 OLB Lorenzo Cowan
 OLB Sam Greene
 OLB Cedric "CJ" Works
 ILB Grant Godfrey
 ILB Antwan Smith
 ILB Devin Smith
 DB Nasir Addison
 DB Ty Bryant
 DB Grant Grayton
 DB Terhyon Nichols
 DB Jaden Smith
 DB Kevis Thomas

SPECIALISTS LETTERWINNERS RETURNING (2)

P Wilson Berry
 K Jacob Kauwe



QUICK FACTS

Location: Lexington, Ky.
 Founded: 1865
 Enrollment: 38,719
 Nickname: Wildcats
 Colors: Blue (PMS 286) and White
 Conference: Southeastern
 Stadium: Kroger Field (61,000)
 President: Dr. Eli Capilouto
 Athletics Director: J Batt
 Faculty Representative: Joseph L. Fink III

2026 COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Will Stein (Louisville, '11)

Overall College Coaching Record:

UK/Career Record (Years): 1-0 (1.000)/1st

SEC Record: 0-0 (.000)

Bowl Record: 0-0 (.000)

Assistant Coaches:

Jay Bateman (Randolph-Macon, '95)

Defensive Coordinator, 1st year

Joe Sloan (East Carolina, '08)

Offensive Coord., 1st year

Allen Brown (Eastern Washington, '14)

Cornerbacks, 1st year

Justin Burke (Louisville, '09)

Tight Ends, 1st year

Josh Christian-Young (Central Missouri, '11)

Safeties, 1st year

Cutter Leftwich (McNeese State, '20)

Offensive Line, 1st year

Joe Price III (Harding, '09)

Wide Receivers, 1st year

Kolby Smith (Louisville, '07)

Running Backs, 1st year

Anwar Stewart (Kentucky, '17)

Defensive Line, 7th year

Tony Washington Jr. (Oregon, '10)

Edges/Outside Linebackers, 1st Year

Andrew Coverdale – Passing Game Coordinator

Nate Dodson – Quarterbacks Coach

Parker Fleming – Special Teams Coordinator/
ILB

James Gibson – Stars Coach

Ty Holder – Assistant Cornerbacks Coach

Trey Odom – Assistant Safeties Coach

Jack Ray – Assistant Special Teams Coord.

Tommy Shuler – Assistant Wide Receivers
Coach

Keith Towbridge – Assistant Running Backs
Coach

Dallas Warmack – Assistant Offensive Line
Coach

Chad Wilt - Inside Linebackers Coach

WILDCATS AGAINST RANKED OPPONENTS

- Faced with one of the nation's toughest schedules, the Kentucky Wildcats will take on their first ranked opponent of the season in Alabama on Saturday.
 - Kentucky's last ranked triumph was an upset of No. 6 Ole Miss on Sept. 28, 2024 in Oxford, Mississippi.
 - UK's last win over a ranked foe in Lexington was over No. 22 Florida, 33-14, in 2023.
 - Kentucky has played 280 ranked teams in the Associated Press poll in its history, holding a 51-222-5 record. Its on-field record is 53-222-5 after two wins were vacated by the NCAA from 2021.

IT'S STEIN TIME IN THE BLUEGRASS

- Kentucky football opened the **Will Stein** era against Youngstown State with a 45-13 victory. Stein was named Kentucky's 39th head coach on Dec. 1, 2025.
- Stein returns to the Bluegrass after spending the last three seasons as the offensive coordinator at Oregon under Dan Lanning. He was responsible for directing one of the most explosive offenses in the country as the Ducks reached the College Football Playoffs in each of the past two seasons.
- A Kentucky native, Stein is the son of UK alumni – father Matt played football at UK (letterman 1983-84) and mother Debbie is an avid fan – and he inherited their passion as he grew up watching the Wildcats in the then-Commonwealth Stadium, section 128, row 13 to be exact. He later competed in the stadium as a collegiate quarterback and assistant coach at Louisville.
- He has emphasized an aggressive offensive philosophy, strong quarterback play, relentless recruiting, and a culture centered on connection, accountability, toughness and sacrifice.
 - Stein is the fourth Kentucky native to serve as UK's head coach since Bear Bryant vaulted the Cats into national contention in the 1950s. Stein joins Blanton Collier (1954-61), Jerry Claiborne (1982-89) and Joker Phillips (2010-12) as other native Kentuckians to lead the Blue and White
 - He is the first offensive coordinator to be hired as head coach since Joker Phillips in 2010
 - Stein begins his tenure at age 36, making him the youngest head coach for Kentucky since Fran Curci in 1973. Curci was 35

BUILDING THE CULTURE

- Will Stein has underscored since the day he was hired the importance of culture in winning programs. Stein has emphasized that, "the most connected teams, win the most games." He has four pillars in which he has built his debut roster and program:
 - Connection:** building genuine relationships so players know their coaches care about them as people, not just performers
 - Stein: "You can't demand from people you don't have a relationship with."
 - Accountability:** holding yourself and your teammates to the standards required to win
 - Stein: "The standard applies to everyone."
 - Toughness:** ability to handle adversity, pressure, discomfort, and challenges while continuing to compete
 - Stein: "Tough people don't always feel good; they still do what is required."
 - Sacrifice:** choosing the team's success over individual comfort or personal priorities
 - Stein: "Great teams are built by people willing to give more than they take."

CONSTRUCTING THE STAFF

- Will Stein crafted a staff that reflects his philosophy and the staff assembled blends SEC experience, Power Four coaching backgrounds, and strong player-development credentials. The group reflects Stein's offensive identity and emphasis on quarterback development while adding veteran leadership, recruiting experience and NFL-level player development across all three phases.
 - Jay Bateman (defensive coordinator)**
 - Veteran defensive coach with Power Four coordinator experience, coming to UK after



two seasons at Texas A&M.

o In 2025, Bateman helped Texas A&M to a historic 11-2 season and the program's first College Football Playoff appearance.

o In 2024, Bateman led the Aggies' defense to a top 35 national ranking in tackles for loss (92) and scoring defense (22.2 ppg), while also finishing in the top three in the Southeastern Conference with 16 interceptions and 76 passes defended.

- **Joe Sloan (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks)**

o Joins the Bluegrass after four years at LSU.

o instrumental in shaping Jayden Daniels' trajectory toward winning the Heisman Trophy and later earning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year honors.

o In 2024, he was elevated to offensive coordinator, and in his first season, the Tigers ranked No. 2 in the SEC and No. 7 nationally in passing offense, averaging 315.2 yards per game.

- **Allen Brown (cornerbacks)**

o Brown came to the Bluegrass after two seasons on the West Coast, coaching at California in 2025 as the defensive backs coach and 2024 as the cornerbacks coach at Washington State.

o In his five coaching stops, Brown has coached nine all-conference defensive backs, two freshman All-Americans and two more All-America honorees.

o In 2025, his defensive backs unit helped the Bears rank tied for 16th nationally in fewest touchdown passes allowed (14).

- **Josh Christian-Young (safeties)**

o Joined Kentucky after coaching safeties at Houston for the last two seasons.

o The Cougars finished the 2025 regular season at 9-3 and ranked 21st in the College Football Playoff rankings, while Houston's defense ranked 19th nationally in red zone defense and 37th in defensive efficiency.

o In 2024, Houston limited opponents to 188.8 passing yards per game, ranking third in the Big 12. Houston's 2,266 passing yards allowed were its fewest in a non-COVID season.

- **Parker Fleming (special teams/inside wide receivers)**

o Arrived in Lexington with more than a decade of experience coordinating and developing elite special teams units at the highest levels of college football.

o Spent the 2025 season at Oregon as the assistant quarterbacks coach. Oregon's offense totaled 71 touchdowns and 6,783 yards of total offense in 2025, averaging 452.2 yards and 36.9 points per game.

o Prior to Oregon, Fleming spent six seasons at Ohio State, serving as the quality control coach for special teams from 2018-20 before being promoted to the special teams coordinator and defensive assistant from 2021-23.

- **Cutter Leftwich (offensive line)**

o In August of this year, was named to the 247sports "30 Under 30" list of the top young coaches in college football.

o Spent two of the past three seasons with Oregon, with a one-year stint at North Texas as offensive line coach in-between.

o Helped Oregon rank fourth nationally in pass efficiency (100.96), ninth in scoring (38.2), 14th in rushing (218.4) and 16th in fewest sacks allowed.

o Oregon's offensive line was named a finalist for the Joe Moore Award, given annually to the nation's top unit, the only offensive unit to be named a finalist three years in a row.

- **Joe Price (wide receivers)**

o Spent the last six seasons at UTSA, including the last three seasons as the associate head coach, pass game coordinator and wide receivers coach for the Roadrunners.

o Roadrunners have enjoyed the most successful six-year run in program history with a 52-26 overall record, including a 35-12 regular season league mark, two conference championships and six straight bowl appearances.

o Price has helped UTSA have one of the top-scoring offenses in the FBS, averaging 33.7 points per game.

- **Kolby Smith (running backs)**

TOP 25 POLLS

2026 AP TOP 25 (SEPT. 8)

1. Ohio State (46)
2. Georgia
3. Notre Dame (4)
4. Texas (2)
5. Indiana (8)
6. Oregon (3)
7. Miami (1)
8. **LSU (5)**
9. Ole Miss
10. **TEXAS A&M**
11. **OKLAHOMA**
12. **ALABAMA**
13. Texas Tech
14. Southern Cal
15. BYU
16. Penn State
17. SMU
18. **TENNESSEE**
19. Washington
20. Utah
21. Iowa
22. Houston
23. **MISSOURI**
24. **LOUISVILLE**
25. Virginia

UK OPPONENTS RECEIVING VOTES: Florida 83, South Carolina 19, Vanderbilt 2

2026 AFCA COACHES TOP 25

1. Ohio State (50)
2. Georgia (7)
3. Texas (1)
4. Notre Dame (4)
5. Indiana (11)
6. Oregon (1)
7. Miami
8. **LSU**
9. **TEXAS A&M**
10. **OKLAHOMA**
11. Ole Miss
12. **ALABAMA**
13. Texas Tech
14. Southern Cal
15. BYU
16. Penn State
17. SMU
18. **TENNESSEE**
19. Washington
20. Utah
21. Iowa
22. Houston
23. **MISSOURI**
24. Michigan
25. **FLORIDA**

UK OPPONENTS RECEIVING VOTES: Louisville 125, South Carolina 36, Vanderbilt 17



STAT LEADERS

100-YARD RUSHERS

Player	2026	Career	'26 Opp.
*Jovantae Barnes		3	
*C.J. Baxter		1	

100-YARD RECEIVERS

Player	2026	Career	'26 Opp.
*Nic Anderson		3	
*Shane Carr		2	
DJ Miller		1	

300-YARD PASSERS

Player	2026	Career	'26 Opp.
Kenny Minchey	1	1	(YSU)

INTERCEPTIONS

Player	2026	Career
Ty Bryant		5
*Jordan Castell		3
*Hasaan Sykes		3
*Aaron Gates		1
Grant Grayton		1

SACK LEADERS

Player	2026	Career
^M. Humphrey-Grace		18.5
Alex Afari Jr.		6.0
*Tyler Thomas		4.5
Lorenzo Cowan		2.5
Tavion Gadson		2.5
*Jammarrion Harkless		2.5
Sam Greene		2.0
*Hasaan Sykes		2.0
*Ahmad Breaux	1.0	1.5
Jaden Williams		1.5
Devin Smith	1.0	1.0
*Dominic Wiseman		1.0
Grant Godfrey		0.5

(^11.5 sacks at FCS/D-II)

*First season at UK

- o Former NFL running back, spent the last two seasons coaching RBs at Arkansas
- o In 2025, senior running back Mike Washington Jr. earned All-SEC Second Team honors after rushing 167 times for 1,070 yards and eight touchdowns.
- o The Razorbacks produced one of the best offenses in the nation and in school history in Smith's first season in 2024. The Hogs ranked 10th nationally in total offense with 459.5 yards per game – fourth-best in a single season in school history.

- **Anwar Stewart (defensive line)**

- o Enters his seventh season as the defensive line coach for UK in 2026.
- o Played linebacker/defensive end for the Cats from 1996-99 under head coaches Bill Curry and Hal Mumme.
- o Instrumental in helping UK earn four top-five finishes in the SEC, three top-25 finishes in the nation and one top-15 finish in the nation in total defense in his tenure.

- **Tony Washington Jr. (defensive ends/outside linebackers)**

- o Comes to Kentucky after spending the 2025 season at Ohio State as the assistant defensive line coach.
- o Played college football at Oregon.
- o At Ohio State, Washington Jr. played an integral role in a Buckeyes defense that ranked nationally either No. 1 or No. 2 in nine different categories, including No. 1 in scoring defense (9.3), passing yards (129.7), and red zone scores (67.00).

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

- Will Stein's first foray as a head coach in the Southeastern Conference will see its fair share of challenges. The Wildcats will face the nation's fourth-most difficult schedule according to On3.com and ESPN. It is the sixth-toughest schedule according to Pro Football Focus.
- UK will take on seven teams ranked in the top 25 of The Associated Press preseason poll (Texas A&M, Oklahoma, LSU, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisville and Missouri). Three additional teams are receiving votes (Florida, South Carolina and Vanderbilt).
 - Kentucky is one of three teams (Arkansas, Texas) who will face a nation-leading seven preseason AP Top-25 teams.
- Kentucky is set to take on 10 teams either ranked or receiving votes from the preseason USA Today Coaches Poll. Only Youngstown State and South Alabama are not among the preseason teams receiving votes or among the FBS top 25 and even Youngstown was ranked No. 7 in the FCS poll at the time of the UK opener.

