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**ILLINOIS
FIGHTING ILLINI**
8-4, 5-4 BIG TEN



VS



**#23 TENNESSEE
VOLUNTEERS**
8-4, 4-4 SEC

TUESDAY, DEC. 30, 2025 | 4:30 P.M. CT | NASHVILLE, TENN. | NISSAN STADIUM

LIVE COVERAGE

TV | ESPN

- » TBA (play-by-play)
- » TBA (analyst)
- » TBA (sideline)



RADIO | Busey Bank Illini Sports Network

- » Brian Barnhart (play-by-play)
- » Carey Davis (analyst)
- » Michael Martin (sideline)
- » Steve Kelly (pre/half/post)



The broadcast can be heard live on **Tuneln** online radio, **SiriusXM**, the **SiriusXM App**, and at **FightingIllini.com/live**.

ILLINOIS SET FOR LIBERTY MUTUAL MUSIC CITY BOWL

- Illinois will play in the Music City Bowl for the first time in program history.
- Illinois will play Tennessee for the first time in program history.
- Illinois is back in a bowl game in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2010-11.
- Illinois head coach **Bret Bielema** will tie the Illini program record for bowl games coached with his third. Bielema is looking to tie the program record for bowl wins (2), while also trying to become the first coach in program history to win a bowl game in back-to-back seasons.
- Illinois is bowl eligible three times in a four-year span for the first time since 1991-94.



STACKING WINS

- Illinois tied the program record for wins during a two-year period with its 18th victory between the 2024 and 2025 seasons. It is the fourth time Illinois has won 18 games over a two-year period, joining 1901-02, 1902-03, and 1989-90.
- A win in Nashville would give Illinois its most wins over a two-year period in program history (19).
- Illinois has 8+ wins in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1989-90. The Illini have a chance to win 9+ games in back-to-back seasons for the first time in program history.
- **Bret Bielema** is the first head coach in Illinois history to win 8+ games three times.
- Illinois has 8+ wins three times in a four-year span for the first time since winning 8+ games in four straight years from 1901-04.
- The last time Illinois won 8+ games three times in a four-year span (1901-04), the program's 1904 season was coached by a group of four alumni.
- **Bret Bielema** set the program record for wins in a head coach's first five seasons. Bielema has won 36 games at Illinois, passing **Mike White's** 34 wins from 1980-84.
- Illinois set the program record for the most wins at Gies Memorial Stadium over a two-year period (12). The Illini are 12-2 at home over the last two years.
- Illinois won 23 Big Ten games in **Bret Bielema's** first five seasons at Illinois. It is Illinois' most Big Ten wins in a five-year period since also winning 23 Big Ten games from 1990-94.
- Illinois is 18-7 over the last two seasons, including 14 Power-4 wins, 11 Big Ten wins, and wins over teams from every other Power-4 conference: the SEC (vs. South Carolina, 2024), the ACC (at Duke, 2025), and the Big XII (Kansas, 2024).
- Illinois is 13-3 against unranked teams over the last two seasons (2024-25).
- Illinois is 12-2 at home over the last two seasons (2024-25), setting the program's all-time record for wins at Gies Memorial Stadium over a two-year period.
- Illinois has 31 wins over the last four seasons, tied for its most wins over a four-year period since winning 32 games from 1902-05.
- Illinois has 36 wins over the last five seasons, tied for its most wins over a five-year period since winning 37 games from 1981-85.
- Best records in the Big Ten over the last two seasons (2024-25):

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (8-4)

Aug. 29	Western Illinois	W, 52-3
Sept. 6	at Duke	W, 45-19
Sept. 13	Western Michigan <i>FamilLy Day</i>	W, 38-0
Sept. 20	at #19 Indiana	L, 10-63
Sept. 27	#21 USC <i>Homecoming</i>	W, 34-32
Oct. 4	at Purdue	W, 43-27
Oct. 11	#1 Ohio State <i>Orange Out</i>	L, 16-34
Oct. 25	at Washington	L, 25-42
Nov. 1	Rutgers <i>Dads Day</i>	W, 35-13
Nov. 15	Maryland <i>Military Appreciation</i>	W, 24-6
Nov. 22	at Wisconsin	L, 10-27
Nov. 29	Northwestern <i>Senior Night</i>	W, 20-13

Rankings are AP Top 25 from Aug.-Oct. / CFP Rankings in Nov.



HEAD COACH BRET BIELEMA

Rank	Team	Record	Rank	Team	Big Ten Record
1.	Ohio State	26-3	1.	Indiana	17-1
2.	Indiana	24-2		Oregon	17-1
	Oregon	24-2	3.	Ohio State	16-2
4.	Penn State	19-9	4.	Michigan	12-6
5.	Illinois	18-7		Iowa	12-6
6.	Michigan	17-8	6.	Illinois	11-7
7.	Iowa	16-9		Penn State	11-7
	USC	16-9		USC	11-7

QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location: Urbana-Champaign (140,000)

Founded: 1867

Enrollment: 60,848

Colors: Orange & Blue

Nickname: Fighting Illini

Conference: Big Ten

President: Timothy L. Killeen

Chancellor: Charles Lee Isbell Jr.

Director of Athletics: Josh Whitman

Stadium: Gies Memorial Stadium (60,670)

Stadium Surface: FieldTurf

HEAD COACH

Bret Bielema

Overall Record: 133-84 (.613), 17th season

Record at Illinois: 36-26 (.581), 5th season

Position Coaches:

Aaron Henry: Defensive Coordinator/Safeties

Barry Lunney Jr.: Offensive Coordinator/QBs

Terrance Jamison: Co-Def. Coordinator/DL

Robby Discher: Special Teams Coordinator/TEs

Archie McDaniel: Linebackers

Bart Miller: Offensive Line

Corey Parker: Defensive Backs

Trent Harris: Outside Linebackers

Justin Stepp: Wide Receivers

Thad Ward: Assistant Head Coach/RBs

FOOTBALL INFORMATION

2024 Record: 10-3, 6-3 (T-5th, Big Ten)

2024 Starters Returning/Lost: 16/6

Off: 9/2 Def: 7/4

2024 Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 48/27

All-Time Record: 650-632-51 (136th year in 2025)

All-Time Big Ten Record: 374-466-32 (130th year)

Gies Memorial Stadium Record: 296-258-14 (102nd year)

Big Ten Championships (Last): 15 (2001)

National Championships (Last): 5 (1951)

Bowl Appearances: 21

All-Time Bowl Record: 9-12

Last Bowl Appearance: 2024 Cheez-It Citrus Bowl

National Championships (Last): 5 (1951)

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATION

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FIGHTINGILLINI.COM

COLLEGEPRESSBOX.COM

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THE ILLINOIS OFFENSE

- The Illinois offense has improved every year since offensive coordinator **Barry Lunney Jr.**'s arrival. The Illini averaged 24.2 points per game in Lunney's first year in 2022, followed by 24.5 in 2023, 28.3 in 2024, and now 29.3 in 2025.
- QB **Luke Altmyer** ranked among the best QBs in the nation in four major passing categories during the regular season:

National	Big Ten	Category	Stat
18th	6th	Completion Percentage	68.1
20th	7th	Passing Efficiency	157.1
31st	6th	Passing Yards	2,811
29th	5th	Touchdown Passes	21

- Altmyer** has led Illinois on six game-winning drives in the final minute/OT from 2023-25, the most of any QB in the nation.
- Hank Beatty** is the only player in the nation with a passing, rushing, receiving, and punt return touchdown this season.
- Beatty** ranked in the Big Ten's top four in receptions (3rd, 64) and receiving yards (4th, 826) during the regular season.
- Altmyer** is looking to join **Nathan Scheelhaase** as the only starting quarterbacks in Illinois history to win two bowl games. Scheelhaase led Illinois to bowl game victories at the 2010 Texas Bowl (W, 38-14 vs. Baylor) and the 2011 Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl (W, 20-14 vs. UCLA).
- Altmyer's** 64.5% (612/949) career completion percentage at Illinois is currently the best in program history.
- Altmyer** is the first quarterback in program history to throw 20+ touchdowns in back-to-back seasons.
- Altmyer** has led Illinois to a 22-12 record as the team's starting QB, the third-most QB wins in program history:

