



KENTUCKY FEED THE STUDS. FOOTBALL

KENTUCKY

Date	Opponent (TV)	Time
S. 5	YOUNGSTOWN STATE (SECN+)	1 P.M.
S. 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

2025 Record / SEC Record 5-7 / 2-6
 AP / AFCA Coaches Poll NR / NR
 Head Coach Will Stein
 Career Record at UK (Years) 0-0 (1st)
 On-Field Career Record Same
 Last Game L, 41-0 at Louisville (11/29)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
 1 P.M. ET • SEC NETWORK+
 LEXINGTON, KY.
 KROGER FIELD



YOUNGSTOWN PENGUINS

2026 Record / MVFC Record 1-0 / 0-0
 AP / AFCA Coaches Poll NR / NR
 Head Coach Doug Phillips
 Record at YSU (Years) 32-35 (7th)
 Career (Years) Same
 Last Game W, 43-10 vs. Mercyhurst (8/27)

GAME INFORMATION

TV - SEC NETWORK+

Play-by-Play Kevin Fitzgerald
 Analyst Charlie Strong

RADIO - UK SPORTS NETWORK OR UKATHLETICS.COM

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

SATELLITE RADIO - SIRIUSXM

Channel: 167

TICKET INFORMATION - UKATHLETICS.COM

BY THE NUMBERS

62 - NEW PLAYERS ON THE ROSTER FOR 2026

210 - CAREER TOTAL GAMES PLAYED BY THE OFFENSIVE LINE AT THE FBS LEVEL (91 STARTS).

5 - STRAIGHT VICTORIES IN SEASON OPENERS AND EIGHT OF THE PAST NINE

7 - UK FACES SEVEN OPPONENTS RANKED IN THE PRESASON AP TOP 25 AND THREE OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES

OPENING KICK NEED-TO-KNOWS

- Kentucky football will open the **Will Stein** era against Youngstown State. 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 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.
- Kentucky will take on the Penguins from Youngstown State for the second time in program history. The Cats earned a 31-0 victory at Kroger Field on Sept. 17, 2022, in the team's only other meeting.
- Since 1998 when FBS opponents were able to schedule FCS teams, UK is 22-0 in those matchups.
- Kentucky has won by an average margin of 29 points per game against FCS opponents in that span.
- 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 has won six consecutive home-openers. It is the longest home-opening streak for the Cats since winning eight straight home lid-lifters from 1987-94* (does not include the 2021 season).
- Kentucky has averaged more than 30 points in home season openers since the Bear Bryant era.
- Kentucky football was one of the most aggressive programs in the country in the transfer portal. Stein's first portal class ranks No. 8 by The Athletic, No. 9 by ESPN and No. 10 by 247Sports.
- The transfer class is bringing more than 20,000 career snaps to the 2026 roster, doubling the amount of veteran experience on the team compared to last season.
- When **Kenny Minchey** takes the first snap under center as UK's starting quarterback, Kentucky will have opened 10 consecutive seasons (2017-26) with a transfer quarterback.
- UK's offensive line has combined to play in 210 career games and have made 91 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 Brockermeyer.



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	No availability	vs. Youngstown State 1 p.m. ET SECN+ Kroger Field	No availability

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collegepressbox

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cess, please register for an account at collegepress-

MEDIA SERVICES

CREDENTIAL APPROVALS/DENIALS

For the Youngstown State game, requests are being accepted through Sportssystems and the dead-line to apply is Monday, Aug. 31 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 web-site 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 tele-phone 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	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	Ahmir Smith	RB	5-10	200	Jr.
29	Jordan Colbert	RB	6-2	215	Jr.
30	Grant Grayton	DB	6-3	194	So.
31	Quintavion Norman	ILB	6-3	223	Jr.
32	Devin Smith	ILB	6-0	231	Jr.
33*	Sam Brown III	DB	5-11	172	Fr.

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

21*	Nasir Addison	DB	6-0	191	Sr.	Newark, N.J. (Irvington HS)
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	Mi’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)
84	Davis McCray	WR	6-2	196	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas (Cornerstone Christian Academy)



ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

27	Isaiah McMillian	DB	6-1	176	Fr.	Katy, Texas (Katy HS)
64	Ryan Meeker	OL	6-1	311	Fr.	Wheelersburg, Ohio (Wheelersburg 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	Quintavion 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	217	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)

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
Jamarrion (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
Quintavion (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)

NUMERICAL ROSTER

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.
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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.