AMONG THE BEST HAULS IN FOOTBALL

- Kentucky football was one of the most aggressive programs in the country in the transfer portal in Will Stein's first season. Stein's first portal class ranks No. 8 by The Athletic, No. 9 by ESPN and No. 10 by 247Sports.
- Stein's first two commits were offensive tackle Lance Heard from Tennessee and linebacker Bo Barnes from Texas. Both committed within hours of Stein's hiring on Dec. 3, 2025.
- The class is brining more than 20,000 career snaps to the 2026 roster, doubling the amount of veteran experience on the team compared to last season.
- Some of UK's highest-ranked transfers include:
 - Lance Heard (OT) - No. 7 by 247Sports; No. 22 by The Athletic; No. 31 by ESPN
 - Kenny Minchey (QB) - No. 45 by The Athletic; No. 52 by ESPN; No. 137 by 247Sports
 - Coleton Price (C) - No. 38 by 247Sports; No. 47 by The Athletic
 - Tegra Tshabola (OG) - No. 66 by 247Sports; No. 96 by The Athletic
 - Bo Barnes (LB) - No. 126 by 247Sports
 - Jordan Castell (S) - No. 159 by 247Sports

HOME SWEET HOME

- In 2026, UK is in its 54th season playing at Kroger Field, which was formerly named Commonwealth Stadium (1973-2016).
 - The Cats are 188-151-4 (.554) all-time in the stadium. (Those marks do not include six home wins vacated by the NCAA in 2021).



OFFENSIVE NOTES

FEED THE STUDS

- Rather than building an offense around a rigid playbook, Will Stein emphasizes creating favorable matchups through formations, motion, personnel groupings, and defensive identification.

Explosive. Efficient. Adaptable.

- Foundation includes: a balanced attack with strong rushing identity, multiple personnel groupings, ability to adjust to personnel.
 - Quarterback efficiency: high-completion percentages, decision-making, ball security, creating easy throws.
 - Explosive passing: vertical routes, play-action concepts, receiver spacing, multiple formations.
 - Establishing the run: force defenses into the box, create favorable matchups, slow down pass rushers, create play-action opportunities.
 - Tempo: no-huddle situations, rapid subs, fast operation after explosive plays, slower tempos to control matchups.

STANDING ON MINCHEY BUSINESS

- Before spring practice concluded, Will Stein tabbed **Kenny Minchey (6-2, 211 | From Notre Dame)** as QB1 saying, "Kenny earned this opportunity every day. His preparation, command of the offense, decision-making and leadership consistently stood out throughout camp. He has the confidence of our staff and the respect of his teammates, and we're excited to see him lead our offense."
- Minchey is a former four-star prospect and one of the nation's top-rated quarterbacks in the 2023 recruiting class.
- He began his collegiate career at Notre Dame before transferring to Kentucky after being handpicked by Stein and offensive coordinator Joe Sloan to lead the Cats.
- Recognized for his accuracy, athleticism, football IQ and leadership, he brings valuable experience in a championship-caliber program to Lexington.
 - Minchey starred in the opener, completing 18 of 27 passes for 301 yards and four TDs.
 - He completed his first six passes in a UK uniform.
 - He connected with nine different receiving targets.
 - His four touchdown passes also are the most since Boley threw five against the Vols.
 - He is the third QB in UK history to have 300 passing yards, four TDs and at least 65 percent completion in a season opener, also Will Levis in 2021 and Tim Couch in 1997 and '98.
 - Fun Facts:** He is Irish and enjoys traveling.

QB TRANSFERS

- When **Kenny Minchey** took the first snap under center as UK's starting quarterback, Kentucky made it 10 consecutive seasons (2017-26) with a transfer quarterback. The last opening-day starting quarterback who signed with the Wildcats out of high school was Drew Barker, who started the 2016 season opener against Southern Miss.
 - 2025 - Zach Calzada
 - 2024 - Brock Vandagriff
 - 2023 - Devin Leary
 - 2022/2021 - Will Levis
 - 2020/2018 - Terry Wilson
 - 2017 - Stephen Johnson

STAT SUPERLATIVES

Most Games Played (min. 30):

Alex Afari (49), Wilson Berry (45), Tegra Tshabola (44), Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace (43), Henry Boyer (38), Ty Bryant (38), Jordan Castell (36), Lance Heard (36), Adam Zouagui (36), Olaus Alinen (33), Coleton Price (33), C.J. Baxter (32), Jovantae Barnes (31), Jaden Williams (30)

Most Games Started (min. 20):

Jordan Castell (35), Alex Afari (31), Coleton Price (31), Tegra Tshabola (30), Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace (28), Ty Bryant (26), Lance Heard (25)

Consecutive Games Started (min. 12,

**unavailable to play due to injury does not count*): Jordan Castell (31), Coleton Price (30), Tegra Tshabola (30), Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace (27), Lance Heard (22), Ty Bryant (19), Sam Greene (13), Jamarrion Harkless (13)

Consecutive Games with a Tackle (min. 12):

Ty Bryant (26), Teryhon Nichols (13)

Consecutive Games with a Reception (min. 5):

WHERE ARE THE COACHES?

Sideline

Will Stein, Head Coach

Offense:

Justin Burke, Tight Ends
Nate Dodson, Quarterbacks
Parker Fleming, Special Teams/IWRs
Cutter Leftwich, Offensive Line
Joe Price, Wide Receivers
Kolby Smith, Running Backs

Defense:

Jay Bateman, Defensive Coordinator
Josh Christian-Young, Safeties
Allen Brown, Cornerbacks
Anwar Stewart, Defensive Line
Tony Washington Jr., Edges/OLBs

Press Box

Offense:

Joe Sloan, Offensive Coordinator/QBs
Andrew Coverdale, Passing Game Coord.

Defense:

Dillon Sanders, ILBs
James Gibson, Stars



2026 CAT SCRATCHES

LB • 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

OL • LAUS ALINEN

- Father, Klaus, played in NFL Europe and spent one season on the Atlanta Falcons' practice squad

OL • MAX ANDERSON

- Brother, Nate, was an offensive lineman at Oklahoma and SMU from 2020-26

WR • NIC ANDERSON

- Comes from a family of athletes as brother, Rodney, was a running back at Oklahoma (2015-18) and went on to play for the Cincinnati Bengals; Brother, Ryder, was a defensive end at Ole Miss (2017-20) and Indiana (2021) and went on to play for the New York Giants and New Orleans Saints; Uncle, Mark Anderson, played at Alabama (2001-05) and was defensive end for the Bears, Texans, Patriots and Bills

RB • CJ BAXTER

- Cousin, Rod Johnson, was a left tackle at Florida (2013-14), while cousin Greg Bryant Jr., was a running back/fullback at Notre Dame

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 28 years old, oldest player on the team
- One of two married players on the team (Coleton Price is the other) ... Married to the former Courtney Stewart of Paducah, Kentucky ... The couple has two sons, Leo and Gus, and newborn daughter Florence
- Older brother, Jordan, played football at Eastern Kentucky and was the punter for the Minnesota Vikings and the Pittsburgh Steelers
- Younger brother, Oscar, played basketball at the University of North Florida

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

DB • SAM BROWN III

- Dad, Mike, played safety at Nebraska from 1996-99 before spending 10 seasons in the NFL with the Chicago Bears

DB • MARTELS CARTER JR.

- Dad, Martels, played football at Austin Peay (1995-2000); brother, Deno Montgomery, played football at ECU (2011-15); sister, Kimia, played basketball at North Carolina Central (2019-23)

THE BIG BLUE WALL REVIVAL

- The offensive line earned the reputation as Kentucky's "Big Blue Wall" under the direction of John Schlarman, a former UK All-SEC lineman and assistant coach from 2012 until his death in 2020. Schlarman's line represented toughness and physicality and was built on a gritty, tight-knit and dominant standard of play. In 2016 and 2019, Schlarman's Cats were semifinalists for the Joe Moore Award given to the nation's top offensive line.
- Will Stein has publicly made reviving the Big Blue Wall a mission, saying "The Big Blue Wall is real and is something that we want to keep representing Coach Schlarman and his legacy here ... that really embodies our team."
- The unit has combined to play in 221 career games and have made 96 career starts entering the 2026 season.
- Kentucky's projected starting five unit was ranked as the No. 3 offensive line in the country, behind only Georgia and Ohio State, by CBS' Blake Brockermeier.
- **Tegra Tshabola** and **Coleton Price** were named to the USA Today preseason All-Transfer Team
 - **Lance Heard (6-6, 325 | From Tennessee)** - Has extensive SEC experience from stops at LSU and Tennessee ... Has seen action on 1,780 offensive snaps and allowed only three sacks in his career.
 - **Tegra Tshabola (6-3, 329 | From Ohio State)** - Played three seasons at Ohio State ... Appeared in 43 games with 29 starts and seen action on more than 1,500 career snaps.
 - **Coleton Price (6-3, 308 | From Baylor)** - Played in 32 games with 30 starting assignments at Baylor ... Allowed just one sack in 526 pass block snaps in '25.
 - **Olaus Alinen (6-6, 329 | From Alabama)** - Appeared in 32 games at Alabama ... former four-start recruit and has multi-position versatility with snaps at both guard spots and left tackle ... Moved to the USA from Finland when he was 16.
 - **Malachi Wood (6-8, 329)** - Lone returning starter ... Brings nearly 400 career snaps at right tackle ... Graded at 100 percent on assignments in 10 games played.
- Wood missed the opener vs. Youngstown State with an undisclosed injury, but **Jordan Knox (6-2, 329 | From Northwest Mississippi JC)** stepped in and the unit yielded no sacks and just one quarterback hurry against the Penguins.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

- Senior offensive lineman **Lance Heard (6-6, 325 | From Tennessee)** was named to the preseason watch list for the Outland Trophy, given to the nation's top interior lineman.
 - An offensive lineman from Bonita, Louisiana, he transferred to Kentucky after two seasons at Tennessee (2024-25) and one season at LSU (2023).
 - Has played 36 career games and made 25 starts.
 - Seen action on more than 1,700 snaps and allowed just three sacks overall.
 - Named to the All-SEC Third Team after making all 12 starts at left tackle for the Volunteers in 2025.
 - Other preseason honors include All-SEC honors from: SEC Coaches (second team), SEC Media Days (second team), Athlon Sports (second team) and Phil Steele (third team), as well as the Shriners' East-West Game Watch List and the Senior Bowl Top 300.
 - PFF College ranks Heard as one of the 10 best offensive linemen returning to the SEC in 2026.
 - **Fun Facts:** His "why" is his mother, Veronica, and if he could only eat one thing for the rest of his life it would be Rotel dip.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

- Senior center **Coleton Price (6-3, 308 | From Baylor)** was named to the preseason watch list for The Rimington Trophy, given to the nation's top center. He's also earned preseason second-team All-America honors from Pro Football Network.
 - PFF College lists Price as the nation's No. 5 returning center in college football.



- In PFN's offensive line impact metrics, Price earned an 87.7 impact grade during the 2025 season and was a 2024 All-Big 12 Second Team selection by the organization. He was a three-year player at Baylor before transferring to UK.
- Price has been a full-time starter since the 2024 season, appearing in 33 games and making 31 total starts.
- The 2025 season saw him log 842 snaps, with 526 coming in pass-block scenarios. He allowed just one sack, six quarterback hurries and seven total pressures, while starting 11 of 12 outings.
- Cornerstone to Baylor's offense ranking as the No. 3 passing offense in the country, the 12th-best squad in first-down offense and the No. 21 overall total offense a season ago.
- Other preseason honors include All-SEC honors from: PFN (first team), Phil Steele (second team), as well as Athlon Sports (third team) and he's on the Shriners' East-West Game Watch List and the Senior Bowl Top 300.
- **Fun Facts:** He married Hailey Skinner on Oct. 10, 2025 during a bye week. His late brother, Colby, is who motivates him. Colby died in a car accident when he was 16. Additionally, Coletton is part native American and one day would like to be a coach or in the cattle business.
- This will be the second year in a row that UK has a lineman with native American heritage, as Shiyazh Pete (Navajo Nation) was a starting offensive tackle in 2025.