Rank	Player, Years	QB Wins
1.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	24
2.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	23
3.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	22

- All-time Illinois single-season passing touchdown leaders:

Rank	Player, Year	Touchdown Passes
1.	Kurt Kittner, 2001	27
2.	Kurt Kittner, 1999	24
3.	Luke Altmyer, 2024	22
	Juice Williams, 2008	22
	Jeff George, 1989	22
6.	Luke Altmyer, 2025	21
	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2013	21
	Jon Beutjer, 2002	21

- All-time Illinois career passing touchdown leaders:

Rank	Player, Years	Touchdown Passes
1.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	70
2.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	56
	Juice Williams, 2006-09	56
4.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	55
	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	55

- All-time Illinois career passing yardage leaders:

Rank	Player, Years	Passing Yards
1.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	8,725
2.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	8,722
3.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	8,568
4.	Juice Williams, 2006-09	8,037
5.	Jason Verduzco, 1989-92	7,532
6.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	7,411

THE ILLINOIS DEFENSE

- Illinois tied with USC for the Big Ten lead in forced fumbles (11) during the regular season and ranked 20th in the nation.
- Illinois led the Big Ten in fumbles recovered (9) during the regular season and ranked 13th in the nation.
- Gabe Jacas** led the Big Ten in sacks during the regular season (11.0) and ranked sixth in the nation.
- Jacas** ranks second in Illinois history in career sacks with 27.0. The Illinois career record of 44.5 is held by All-American **Simeon Rice**, who played for the Illini from 1992-95. Rice has held the Big Ten sacks record for 30 years.
- Jacas'** 27.0 career sacks is the most among active Big Ten players and the third most among all active FBS players.
- DB **Xavier Scott**, a Thorpe Award semifinalist last season, had surgery Sept. 24 and is out indefinitely.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

STUDENT-ATHLETES

18	Michael Bartolotta	BAR-toh-LAW-tuh
80	Hank Beatty	BAY-dee
0	Justin Bowick	BOH-ick
13	Hudson Clement	cluh-MENT
31	Murphy Clement	cluh-MENT
96	Eli Coenen	KOO-nehn
32	Tywan Cox	ty-WAWN
36	Tomiwa Durojaiye	TOH-me-wah dur-oh-JEYE-AY
3	Kaden Feagin	KAY-dihn FAY-gihn
76	Dylan Frechette	freh-SHETT
56	Guillermo Gallardo	ghee-AIR-moh ghy-ARD-doh
73	Josh Gesky	GUESS-kee
83	Tysean Griffin	TY-shawn
16	Tanner Heckel	HECK-uhl
56	JJ Hirdes	HUR-duss
89	Tanner Hollinger	HAWL-ing-er
45	Malachi Hood	MEL-uh-KY
17	Gabe Jacas	ACK-us
54	Demetrius John	DUH-me-TREE-us
26	Ismael Kante	IHZ-mayl kan-TAY
2	Saboor Karriem	suh-BOR kuh-REEM
72	Ayden Knapik	kuh-NAP-ick
71	Nathan Knapik	kuh-NAP-ick
41	James Kreutz	KREW-tz
64	Josh Kreutz	KREW-tz
21	Aidan Laughery	LAW-fer-ree
87	Tyler McClure	muh-CLEWR
68	Michael McDonough	mick-DUHN-uh
18	Mason Muragin	mur-AH-ghin
15	Jershaun Newton	jur-SHAWN
39	Kenenna Odeluga	kuh-NEN-uh OH-duh-LOO-guh
24	David Olano	oh-LAW-noh
27	Lucas Osada	oh-SAY-duh
27	Corey Rashad	ruh-SHAWD
81	Lars Rau	ROW (like cow)
0	Mac Resetich	ruh-SEHT-itch
12	Amar Reynolds	uh-MAR
28	Dylan Rosiek	ROH-zee-ek
54	Griffin Rousseau	ROO-soh
63	Dezmond Schuster	SHOO-ster
13	Xanai Scott	zuh-NEYE
14	Xavier Scott	EX-ay-veer
79	Zafir Stewart	zah-FEAR
88	Davin Stoffel	STAW-ful
25	Des Straughton	STRAWT-uhn
78	Eddie Tuerk	TERK
5	Ca'Lil Valentine	kuh-LEEL
22	Cedric Wyche II	WHY-ch

COACHES

Bret Bielema	BEEL-ma
Barry Lunney Jr.	LUN-ee

STADIUM

Gies Memorial Stadium	GEESE
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THE ILLINOIS SPECIAL TEAMS

- **Hank Beatty** is 16th in the nation and fourth in the Big Ten in punt return yards (213) while averaging 16.4 yards per punt return.
- **David Olano** hit 12 straight field goals between the Western Illinois and Rutgers games, tied for the second-longest streak in Illinois history behind only Mike Bass' 13 straight in 1982.
- **Olano** is 26th in the nation in kickoff touchback percentage (51/67, 76.1%).
- **Keelan Crimmins** is averaging 44.0 yards per punt (35 punts for 1,539 yards), which would rank sixth-best in a single season in Illinois history.

THE BIELEMA ERA

- **Bret Bielema** is 36-26 during his Illinois career. His .581 winning percentage is the second-best in Illinois history among head coaches that have coached at least 50 games for the Fighting Illini.
- Best winning percentages in Illinois history (minimum 50 games):

Rank	Illinois Head Coach	Win Pct.	Record
1.	Robert Zuppke, 1913-41	.618	131-81-13
2.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	.581	36-26
3.	Mike White, 1980-87	.533	47-41-3
4.	Ray Eliot, 1942-59	.532	83-73-11

- **Bielema** has 23 Big Ten wins in his first five seasons at Illinois. It is Illinois' most Big Ten wins in a five-year stretch since also winning 23 Big Ten games from 1990-94.
- **Bielema's** seven ranked wins as Illinois head coach are the third-most in program history.

Rank	Illinois Head Coach	Ranked Wins
1.	Ray Eliot, 1942-59	23
2.	John Mackovic, 1988-91	8
3.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	7

- **Bielema** is the first head coach in Illinois history to win 5+ games in each of his first five seasons in Champaign.
- **Bielema's** four road/neutral ranked wins (AP/Coaches/CFP) are the most of any coach in Illini history during his first four seasons in Champaign (2021 Penn State, 2021 Minnesota, 2024 Nebraska, 2024 South Carolina).
- **Bielema** has won at least eight games in two of his first four seasons at Illinois, becoming the first Illini head coach since John Mackovic (1988-91) to reach eight wins twice in his first four seasons in Champaign.
- **Bielema** will tie the Illinois record for most bowls coached during this year's bowl game with his third.
- **Bielema's** 11 Big Ten road wins are tied with Mike White for the most ever by an Illinois head coach during his first five seasons.
- **Bielema** will tie the Illinois record for most bowls coached during this year's Liberty Mutual Music City Bowl:

Rank	Illinois Head Coach	Bowls	Bowls Coached (Season)
1.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	3	ReliaQuest (2022), Citrus (2024), Music City (2025)
	John Mackovic, 1988-91*	3	All-American (1988), Citrus (1989), Hall of Fame (1990)
	Lou Tepper, 1991-96*	3	John Hancock (1991), Holiday (1992), Liberty (1994)
	Mike White, 1980-87	3	Liberty (1982), Rose (1983), Peach (1985)
5.	Ron Zook, 2005-11^	2	Rose (2007), Texas (2010)
	Ron Turner, 1999-2004	2	Micronpc.com (1999), Sugar (2001)
	Ray Eliot, 1942-59	2	Rose (1946), Rose (1951)

* - Lou Tepper coached the 1991 John Hancock Bowl after John Mackovic departed.