WEEK ONE: YOUNGSTOWN STATE

- Kentucky will take on the Penguins from Youngstown State for the second time in program history. The Cats earned a 31-0 victory at Kroger Field on Sept. 17, 2022, in the team’s only other meeting:
 - The Wildcats are 6-0 all-time against current Missouri Valley programs.
 - UK has outscored MVC foes by a 271-22 margin.
 - Kentucky has two shutouts against MVC teams (North Dakota in 1950 and Youngstown State in 2022).
 - Five games have been decided by 20 or more points.
 - Kentucky is 22-0 all-time against teams from the Football Championship Subdivision/I-AA at the time of the game.
 - Since 1998 when FBS opponents were able to schedule FCS/I-AA teams, UK is 22-0 in those matchups.
 - Kentucky has won by an average margin of 29 points per game against FCS opponents since 1998.

OPENING KICK NEED TO KNOWS

- It will mark **Will Stein’s** first game as a collegiate head coach.
- Kentucky is 10-10-2 under permanent head coaches making their debut. A Stein victory would give UK a winning record in coaching debuts for the first time in program history
- The Wildcats have won three of their last five coaching debuts.
- Kentucky enters the 2026 season with a 92-37-5 (.685)* all-time record in season openers. The Wildcats have won eight of their last nine season openers and have captured five consecutive season-opening games entering the 2026 season.
- UK has won six consecutive home-openers. It is the longest home-opening streak for the Cats since winning eight straight home lid-lifters from 1987-94.*
- Kentucky has averaged more than 30 points in home-season openers since the Bear Bryant era, reflecting a strong tendency to start fast offensively.
- The highest scoring home openers in program history (since 1946) include:
 - 77 UTEP Sept. 7, 2002 W, 77-17
 - 72 Tennessee Tech Sept. 15, 1951 W, 72-13
 - 71 Miss. Southern Sept. 17, 1949 W, 71-7
 - 63 Western Kentucky Sept. 11, 2010 W, 63-28
 - 59 UT Martin Aug. 30, 2014 W, 59-14
 - 52 Eastern Kentucky Sept. 12, 1998 W, 52-7
 - 51 Eastern Kentucky Sept. 1, 2007 W, 51-10
 - 51 Indiana Sept. 18, 2004 W, 51-32

Notes above represented with an asterisk () do not include the 10 vacated wins in 2021.

IT'S STEIN TIME IN THE BLUEGRASS

- Kentucky football will open the **Will Stein** era against Youngstown State. 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 (letter-man 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),

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 (4)

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): 0-0 (1st yr.)
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

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
o 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
o Stein: “The standard applies to everyone.”
 - **Toughness:** ability to handle adversity, pressure, discomfort, and challenges while continuing to compete
o 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
o 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)**
o 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



TOP 25 POLLS

2026 AP TOP 25

1. Ohio State (40)
2. Oregon (14)
3. Georgia
4. Notre Dame (6)
5. Texas
6. Indiana (8)
7. Miami (1)
8. TEXAS A&M
9. Ole Miss
10. OKLAHOMA
11. LSU
12. Texas Tech
13. ALABAMA
- T14. Southern Cal
- T14. BYU
16. Michigan
17. Washington
18. Penn State
19. SMU
20. TENNESSEE
21. Utah
22. Iowa
23. Houston
24. LOUISVILLE
25. MISSOURI

UK OPPONENTS RECEIVING VOTES: Florida 51, South Carolina 10, Vanderbilt 8

2026 AFCA COACHES TOP 25

1. Ohio State (38)
2. Oregon (6)
3. Georgia (7)
4. Texas (2)
5. Notre Dame (5)
6. Indiana (14)
7. Miami
8. TEXAS A&M
9. OKLAHOMA
10. Ole Miss
11. ALABAMA
12. Texas Tech
13. LSU
14. Southern Cal
15. BYU
16. Michigan
17. Penn State
18. TENNESSEE
19. Washington
20. SMU
21. Utah
22. Iowa
23. Clemson
24. Houston
25. MISSOURI

UK OPPONENTS RECEIVING VOTES: Louisville 153, Florida 147, South Carolina 50, Vanderbilt 37

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)**
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.





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.
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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
*Tyler Thomas		4.5
Lorenzo Cowan		2.5
Tavion Gadson		2.5
*Jammarrion Harkless		2.5
Sam Greene		2.0
*Hasaan Sykes		2.0
Jaden Williams		1.5
*Dominic Wiseman		1.0
*Ahmad Breaux		0.5
Grant Godfrey		0.5

(^11.5 sacks at FCS/D-II)

*First season at UK

- 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 top 25.