GOOD WORK, WILLIE "WUERFFEL" RODRIGUEZ

- Kentucky junior tight end **Willie Rodriguez (6-4, 249)** was named a nominee for the 2026 Allstate AFCA (American Football Coaches Association) Good Works Team and the Wuerffel Trophy Watch List. Together, they recognize student-athletes who demonstrate excellence in community service, academics, and athletics.
 - Rodriguez's commitment to service began at home, where he has helped care for his younger sister, Gabby, 19, who has Rett syndrome, a rare neurological and developmental disorder that primarily affects girls and impacts the way the brain develops. From an early age, he embraced the responsibilities of helping care for Gabby, assisting with her daily needs while serving as one of her biggest advocates and supporters. Through that experience, Rodriguez developed a deep sense of compassion, patience, and empathy that has shaped his character and inspired his desire to make a positive impact on those around him. The lessons he has learned from Gabby have fueled his passion for serving others, especially children, and have helped mold him into a servant leader who consistently puts the needs of others before his own.
 - Some of his community service events include volunteering at Golisano Children's Hospital, volunteering at Easterseals of the Bluegrass, a non-profit in Lexington that supports individuals and families with disabilities, volunteering to help at a shoe drive to benefit Camp Horsin' Around, a local nonprofit that enriches the lives of children whose health is compromised or who have special needs by collaborating with organized groups to provide an outdoor camp adventure and volunteering at Gabby's high school, Scott High School, where he played games and spent time with her classmates.
- Rodriguez returns as Kentucky's most experienced tight end and is expected to play a major role in Will Stein's offense. After nearly quintupling his production from his freshman to sophomore season, he enters 2026 as one of the Wildcats' primary receiving targets and a veteran leader in the tight end room.
 - He has appeared in 25 career games with 11 starts.
 - Recorded 32 receptions for 452 yards and two scores, while averaging 14.41 yards per reception for his career.
 - In the opener he hauled in four catches for 48 yards and a score.
 - Additional preseason honors include: All-SEC Second Team (Phil Steele), All-SEC Third Team (SEC Coaches, SEC Media, Athlon), the Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List,

2026 CAT SCRATCHES

WR • BROCK COFFMAN

- Comes from a family of athletes as mom, Fatima, played basketball at UC Irvine; brother, Jayshaun, played football at Marshall and Louisville; grandfather, Victor Williams Sr., played football at Morehead State; uncle, Orlando Pace, played football at Ohio State and in the NFL with the Rams and the Bears

DE • LORENZO COWAN

- Brother of Wildcat defensive lineman, Tavion Gadson

OL • ROB FOGLER

- Has a fraternal twin, Dave, who is 13 minutes older than him ... Dave is a mechanical engineering major at Dayton

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

DB • GRANT GRAYTON

- Has a twin sister, Gabrielle, who is older by seven minutes ... She is currently attends Maryland

OL • HAYES JOHNSON

- Mom, Stephanie, was a collegiate cheerleader at Campbellsville University from 1995-97

TE • JUSTIN 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. Brother, Josh, played for UK from 2022-25.

WR • SPENCER LEADBETTER

- Cousin, Conor Dwyer, was an Olympic gold medalist swimmer who won a gold medal for the U.S. 4x200-meter freestyle relay team at the 2012 Summer Olympics

QB • JACQAI LONG

- Father, Jerrald, had seven touchdown catches as a Marshall wide receiver and also played at WVU (1994-1998)

RB • TOVANI MIZELL

- Dad, Travis, was a cornerback at UAB from 1992-95
- Mom, Cindra, played for the Miami Fury in the Women's Football Alliance in 2001-02
- Cousin Coco Gauff, is an American professional tennis player

ILB • QUINTAVION NORMAN

- Older brother, Tay Gowan, was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in the sixth round of the 2021 NFL Draft and has played for four teams

OL • COLETON PRICE

- Married to the former Hailey Skinner of Bowie, Texas ... Got married on Oct. 10, 2025 during a bye week at Baylor

OL • MARK ROBINSON

- Dad, Mark, played defensive tackle at ECU from 2004-09



2026 CAT SCRATCHES

TE • WILLIE RODRIGUEZ

- Mom, Jody, was an outside hitter on the volleyball team at Dayton from 1993-97; Dad, Willie, was a middle linebacker at Thomas More from 1992-96; Sister, Sofia, is currently a soccer player at Morehead State

TE • MIKKEL SKINNER

- Aunt, Kalana Greene, played basketball at UConn (2005-10) before playing professionally in the WNBA and for CCC Polkowice in Poland
- Cousin, Courtney Brown, was an defensive lineman at Penn State and for the Cleveland Browns
- Cousin, Joe Hamilton, was a quarterback at Georgia Tech

LB • ANTWAN SMITH

- Mom, Tiffani, ran track at the University of Miami and earned All-America honors after placing 13th in the long jump at the 1995 NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships
- Dad, Dadra, played basketball at Utah State from 1995-97
- Brother, Deon, played football at Duke from 2017-2020 and has played with four NFL teams since 2021

DL • TYLER THOMAS

- His father, Adam, played college basketball at Enterprise State Junior College and the University of Mobile before going on to play professionally in Finland
- Twin brother, Trent, is a tight end at Tennessee

DB • BRAXTON URQUHART

- Brother, Brian, was a baseball player at Morehouse College, while brother Eldrion, played baseball at LeMoyne College

LB • TAVION WALLACE

- Older brother, Trevin, played linebacker at Kentucky from 2021-23 and currently plays for the Carolina Panthers

QB • BRENNEN WARD

- Dad, Bruce, played football at Fairmont State; mother, Meghan, was a swimmer at Fairmont State; sister, Bella, played basketball at Xavier

TE • LINCOLN WATKINS

- His great uncle, Mickey Stanley, was a center fielder for the Detroit Tigers from 1968-74

DB • ANDREW WEBER

- Grandfather, Jerry Weber, was an offensive lineman at Cincinnati, while dad, Jeff Weber, played baseball for the Bearcats

DB • DYLLON WILLIAMS

- Sister, Tatyanna Armstrong, played volleyball at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss.; brother, Sam Freeman, played basketball at Minnesota; an uncle, Cedric Samuel, was a cornerback at Alabama

OL • MALACHI WOOD

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

LB • CJ WORKS

- Has seven siblings - Kurtis Afzal, Nakhi Works, A'dora Works, Cedree Works, Cora Works, Harmony Works and Dorian Works

the Hispanic Player of the Year Award Watch List and the Senior Bowl Top 300.

- **Fun Facts:** He is half Cuban. He has five siblings and enjoys fishing and hanging out with friends in his spare time. If he could only eat one food for the rest of his life he would choose Cuban food.

GAME OF THROWS: TE EDITION

- Kentucky's trio of tight ends which include **Henry Boyer (6-6, 270)**, **Mikkel Skinner (6-4, 234)** and **Willie Rodriguez** combined in the opener for nine catches for 140 yards and two scores. It marks the first game UK tight ends totaled that stat line since 1999 when first-team All-American James Whalen caught 10 passes for 151 yards and four scores *by himself* at Georgia.
 - Skinner had his first collegiate receptions, catching a team-high-tying four passes for 61 yards. He was the first player to catch a TD toss from Kenny Minchey, becoming the first player to receive a TD in the Will Stein era.
 - Boyer snared a career-long 31-yard reception in the third quarter.

HEY, MISTER DJ

- **DJ Miller (6-3, 208)** is one of the returning pieces to the wide receiver room. He caught 13 passes for 175 yards and two touchdowns as a true freshman a season ago. Miller's potential was on full display with a record night against No. 17/17 Tennessee:
 - He had five catches on all five of his targets for a team-best and career-best 120 yards and two touchdowns.
 - He had a career-long, 56-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter, the first TD of his college career, followed by a 28-yarder in the third quarter.
 - He tied the school record – with seven others – for most touchdown pass receptions by a freshman in a game with two, becoming the first since Dane Key and Barion Brown both did so in 2022.
 - He also was just the seventh freshman in school history with a 100-yard receiving game and just the eighth such performance.
 - **Fun Facts:** He enjoys cooking and one day would like to own a gym and become a personal trainer.

WIDE RECEIVING COMMITTEE

- Kentucky's wide receiver room is one of the team's biggest variables entering 2026 but it staged an impressive season opener. While the unit lacks established production as a group, it features a blend of proven transfer talent, headlined by **Nic Anderson**, and high-upside newcomers that fit Will Stein's aggressive, explosive offensive philosophy. Here's a few to keep an eye on:
 - **Nic Anderson (6-4, 208 | From Oklahoma)** - An Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award watch list honoree ... Totaled career stats of 52 receptions for 830 yards and 10 touchdowns ... Set an Oklahoma freshman record with 10 receiving touchdowns in 2023 ... Averaged more than 16 yards per reception during his breakout season ... On PFF College's "SEC Watch" for the 2026 season noting, "high-upside veteran with elite size and previous Power Four production."
 - **Shane Carr (6-2, 190 | From Southern Utah)** - Has 81 total receptions for 1,371 career yards ... Hauled in 10 total touchdowns ... Played in 24 games with 19 starts at Southern Utah ... Averages 16.9 yards per reception.
 - **Brock Coffman (6-0, 181 | From Louisville)** - Saw action in two games before transferring to Kentucky ... Considered a three-star prospect from Sayre School in Lexington ... Ranked the No. 12 player in the state ... Helped Sayre to a perfect 15-0 record and a place in the 1A State Championship game in 2024 ... Had 101 receptions for 1,530 yards and a state-leading 27 touchdowns in 15 games ... In his first game for the Cats, he caught a 38-yard pass and handled punt return duties where he fielded three punts for 25 yards with a long return of 11 yards.
 - **Kenny Darby (6-1, 180 | Freshman)** - Was Will Stein's first high school commitment ... Caught three passes for 74 yards and a touchdown in the opener ... Rated the No. 7 player from Louisiana and No. 28 nationally for his position ... Totaled 1,124 yards on 73 catches with eight TDs as a high school senior ...



247Sports 2026 Preseason True Freshman All-America Team pick

- **Ja'Kayden Ferguson (6-2, 184 | From Arkansas)** - Saw action in six games at Arkansas as a freshman, but did not record any receiving stats ... Rated the No. 42 athlete in the Class of 2025 and No. 85 overall prospect in Texas, according to 247Sports ... Registered 448 receiving yards and six touchdowns on 26 receptions as a high school senior.
- **Prince Jean (6-1, 187 | Freshman)** - A unanimous three-star recruit by all the major recruiting services ... Totaled a team-best 39 catches for 691 yards and four receiving TDs, along with eight rushes for 57 yards and a score as a senior ... Had offers from 20 schools but ultimately chose Kentucky over Georgia, Kansas State, Mississippi State and Virginia ... Made his first collegiate catch count, hauling in a swing pass after outside the hash marks after going in motion and weaving his way to a 26-yard score vs. Youngstown State ... Finished the day with two snags and 27 total yards.

THE "B-BACK" ATTACK

- Will Stein's rushing attack is built around speed, spacing, versatility and keeping defenses off balance. During his time as Oregon's offensive coordinator, Stein's offenses consistently used multiple running backs, motion, perimeter runs and the passing game to create favorable matchups. At Kentucky, he has emphasized building a deeper, more versatile running back rotation rather than relying on a single featured back.
- UK's running back room is headlined by two Power Four backs in **Jovantae Barnes** and **CJ Baxter**:
 - **Jovantae Barnes (6-0, 214 | From Oklahoma)** has totaled 1,469 scrimmage yards in his career. He has compiled 13 total touchdowns and amassed 4.6 yards per touch with 322 offensive snaps played. He produced 1,281 rushing yards and 12 rushing touchdowns with three career 100-yard outings and one 200-yard performance. He missed the opener vs. Youngstown State, but is expected back vs. Alabama.
 - **Fun Facts:** The highlight of his life thus far is graduating from Oklahoma in December with a degree in multidisciplinary studies. Outside of football, he's also interested in fashion and styling.
 - **CJ Baxter Jr. (6-1, 230 | From Texas)** has 903 rushing yards and seven TDs to couple with 1,100 yards from scrimmage and 36 receptions and a receiving TD. Baxter was a five-star prospect and one of the nation's top overall players in the class of 2023. Baxter scored a touchdown on the opening drive of 2026 and finished with 48 yards and two scores on nine carries vs. Youngstown.
 - **Fun Facts:** His favorite sports hero is his cousin, Greg Bryant Jr. who passed away in 2016 and was a running back/fullback at Notre Dame. He's a good cook and will admit to listening to Adele

PATTERSON EMERGING

- In addition to Jovantae Barnes and CJ Baxter, holdover junior running back **Jason Patterson (5-10, 204)** has also emerged as a valuable option in the backfield for Will Stein's two-back system.
 - As a sophomore, Patterson saw action in all 12 games for the Cats. He finished with 57 total carries and 225 yards on the season.
 - He opened 2026 with a team-high 11 carries and team-best 78 yards. He also caught a pass for 16 yards.
 - He also had 18 catches for 101 yards with one TD and four kick returns for 57 yards in his career.
 - **Fun Facts:** An off the field talent is the ability to sing, and one day he would like to be a physical therapist.

MILESTONES TO WATCH WHEN THE CATS ARE ON OFFENSE

- **Nic Anderson** is 92 yards away from 1,000 career receiving yards.
- **Jovantae Barnes** needs six carries for 300 career carries and 219 rushing yards for 1,500 yards in a career.
- **Jason Patterson** is 86 rushing yards from eclipsing 500 for his career.
- **CJ Baxter Jr.** is three touchdowns away from 10 career rushing scores and needs 97 rushing yards to eclipse 1,000 for a career.

DEFENSIVE NOTES

DEFENSIVE BLUEPRINT

- Kentucky's defensive identity under Will Stein's program structure is built around speed, toughness, discipline and creating situational advantages. Stein has emphasized complementary football: an offense designed to create pressure and a defense designed to play fast, force mistakes and create extra possessions.

Fast. Physical. Disciplined.

- Foundation includes: want to play fast, make offenses uncomfortable and create the extra possessions that decide championship-level games.
- Speed over size: athletic defenders who can play multiple roles, a unit built to feature fast linebackers, defensive backs who can cover space and linemen who can disrupt.
- Multiple looks: four-man fronts, multiple packages, pressure from different angles, pre-snap movement, disguised coverages.
- Create negative plays: a unit that attacks rather than reacts, create second-and-long and third-and-long situations to dictate the game.
- Complementary football: get the offense extra possessions, win field position, create short fields, protect leads, finish games.

THE TY THAT BINDS

- **Ty Bryant (6-0, 196)**, a senior safety from Lexington, emerged as one of the best defensive backs in the country a season ago. He is the SEC's returning leader in interceptions with four a season ago and is one of the biggest recommits to Will Stein's first roster.