^ - Ron Zook led the 2011 Illini to the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl, but did not coach in the game.

ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO RISE

- Illinois hosted 408,453 fans at Gies Memorial Stadium this season for an average of 58,350 fans per game.
- Illinois' season attendance surpassed 400,000 for the sixth time in program history and the first time since 1994.
- Illinois' 58,350 fans per game average was the program's highest since 2009 when 59,544 fans attended per game.
- Illinois sold out four straight games this season, tying the program's longest sellout streak since 1982-87 (28 straight). The Illini also sold out four straight games during the 2008 season.
- Illinois sold out games against Western Michigan (Sept. 13), USC (Sept. 27), Ohio State (Oct. 11), and Rutgers (Nov. 1).
- Illinois announced on May 21 that its season tickets had sold out for the first time in at least 20 years. The Fighting Illini's final season ticket total is over 42,000, including sold-out student season tickets.
- Illinois' attendance has increased every season under head coach **Bret Bielema**.
- Illinois' attendance has increased by 65% since head coach **Bret Bielema** arrived in 2021.

2025 ALL-BIG TEN

Player	Coaches	Media
Gabe Jacas, DL-Edge	1st	2nd
J.C. Davis, OT	2nd	1st
Hank Beatty, WR	3rd	3rd
Hank Beatty, Returner	HM	HM
Matthew Bailey, DB	HM	HM
Tomiqa Durojaiye, DL-Interior	HM	HM
Josh Gesky, OL	HM	HM
Dylan Rosiek, LB	HM	HM
James Thompson Jr., DL-Interior	HM	HM
Juice Clarke, DB	HM	-
Lane Hansen, LS	HM	-
David Olano, K	HM	-
Luke Altmeyer, QB	-	HM
Torrie Cox Jr., DB	-	HM

ILLINI IN THE NFL

Active Roster

OL Isaiah Adams, Arizona Cardinals
 DB Tony Adams, New York Jets
 OL Nick Allegretti, Washington Commanders
 RB Chase Brown, Cincinnati Bengals
 DB Sydney Brown, Philadelphia Eagles
 WR Pat Bryant, Denver Broncos
 QB Tommy DeVito, New York Jets
 LB Jake Hansen, Houston Texas
 DB Nate Hobbs, Green Bay Packers
 DB Kerby Joseph, Detroit Lions
 OL Ted Karras, Cincinnati Bengals
 OL Vederian Lowe, New England Patriots
 DB Jartavius Martin, Washington Commanders
 K Chase McLaughlin, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
 DL Jer'Zhan Newton, Washington Commanders
 OL Alex Palczewski, Denver Broncos
 LB Del'Shawn Phillips, Los Angeles Chargers
 OL Tip Reiman, Arizona Cardinals
 DL Dawuane Smoot, Jacksonville Jaguars
 WR Casey Washington, Atlanta Falcons
 DL Jihad Ward, Tennessee Titans
 WR Isaiah Williams, New York Jets
 CB Devon Witherspoon, Seattle Seahawks

Practice Squad

DE Seth Coleman, Indianapolis Colts
 DL Denzel Daxon, Arizona Cardinals
 DL TeRah Edwards, Los Angeles Chargers
 OL Kendrick Green, Buffalo Bills
 WR Malik Turner, San Francisco 49ers

RANKED WINS

- Illinois is 5-4 against AP Top 25 opponents over the last two seasons (2024-25). From the 2008 Rose Bowl game through the 2023 season, Illinois went 3-40 against AP Top 25 teams (and one of those wins was by Bielema in 2021).
- Illinois' ranked wins over the last two seasons: Kansas (#19), at Nebraska (#22), Michigan (#24), and vs. South Carolina (#14) in 2024, then USC (#21) in 2025.
- All five of Illinois' ranked wins over the last two seasons have come as underdogs.
- Illinois has beaten a ranked opponent in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1994 (7-year run from 1988-94).
- Illinois tied the program record with four ranked wins in 2024, joining the 1946 and 1983 teams as the only squads in Illini history to defeat four AP Top 25 ranked teams.
- **Bret Bielema** is 7-9 against ranked teams as Illinois head coach. His .438 winning percentage against ranked teams is second-best in Illinois history, behind only John Mackovic (8-8, .500).

TURNOVER BATTLE

- Illinois has thrown only 12 interceptions over the last two seasons (2024-25), tied for the fifth-fewest in the nation and tied with Indiana and Oregon for the fewest in the Big Ten.
- Illinois is 14-2 when it has committed zero or one turnover over the last two seasons (2024-25). The Illini's two losses during that stretch were at Indiana and at Wisconsin this season.
- Illinois is 14-1 when it has forced one or more turnovers over the last two seasons (2024-25). The Illini's only loss during that stretch was at Oregon last season, when the Illini gained a fourth-quarter interception.

ONE-SCORE WINS

- Illinois is 12-4 in one-score games over the last three seasons (2023-25), tying the program record for one-score wins with five in back-to-back seasons in 2023 and 2024.
- Illinois' two one-score wins in 2025 were the 34-32 last-second victory over #21 USC and a 20-13 snow-covered win over Northwestern during Rivalry Week.
- Illinois' five one-score wins in 2023 and 2024 tied the program record first set in 1934.
- Illinois was 5-1 in one-score games in 2024 with wins over #19 Kansas, at #22 Nebraska, Purdue, at Rutgers, and vs. #14 South Carolina (Cheez-It Citrus Bowl).
- Illinois was an underdog in seven of its 12 one-score wins over the past three seasons, including five as road/neutral dogs.
- Illinois' five one-score wins in 2023 tied for the third-most in the nation during the regular season, behind only Old Dominion and Washington, which each had six one-score wins during the 2023 regular season.
- Illinois is 4-0 in overtime games under **Bret Bielema** with wins against #7 Penn State (9 OT, 2021, road), Indiana (1 OT, 2023, home), #22 Nebraska (1 OT, 2024, road), and Purdue (1 OT, 2024, home).
- Eight of Illinois' 12 one-score wins over the last three seasons have come in the final minute or overtime.
 - » 2025: Illinois beat #21 USC on a game-winning field goal by **David Olano** with 0:00 left.
 - » 2024: Illinois topped #22 Nebraska and Purdue in overtime and beat Rutgers with 0:04 left.
 - » 2023: K **Caleb Griffin** had game-winning field goals to beat Toledo (0:05) and Maryland (0:00), and WR **Isaiah Williams** had game-winning TD receptions from QB **John Paddock** at Minnesota (0:50) and against Indiana (OT) in back-to-back weeks in November.
- QB **Luke Altmeyer** has led six game-winning drives in the final minute or overtime during his Illini career, the most in the nation among active quarterbacks.
 - » 2025: Led the Illini on a game-winning field goal drive vs. #21 USC with 0:00 left.
 - » 2024: Threw the deciding touchdown to **Pat Bryant** in the opening drive of overtime wins over #22 Nebraska and Purdue, plus hit Bryant with 0:04 left at Rutgers for a game-winning 40-yard touchdown.
 - » 2023: Led the Illini on last-second field goal drives against Toledo (0:05) and Maryland (0:00).
- In 2024, **Altmeyer** led the nation in game-winning touchdown passes in the final minute/OT with three (at Nebraska, Purdue, at Rutgers).

COMEBACK WINS

- Illinois has six fourth-quarter comeback wins over the last two seasons (2024-25).
- Illinois has one fourth-quarter comeback victory this season, a 34-32 win over #21 USC after trailing 32-31 before **David Olano's** game-winning 41-yard field goal as time expired.
- Four of Illinois' six fourth-quarter comebacks over the last two seasons have come against ranked teams.
- Illinois led the nation with five fourth-quarter comeback wins in 2024. The Illini pulled off fourth-quarter comeback wins over #19 Kansas, at #22 Nebraska, Purdue, at Rutgers, and against #14 South Carolina in the Citrus Bowl.
- Illinois is 17-0 when leading at halftime over the last two seasons.