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

THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME VS. NONCONFERENCE COMPETITION

- Kentucky football is 170-43-5 (.899) all-time against nonconference competition during the regular-season at home since the Bear Bryant era began in 1946. The coaches with the most home victories against nonconference opponents are below:

•	Mark Stoops	32-5-0 (.932)
•	Jerry Claiborne	24-2-3 (.862)
•	Bear Bryant	21-2-1 (.917)
•	Rich Brooks	19-5-0 (.896)
•	Fran Curci	17-9-1 (.796)
- In 2026, UK is in its 54th season playing at Kroger Field, which was formerly named Commonwealth Stadium (1973-2016).
 - The Cats are 187-151-4 (.553) 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.



STAT SUPERLATIVES

Most Games Played (min. 30):
Wilson Berry (44), Tegra Tshabola (43), Mi’Quise Humphrey-Grace (42), Henry Boyer (37), Ty Bryant (37), Jordan Castell (35), Lance Heard (35), Adam Zouagui (35), Olaus Alinen (32), Coleton Price (32), Jovantae Barnes (31), C.J. Baxter (31)

Most Games Started (min. 20):
Jordan Castell (34), Coleton Price (30), Tegra Tshabola (29), Mi’Quise Humphrey-Grace (27), Ty Bryant (25), Lance Heard (24)

Consecutive Games Started (min. 12, **unavailable to play due to injury does not count*): Jordan Castell (30), Coleton Price (29), Tegra Tshabola (29), Mi’Quise Humphrey-Grace (26), Lance Heard (21), Ty Bryant (18), Sam Greene (12), Jammarrion Harkless (12), Mark Robinson (12)

Consecutive Games with a Tackle (min. 12):
Ty Bryant (25), Teryhon Nichols (13)

Consecutive Games with a Reception (min. 5):
Shane Carr (23)

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

- 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.
- Entering the 2026 season, Minchey has seen action in 10 games and has connected on 23 of 29 passes for 212 yards. He has a passing efficiency rating of 140.7 to couple with 96 career rushing yards and one rushing touchdown.
 - Fun Facts:** He is Irish and enjoys traveling.

QB TRANSFERS

- When **Kenny Minchey** takes the first snap under center as UK’s starting quarterback, Kentucky will have opened 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

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 210 career games and have made 91 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.





2026 CAT SCRATCHES

- OL • OLAUS 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 Essedon’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)
- 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

- 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.

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 35 career games and made 24 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 32 games and making 30 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, Coleton 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 Amerian heritage, as Shiyazh Pete (Navajo Nation) was a starting offensive tackle in 2025.



2026 CAT SCRATCHES

- 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
- 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
- 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

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 24 career games with 10 starts.
 - Recorded 28 receptions for 404 yards and one score, while averaging 14.4 yards per reception for his career.
 - 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, the Hispanic Player of the Year Award Watch List and the Senior Bowl Top 300.
 - Fun Facts:** He his 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.

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.





2026 CAT SCRATCHES

- 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 felder 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, Tatyenna Armstrong, played volleyball at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss.; brother, Sam Freemon, 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

WIDE RECEIVING COMMITTEE

- Kentucky’s wide receiver room is one of the team’s biggest variables entering 2026. 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 51 receptions for 826 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.
 - Kenny Darby (6-1, 180 | Freshman)** - Was Will Stein’s first high school commitment ... 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.

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.
 - 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 (6-1, 230 | From Texas)** has 855 rushing yards and five TDs to couple with 1,052 yards from scrimmage and 36 receptions and a receiving TD. He has averaged 4.5 yards per carry with a career-long rush of 54 yards. Baxter was a five-star prospect and one of the nation’s top overall players in the class of 2023
 - 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 also had 17 catches for 85 yards with one TD and four kick returns for 57 yards
- 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 96 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 164 rushing yards from eclipsing 500 for his career.

DEFENSIVE NOTES

DEFENSIVE BLUEPRINT

- Kentucky’s defensive identity under Will Stein’s program structure is built around speed, toughness, discipline and creating situation-al 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 cover-ages.
- Create negative plays: a unit that attacks rather than reacts, create second-and-long and third-and-long situations to dic-tate 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 recommitts to Will Stein’s first roster.
- 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 86 solo tackles and 82 assists throughout his career. He’s also generated 13 pass breakups and three picks, while starting 34 of 35 career games.
 - 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.”



CATS IN THE PROS

A total of 21 former Kentucky Wildcats are currently on National Football League active rosters or practice squads. The list of those players is as follows (as of August 31, 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
Luke Fortner, C (2017-21)

Cleveland Browns
Brenden Bates, TE (2018-23)%

Detroit Lions
Kendrick Law, WR/KR (2025)%

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

Houston Texans
Zion Childress, DB (2022-24)

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 Wollschlaeger, 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*

- **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 16 career games with two starts - both coming a season ago.
 - 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.
 - 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 19 career games across two seasons for the Cats ... Logged six tackles and a pass breakup as a sophomore.