CATS IN THE PROS

A total of 20 former Kentucky Wildcats are currently on National Football League active rosters or practice squads. The list of those players is as follows (as of Sept. 9, 2026):

Atlanta Falcons

Za'Darius Smith, OLB/DE (2013-14)

Buffalo Bills

Ray Davis, RB (2023)
Maxwell Hairston, DB (2022-24)
Ja'Mori Maclin, WR (2024-25)*
Deone Walker, DL (2022-24)

Carolina Panthers

Zion Childress, DB (2022-24)
Luke Fortner, C (2017-21)

Detroit Lions

Kendrick Law, WR/KR (2025)%

Green Bay Packers

Jager Burton, OL (2022-25)
Carrington Valentine, DB (2020-22)

Indianapolis Colts

Jalen Farmer, OL (2024-25)
Seth McGowan, RB (2025)

Jacksonville Jaguars

Josh Hines-Allen, DE/LB (2015-18)
Chris Rodriguez Jr., RB (2019-22)

LA Chargers

Bud Dupree, OLB (2011-14)

New Orleans Saints

Alex Wolschlaeger, OL (2025)*

New York Giants

Dru Phillips, DB (2020-23)

New York Jets

Trevin Wallace, LB (2021-23)

Pittsburgh Steelers

Brandin Echols, CB (2019-20)

Tennessee Titans

Wan'Dale Robinson, WR (2021)

*practice squad %reserve/injured

- Bryant is a William V. Campbell Trophy nominee, given to the nation's top student athlete with the best combination of academics, leadership and on-field performance.
 - Bryant had two interceptions on back-to-back drives against Ole Miss on Sept. 6, each of which set up a Kentucky score.
 - He became the first Wildcat with two interceptions in an SEC home game since Anthony Wajda against LSU in 1999.
 - The performance against Ole Miss earned him honorable mention for the Thorpe Award National Defensive Back of the Week.
 - He added a third INT against Florida on Nov. 8, and a fourth at Vanderbilt on Nov. 22.
- Bryant also has been an active tackler, and led the Cats with 76 as a junior.
- He boasts a 3.825 grade-point average with a major in communication. The senior is a two-time SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll member after being named to the SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll as a freshman. He has also been named to the UK's Dean's List five times.
- In 2025, Bryant was the first Wildcat to be named a First-Team Academic All-American since Will Levis in 2022.
- He's also a leader off the field, serving on UK's Student-Athlete Advisory Council and the SEC's Football Leadership Council.
- Additional preseason honors include: All-SEC Second Team (PFN), All-SEC Third Team (Athlon, Phil Steele), Shriners' East-West Game and the Senior Bowl 300.
 - Fun Facts:** His motivation is his niece and nephew and he aspires to be a sports television analyst/broadcaster when his playing days are over.

KING OF THE CASTELL

- One of UK's most important transfers was the addition of **Jordan Castell (6-2, 211 | From Florida)** to form a one-two punch at safety with Ty Bryant.
- Castell, an immediate impact player beginning as a freshman, has combined for 88 solo tackles and 87 assists throughout his career. He's also generated 13 pass breakups and three picks, while starting 35 of 36 career games. Castell was responsible for seven tackles -- including two for a loss of 14 total yards in the opener vs. Youngstown State.
 - Castell is familiar with defensive coordinator Jay Bateman, as Bateman was on Florida's staff when Castell began his career.
 - Led the team in tackles (60) as a freshman, ranked fourth with 55 as a sophomore and was third on the team with 54 tackles as a junior.
 - He is also a two-time SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll selection.
 - Fun Facts:** He wants to be a high school coach when his playing career is complete. Castell lists three words to describe himself: quiet, smart and hustler.

SECONDARY: STAGE SETTERS

- In a Jay Bateman defense, he expects to be the aggressor and the secondary makes the engine go. Bateman has comprised a group of corners that combine experience, intrigue, breakout potential and are quietly important. Some names to know:
 - Terhyon Nichols (5-11, 194)** - Bateman singled him out as his choice for the spring's MVP ... Appeared in 15 career games with seven starts ... Has 28 tackles, 1.0 tackles for a loss and 10 pass breakups for his career in two seasons with the Cats.
 - Hasaan Sykes (6-0, 192 | From Western Carolina)** - Transfer from Western Carolina ... Had 49 tackles, four TFLs, two sacks, five PBUs and three interceptions as a junior ... Bateman has indicated that Sykes is a candidate to "surprise some people this fall."
 - Demarcus Gardner (6-0, 177)** - Appeared in three games as a freshman with UK and had two tackles ... Highly-regarded high school prospect who was a two-way player ... Named Region 7-AAAA All-Purpose Player of the Year after having 42 tackles, four picks (three going for TDs) and four PBUs as a senior.
 - Grant Grayton (6-3, 194)** - Played nine games as a freshman for UK ... Registered 16 tackles, three PBUs and an interception at Georgia ... Named to the All-



Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Second Team as a senior after totaling 45 tackles, 10 PBUs with one interception.

A "STAR" IN THE MAKING

- The star position in a Jay Bateman defense is described as a "Swiss Army knife." A player who can play corner, linebacker and safety. His responsibilities include: covering the slot receiver, covering a tight end, matching a running back, blitzing the quarterback, play in the box against the run, set the edge, drop into zone coverage, spy or contain a mobile quarterback and rotate into different coverage looks.
- Senior **Aaron Gates (6-0, 199 | From Florida)** has stepped into this all-important role heading into the fall for the Cats.
 - Gates, like Jordan Castell, is familiar with Jay Bateman and the system having played under him during his time at Florida.
 - In 2024, Gates made five starts in Bateman's star position. He logged 27 tackles, 14 solo tackles, 4.0 tackles for a loss, one pick, three PBUs, two fumble recoveries and one quarterback hurry in those five starts.
 - Fun Facts:** Besides football, he's a good ping-pong player. He also enjoys reading and listening to music when away from the field.

BLUEGRASS MIDDLEMEN

- Kentucky's inside linebacker group is led by **Grant Godfrey (6-3, 240)** who emerged as a starter a season ago for the Cats and **Bo Barnes (6-1, 244 | From Texas)** a highly-ranked prospect from Texas who spent one season with the Longhorns.
 - Godfrey has appeared in 17 career games with three starts.
 - In his breakout season, he logged 37 tackles, 2.0 tackles for a loss and 0.5 sacks.
 - Generated a career-high nine tackles against Vanderbilt a season ago.
 - Following the spring game, Will Stein said this about Godfrey: "Definitely a leader in that room. He knows the defense very well."
 - Godfrey comes from a strong lineage. His father, Randall, was a linebacker at Georgia who was named the SEC Freshman of the Year in 1992 and earned All-SEC honors in 1993 and 1994. Randall then enjoyed a 12-year career in the NFL.
 - Fun Facts:** Away from the field, he enjoys fishing and he describes himself as "relentless."
 - Barnes was ranked the No. 12 overall recruit in Texas in the class of 2025.
 - He was the No. 3 linebacker in his class by On3 and 247Sports.
 - Named Class 6A First-Team All-State by BLUE BELL/Texas Sports Writers Association in 2024.
 - Barnes played in four games for Texas a season ago, totaling four tackles, one for a loss and one sack.
 - Fun Facts:** Bo is his middle name. He describes himself as: fun, funny and sweet.
 - Other names to know in the inside backer group include:
 - Tavion Wallace (6-1, 241 | From Arkansas)** - Played in nine games as a freshman and had two tackles in a win over Arkansas State ... A four-star prospect out of high school who totaled 53 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss, two quarterback hurries, two interceptions, a forced fumble, one pass breakup and a blocked extra point as a senior ... Brother, Trevin, played linebacker for UK from 2021-23 and plays for the Carolina Panthers.
 - Antwan Smith (6-3, 226)** - Seen action in 20 career games for the Cats ... Logged six tackles and a pass breakup as a sophomore.
 - Quintavion Norman (6-3, 223)** - Appeared in four games thus far for the Cats ... Coming out of high school, he earned All-Region honorable mention for Region 4-A after totaling 6.0 sacks in seven games.

RETURN OF A2

- Kentucky's inside linebacker group was bolstered by the return of **Alex Afari Jr. (6-2, 220)**. He was granted an additional season of eligibility via an injunction for the 2022 class and

BY THE NUMBERS

	2026	Stein
Record on field	1-0	1-0
SEC	0-0	0-0
West	0-0	0-0
East	0-0	0-0
Nonconference	1-0	1-0
Home	1-0	1-0
Road	0-0	0-0
Neutral site	0-0	0-0
Night	0-0	0-0
Day	1-0	1-0
TV Games	1-0	1-0
ABC	0-0	0-0
CBS	0-0	0-0
ESPN	0-0	0-0
ESPNU	0-0	0-0
ESPN2	0-0	0-0
ESPNNews	0-0	0-0
SEC Network	0-0	0-0
Fox Sports South	0-0	0-0
CBS Sports Network	0-0	0-0
SEC Network Plus	1-0	1-0
September	1-0	1-0
October	0-0	0-0
November	0-0	0-0
December/January	0-0	0-0
Bowl Games	0-0	0-0
Coming off an open date	0-0	0-0
UK scores on 1st possession	1-0	1-0
Opp scores on 1st possession	0-0	0-0
UK scores first	1-0	1-0
Opponent scores first	0-0	0-0
UK leads after 1st quarter	1-0	1-0
Opponent leads after 1stQ	0-0	0-0
Teams are tied after 1stQ	0-0	0-0
UK leads at halftime	1-0	1-0
Opponent leads at halftime	0-0	0-0
Teams are tied at halftime	0-0	0-0
UK leads after 3rd quarter	1-0	1-0
Opponent leads after 3rdQ	0-0	0-0
Teams are tied after 3rdQ	0-0	0-0
Game goes to overtime	0-0	0-0
Scoring less than 20 pts	0-0	0-0
Scoring 20+ points	0-0	0-0
Scoring 30+ points	1-0	1-0
Allowing fewer than 20 pts	1-0	1-0
Allowing 20+ points	0-0	0-0
Allowing 30+ points	0-0	0-0
UK has more total yards	1-0	1-0
Opp. has more total yds	0-0	0-0
UK has more rushing yards	1-0	1-0
Opp. has more rushing yards	0-0	0-0
UK has more passing yards	1-0	1-0
Opp. has more passing yards	0-0	0-0
Rushing for less than 100 yds	0-0	0-0
Rushing for over 100 yards	1-0	1-0
Rushing for 200+ yards	1-0	1-0
Passing for 200+ yards	1-0	1-0
Passing for 300+ yards	1-0	1-0
UK has 100-yard rusher	0-0	0-0
Opp. has 100-yard rusher	0-0	0-0
No turnovers	1-0	1-0
One or two turnovers	0-0	0-0
3 or more turnovers	0-0	0-0
No takeaways	0-0	0-0
3 or more takeaways	0-0	0-0
UK has more penalties	1-0	1-0
Opp. has more penalties	0-0	0-0
Teams have equal penalties	0-0	0-0
UK has more TOP	0-0	0-0
Opp. has more TOP	1-0	1-0
UK defense scores	0-0	0-0
Opponent defense scores	0-0	0-0
UK returns KO/Punt for TD	0-0	0-0
Opp. returns KO/Punt for TD	0-0	0-0
Playing on natural grass	0-0	0-0
Playing on artificial surface	1-0	1-0
In blue uniforms	0-0	0-0
In white uniforms	0-0	0-0
In white jerseys/blue pants	0-0	0-0
In blue jerseys/white pants	1-0	1-0
In black uniforms	0-0	0-0
In blue jerseys/grey pants	0-0	0-0
In black jerseys/blue pants	0-0	0-0
In grey uniforms	0-0	0-0
In grey jerseys/blue pants	0-0	0-0



HONORING THE CATS

NIC ANDERSON, WR

- Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Watch List
- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Senior Bowl Top 300

CJ BAXTER, RB

- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Comeback Player of the Year Watch List

TY BRYANT, S

- Preseason Second Team All-SEC (PFN)
- Preseason Third Team All-SEC (Athlon)
- Preseason Third Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- William V. Campbell Trophy Nominee
- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Senior Bowl Top 300

JORDAN CASTELL, DB

- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List

KENNY DARBY, WR

- 247Sports 2026 Preseason True Freshman All-America Team

TAVION GADSON, DL

- Preseason Second Team All-SEC (PFN)
- Preseason Third Team All-SEC (Athlon)
- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Senior Bowl Top 300

AARON GATES, DB

- Comeback Player of the Year Watch List

SAM GREENE, OLB

- Comeback Player of the Year Watch List

LANCE HEARD, OL

- Preseason First Team All-SEC (PFN)
- Preseason Second Team All-SEC (Coaches, SEC Media, Athlon)
- Preseason Third Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Outland Trophy Watch List
- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Senior Bowl Top 300

MI'QUISE HUMPHREY-GRACE, DL

- Preseason Fourth Team All-SEC (Athlon)
- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Senior Bowl Top 300

rejoined the team on Aug. 15.