2025 AWARDS AND HONORS

QB Luke Altmeyer

- » Unitas Golden Arm Award Final 25
- » Davey O'Brien Award Class of 2025 (top 36)
- » Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week vs. Rutgers
- » Unitas Golden Arm Player of the Week at Purdue
- » Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week vs. USC
- » Hornung Award Player of the Week vs. USC
- » Davey O'Brien Award "Great 8" vs. USC
- » Manning Award Stars of the Week vs. USC
- » Maxwell Award Watch List
- » Walter Camp Player of the Year Watch List
- » Davey O'Brien Award Watch List
- » Manning Award Watch List
- » Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

TE Tanner Arkin

- » John Mackey Award Watch List

WR Hank Beatty

- » Sporting News Midseason All-America First Team
- » Jet Award Midseason Watch List
- » Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week vs. WIU
- » Biletnikoff Award Watch List
- » Paul Hornung Award Watch List

P Keelan Crimmins

- » Ray Guy Award "Ray's 8" vs. Western Michigan

OL J.C. Davis

- » Outland Trophy Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

RB Kaden Feagin

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team
- » Doak Walker Award Watch List
- » Comeback Player of the Year Watch List

LS Lane Hansen

- » Patrick Mannelly Award Watch List

OLB Gabe Jacas

- » Senior Bowl Player of the Week at Duke
- » Lombardi Award Midseason Watch List
- » ESPN Preseason All-America First Team
- » Athlon Preseason All-America Third Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-America Fourth Team
- » Lott IMPACT Trophy Watch List
- » Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List
- » Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

RB Aidan Laughery

- » Doak Walker Award Watch List

LB Kenenna Odeluga

- » Orange Bowl-FWAA Courage Award nominee
- » Witten Man of the Year Watch List
- » Allstate Good Works Team nominee
- » Wuerffel Trophy Watch List

K David Olano

- » Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week at Purdue
- » Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week vs. USC
- » Groza Award Stars of the Week at Purdue
- » Groza Award Stars of the Week vs. USC

TE Cole Rusk

- » Comeback Player of the Year Watch List

DB Xavier Scott

- » Athlon Preseason All-America Third Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-America Fourth Team
- » Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Watch List
- » Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List
- » Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

Head Coach Bret Bielema

- » Bear Bryant Coach of the Year Midseason Watch List
- » Allstate Good Works Team nominee
- » Dodd Trophy Watch List

ALTMYER'S HAT TRICK VS. USC

- Illinois QB **Luke Altmeyer** accounted for four touchdowns on three different ways (2 passing, 1 rushing, 1 receiving) and 359 yards of offense in #23 Illinois' 34-32 win over #21 USC.
- First player with 300+ passing yards, passing TD, rushing TD, and receiving TD in a Big Ten game in at least 30 years.
- First player with a rushing, receiving, and passing touchdown in a Big Ten game since 2011 (Vincent Smith, MICH vs. MINN).
- First Illini to have a passing, rushing, and receiving TD in a game since 1999 (**Kurt Kittner**, MicronPC.com Bowl vs. UVA).
- Altmeyer engineered his national-leading sixth game-winning drive in the final minute or overtime over the last three seasons, as he led the #23 Illini on the game-winning drive that ended on a field goal as time expired.
- Receiving touchdown, the first of Altmeyer's career, came off a pass from WR **Hank Beatty** on a third-down trick play.

BEATTY BREAKS RED'S RECORD

- **Hank Beatty** broke Illinois' 102-year-old single-game punt return record in the season opener against Western Illinois when he totaled 133 yards on four returns. The previous record of 125 yards was set by **Red Grange** vs. Nebraska (10/6/1923).
- Highlighting **Beatty's** returns was a 69-yard TD in the third quarter, Illinois' first punt returned for a touchdown since **V'Angelo Bentley** vs. Ohio State (11/16/2013).
- **Beatty's** 69-yard touchdown was Illinois' longest punt return touchdown since **Christian Morton** (80 yards) vs. Indiana (11/4/2000), 25 years ago.

FAMILIAR FACES

- Illinois returned 18 starters from its Cheez-It Citrus Bowl victory over #14 South Carolina, tied with Michigan for the most returning starters of any bowl team in the nation, and ahead of Arizona State, Clemson and Penn State with 16.
- Illinois returned 16 season starters from last year's 10-win campaign, which is tied with Arizona State, Clemson, and Penn State for the most returning starters in the nation. Alabama, Boise State, Duke, San Diego State, and Texas A&M are next with 14 returning season starters.
- Illinois offensive coordinator **Barry Lunney Jr.**, who returned for his fourth season, is the longest-tenured offensive coordinator in the Big Ten.
- Illinois defensive coordinator **Aaron Henry**, who returned for his third season, is the third-longest-tenured defensive coordinator in the Big Ten behind only Iowa's Phil Parker (14th season) and Oregon's Tosh Lupoi (fourth season).
- Illinois is the only Power-4 team that returned its offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator, and starting quarterback for a third straight season in 2025.
- Illinois was the only Big Ten team to have the same head coach, offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator, strength coach, and starting quarterback in 2023 and 2024. All five are back again in 2025.
- Illinois is one of six Big Ten teams that returned both its offensive and defensive coordinators in 2025, along with Indiana, Iowa, Michigan State, Northwestern, and Oregon.
- Illinois and Oregon were the only Big Ten teams to return both their off. and def. coordinator for at least the third straight season.
- Illinois returned nine of its 10 primary position coaches in 2025.
- Of Illinois' 14 All-Big Ten honorees in 2024, 12 returned to the Illini in 2025, including All-Big Ten First Team selection **Xavier Scott** and third-team picks **J.C. Davis**, **Gabe Jacas**, and **Hank Beatty**.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Illinois has 24 college graduates on its 2025 roster (full list on Page 15), the fourth-most in the Big Ten behind only Northwestern (34), UCLA (31), and Minnesota (25). Illinois' 24 graduates is the 16th-most in the nation.
- Illinois has had five straight semesters above a 3.0 team GPA, the most consecutive semesters over 3.0 in program history.

FIVE BROTHERS

- Illinois leads the nation in brothers on the roster with five sets, one more set than Auburn (4), Kentucky (4), and USC (4).

<u>Older Brother</u>	<u>Younger Brother</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
WR Hudson Clement (Jr.)	RB Murphy Clement (R-Fr.)	Martinsburg, W.Va.
DB Torrie Cox Jr. (Sr.)	DB Tywan Cox (Fr.)	Miami, Fla.
OL Ayden Knapik (Jr.)	OL Nathan Knapik (R-Fr.)	Kennewick, Wash.
DB Xavier Scott (Sr.)	DB Xanai Scott (Fr.)	Riviera Beach, Fla.
OL Josh Kreutz (Sr.)	LB James Kreutz (Jr.)	Bannockburn, Ill.

- Illinois also has true freshman QB **JerShaun Newton**, who is the younger brother of former Illinois All-American and 2023 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year **Jer'Zhan Newton** (Washington Commanders), and LS **Lane Hansen**, who is the younger brother of former Illinois linebacker **Jake Hansen** (Houston Texans).
- **Bret Bielema** famously recruited **J.J. Watt** to Wisconsin, then his brother, Derek.
- **Bielema** also coached twins **Chase Brown** (Cincinnati Bengals) and **Sydney Brown** (Philadelphia Eagles) at Illinois.