BY THE NUMBERS

	2026	Stein
Record on field.	0-0	0-0
SEC	0-0	0-0
West	0-0	0-0
East	0-0	0-0
Non-Conference.	0-0	0-0
Home	0-0	0-0
Road	0-0	0-0
Neutral site.	0-0	0-0
Night	0-0	0-0
Day	0-0	0-0
TV Games	0-0	0-0
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
September	0-0	0-0
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.	0-0	0-0
Opp scores on 1st possession.	0-0	0-0
UK scores first	0-0	0-0
Opponent scores first	0-0	0-0
UK leads after 1st quarter.	0-0	0-0
Opponent leads after 1stQ.	0-0	0-0
Teams are tied after 1stQ.	0-0	0-0
UK leads at halftime	0-0	0-0
Opponent leads at halftime	0-0	0-0
Teams are tied at halftime	0-0	0-0
UK leads after 3rd quarter	0-0	0-0
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.	0-0	0-0
Allowing less than 20 pts	0-0	0-0
Allowing 20+ points.	0-0	0-0
Allowing 30+ points.	0-0	0-0

UK has more total yards	0-0	0-0
Opp. has more total yds	0-0	0-0
UK has more rushing yards.	0-0	0-0
Opp. has more rushing yards.	0-0	0-0
UK has more passing yards.	0-0	0-0
Opp. has more passing yards.	0-0	0-0
Rushing for less than 100 yds.	0-0	0-0
Rushing for over 100 yards.	0-0	0-0
Rushing for 200+ yards	0-0	0-0
Passing for 200+ yards	0-0	0-0
Passing for 300+ yards	0-0	0-0

UK has 100-yard rusher.	0-0	0-0
Opp. has 100-yard rusher.	0-0	0-0

No turnovers	0-0	0-0
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	0-0	0-0
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.	0-0	0-0
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.	0-0	0-0
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	0-0	0-0
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

- **Quintavion Norman (6-3, 223)** - Appeared in three games thus far for the Cats over two seasons ... Coming out of high school, he earned All-Region honorable mention for Region 4-AAAAAA after totaling 6.0 sacks in seven games.

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 transfered 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 25 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 46 games and made 17 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 22 career games and made 12 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 128 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





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

- **Jaden Williams (6-4, 290)** - Appeared in nine games for UK in 2025 after playing for three seasons at Wyoming ... Has totaled 34 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 35 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

- **Jordan Castell** is 32 tackles from 200 for his career.
- **Ty Bryant** is 38 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 kickoffs at USF a season ago. He made 78 kicks for 4,991 yards and totaled 61 touchbacks.
 - He is 11 of 25 for his career on field goals and has scored 132 points.
 - 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.

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.



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)

GENERAL NOTES

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Kentucky has three 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.
- General Manager **Pete Nochta’s** father was also a UK player. John Nochta 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:

1. **Olaus Alinen** (Finance and Economics - Alabama, ‘25)
2. **Nic Anderson** (Liberal Studies - LSU, ‘26)
3. **Jovantae Barnes** (Multidisciplinary Studies - Oklahoma, ‘25)
4. **Ty Bryant** (Psychology - Kentucky, ‘26)
5. **Henry Boyer** (Finance - Kentucky, ‘26)
6. **Wilson Berry** (Kinesiology - Kentucky, ‘23; Master’s in Kinesiology and Health Promotion - Kentucky, ‘25)
7. **Elijah Brown** (Communication - UCF, ‘26)
8. **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:

1. **CJ Baxter** (Communication)

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.



- 2. **Aaron Gates** (Criminal Justice)
- 3. **Chops Harkless** (Liberal Studies)
- 4. **Mi’Quise Humphrey-Grace** (Criminal Justice)
- 5. **Spencer Leadbetter** (Communication & Undergraduate Certificate in Business and Economics)
- 6. **JacQai Long** (Business Administration)
- 7. **Jaden Williams** (Sociology)
- 8. **Adam Zoagui** (Economics)

DID YOU KNOW?

- A picture of longevity, UK equipment manager **Tom Kalinowski** enters 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 354 total UK football games, including 15 bowl games entering the 2026 season.
 - 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 achieve-

ment. 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	2028	2029
at Florida	FLORIDA	at Florida
SOUTH CAROLINA	at South Carolina	S. CAROLINA
TENNESSEE	at Tennessee	TENNESSEE
AUBURN	MISSOURI	ARKANSAS
GEORGIA	TEXAS A&M	OLE MISS
MISSISSIPPI STATE	OKLAHOMA	TEXAS
at 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 Kattas, 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 - TBA**



HEAD COACH WILL STEIN / FIRST SEASON / LOUISVILLE, 2011



STEIN'S RECORD VS.