- Participated in Green Bay's minicamp in April as an undrafted free agent, but he did not make a camp roster.
- Totaled 193 career tackles, 26.5 tackles for loss, 6.0 sacks, three pass breakups, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.
- Began his career as a safety before transitioning to linebacker.
- In 2025, he finished third on the team with 61 tackles. He paced the defense with a team-high 7.0 tackles for loss and six quarterback hurries.
- Had a TFL in nine straight games which tied the second-longest streak in school history. He tied for second with Jeremy Jarmon, who had nine straight games with a TFL in 2006-07
 - **Fun Facts:** Afari was born in Pordenone, Italy, and his parents are originally from Ghana. The family spent two years in Ghana before moving to Ohio when he was eight. Afari speaks fluent Twi, a Ghanaian language. He grew up playing soccer, before neighbor Kaleb Johnson - now an NFL running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers - introduced him to football

GREENE LOOKS BETTER IN BLUE: ALL THE OUTSIDE BACKERS DO TOO

- Senior **Sam Greene (6-2, 251)** headlines the outside linebacker group. He came to Kentucky following two seasons at Southern Cal and has the most Power Four experience of the group. Greene and the outside linebackers are tasked with wreaking havoc in the backfield.
 - Greene established himself as a force to be reckoned with in 2025, tallying 25 tackles, 3.0 TFL, 1.0 sack, 4.0 QB hurries and one PBU.
 - His best game came in the win at Auburn, with seven tackles, two for loss and a sack.
 - For his career, Greene has played in 24 games making 12 starts. He has tallied 41 total tackles, 6.0 tackles for a loss, 2.0 sacks and 1.0 PBU.
 - Entering the season, Pro Football Focus College ranks Greene as the SEC's ninth-best edge rusher with a 75.8 grade.
 - **Fun Facts:** He was a quarterback until the eighth grade and his dream job following his playing career is to be in real estate.
- Other names to know in the outside backer group include:
 - **Lorenzo Cowan (6-3, 250)** - After redshirting at Southern Cal, he transferred to Kentucky ... Appeared in nine games with two starts for the Cats in 2025 ... Had 13 tackles, 4.5 tackles for a loss, 25 sacks and two forced fumbles ... Recorded three tackles, 1.5 TFL, a sack and a forced fumble in the final game of the 2025 season vs. Louisville.
 - **CJ Works (6-5, 247)** - Logged 12 appearances and one start for UK as a true freshman in 2025 ... Had 16 tackles and 2.0 tackles for a loss on the season ... Was a four-star recruit from Lexington's Fredrick Douglass High School and was ranked the No. 11 edge nationally in his recruiting class.

TRENCH WORK

- If the secondary creates the confusion and the linebackers create the movement, it's the line that causes the chaos. Kentucky has compiled a group that has size and experience inside to man the trenches. Will Stein has said this about the defensive line, "The teams that win in November, December, January were in the trenches." The names to know from a unit that Jay Bateman has described as being a group that has impressed him:
 - **Ahmad Breaux (6-3, 278 | LSU)** - Seen action in 26 career games and made two starts ... Breakout season in 2025 includes 19 tackles, 2.5 TFL and 0.5 sack, while playing in all 12 games ... He was an immediate contributor, having played 292 defensive snaps as a freshman in 2024.
 - **Kalen Edwards (6-4, 335)** - As a true freshman a year ago with the Cats, he saw action in five games ... He totaled five tackles ... Totaled 35 tackles with 7.5 tackles for loss as a senior ... Finished with 47 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, two sacks, two forced fumbles and three blocked kicks and led his team to the Class 3A Semifinals as a junior ... Was a 4-star prospect out of high school.



- **Tavion Gadson (6-5, 303)** - Played in all 12 games for UK a season ago after transferring following three seasons at Coastal Carolina ... Has seen action in 47 games and made 18 career starts ... Has amassed 95 tackles, 12.5 TFL and 4.0 sacks ... Against Vanderbilt a season ago, he logged five tackles and 1.5 TFL.
- **Jamarrion "Chops" Harkless (6-3, 346 | From Purdue)** - A Lexington native and a member of the 2022 state champs from Fredrick Douglass (also Ty Bryant) ... Played three seasons at Purdue ... Has appeared in 23 career games and made 13 starts ... Has totaled 19 career tackles with 2.5 tackles for a loss and 2.5 sacks.
- **Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace (6-4, 271)** - Started all 12 games for the Cats a season ago after playing two seasons at South Dakota to begin his career ... Has posted 130 tackles, 33.5 TFL and 18.5 sacks to go along with 20 quarterback hurries ... His breakout 2024 season included 19.0 tackles for a loss and 9.5 sacks
- **Jaden Williams (6-4, 290)** - Appeared in nine games for UK in 2025 after playing for three seasons at Wyoming ... Has totaled 35 career tackles, 3.0 TFL and 2.0 sacks, while also generating seven QB hurries ... Totaled a career-high six tackles and career-best two quarterback hurries in the Florida win for Kentucky last season.
- **Dominic Wiseman (6-2, 298 | From South Alabama)** - A fifth-year player who has seen action in 36 career games ... At South Alabama a season ago, he made 23 tackles, 3.0 tackles for a loss, had a sack and a pair of QB hurries, he also forced a fumble ... Made six tackles against Arkansas State.

MILESTONES TO WATCH WHEN THE CATS ARE ON DEFENSE

- **Alex Afari Jr.** is seven tackles shy from 200 for his career.
- **Jordan Castell** is 25 tackles from 200 for his career.
- **Ty Bryant** is 33 tackles from 200 for his career.
- **Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace** is 1.5 sacks from 20 for his career.

SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES

HOLY KAUWE!

- **Jacob Kauwe (6-1, 216)**, from Billings, Montana, returns for the Wildcats after handling field goals and extra points for the Wildcats a season ago.
 - For his career, he is 13 of 17 on field goals and a perfect 32 of 32 on extra points
 - Kauwe's longest field goal - in high school or in college - is 51 yards, which he set against Eastern Michigan on Sept. 13, 2025.
 - He is 7 of 9 on field goals from more than 40 yards.
 - Charted a 12 of 13 clip inside 50 yards.
 - Scored 71 points.
 - Kauwe ranks fifth all-time in program history with a .765 make percentage with a minimum of 10 makes.
 - **Fun Facts:** Lists an off-the-field talent as being good at math. He aspires to become a doctor when he is done playing football. Also, he has Hawaiian heritage.
- The Cats also brought in **Adam Zouagui (5-11, 191 | From USF)** who primarily handled kick-offs at USF a season ago. He made 78 kicks for 4,991 yards and totaled 61 touchbacks.
- He is 12 of 26 for his career on field goals and has scored 141 points after handling UK's kicking duties to open the season vs. Youngstown State. He made all six of his extra points and nailed a 28-yarder in the fourth quarter.
 - He tied a Davidson record in 2023 by making 46 consecutive PATs.
 - In 2024, he also served as Davidson's punter. He averaged 43.2 yards per attempt with a long of 72 yards.

HONORING THE CATS

WILLIE RODRIGUEZ, TE

- Preseason Second Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Preseason Third Team All-SEC (Coaches, SEC Media, Athlon)
- Allstate/AFCA Good Works Team nominee
- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Senior Bowl Top 300
- Hispanic College Football Player of the Year Watch List

COLETON PRICE, C

- Preseason Second Team All-America (PFN)
- Preseason Third Team All-SEC (Athlon)
- Preseason Second Team All-SEC (Phil Steele)
- Rimington Trophy Watch List
- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List
- Senior Bowl Top 300

TEGRA TSHABOLA, OL

- Shriners Kids East-West Game Watch List

OL COACH CUTTER LEFTWICH

- 30 Under 30 (247Sports)

STARS COACH JAMES GIBSON

- 30 Under 30 (247Sports)

HONORING HAPPY



The Kentucky football team will don helmet stickers all season long honoring Nic "Happy" Smith who died on June 8. He was a 6-foot-5 defensive lineman from Loganville, Georgia and was the son of Spencer and Kisha Smith and Genedra Smalls. Happy was a sophomore in the Community Leadership and Development program in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

**I THINK WE DID IT, WILSON**

UK holder and punter **Wilson Berry (6-4, 206)**, at 28 years old he is tied for being the oldest player in college football this season:

Name	Age	Pos.	Birthday	School
Daniel Hughes	28	P	6/2/98	Florida State
WILSON BERRY	28	P	6/8/98	KENTUCKY
Bailey Ettridge	28	P	6/23/98	Oregon

- Berry returns for the Wildcats for a sixth season of eligibility after being granted an additional season.
 - Has played in 44 career games.
 - Totaled 91 punts for 3,636 career yards and an average of 40.0 yards per punt.
 - Also serves as the holder on field-goal attempts.
 - Fun Facts:** Married to Courtney Stewart and the couple has three children, Leo, Gus and newborn Florence. When he is done playing football, he hopes to become a physical therapist.
- UK also signed **Thomas O'Hara (6-1, 201 | From Murray State)**, who hails from Melbourne, Australia to its punting room.
 - Has appeared in 25 games with 117 punts for 5,199 yards.
 - Averages 44.4 yards per kick and has totaled 32 kicks that have traveled 50-plus yards.
 - O'Hara has a knack for landing his kicks inside the 20, with 38 falling in that zone. He's also forced 45 fair catches in his career.

GENERAL NOTES**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

Kentucky has five members of its staff or roster with prior UK connections.

- Head Coach **Will Stein** is the son of Matt Stein, a former UK letterwinner at defensive end from 1983-84
- Junior DB **Ty Bryant** is the son of former Wildcat wide receiver Cisco Bryant from 1983-85.
 - Stein and Bryant's fathers were teammates, highlighted by the 1984 season in which the team went 9-3 and defeated Wisconsin in the Hall of Fame Bowl.
- Sophomore TE **Justin Kattus** is the brother of Josh Kattus, who played at UK from 2022-25.
- Sophomore LB **Tavion Wallace** is the brother of Trevin Wallace, who played for the Cats from 2021-23,
- General Manager **Pete Nocht's** father was also a UK player. John Nocht played from 1973-76 as an offensive lineman, and then served as a student coach under Fran Curci in 1977.

A TRIO OF COMEBACK CATS

- Kentucky players **CJ Baxter**, **Aaron Gates** and **Sam Greene** were all named to the 2026 College Football Comeback Player of the Year Preseason Watch List.
 - UK has had two previous winners -- J.J. Weaver (2021) and Kenneth Horsey (2020)

- Baxter had a major right-knee injury in August of 2024, tearing the ACL, LCL and PCL. He then suffered a hamstring injury in 2025 that limited him to just eight games and 196 rushing yards for the season.
- Gates suffered a season-ending torn labrum on Sept. 20, 2025. He also suffered a torn ACL in 2024 that ended his season short. He has been limited to just eight games over the last two seasons.
- Greene endured an ACL injury on Nov. 8, 2025 ending his season.

SMARTY CATS

Eight Wildcats will play the 2026 season having already graduated. They include:

- Olaus Alinen** (Finance and Economics - Alabama, '25)
- Nic Anderson** (Liberal Studies - LSU, '26)
- Jovantae Barnes** (Multidisciplinary Studies - Oklahoma, '25)
- Ty Bryant** (Psychology - Kentucky, '26)
- Henry Boyer** (Finance - Kentucky, '26)
- Wilson Berry** (Kinesiology - Kentucky, '23; Master's in Kinesiology and Health Promotion - Kentucky, '25)
- Elijah Brown** (Communication - UCF, '26)
- Coleton Price** (Business Communications - Baylor, '26)

Additionally, Berry, Brown and Price are all slated to receive undergraduate certificates in Business and Economics at the conclusion of the fall semester.

Eight more Cats are on track to graduate in December:

- CJ Baxter** (Communication)
- Aaron Gates** (Criminal Justice)
- Chops Harkless** (Liberal Studies)
- Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace** (Criminal Justice)
- Spencer Leadbetter** (Communication & Undergraduate Certificate in Business and Economics)
- JacQai Long** (Business Administration)
- Jaden Williams** (Sociology)
- Adam Zoagui** (Economics)

DID YOU KNOW?

- A picture of longevity, UK equipment manager **Tom Kalinowski** is in his 49th season in that role in 2026. He also was a student manager in 1974-77, now marking his 53rd year working with UK football in 2026.
 - In honor of his 50th season in 2023, Kalinowski was named an honorary captain for the home finale against Alabama.
 - He is nearing his 600th consecutive game on the sideline. UK's home date vs. Florida on Nov. 14 will mark the milestone.
- UK is one of only 11 schools that has won an NCAA men's basketball championship, while also having a claim on a national championship in football.
- UK is one of only eight universities in the United States with the full complement of liberal arts, engineering, professional, agricultural and medical colleges and disciplines on one contiguous campus.
- The Kentucky cheerleaders have won an unprecedented 24 national cheerleading championships at the annual Universal Cheerleaders Association championships.



“VOICE OF THE WILDCATS”: TOM LEACH CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH THE CATS

- The 2026 Kentucky football season will mark **Tom Leach’s** 30th year on the mic as the “Voice of the Wildcats.”
 - His first game came in 1997 as Kentucky opened the season against Louisville with the Cats prevailing by a 38-24 score inside of then Commonwealth Stadium on Aug. 30, 1997.
 - Leach has been on the mic for 355 total UK football games, including 15 bowl games.
 - Will Stein is the sixth different head coach he has worked with on the gridiron.
 - Leach has called action for 61 NFL Draft selections, 48 All-Americans and 123 SEC performers.
 - As a high school senior, Leach listed his ultimate career goal “to become the next Voice of the Wildcats”--and the dream came true, as he follows in the footsteps of Cawood Ledford, Ralph Hacker, Claude Sullivan, Jim Host and the others who have called the games for the Big Blue.
 - Leach began his work on the UK Radio Network in 1989 as host of the postgame scoreboard and call-in shows. Eight years later, he was named the play-by-play voice for Kentucky football and he added the basketball responsibilities in 2001.
 - Leach is a six-time winner of the Sportscaster of the Year award for Kentucky from the National Sports Media Association. Others honors include being named a distinguished alumnus by the journalism school at the University of Kentucky and winning the Tom Hammond Media Award from the Bluegrass Sports Commission, for career achievement. He is also a member of the 10th Region Hall of Fame as a contributor, for his high school play-by-play work with the Bourbon County Colonels and Paris Greyhounds. Leach was also inducted into the Bourbon County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

30 UNDER 30

- Kentucky football assistant coaches **James Gibson** and **Cutter Leftwich** were named to the 2026 edition of the 247 Sports’ 30Under30 List, recognizing the fastest-rising personnel and assistant coaches in college football. The list is in its 10th year and is compiled by a bevy of contacts across the industry.
 - Gibson, who helped Texas A&M advance to the 2025 College Football Playoff, is in his first season at Kentucky working with the defensive backs, specifically as the stars coach.
 - Leftwich is in his first season on Will Stein’s inaugural staff as the offensive line coach. Most recently, he was Oregon’s assistant offensive line coach and run game coordinator during the 2025 season.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The Southeastern Conference announced its new nine-game conference schedule for the 2026-29 seasons. Each school is slated to play three annual opponents and each team’s remaining six games will rotate among the remaining conference schools.