TOTAL POINTS, SEASON

Rk	Year	G	Pts	PPG	Coach
1.	2010	13	423	32.5	Zook
2.	2001	12	390	32.5	Turner
3.	1999	12	388	32.3	Turner
4.	1902	13	380	29.2	Holt
5.	2024	13	368	28.3	Bielema
6.	2007	13	362	27.8	Zook
7.	2013	12	356	29.7	Beckman
8.	2025	12	352	29.3	Bielema
9.	2019	13	347	26.7	Smith
	1983	12	347	28.9	White

POINTS PER GAME, SEASON

Rk	Year	G	Pts	Avg	Coach
1.	2010	13	423	32.54	Zook
2.	2001	12	390	32.50	Turner
3.	1999	12	388	32.3	Turner
4.	2013	12	356	29.7	Beckman
5.	1984	11	323	29.4	White
6.	2025	12	352	29.3	Bielema
7.	1902	13	380	29.2	Holt
8.	1983	12	347	28.9	White
9.	2002	12	346	28.8	Turner
10.	2008	12	344	28.7	Zook
11.	2024	13	368	28.3	Bielema

TEAM WINS OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD

1.	2024-25	18
	1989-90	18
	1902-03	18
	1901-02	18
5.	1983-84	17
	1982-83	17
	1903-04	17
8.	1988-89	16
	1950-51	16

WINS AT GIES MEMORIAL STADIUM OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD

1.	2024-25	12
	1983-84	11
	1923-24	11
	1928-29	10

TEAM WINS OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD

1.	1901-04	35
2.	1900-03	33
3.	1902-05	32
4.	2022-25	31
	1981-84	31
6.	1989-92	30
	1988-91	30
	1982-85	30

TEAM WINS OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD

1.	1900-04	42
2.	1901-05	40
3.	1981-85	37
4.	2021-25	36
	1988-92	36
	1899-1903	36
7.	1989-93	35
8.	1982-86	34
	1980-84	34

HEAD COACH WINS, FIRST FIVE SEASONS

1.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	36
2.	Mike White, 1980-84	34
3.	John Mackovic, 1988-91 (four seasons)	30
4.	Ron Turner, 1997-2001	26
5.	Lou Tepper, 1992-96	25
6.	Bob Blackman, 1971-75	24
	Ray Eliot, 1942-46	24
	Robert C. Zuppke, 1913-17	24
	Arthur R. Hall, 1907-11	24
10.	Ron Zook, 2005-09	21

HEAD COACH 8+-WIN SEASONS

1.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	3
2.	Ron Turner, 1997-2004	2
	John Mackovic, 1988-91	2
	Edgar Holt, 1901-02	2

HEAD COACH BOWL GAMES COACHED

1.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	3*
	John Mackovic, 1988-91	3
	Lou Tepper, 1991-96	3
	Mike White, 1980-87	3
5.	Ron Zook, 2005-11	2
	Ron Turner, 1997-2004	2
	Ray Eliot, 1942-59	2

* - counts 2025 Liberty Mutual Music City Bowl

CAREER PASSING YARDAGE

1.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	8,725
2.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	8,722
3.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	8,568
4.	Juice Williams, 2006-09	8,037
5.	Jason Verduzco, 1989-92	7,532
6.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	7,411
7.	Tony Eason, 1981-82	7,031
8.	Wes Lunt, 2014-16	5,900
9.	Johnny Johnson, 1992-95	5,293
10.	Jon Beutjer, 2002-04	5,190

SEASON PASSING YARDAGE

1.	Tony Eason, 1982	3,671
2.	Tony Eason, 1981	3,360
3.	Jack Trudeau, 1985	3,339
4.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2013	3,272
5.	Kurt Kittner, 2001	3,256
6.	Juice Williams, 2008	3,173
7.	Dave Wilson, 1980	3,154
8.	Jason Verduzco, 1991	3,014
9.	Luke Altmyer, 2025	2,811
10.	Wes Lunt, 2015	2,761

CAREER PASS COMPLETIONS

1.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	797
2.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	775
3.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	682
4.	Jason Verduzco, 1989-92	678
5.	Luke Altmyer, 2025	612
6.	Juice Williams, 2006-09	606
7.	Tony Eason, 1981-82	561
8.	Wes Lunt, 2014-16	550
9.	Jeff George, 1988-89	474
10.	Jon Beutjer, 2002-04	462

SEASON PASS COMPLETIONS

1.	Jack Trudeau, 1985	322
2.	Tony Eason, 1982	313
3.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2013	287
4.	Wes Lunt, 2015	270
5.	Tommy DeVito, 2022	257
6.	Jason Verduzco, 1991	252
7.	Tony Eason, 1981	248
8.	Jack Trudeau, 1984	247
9.	Dave Wilson, 1980	245
10.	Jeff George, 1989	242
--	Luke Altmyer, 2025	226

CAREER PASS ATTEMPTS

1.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-01	1,264
2.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	1,245
3.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	1,231
4.	Juice Williams, 2006-09	1,136
5.	Jason Verduzco, 1989-92	1,083
6.	Wes Lunt, 2014-16	954
7.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	949
8.	Tony Eason, 1981-82	911
9.	Johnny Johnson, 1992-95	819
10.	Jeff George, 1988-89	789

CAREER COMPLETION PERCENTAGE (min. 500 att.)

1.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	64.49 (612-949)
2.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	64.02 (797-1,245)
3.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	62.96 (775-1,231)
4.	Jason Verduzco, 1989-92	62.60 (678-1,083)
5.	Tony Eason, 1981-82	61.58 (561-911)
6.	Jeff George, 1988-89	60.07 (474-789)

SEASON COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

1.	Tommy DeVito, 2022	69.65 (257-369)
2.	Luke Altmyer, 2025	68.10 (226-332)
3.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2013	66.74 (287-430)
4.	Jack Trudeau, 1984	65.34 (247-378)
5.	Jason Verduzco, 1992	65.25 (184-282)
6.	Luke Altmyer, 2023	64.81 (175-270)
7.	Jason Verduzco, 1990	64.55 (213-330)
8.	Jack Trudeau, 1985	63.68 (284-446)
9.	Wes Lunt, 2014	63.49 (153-241)
10.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2011	63.23 (184-291)

CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASSES

1.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	70
2.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	56
	Juice Williams, 2006-09	56
4.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	55
	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	55
6.	Jason Verduzco, 1989-92	42
7.	Jon Beutjer, 2002-04	39
8.	Tony Eason, 1981-82	38
9.	Wes Lunt, 2014-16	36
	Johnny Johnson, 1992-95	35

SEASON TOUCHDOWN PASSES

1.	Kurt Kittner, 2001	27
2.	Kurt Kittner, 1999	24
3.	Luke Altmyer, 2024	22
	Juice Williams, 2008	22
	Jeff George, 1989	22
6.	Luke Altmyer, 2025	21
	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2013	21
	Jon Beutjer, 2002	21
9.	Tony Eason, 1981	20
10.	Johnny Johnson, 1994	19
	Jack Trudeau, 1983	19
	Dave Wilson, 1980	19

CAREER PASSING EFFICIENCY

1.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	145.1
2.	Tony Eason, 1981-82	133.8
3.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	130.4
4.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2010-13	130.2
5.	Jason Verduzco, 1989-92	130.0
6.	Jon Beutjer, 2002-04	126.8
7.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	124.8
8.	Jeff George, 1988-89	122.8
9.	Brandon Peters, 2019-21	122.5
10.	Reilly O'Toole, 2011-2014	122.1

SEASON PASSING EFFICIENCY

1.	Luke Altmyer, 2025	157.1
2.	John Paddock, 2023	151.1
3.	Luke Altmyer, 2024	144.0
4.	Wes Lunt, 2014	141.6
5.	Tommy DeVito, 2022	141.2
6.	Nathan Scheelhaase, 2013	140.7
7.	Tony Eason, 1981	140.0
8.	Jon Beutjer, 2002	138.9
9.	Juice Williams, 2008	138.1
10.	Johnny Johnson, 1994	137.6

CAREER QUARTERBACK WINS

1.	Kurt Kittner, 1998-2001	24
2.	Jack Trudeau, 1981-85	23
3.	Luke Altmyer, 2023-25	22

SEASON RECEPTIONS

1.	David Williams, 1984	101
2.	David Williams, 1985	92
3.	A.J. Jenkins, 2011	90
4.	Isaiah Williams, 2023	82
	Isaiah Williams, 2022	82
6.	Mike Martin, 1982	77
7.	Mike Dudek, 2014	76
8.	David Williams, 1983	69
9.	Arrelious Benn, 2008	67
10.	Geronimo Allison, 2015	65
	Brandon Lloyd, 2002	65
	Brandon Lloyd, 2001	65
--	Hank Beatty, 2025	64