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.....	0-0
TOTAL	0-0
HOME RECORD	0-0
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.....	0-0
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		
Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	42 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		
Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	Seth McGowan 1-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		
Oct. 25, 2025	vs. Tennessee	330 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		
Nov. 16, 2024	vs. Murray State	582 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		
Nov. 1, 2025	at Auburn	79 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, 20212	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)
HAD A PLAYER RUSH FOR 200 YARDS		
Sept. 30, 2023	vs. Florida	Ray Davis (280)
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)
HAD A PLAYER WITH THREE RUSHING TDS		
Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	Seth McGowan (3)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 50 PASSING ATTEMPTS		
Sept. 15, 2012	vs. WKU	Maxwell Smith (60)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 60 PASSING ATTEMPTS		
Sept. 15, 2012	vs. WKU	Maxwell Smith (60)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 30 PASS COMPLETITIONS		
Oct. 18, 2025	vs. Texas	Cutter Boley (31)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 300-YARDS PASSING		
Oct. 25, 2025	vs. Tennessee	Cutter Boley (330)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 400-YARDS PASSING		
Nov. 20, 2021	vs. New Mexico State	Will Levis (419)
HAD TWO PLAYERS PASS FOR 100 YARDS		
Sept. 14, 2013	vs. Louisville	Maxwell Smith (109) Jalen Whitlow (105)
HAD A PLAYER WITH THREE OR MORE PASSING TDS		
Oct. 25, 2025	vs. Tennessee	Cutter Boley (5)
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
HAD A PLAYER WITH 10 RECEPTIONS		
Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	Kendrick Law (11)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 100-YARDS RECEIVING		
Nov. 15, 2025	vs. Tennessee Tech	Kendrick Law (124)
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)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 1,000 RECEIVING YARDS IN A SEASON		
2021	Wan’Dale Robinson	1,334 yards

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)
HAD A PLAYER WITH 100 RUSHING AND 100 RECEIVING YARDS		
Nov. 11, 2006	vs. Vanderbilt	Rafael Little (132 rushing; 114 receiving yards)
HAD A 100-YARD PASSER AND A 100-YARD RUSHER		
Oct. 3, 2020	vs. Ole Miss	Terry Wilson (151 passing; 129 rushing yards)
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)
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)
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)
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. EKU	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. EKU	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)



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 *only instance in UK history	Maxwell Hairston (29-yard interception; 54-yard interception)
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 COMPLETITIONS		
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		
Nov. 22, 2025	at Vanderbilt	Tre Richardson (159-yards on six catches) Junior Sherrill (115-yards on eight catches)
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
FIRST WIN AT HOME
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
FIRST OFFENSIVE TOUCHDOWN
FIRST RUSHING TOUCHDOWN
FIRST PASSING TOUCHDOWN
FIRST RECEIVING TOUCHDOWN
FIRST 100-YARD RUSHER
FIRST 100-YARD RECEIVER
FIRST 300-YARD PASSER
FIRST 400-YARD OFFENSIVE GAME
FIRST 500-YARD OFFENSIVE GAME
FIRST 3-PLUS PASSING TD GAME
FIRST 3-PLUS RUSHING TD GAME
FIRST GAME WITH 4-PLUS TOTAL TDS
FIRST GAME WITHOUT A TURNOVER
FIRST GAME WITH ZERO SACKS ALLOWED
FIRST GAME SCORING ON THE OPENING POSSESSION
FIRST DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWN
FIRST INTERCEPTION
FIRST FORCED FUMBLE
FIRST FUMBLE RECOVERY

FIRST SACK
FIRST MULTI-SACK GAME
FIRST 10-PLUS TACKLE GAME
FIRST GAME HOLDING OPP. UNDER 100 RUSHING YDS.
FIRST GAME HOLDING OPP. UNDER 200 TOTAL YDS. OFFENSE
FIRST SHUTOUT
FIRST SAFETY
FIRST GOAL-LINE STAND
FIRST FOURTH-DOWN STOP
FIRST PAT
FIRST FIELD GOAL
FIRST BLOCKED KICK
FIRST BLOCKED PUNT
FIRST SPECIAL TEAMS TOUCHDOWN
FIRST GAME-WINNING FIELD GOAL



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 346 games within the friendly confines of newly named Kroger Field. **UK has a 187-151-4 record (.553).**
- 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 multi-media 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