The Wildcats’ three annual opponents will be Florida, South Carolina and Tennessee. Each school will play the remaining 12 schools twice – once at home and once away – during the 2026-29 period. The annual opponents will be re-evaluated for the next scheduling cycle beginning in 2030. Home games are listed in all caps.

2027

at Florida
SOUTH CAROLINA
TENNESSEE
AUBURN
GEORGIA
MISSISSIPPI STATE

2028

FLORIDA
at South Carolina
at Tennessee
MISSOURI
TEXAS A&M
OKLAHOMA

2029

at Florida
S. CAROLINA
TENNESSEE
ARKANSAS
OLE MISS
TEXAS

JERSEY PATCH FOR 2026

As Kentucky Football begins a new era under Head Coach Will Stein, UK Athletics is partnering with UK Invests to make the groundbreaking program the Official Jersey Patch Partner of Kentucky Football.

The UK Invests logo will appear on Wildcat football jerseys to elevate storytelling around one of UK’s fastest-growing student success programs.

Launched in 2022, UK Invests is a first-of-its-kind financial wellness program that combines financial education with real-world opportunities to help UK students build greater financial security and healthy saving and investing habits. The program empowers students to create personal investment accounts where they can practice saving and investing, while also offering financial education sessions and opportunities to earn university-funded rewards for participating in institution-identified healthy behaviors, such as exercising at Alumni Gym or attending the Hire Blue Career Fair. Soon, students can also earn rewards for attending select UK Athletics games.

Since its launch less than four years ago, more than 18,000 students have opened investment accounts and earned nearly \$3 million in university-funded rewards through UK Invests. Collectively, student investments are projected to exceed \$9 million at the next quarterly update at the end of the month.

UK Invests was initially implemented in phases, beginning in Fall 2022 with UK student-athletes who deposited their NCAA Alston Awards earnings into UK Invests brokerage accounts after completing financial education programs. UK Invests then expanded to the full undergraduate, graduate, and professional student body population in Fall 2023 and has quickly become one of UK’s most successful student initiatives to-date.

Kentucky Football will showcase storytelling on UK Invests’ success and growth through integrated multimedia activations executed by JMI Sports – UK Athletics’ exclusive multimedia rights partner operating locally as UK Sports and Campus Marketing – including Kroger Field signage, videoboards, radio and TV inventory, coaches’ endorsements, and in-game features highlighting students who participate in the program.





2026 GAME NOTES

Arkansas	at Alabama	at Auburn
at Ole Miss	at LSU	at Georgia
at Texas	at Vanderbilt	at Miss. State

WILDCATS AGAINST RANKED TEAMS

- Kentucky's last ranked triumph was an upset at No. 6 Ole Miss on Sept. 28, 2024 in Oxford, Miss.
 - Kentucky's last win over a ranked team at home was over No. 22 Florida, 33-14, in 2023.
- Kentucky has played 280 ranked teams in the Associated Press poll in its history, holding a 51-222-5 record in those games. (The on-field record is 53-222-5 after two wins were vacated by NCAA from 2021).

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?

- A season after having four sets of brothers on the roster, only **Tavion Gadson** and **Lorenzo Cowan** remain. The brothers will play their second season together both suiting up in the Blue and White
- Ten players have had a brother play college football: (Max Anderson, Nic Anderson, Wilson Berry, Martels Carter Jr., Brock Coffman, Justin Kattus, Quintavion Norman, Antwan Smith, Tyler Thomas and Tavion Wallace)
- **Justin Kattus** and **Tavion Wallace** both had an older brother suit up for the Wildcats. Trevin Wallace played for the Cats from 2021-23, while Josh Kattus was a UK player from 2022-25. Both are currently in the NFL.
- **Tyler Thomas'** identical twin brother, is a tight end at Tennessee. Tyler is older by one minute -- and he is the only UK player that has a brother currently also playing college football in 2026.
 - **Rob Fogler** also has a twin brother, Dave, who is 13 minutes older.
 - **Grant Grayton** is a twin as well, but he has a twin sister -- Gabrielle. Grant is seven minutes older.

LOOK AT ME, I'M THE CAPTAIN NOW

- The Wildcats will not utilize permanent team captains in 2026, instead opting for a system of weekly rotating captains for individual games.
 - **Youngstown State** - RB C.J. Baxter, TE Willie Rodriguez, DE Mi'Quise Humphrey-Grace, LB Grant Godfrey



HEAD COACH WILL STEIN / FIRST SEASON / LOUISVILLE, 2011



STEIN'S RECORD VS. ALL OPPONENTS

Opponent	Record
Alabama	0-0
Florida	0-0
Louisville	0-0
LSU	0-0
Missouri	0-0
Oklahoma	0-0
South Alabama	0-0
South Carolina	0-0
Tennessee	0-0
Texas A&M	0-0
Vanderbilt	0-0
Youngstown State	1-0
TOTAL	1-0
HOME RECORD	1-0
AWAY RECORD	0-0
NEUTRAL RECORD	0-0
VS. SEC OPPONENTS	0-0
SEC AT HOME	0-0
SEC ON THE ROAD	0-0
DAY GAME	1-0
NIGHT GAME	0-0

For Will Stein, the roots in Kroger Field soil run deep.

A native Kentuckian, Stein is the son of UK alumni – father Matt played football at UK and mother Debbie is an avid fan – and he inherited their passion as he grew up watching the Wildcats in the then-Commonwealth Stadium, section 128, row 13 to be exact. He later competed in the stadium as a collegiate quarterback and assistant coach.

On Dec. 2, 2025, the family's journey came full circle as Stein was named head coach of Kentucky football.

Stein, 36, returned to the Commonwealth from the University of Oregon, where he was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for three seasons.

One of the many attributes that sets Stein apart is his ability to tailor his offense to his players' strengths. Year after year, he's designed systems around quarterbacks with very different skill sets, and each one thrived, helping lead elite units and Heisman Trophy finalists each of the past two years.

QBs Bo Nix and Dillon Gabriel went on to start multiple games in the NFL in their rookie years as well.

Paced by a high-scoring offense, the 2025 Ducks finished the 2025 season 13-2 overall, including an 8-1 mark in the Big Ten. The No. 5 Ducks advance to the semifinals of the College Football Playoff with a 23-0 win over No. 4 Texas Tech before falling to the eventual national champion and top-ranked Indiana, 56-22. It marked just the fifth loss in the last three years for the program. The Ducks were the only team in the country to win 13 games each of the past two seasons, tying the program record for single-season victories first set in 2014.

Stein's unit ranked tied for 10th nationally in scoring at 36.9 points per game. His attack was well-balanced as the Ducks averaged 198.6 rushing yards per game and 253.6 passing yards per game. The total offense of 455.2 yards per contest ranked 16th in the nation.

Individually, sophomore quarterback Dante Moore completed a pinpoint 71.8 percent of his passes – fourth in the country – for 3,565 yards, 30 touchdowns and only 10 interceptions. He ranked eighth nationally in passing efficiency.

Stein's offensive philosophy – “Feed the Studs” – keeps numerous players involved. Three Ducks running backs had at least 673 rushing yards in 2025, with all three averaging more than 5.8 yards per carry. Six pass receivers had at least 26 catches on the year.

In 2024, Oregon went 13-1, winning the Big Ten regular season title and the league championship game over Penn State. The Ducks advanced to the College Football Playoff as the No. 1-seed, with the season's only loss coming in the Rose Bowl.

As a team, Oregon averaged 34.9 points per game, 157.9 rushing yards per game, 279.5 passing yards and 437.4 yards total offense.

All-America quarterback Dillon Gabriel completed 72.9 percent of his passes for 3,857 yards, 30 touchdowns and only six interceptions. He ranked in the nation's top 10 in completion percentage (3rd), passing efficiency (7th), passing yards (8th) and TD passes (8th). He went on to finish third in the Heisman Trophy balloting, was named Big Ten Most Valuable Player and was drafted by the NFL's Cleveland Browns.

Once again, the passing game spread the wealth, as eight players caught at least 21 balls. Running back Jordan James jetted for 1,267 yards and 15 touchdowns, ranking 18th nationally in each category.

Stein's first season at Oregon, under Coach Dan Lanning, was 2023. His offense was prolific immediately, leading the nation in passing (346.9 yards per game), completion percentage (77.2 percent), first downs (372) and fewest turnovers lost (7). The Ducks placed second in scoring (44.2 points per game) and total offense (531.4 yards per game).

Led by quarterback Bo Nix, Oregon went 12-2, topped by a win over Liberty in the Fiesta Bowl.

Nix threw for 4,508 yards while setting an NCAA record in completion percentage (77.4) and leading the nation in completions (364) and touchdown passes (45). He was second nationally in passing yards and passing efficiency, also fifth in yards per passing attempt. Nix was third in the Heisman voting and a first-round NFL draft choice by Denver.

Oregon had a 1,000-yard rusher and two 1,000-yard receivers. Bucky Irving ran for 1,180 yards and 11 touchdowns while Troy Franklin (1,383 yards, 14 TDs) and Tez Johnson (1,182 yards, 10



TDs) topped the millennium mark.

Stein went to Oregon from UTSA, spending three seasons with the Roadrunners. He served as the passing game coordinator and wide receivers coach in 2020 and '21, then was promoted to co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for the '22 season.

With Stein as co-OC in '22, UTSA ranked No. 12 in the country in total offense, 476 yards per game, No. 13 in passing (300.7 yards per game) and No. 14 in scoring (36.8 points per game).

Quarterback Frank Harris blossomed under Stein's tutelage, ranking fifth in the nation in total offense (4,665 yards) and ninth in total touchdowns (41). Harris was named the 2022 Conference USA MVP.

During Stein's three seasons at UTSA, the Roadrunners had a 30-10 record, advanced to three bowl games and won the 2022 CUSA regular-season championship and C-USA title game.

A native of Louisville, Stein has football heritage, as his father, Matt, was a defensive end for the Wildcats under Coach Jerry Claiborne. Matt was a two-year letterman in 1983 and '84, playing for UK's teams that made consecutive appearances in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

Will Stein played his high school ball at Trinity High School, where he was a three-time state champion and set the single-season school record for touchdown passes with 54.

Stein played at the University of Louisville from 2008-12, then moved to the coaching staff as a graduate assistant in 2013 (quarterbacks) and quality control coach in 2014 (wide receivers). He earned a bachelor's degree in sport administration from Louisville in 2011, and Master's in business administration in 2014.

Stein coached at the University of Texas from 2015-17 as a quality control assistant, helping coach the wide receivers for two years and the quarterbacks in '17.

In order to get play-calling experience, Stein moved to Lake Travis High School in Austin, Texas, as the assistant head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach and recruiting coordinator from 2018-19. He helped lead the Cavaliers to a two-year mark of 26-4, featuring back-to-back appearances in the state semifinals of the Class 6A Division I playoffs. He rejoined the college ranks at UTSA in 2020.

He and his wife Darby have two children, Joey and Demi.