SEASON RECEIVING YARDAGE

1.	David Williams, 1984	1,278
2.	A.J. Jenkins, 2011	1,276
3.	David Williams, 1985	1,156
4.	Mike Martin, 1982	1,068
5.	Brandon Lloyd, 2001	1,062
6.	Isaiah Williams, 2023	1,055
	Arrelious Benn, 2008	1,055
8.	Mike Dudek, 2014	1,038
9.	Brandon Lloyd, 2002	1,010
10.	Steve Hull, 2013	993
--	Hank Beatty, 2025	826

SEASON 100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES

1.	Brandon Lloyd, 2001	6
	David Williams, 1985	6
	David Williams, 1984	6
4.	Steve Hull, 2013	5
	A.J. Jenkins, 2011	5
	Arrelious Benn, 2008	5
	Brandon Lloyd, 2002	5
	John Wright, Sr., 1966	5
9.	Pat Bryant, 2024	4
	Walter Young, 2002	4
	Mike Bellamy, 1989	4
	David Williams, 1983	4
	Mike Martin, 1982	4
	John Wright, Sr., 1965	4
--	Hank Beatty, 2025	3

SEASON POINTS SCORED

	TD	X1	X2	FG	TP	
1.	Mikel Leshoure, 2010	20	0	1	0	122
2.	Derek Dimke, 2010	0	43	0	24	115
3.	Rashard Mendenhall, 2007	19	0	0	0	114
4.	Neil Rackers, 1999	1	44	0	20	110
5.	Mike Bass, 1982	0	32	0	24	104
6.	Chris White, 1984	0	31	0	24	103
7.	Chase McLaughlin, 2018	0	36	0	20	96
8.	David Olano, 2025	0	41	0	17	92
	Jason Reda, 2007	0	44	0	16	92
9.	Howard Griffith, 1990	15	0	0	0	90
10.	Matt Eller, 2008	0	39	0	15	84

CAREER FIELD GOALS (since 1945)

1.	Chris White, 1983-85	53
2.	Chris Richardson, 1991-94	52
3.	Jason Reda, 2004-07	51
4.	Chase McLaughlin, 2015-18	44
5.	Mike Bass, 1980-82	41
6.	Derek Dimke, 2008-11	39
	Doug Higgins, 1987-90	39
8.	Dan Beaver, 1973-76	38
9.	James McCourt, 2018-21	37
10.	Taylor Zalewski, 2012-15	35
--	David Olano, 2023-25	34

SEASON MOST EXTRA POINTS WITH ZERO MISSED

	PAT	PCT
1.	Neil Rackers, 1999	44-44 1.000
2.	Derek Dimke, 2010	43-43 1.000
3.	David Olano, 2025	41-41 1.000
4.	Peter Christofilakos, 2002	40-40 1.000
5.	Taylor Zalewski, 2013	38-38 1.000
6.	Chase McLaughlin, 2018	36-36 1.000
7.	Doug Higgins, 1990	35-35 1.000
8.	Derek Dimke, 2011	34-34 1.000
9.	Chris White, 1984	33-33 1.000
10.	Caleb Griffin, 2022	32-32 1.000

SEASON PUNTING AVERAGE

1.	Steve Weatherford, 2004	45.4
2.	Blake Hayes, 2021	45.1
3.	Anthony Santella, 2010	44.8
4.	Blake Hayes, 2019	44.6
5.	Steve Weatherford, 2003	44.5
6.	Keelan Crimmins, 2025	44.0
	Justin DuVernois, 2014	44.0
8.	Blake Hayes, 2020	43.8
9.	Blake Hayes, 2018	43.6
10.	Dike Eddleman, 1948	43.0

CAREER PUNT RETURN AVERAGE (min. 12 returns)

1.	Dike Eddleman, 1946-48	20.4 (18-387)
2.	Gary Windy, 1970	14.8 (17-252)
3.	Hank Beatty, 2022-present	14.0 (38-531)
4.	V'Angelo Bentley, 2012-15	11.0 (50-550)
5.	Mike Gow, 1972-74	10.5 (62-650)
6.	Red Grange, 1923-25	10.1 (48-486)
7.	Eugene Wilson, 1999-2002	9.63 (93-896)
8.	Gary Voelker, 1992-93	9.59 (57-547)
9.	Marquis Mosely, 1993-96	9.4 (49-458)
10.	Isaiah Williams, 2019-23	9.1 (27-247)

SEASON PUNT RETURN AVERAGE (min. 7 returns)

1.	Dike Eddleman, 1948	32.8 (8-262)
2.	Christian Morton, 2000	24.4 (8-195)
3.	Dike Eddleman, 1947	21.5 (15-323)
4.	Hank Beatty, 2025	16.4 (13-213)
5.	V'Angelo Bentley, 2013	15.8 (12-189)
6.	Gary Windy, 1970	14.8 (17-252)
7.	Red Grange, 1923	14.13 (15-212)
8.	Hank Beatty, 2024	14.09 (22-310)
9.	Gary Voelker, 1992	12.2 (18-219)
10.	Miles Osei, 2013	12.0 (7-84)

CAREER PUNT RETURN YARDAGE

1.	Eugene Wilson, 1999-02	896 (93-9.6)
2.	Darryl Usher, 1985-87	756 (90-8.4)
3.	Mike Gow, 1972-74	650 (62-10.5)
4.	V'Angelo Bentley, 2012-15	550 (50-11.0)
5.	Gary Voelker, 1992-93	547 (57-9.6)
6.	Hank Beatty, 2022-25	531 (38-14.0)
7.	E.B. Halsey, 2003-06	491 (74-6.7)
8.	Red Grange, 1923-25	486 (48-10.1)
9.	Marquis Mosely, 1993-96	458 (49-9.4)
10.	Dike Eddleman, 1946-48	407 (20-20.4)

SEASON PUNT RETURN YARDAGE

1.	Dike Eddleman, 1947	323 (15-21.5)
2.	Hank Beatty, 2024	310 (22-14.1)
3.	Darryl Usher, 1987	308 (37-8.3)
3.	Eugene Wilson, 1999	304 (32-9.8)
4.	Mike Gow, 1972	282 (24-11.8)
5.	Eugene Wilson, 2002	270 (23-11.7)
6.	Darryl Usher, 1985	268 (27-9.9)
7.	Dike Eddleman, 1948	262 (8-32.8)
8.	Gary Windy, 1970	252 (17-14.8)
9.	Eugene Wilson, 2001	250 (25-10.0)
	Marquis Mosely, 1996	250 (25-10.0)
--	Hank Beatty, 2025	213 (13-16.4)

CAREER TACKLES FOR LOSS

1.	Simeon Rice, 1992-95	69-385
2.	Moe Gardner, 1987-90	57-226
3.	Jonathan Brown, 2010-13	45.5-155
4.	Fred Wakefield, 1997-2000	42-158
5.	Don Thorp, 1980-83	40-191
6.	Dawuane Smoot, 2013-16	38.5-176
	J Leman, 2004-07	38.5-113
8.	Kevin Hardy, 1992-95	38-220
9.	Gabe Jacas, 2022-25	35.5-188
10.	Danny Clark, 1996-99	35-146
	Scott Davis, 1985-87	35-20

CAREER QUARTERBACK SACKS (since 1983)

1.	Simeon Rice, 1992-95	44.5
2.	Gabe Jacas, 2022-25	27.0
3.	Scott Davis, 1983-87	23.0
4.	Fred Wakefield, 1997-2000	21.0
5.	Mike Poloskey, 1988-91	20.0
6.	Jer'Zhan Newton, 2020-23	18.0
	Whitney Mercilus, 2009-11	18.0
	Kevin Hardy, 1992-95	18.0
	Moe Gardner, 1987-90	18.0
10.	Dawuane Smoot, 2013-16	16.5