NFL PIPELINE UNDER STEIN

2026

Kenyon Sadiq – Tight End – Round 1, Pick 16
Malik Benson – Wide Receiver – Round 6, Pick 14
Alex Harkey – Offensive Tackle – Round 6, Pick 25

2025

Josh Conerly Jr. – Offensive Tackle – Round 1, Pick 29
Terrance Ferguson – Tight End – Round 2, Pick No. 14
Dillon Gabriel – Quarterback – Round 3, Pick No. 30
Jordan James – Running Back – Round 5, Pick No. 9
Ajani Cornelius – Offensive Tackle – Round 6, Pick No. 28
Tez Johnson – Wide Receiver – Round 7, Pick No. 19

2024

Bo Nix – Quarterback – Round 1, Pick No. 12
Jackson Powers-Johnson – Offensive Line – Round 2, Pick No. 12
Troy Franklin – Wide Receiver – Round 4, Pick No. 2
Bucky Irving – Running Back – Round 4, Pick No. 25

Season	School	Role	Postseason
2020	UTSA	Passing Game Coord./ WR Coach	First Responder Bowl
2021	UTSA	Passing Game Coord./ WR Coach	Frisco Bowl
2022	UTSA	Co-Offensive Coord./ QB Coach	Cure Bowl
2023	Oregon	Offensive Coord./ QB Coach	Fiesta Bowl
2024	Oregon	Offensive Coord./ QB Coach	CFP/Rose Bowl
2025	Oregon	Offensive Coord./ QB Coach	CFP/Peach Bowl

2022 Achievements at UTSA:

- UTSA ranked No. 9 nationally in total offense (486.1 yards per game)
- UTSA was No. 12 nationally in scoring offense (38.7 points per game) and passing offense (308.6 yards per game)
- Scored 30 or more points in 12 of 13 games and 40-plus in seven games
- Frank Harris (UTSA, QB) passed for 4,453 total yards, responsible for 40 total touchdowns, 3,865 passing yards, 31 passing touchdowns, 71.1 completion percentage, Conference USA MVP
- During Stein's three seasons at UTSA, the Roadrunners had a 30-10 record, advanced to three bowl games and won the 2022 CUSA regular-season championship and C-USA title game

2023 Achievements at Oregon:

- Ranked No. 1 nationally in passing offense (346.9 yards per game) and completion percentage (77.2%)
- No. 2 nationally in scoring offense (44.2 points per game) and total offense (531.4 yards per game)
- Oregon was the only team in the country to score 30 or more points in every game during the regular season
- In Stein's first game calling plays, Oregon tallied 81 points vs. Portland State, setting a modern-day record for points scored in a game
- Quarterback Bo Nix threw for 4,508 yards and 45 touchdowns. He set an NCAA single-season completion-percentage record with a 77.4% rate
- Nix led the nation in completions and touchdown passes as he finished third in the Heisman Trophy voting and was selected in the first round of the NFL Draft
- Wide receiver Troy Franklin set single-season Oregon records for receiving yards (1,383), receiving touchdowns (14) and 100-yard receiving games (8)
- Wide receiver Tez Johnson set an Oregon single-season record with 86 receptions
- Johnson and Franklin combined to become the first set of 1,000-yard receivers for the Ducks since 1998

2024 Achievements at Oregon:

- Oregon went 13-1 and won the Big Ten, while earning a berth in the College Football Playoffs
- Quarterback Dillon Gabriel finished with 3,857 passing yards, 30 touchdown throws and a 72.9 completion percentage. He was third in Heisman voting and was the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player
- Gabriel ranked in the nation's top 10 in completion percentage (3rd), passing efficiency (7th), passing yards (8th) and TD passes (8th)
- Eight players caught at least 21 balls. Running back Jordan James jetted for 1,267 yards and 15 touchdowns, ranking 18th nationally in each category
- Oregon averaged 34.9 points per game, 157.9 rushing yards per game, 279.5 passing yards and 437.4 yards total offense

2025 Achievements at Oregon:

- Oregon went 13-2 and advanced to the College Football Playoff for the second-consecutive season
- The Ducks were the only team in the country to win 13 games each of the past two seasons, tying the program record for single-season victories first set in 2014
- Balanced offense that saw 3,804 passing yards and 2,979 rushing yards. Oregon threw for 31 passing touchdowns and also averaged 2.3 rushing touchdowns per game
- Quarterback Dante Moore threw for 3,565 yards and 30 touchdowns. He logged a 71.84 completion percentage and logged 237.7 passing yards per game. He ranked eighth nationally in passing efficiency
- Stein's unit ranked tied for 10th nationally in scoring at 36.9 points per game. His attack was well-balanced as the Ducks averaged 198.6 rushing yards per game and 253.6 passing yards per game. The total offense of 455.2 yards per contest ranked 16th in the nation
- Three Ducks running backs had at least 673 rushing yards in 2025, with all three averaging more than 5.8 yards per carry. Six pass receivers had at least 26 catches on the year



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME KENTUCKY ...

SCORED 40 POINTS

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 45 points

SCORED 50 POINTS

Nov. 27, 2021 at Louisville 52 points

SCORED 60 POINTS

Sept. 17, 2016 vs. New Mexico State 62 points

SCORED 70 POINTS

Sept. 7, 2002 vs. Texas El-Paso 77 points

SCORED 80 POINTS

Nov. 18, 1950 vs. North Dakota 83 points

SHUTOUT AN OPPONENT

Aug. 31, 2024 vs. Southern Miss W, 31-0

SHUTOUT AN OPPONENT IN THE FIRST HALF

Nov. 16, 2024 vs. Murray State 24-0

SHUTOUT AN SEC OPPONENT IN FIRST HALF IN CONSECUTIVE GAMES

Oct. 19, 2019 at Georgia 0-0

Oct. 26, 2019 vs. Missouri 22-0

GAME IS SCORELESS AT THE HALF

Oct. 19, 2019 at Georgia 0-0

SHUTOUT AN OPPONENT IN THE SECOND HALF

Nov. 8, 2025 vs. Florida 14-0 (W, 38-7)

SCORED A TD ON THE FIRST SERIES

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State CJ Baxter Jr. 15-yard rush

SCORED ON FIRST PLAY FROM SCRIMMAGE

Nov. 26, 2016 at Louisville Stephen Johnson 75-yard pass to Garret Johnson

HAD 25 FIRST DOWNS

Nov. 15, 2025 vs. Tennessee Tech 25 first downs

HAD 30 FIRST DOWNS

Nov. 16, 2024 vs. Murray State 32 first downs

HAD 250-YARDS RUSHING

Nov. 16, 2024 vs. Murray State 269 yards

HAD 300-YARDS RUSHING

Sept. 30, 2023 vs. Florida 329 yards

HAD 400-YARDS RUSHING

Oct. 3, 2020 vs. Ole Miss 408 yards

HAD 500-YARDS RUSHING

Nov. 30, 2019 vs. Louisville 517 yards (school record)

HAD CONSECUTIVE 400-YARD RUSHING GAMES

Nov. 16, 2019 at Vanderbilt 401 yards

Nov. 23, 2019 vs. UT Martin 462 yards

Nov. 30, 2019 vs. Louisville 517 yards

HAD BELOW 50-YARDS RUSHING

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville 40 yards

HAD 300-YARDS PASSING

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 301 yards

HAD 400-YARDS PASSING

Nov. 20, 2021 vs. New Mexico State 459 yards

HAD BELOW 50-YARDS PASSING

Sept. 7, 2024 vs. South Carolina 44 yards

HAD 300 YARDS RUSHING AND PASSING

Sept. 17, 2016 vs. New Mexico State 381 rushing; 311 passing

HAD 500-YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 506 yards

HAD 600-YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE

Nov. 20, 2021 vs. New Mexico State 707 yards

HAD 700-YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE

Nov. 20, 2021 vs. New Mexico State 707 yards

HAD BELOW 200-YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville 140 yards

HELD OPPONENT BELOW 100-YARDS RUSHING

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 59 yards

HELD OPPONENT BELOW 50-YARDS RUSHING

Oct. 18, 2025 vs. Texas 47 yards

HELD OPPONENT BELOW 100-YARDS PASSING

Sept. 4, 2021 vs. Louisiana-Monroe 70 yards

HELD OPPONENT BELOW 200-YARDS TOTAL OFFENSE

Oct. 18, 2025 vs. Texas 179 yards

HELD OPPONENT BELOW 100-YARDS TOTAL OFFENSE

Sept. 4, 2021 vs. Louisiana-Monroe 87 yards

HAD 10 OR MORE TACKLES FOR LOSS

Nov. 1, 2025 at Auburn 13.0 tackles

HAD 6 OR MORE SACKS

Nov. 1, 2025 at Auburn 7.0 sacks

RECORDED A SAFETY

Nov. 23, 2019 vs. UT Martin Jamar Watson

RECORDED ZERO PENALTIES

Nov. 25, 2023 at Louisville W, 38-31

HAD A PLAYER WITH 30 RUSH ATTEMPTS

Oct. 15, 2022 vs. Mississippi State Chris Rodriguez (31)

HAD A PLAYER RUSH FOR 100 YARDS

Nov. 8, 2025 vs. Florida Dante Dowdell (104)

HAD TWO PLAYERS RUSH FOR 100 YARDS

Nov. 27, 2021 at Louisville Chris Rodriguez (121)
Will Levis (113)

HAD THREE PLAYERS RUSH FOR 100 YARDS

Oct. 3, 2020 vs. Ole Miss (only time in UK history) Chris Rodriguez (133)
Terry Wilson (129)
A.J. Rose (117)

HAD TWO PLAYERS RUSH FOR 175 YARDS

Oct. 29, 2016 vs. Missouri Benny Snell (192)
Boom Williams (182)

HAD TWO PLAYERS RUSH FOR 100 YARDS IN CONSECUTIVE GAMES

Nov. 16, 2019 at Vanderbilt Chris Rodriguez (129)
Lynn Bowden (110)

Nov. 23, 2019 vs. UT Martin Lynn Bowden (129)
A.J. Rose (105)

Nov. 30, 2019 vs. Louisville Lynn Bowden (284)
Chris Rodriguez (125)

HAD A PLAYER RUSH FOR 100 YARDS IN CONSECUTIVE GAMES

Sept. 13, 2025 vs. Eastern Michigan Seth McGowan (104)
Sept. 27, 2025 at South Carolina Seth McGowan (112)

HAD A PLAYER RUSH FOR 100 YARDS IN THREE CONSECUTIVE GAMES

Nov. 20, 2021 vs. New Mexico State Chris Rodriguez (119)
Nov. 27, 2021 at Louisville Chris Rodriguez (121)
Jan. 1, 2022 vs. Iowa (Citrus Bowl) Chris Rodriguez (107)

HAD A PLAYER RUSH FOR 100 YARDS IN FOUR CONSECUTIVE GAMES

Nov. 13, 2012 at Vanderbilt Chris Rodriguez (114)
Nov. 20, 2021 vs. New Mexico State Chris Rodriguez (119)
Nov. 27, 2021 at Louisville Chris Rodriguez (121)
Jan. 1, 2022 vs. Iowa (Citrus Bowl) Chris Rodriguez (107)



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME KENTUCKY ...

HAD A PLAYER RUSH FOR 100 YARDS IN FOUR CONSECUTIVE GAMES

Nov. 6, 2021	vs. Tennessee	Chris Rodriguez (109)
Nov. 13, 2021	at Vanderbilt	Chris Rodriguez (114)
Nov. 20, 2021	vs. New Mexico State	Chris Rodriguez (119)
Nov. 27, 2021	at Louisville	Chris Rodriguez (121)
Jan. 2, 2022	vs. Iowa (Citrus Bowl)	Chris Rodriguez (107)

HAD A TRUE FRESHMAN RUSH FOR 100 YARDS

Nov. 19, 2016	vs. Austin Peay	Benny Snell (152)
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HAD A PLAYER RUSH FOR 200 YARDS

Sept. 30, 2023	vs. Florida	Ray Davis (280)
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HAD FOUR PLAYERS WITH 50 YARDS RUSHING

Nov. 23, 2019	vs. UT Martin	Lynn Bowden (129) A.J. Rose (105) Travis Tisdale (60) Tyler Markray (52)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH THREE RUSHING TDS

Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	Seth McGowan (3)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 50 PASSING ATTEMPTS

Sept. 15, 2012	vs. WKU	Maxwell Smith (60)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 60 PASSING ATTEMPTS

Sept. 15, 2012	vs. WKU	Maxwell Smith (60)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 30 PASS COMPLETIONS

Oct. 18, 2025	vs. Texas	Cutter Boley (31)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 300-YARDS PASSING

Sept. 5, 2026	vs. Youngstown State	Kenny Minchey (301)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 400-YARDS PASSING

Nov. 20, 2021	vs. New Mexico State	Will Levis (419)
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HAD TWO PLAYERS PASS FOR 100 YARDS

Sept. 14, 2013	vs. Louisville	Maxwell Smith (109) Jalen Whitlow (105)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH THREE OR MORE PASSING TDS

Sept. 5, 2026	vs. Youngstown State	Kenny Minchey (4)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 2 PASSING TDS AND TWO RUSHING TDS

Oct. 25, 2014	vs. Mississippi State	Patrick Towles 67-yard pass to Demarco Robinson; 58-yard pass to Javess Blue & 10-yard run; 4-yard run
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 10 RECEPTIONS

Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	Kendrick Law (11)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 100-YARDS RECEIVING

Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	Kendrick Law (124)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH CONSECUTIVE 100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES

Sept. 21, 2024	vs. Ohio	Dane Key (145)
Sept. 28, 2024	at Ole Miss	Dane Key (105)

HAD A PLAYER WITH THREE CONSECUTIVE 100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES

Sept. 4, 2021	vs. Louisiana-Monroe	Wan'Dale Robinson (125)
Sept. 11, 2021	vs. Missouri	Wan'Dale Robinson (101)
Sept. 18, 2021	vs. Chattanooga	Wan'Dale Robinson (111)

HAD A TWO PLAYERS WITH 100-YARDS RECEIVING

Oct. 25, 2025	vs. Tennessee	DJ Miller (120) Kendrick Law (103)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 1,000 RECEIVING YARDS IN A SEASON

2021	Wan'Dale Robinson	1,334 yards
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HAD A TRUE FRESHMAN WITH A RECEIVING TD IN FIRST THREE CAREER GAMES

Sept. 3, 2022	vs. Miami (OH)	Dane Key (1-yard)
Sept. 10, 2022	at Florida	Dane Key (55-yards)
Sept. 17, 2022	vs. Youngstown State	Dane Key (3-yards)

HAD A PLAYER WITH A RECEIVING TD IN THREE STRAIGHT GAMES

Sept. 3, 2022	vs. Miami (OH)	Dane Key (1-yard)
Sept. 10, 2022	at Florida	Dane Key (55-yards)
Sept. 17, 2022	vs. Youngstown State	Dane Key (3-yards)

HAD A PLAYER WITH THREE TD RECEPTIONS

Sept. 27, 2016	vs. New Mexico State	C.J. Conrad (72-yards; 9-yards; 17-yards)
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HAD A PLAYER WITH 100 RUSHING AND 100 RECEIVING YARDS

Nov. 11, 2006	vs. Vanderbilt	Rafael Little (132 rushing; 114 receiving yards)
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HAD A 100-YARD PASSER AND A 100-YARD RUSHER

Oct. 3, 2020	vs. Ole Miss	Terry Wilson (151 passing; 129 rushing yards)
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HAD A 100-YARD RUSHER AND A 100-YARD RECEIVER