SEASON QUARTERBACK SACKS

1.	Whitney Mercilus, 2011	16.0
	Simeon Rice, 1994	16.0
2.	Mike Poloskey, 1991	15.0
4.	Simeon Rice, 1995	11.5
5.	Gabe Jacas, 2025	11.0
6.	Scott Davis, 1987	10.0
7.	Will Davis, 2007	9.5
8.	Oluwole Betiku Jr.	9.0
	Carroll Phillips, 2016	9.0
	Fred Wakefield, 2000	9.0
	Simeon Rice, 1992	9.0
	Moe Gardner, 1989	9.0
	Mel Agee, 1989	9.0
	Scott Davis, 1985	9.0

CAREER FORCED FUMBLES (since 1990)

1.	Simeon Rice, 1992-95	13
2.	Jake Hansen, 2016-21	12
3.	Whitney Mercilus, 2009-11	11
	Stanley Green, 2016-19	10
5.	Dana Howard, 1990-94	8
6.	Dylan Rosiek, 2021-25	7
	Mason Monheim, 2012-15	7
	Earnest Thomas III, 2011-2014	7
	Kevin Hardy, 1992-95	7
10.	Justin Harrison, 2004-07	6
	J Leman, 2004-07	6
	Derrick Strong, 2000-03	6
	Michael Young, 1997-2000	6
	Tyrone Washington, 1992-95	6

CAREER STARTS BY A TIGHT END

1.	Matt Cushing, 1994-97	36
2.	Tanner Arkin, 2023-25	28
3.	Josh Whitman, 1997-2000	26
	Evan Wilson, 2010-13	26
5.	Jon Davis, 2011-14	23
6.	David Olson, 1990-93	22

CAREER STARTS BY A DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

1.	Chris Norwell, 2004-07	46
2.	Gabe Jacas, 2022-25	43
3.	Seth Coleman, 2019-24	42
	Derek Walker, 2005-08	42
5.	Jer'Zhan Newton, 2020-23	38
	Akeem Spence, 2010-12	38

ILLINOIS BOWL HISTORY

Date	Bowl	Opponent	Result
Jan. 1, 1947	Rose	UCLA	W, 45-14
Jan. 1, 1952	Rose	Stanford	W, 40-7
Jan. 1, 1964	Rose	Washington	W, 17-7
Dec. 29, 1982	Liberty	Alabama	L, 15-21
Jan. 2, 1984	Rose	UCLA	L, 9-45
Dec. 31, 1985	Peach	Army	L, 29-31
Dec. 29, 1988	All-American	Florida	L, 10-14
Jan. 1, 1990	Citrus	Virginia	W, 31-21
Jan. 1, 1991	Hall of Fame	Clemson	L, 0-30
Dec. 31, 1991	John Hancock	UCLA	L, 3-6
Dec. 30, 1992	Holiday	Hawaii	L, 17-27
Dec. 31, 1994	Liberty	E. Carolina	W, 30-0
Dec. 30, 1999	MicronPC.com	Virginia	W, 63-21
Jan. 1, 2002	Sugar	LSU	L, 34-47
Jan. 1, 2008	Rose	USC	L, 17-49
Dec. 29, 2010	Texas	Baylor	W, 38-14
Dec. 31, 2011	Kraft Fight Hunger	UCLA	W, 20-14
Dec. 26, 2014	Heart of Dallas	La. Tech	L, 18-35
Dec. 30, 2019	Redbox	California	L, 20-35
Jan. 2, 2023	ReliaQuest	Miss. St.	L, 10-19
Dec. 31, 2024	Cheez-It Citrus	S. Carolina	W, 21-17

All-Time Record: 9-12

Streak: W1

New Years Bowls: 10 (5-5)

Most Points: 63 vs. Virginia (1999 MicronPC.com)

Biggest Margin: 42 vs. Virginia (1999 MicronPC.com)

Most Consecutive Wins: 3 (1947-64)

Most Consecutive Appearances: 5 (1988-92)

vs. **Pac-10/12:** 4-4

vs. **ACC:** 2-1

vs. **SEC:** 1-4

vs. **Independent:** 1-1

vs. **Big 12:** 1-0

vs. **WAC:** 0-1

vs. **C-USA:** 0-1



1947 ROSE BOWL

JAN. 1, 1947 // PASADENA, CALIF.

In the first Rose Bowl under the Big Ten-Pac 10 agreement, unheralded Illinois routed highly ranked UCLA, 45-14. Illinois running backs Julius Rykovich and Claude "Buddy" Young rushed for 103 yards apiece. During the course of the game, six different Illinois players scored touchdowns as the Fighting Illini racked up their first Bowl victory.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	6	19	0	20	45
UCLA	7	7	0	0	14

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL Julius Rykovich 1 run (kick failed)
- UCLA Ernie Case 1 run (Case kick)
- ILL Buddy Young 2 run (Maechtle kick)
- ILL Paul Patterson 4 run (kick failed)
- ILL Perry Moss 1 run (kick blocked)
- UCLA Al Hoisch 100 kick return (Case kick)
- ILL Buddy Young 1 run (Maechtle kick)
- ILL Ruck Steger 68 interception return (kick failed)
- ILL Stan Green 81 interception return (Maechtle kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 320-78-398; UCLA – 62-176-238.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Rykovich 18-103-1, Young 20-103-2; UCLA – Hoisch 4-27-0, Cal Rossi 10-25-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Moss 8-3-0-0-85; UCLA – Case 24-11-2-0-165.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Rykovich 1-44-0, Bill Huber 2-21-0; UCLA – Burr Baldwin 3-57-0, Dave Dobrow 2-28-0.



1952 ROSE BOWL

JAN. 1, 1952 // PASADENA, CALIF.

For three quarters, Illinois and Stanford battled in what appeared to be a low-scoring, defensive struggle. Late in the third quarter, Illinois scored the first of 34 unanswered points to blow out Stanford. Illinois took the lead on a six-yard touchdown run by Johnny Karras, then exploded for 27 fourth-quarter points to give Illinois and Head Coach Ray Eliot a second Rose Bowl victory in as many tries. Illinois rolled up 434 yards in total offense, with Mattoon's Bill Tate picking up 150 yards on the ground. The 1952 Rose Bowl was the first nationally telecast college football game on NBC.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	6	0	7	27	40
Stanford	7	0	0	0	7

SCORING SUMMARY

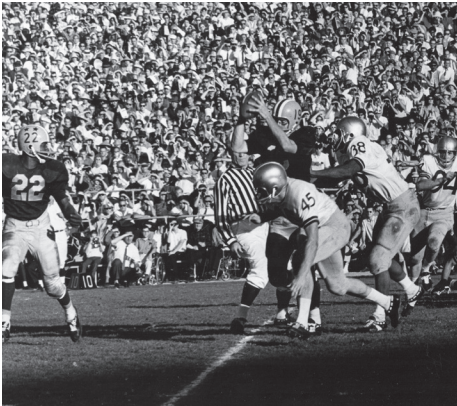
- ILL Pete Bachouras 6 run (kick failed)
- STAN Harry Hugasian 1 run (Gary Kerkorian kick)
- ILL Bill Tate 5 run (Sam Rebecca kick)
- ILL John Karras 7 run (Rebecca kick)
- ILL Bill Tate 8 run (Rebecca kick)
- ILL Don Stevens 7 run (kick blocked)
- ILL John Ryan 6 pass from Don Engels (Rebecca kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 371-73-444; STAN – 53-180-233.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Tate 20-150-1, Karras 13-58-1; STAN – Hugasian 14-41-1.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Tom O'Connell 14-6-1-0-67; STAN – Gary Kerkorian 22-11-2-0-166.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Bachouras 3-36-0; STAN – William McColl 4-62-0, Hugasian 4-49-0.



1964 ROSE BOWL

JAN. 1, 1964 // PASADENA, CALIF.