Jan. 1, 2022	vs. Iowa (Citrus Bowl)	Chris Rodriguez (107 rushing); Wan'Dale Robinson (170 receiving)
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HAD SAME PLAYER SCORE A RUSHING AND RECEIVING TD

Nov. 25, 2023	at Louisville	Ray Davis (20-yard reception; 20-yard reception; 37-yard rush)
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HAVE A PLAYER THROW, RUSH AND RECEIVE A TD IN SAME GAME

Oct. 9, 2010	vs. Auburn	Randall Cobb (2-yard rush; 6-yard pass; 16-yard reception; 1-yard rush)
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HAD A PLAYER SCORE A TOUCHDOWN IN TEAM'S FIRST SIX GAMES

Sept. 2, 2023	vs. Ball State	Ray Davis (2-yard rush; 30-yard rush)
Sept. 9, 2023	vs. ECU	Ray Davis (24-yard catch)
Sept. 16, 2023	vs. Akron	Ray Davis (58-yard catch; 55-yard rush)
Sept. 23, 2023	at Vanderbilt	Ray Davis (2-yard rush; 1-yard rush)
Sept. 30, 2023	vs. Florida	Ray Davis (9-yard catch; 75-yard rush; 3-yard rush; 33-yard catch)

Oct. 7, 2023	at Georgia	Ray Davis (26-yard catch)
Oct. 14, 2023	vs. Missouri	Ray Davis (7-yard catch)
Oct. 28, 2023	vs. Tennessee	Ray Davis (7-yard rush)

HAD A PLAYER THROW TWO TDS AND RUSH FOR A TD IN CONSECUTIVE GAMES

Sept. 26, 2015	vs. Missouri	Patrick Towles (14-yard rush; 24-yard pass; 5-yard pass)
Oct. 3, 2015	vs. ECU	Patrick Towles (1-yard rush; 36-yard pass; 5-yard pass; 3-yard pass)

HAVE A PLAYER THROW A TD PASS, CATCH A TD AND RETURN A PUNT FOR A TD IN THE SAME GAME

Sept. 11, 2010	vs. WKU	Randall Cobb (50-yard punt return; 15-yard pass; 35-yard catch)
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WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME KENTUCKY ...

HAD A PLAYER SCORE A RUSHING, RECEIVING AND KICK RETURN TOUCHDOWN IN THE SAME GAME

Dec. 29, 2023 vs. Clemson (Gator Bowl) Barion Brown (22-yard rush; 100-yard kick return; 60-yard catch)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A KICKOFF FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Oct. 19, 2024 at Florida Barion Brown (99 yards)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Oct. 30, 2021 at Mississippi State Josh Ali (74 yards)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN AN INTERCEPTION FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Sept. 21, 2024 vs. Ohio Maxwell Hairston (25-yards)

HAD A PLAYER RECOVER/RETURN A FUMBLE FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Nov. 23, 2024 at Texas Jamon Dumas-Johnson (25-yards)

HAD A PLAYER SCORE TWO DEFENSIVE TDS IN THE SAME GAME

Sept. 23, 2023 at Vanderbilt Maxwell Hairston (29-yard interception; 54-yard interception)
*only instance in UK history

HAD A PLAYER RECOVER TWO FUMBLES IN SAME GAME

Dec. 5, 2020 vs. South Carolina Jordan Wright (2)

HAD A PLAYER INTERCEPT TWO PASSES IN SAME GAME

Sept. 6, 2025 vs. Ole Miss Ty Bryant (2)

HAD A PLAYER BLOCK A PUNT

Sept. 17, 2022 vs. Youngstown State Martez Thrower (attempt from YSU own 11-yard line)

HAD A PLAYER BLOCK A FIELD GOAL

Oct. 14, 2023 vs. Missouri Keaten Wade (46-yard attempt)

HAD A PLAYER BLOCK A PAT

Sept. 9, 2017 vs. ECU Lonnie Johnson Jr.

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A BLOCKED FG ATTEMPT FOR A TD

Oct. 2, 2021 vs. Florida Trevin Wallace (76-yard return); Josh Paschal (block of 48-yard attempt)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A BLOCKED PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Nov. 1, 2003 vs. Arkansas Andrew Hopewell (6-yard return off own block)

HAD A PLAYER SCORE A TOUCHDOWN ON A FAKE FIELD GOAL

Sept. 28, 2013 vs. Florida Joe Mansour (25-yard rush)

HAD A PLAYER MAKE A 50-YARD FIELD GOAL

Sept. 13, 2025 vs. ECU Jacob Kauwe (51 yards)

HAD A PLAYER KICK A 70-YARD PUNT

Oct. 30, 2021 at Mississippi State Colin Goodfellow (70 yards)

PLAYED AN OVERTIME GAME

Oct. 18, 2025 vs. Texas L, 16-13^{OT}

WON AN OVERTIME GAME

Oct. 3, 2015 vs. ECU W, 34-27^{OT}

WON A GAME ON THE LAST PLAY OF REGULATION AS TIME EXPIRED

Oct. 27, 2018 at Missouri Terry Wilson (2-yard pass to C.J. Conrad on an untimed down)



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME AN OPPONENT ...

SCORED 40 POINTS

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville 41 points (L, 41-0)

SCORED 50 POINTS

Oct. 25, 2025 vs. Tennessee 56 points (L, 56-34)

SCORED 10 OR FEWER POINTS

Nov. 15, 2025 vs. Tennessee Tech 10 points (W, 42-10)

SHUTOUT KENTUCKY

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville 0 points (L, 41-0)

SHUTOUT KENTUCKY IN SECOND HALF

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville 0 points (21-0)

RUSHED FOR 300 YARDS

Oct. 26, 2024 vs. Auburn 326-yards

PASSED FOR 300 YARDS

Nov. 22, 2025 at Vanderbilt 539-yards

HAD 500 YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE

Nov. 22, 2025 at Vanderbilt 604-yards

RECORDED A SAFETY

Aug. 30, 2025 vs. Toledo Langston Long tackled QB in endzone

BLOCKED A PUNT

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville Eric Hazzard (UK attempt from own 32-yard line)

BLOCKED A FIELD GOAL

Nov. 12, 2022 vs. Vanderbilt Nate Clifton (37-yard attempt)

BLOCKED A PAT

Sept. 30, 2023 vs. Florida Caleb Banks

HAD A PLAYER WITH 30 RUSH ATTEMPTS

Oct. 24, 2020 at Missouri Larry Rountree (37)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 100-YARDS RUSHING

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville Braxton Jennings (113)
Shaun Boykins Jr. (101)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 200-YARDS RUSHING

Oct. 26, 2024 vs. Auburn Jarquez Hunter (278)

HAD TWO PLAYERS WITH 100-YARDS RUSHING

Nov. 29, 2025 at Louisville Braxton Jennings (113)
Shaun Boykins Jr. (101)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 40 PASS ATTEMPTS

Sept. 13, 2025 vs. Eastern Michigan Noah Kim (42)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 25 COMPLETIONS

Nov. 22, 2025 at Vanderbilt Diego Pavia (33)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 300-YARDS PASSING

Nov. 22, 2025 at Vanderbilt Diego Pavia (484)

HAD TWO PLAYERS WITH 100-YARDS PASSING

Sept. 14, 2019 vs. Florida Feleipe Franks (174)
Kyle Trask (126)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 10 RECEPTIONS

Sept. 28, 2024 at Ole Miss Tre Harris (11 catches for 176-yards)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 100-YARDS RECEIVING

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State Lynn Wyche-El (7 catches for 111-yards)

HAD A PLAYER WITH 200-YARDS RECEIVING

Sept. 13, 2014 at Florida Demarcus Robinson (216)

HAD TWO PLAYERS WITH 100-YARDS RECEIVING

Nov. 22, 2025 at Vanderbilt Tre Richardson (159-yards on six catches)
Junior Sherrill (115-yards on eight catches)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A KICKOFF FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Oct. 31, 2015 vs. Tennessee Evan Berry (100-yards)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Nov. 28, 2020 at Florida Kadarius Toney (50-yards)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A BLOCKED FIELD GOAL FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Oct. 17, 2009 at Auburn Neiko Thorpe (69-yard return on a 39-yard FG attempt blocked by Jake Ricks)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A BLOCKED PUNT FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Sept. 26, 2009 vs. Florida Chris Rainey (26-yards on own block)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN AN INTERCEPTION FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Oct. 25, 2025 vs. Tennessee Edrees Farooq (45-yards)

HAD A PLAYER RETURN A FUMBLE FOR A TOUCHDOWN

Sept. 27, 2025 at South Carolina Jatius Geer (41-yard return on Dylan Stewart sack and forced fumble at the UK 41-yard line)



TRACKING THE FIRSTS UNDER WILL STEIN ...

FIRST GAME AS KENTUCKY HEAD COACH

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State Kroger Field

FIRST WIN AS KENTUCKY HEAD COACH

Sept. 5, 2026 def. Youngstown State 45-13 (Kroger Field)

FIRST WIN AT HOME

Sept. 5, 2026 def. Youngstown State 45-13

FIRST WIN ON THE ROAD

FIRST SEC WIN

FIRST WIN OVER A RANKED TEAM

FIRST COMEBACK WIN

FIRST FOURTH-QUARTER COMEBACK WIN

FIRST GAME SCORING 40-PLUS POINTS

Sept. 5, 2026 def. Youngstown State 45 points

FIRST OFFENSIVE TOUCHDOWN

Sept. 5, 2026 Youngstown State CJ Baxter Jr. 15-yard rush

FIRST RUSHING TOUCHDOWN

Sept. 5, 2026 Youngstown State CJ Baxter Jr. 15-yard rush

FIRST PASSING TOUCHDOWN

Sept. 5, 2026 Youngstown State Kenny Minchey 10-yard pass to Mikkell Skinner

FIRST RECEIVING TOUCHDOWN

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State Mikkell Skinner 10-yards

FIRST 100-YARD RUSHER

FIRST 100-YARD RECEIVER

FIRST 300-YARD PASSER

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State Kenny Minchey 301-yards

FIRST 400-YARD OFFENSIVE GAME

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 506-yards

FIRST 500-YARD OFFENSIVE GAME

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 506-yards

FIRST 3-PLUS PASSING TD GAME

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State Kenny Minchey (4 TDs)

FIRST 3-PLUS RUSHING TD GAME

FIRST GAME WITH 4-PLUS TOTAL TDS

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 6 total TDs

FIRST GAME WITHOUT A TURNOVER

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 0 turnovers

FIRST GAME WITH ZERO SACKS ALLOWED

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 0 sacks

FIRST GAME SCORING ON THE OPENING POSSESSION

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State CJ Baxter Jr. 15-yard rush

FIRST DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWN

FIRST INTERCEPTION

FIRST FORCED FUMBLE

FIRST FUMBLE RECOVERY

FIRST SACK

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State Ahmad Breaux 5-yard loss

FIRST MULTI-SACK GAME

FIRST 10-PLUS TACKLE GAME

FIRST GAME HOLDING OPP. UNDER 100 RUSHING YDS.

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 59 yards

FIRST GAME HOLDING OPP. UNDER 200 TOTAL YDS. OFFENSE

FIRST SHUTOUT

FIRST SAFETY

FIRST GOAL-LINE STAND

FIRST FOURTH-DOWN STOP

Sept. 5, 2026 vs. Youngstown State 1st quarter (4th and 6 from UK 41)

FIRST PAT

FIRST FIELD GOAL

FIRST BLOCKED KICK

FIRST BLOCKED PUNT

FIRST SPECIAL TEAMS TOUCHDOWN



INDIVIDUAL/TEAM RECORDS

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

.926	Alex Raynor (2023-24); 25-27 FG
.857	Joe Mansour (2010-13); 12-14 FG
.824	Marc Samuel (1997, 99); 14-17 FG
.791	Austin MacGinnis (2014-17); 72-91 FG
.765	Jacob Kauwe (2025); 13-17 FG
.750	Matt Ruffolo (2019-22); 42-56 FG

FRESHMAN RECORDS

Most Touchdown Receptions, Game

2	DJ Miller vs. Tennessee (Oct. 25, 2025)
	Barion Brown vs. Northern Illinois (Sept. 24, 2022)
	6 others

100-Yard Receiving Games

	DJ Miller vs. Tennessee (Oct. 25, 2025)
	Barion Brown vs. Northern Illinois (Sept. 24, 2022)
	Barion Brown vs. Georgia (Nov. 19, 2022)
	Garrett Johnson vs. Florida (Sept. 13, 2014)
	Rafael Little vs. Georgia (Nov. 6, 2004)
	Tommy Cook vs. Indiana (Dec. 1, 2001)
	Derek Homer vs. Alabama (Oct. 4, 1997)
	Andy Murray vs. LSU (Oct. 18, 1986)



KROGER FIELD

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



- Since its opening in 1973, Kentucky has played 347 games within the friendly confines of newly named Kroger Field. **UK has a 188-151-4 record (.554).**
- 2026 marks the 54th 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. Since the 1999 expansion, UK has averaged 60,261 fans per game and ranked in the nation's top 30 teams in attendance in 17 of the last 19 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 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.

NEW LIGHTING, RIBBON BOARDS

In 2024, Kroger Field featured brand new lighting and ribbon boards. The LED lighting system will include the ability to do light shows during timeouts and breaks in play similar to those at games in Rupp Arena and Kentucky Proud Park. The new ribbon boards have greater functionality, featuring sharper visual resolution than the previous set and expanded capability for display of video and graphics.

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.

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

GAME DAY EXPERIENCES

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

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

TOP ATTENDANCES AT KROGER FIELD (SINCE 2015 RENOVATION)

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