Illinois made its first appearance in Pasadena in 12 years, led by linebacker Dick Butkus and fullback Jim Grabowski. Illinois trailed 7-0 before Jim Plankenhorn's 32-yard field goal with one second remaining in the first half put the Illini on the scoreboard. Illinois came out strong in the second half, grinding out touchdowns in the third and fourth quarters to wear down the Huskies, 17-7. Grabowski earned MVP honors, gaining 125 yards and scoring one touchdown.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	3	7	7	17
Washington	0	7	0	0	7

SCORING SUMMARY

- WASH Dave Kopay 7 run (Ron Medved kick)
- ILL Jim Plankenhorn 32 FG
- ILL Jim Warren 2 run (Plankenhorn kick)
- ILL Jim Grabowski 1 run (Plankenhorn kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 102-43-145; WASH – 59-71-130.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Grabowski 23-125-1, Sam Price 10-55-0; WASH – Kopay 4-29-1, Steve Bramwell 5-22-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Fred Custardo 7-4-0-0-43, Mike Taliaferro 8-2-0-0-16; WASH – Bill Siler 17-6-3-0-46.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Ron Fearn 3-24-0; WASH – Al Libke 3-19-9.



1982 LIBERTY BOWL

DEC. 29, 1982 // MEMPHIS, TENN.

Illinois reappeared on the bowl scene after a 19-year absence, facing Alabama and Paul "Bear" Bryant, who was coaching his final game and finished his career as the winningest coach in college football history. Illinois saw its perfect bowl record snapped with a 21-15 loss. Fighting Illini quarterback Tony Eason set a Liberty Bowl record, throwing for 423 yards, but Alabama's bruising ground attack mustered 217 yards and proved to be the difference. The game would later become a made-for-television movie "Bear," starring Gary Busey.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	6	0	9	15
Alabama	7	0	7	7	21

SCORING SUMMARY

- BAMA Ricky Moore 4 run (Peter Kim kick)
- ILL Joe Curtis 1 run (kick failed)
- BAMA Jesse Bendross 8 run (Kim kick)
- ILL Oliver Williams 2 pass from Tony Eason (pass failed)
- ILL Mike Bass 23 FG
- BAMA Craig Turner 1 run (Kim kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 21-423-444; BAMA – 217-130-347.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Curtis 7-13-1, Richard Ryles 4-10-0; BAMA – Moore 13-65-1, Jeff Fagan 6-38-0, Turner 11-36-1.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Eason 55-35-4-1-423, Kris Jenner 3-0-3-0-0; BAMA – Walter Lewis 13-7-2-0-130.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Mike Martin 8-127-0, Williams 7-84-1, Tim Brewster 6-55-0; BAMA – Jesse Bendross 3-51-0, Joey Jones 2-60-0.



1984 ROSE BOWL

JAN. 2, 1984 // PASADENA, CALIF.

Head Coach Mike White led Illinois to a perfect 9-0 Big Ten Conference record and the first Fighting Illini visit to Pasadena in 20 years. UCLA ended fourth-ranked Illinois' hopes for a national championship with a 45-9 victory. The Bruins piled up 21 second-quarter points en route to a 28-3 halftime lead. UCLA quarterback Rick Neuheisel enjoyed the best game of his college career, completing 22 of 31 passes for 298 yards. The Bruins rushing attack ground out 232 yards to give UCLA 511 yards in total offense. Illinois ended the season with a 10-2 record, only the second Illinois team in history to win 10 or more games, and became the first and only team in conference history to defeat all nine Big Ten opponents in the same season.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	3	0	6	9
UCLA	7	21	10	7	45

SCORING SUMMARY

- UCLA Paul Bergmann 3 pass from Rick Neuheisel (Lee kick)
- ILL Chris White 41 FG
- UCLA Kevin Nelson 28 run (Lee kick)
- UCLA Karl Dorrell 16 pass from Neuheisel (Lee kick)
- UCLA Mike Young 53 pass from Neuheisel (Lee kick)
- UCLA Dorrell 15 pass from Neuheisel (Lee kick)
- UCLA John Lee 29 FG
- ILL Thomas Rooks 5 pass from Jack Trudeau (pass failed)
- UCLA Bryan Wiley 8 run (Lee kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 0-205-205; UCLA – 213-298-511.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Dwight Beverly 4-22-0, Thomas Rooks 8-21-0; UCLA – Nelson 18-69-1, Frank Cephus 12-86-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Yds.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Trudeau 39-23-3-1-178; UCLA – Neuheisel 31-22-0-4-298.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – David Williams 10-88-0, Tim Brewster 5-60-0; UCLA – Young 5-129-1, Dorrell 5-61-2, Bergmann 4-54-1.



1985 PEACH BOWL

DEC. 31, 1985 // ATLANTA, GA.

On a cold, rainy day in Atlanta, Army scored two touchdowns on halfback option plays to take an eight-point lead into the final five minutes. Trailing 31-23 with less than a minute left, Illinois quarterback Jack Trudeau hit All-American receiver David Williams for a 54-yard touchdown to bring the Fighting Illini within two points of a tie. Trudeau's two-point conversion pass attempt was broken up and Army handed Illinois its third consecutive Bowl defeat in the 1980s. Trudeau set Peach Bowl records with 38 completions in 55 attempts for 401 yards.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	3	13	7	6	29
Army	7	14	7	3	31

SCORING SUMMARY

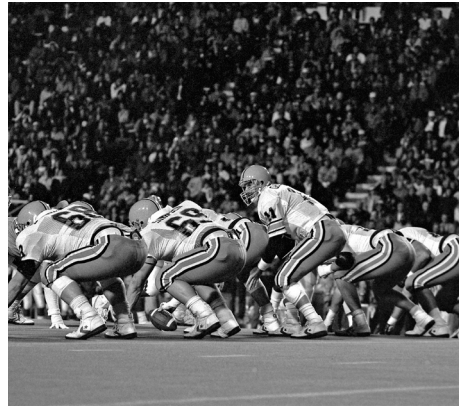
- ARMY Rob Healy 22 run (Stopa kick)
- ILL Chris White 45 FG
- ILL Cap Boso 1 pass from Jack Trudeau (White kick)
- ARMY Doug Black 1 run (Stopa kick)
- ARMY White 33 pass from Lampley (Stopa kick)
- ILL David Williams 15 pass from Trudeau (pass failed)
- ILL Ray Wilson 1 run (White kick)
- ARMY Spellmon 26 pass from Jones (Stopa kick)
- ARMY Craig Stopa 39 FG
- ILL Williams 54 pass from Trudeau (pass failed)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 77-401-478; ARMY – 291-94-385.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Thomas Rooks 10-35-0, Wilson 8-31-1; ARMY – Healy 23-107-1, Lampley 16-76-0, Black 15-73-1.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Yds.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Trudeau 55-38-2-3-401; ARMY – Healy 6-3-1-0-35.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – David Williams 7-109-2, Stephen Pierce 6-92-0, Anthony Williams 5-59-0.



1988 ALL-AMERICAN BOWL

DEC. 29, 1988 // BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Coach John Mackovic led Illinois to a surprising 6-4-1 record and a third-place finish in the Big Ten, earning a date with SEC powerhouse Florida in the All-American Bowl. On the first play from scrimmage, Florida freshman Emmitt Smith scampered 55 yards for a touchdown. Illinois tied the score on a 30-yard run by Keith Jones in the second quarter. After a fourth-quarter Doug Higgins field goal gave Illinois a three-point lead, Smith scored his second TD with less than four minutes remaining to give the Gators the victory.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	7	0	3	10
Florida	7	0	0	7	14

SCORING SUMMARY

- FLA Emmitt Smith 55 run (John Francis kick)
- ILL Keith Jones 30 run (Doug Higgins kick)
- ILL Doug Higgins 44 FG
- FLA Smith 2 run (Francis kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 55-194-249; FLA – 187-69-256.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Jones 18-88-1; FLA – Smith 28-159-2.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Jeff George 37-20-2-0-194; FLA – Kyle Morris 12-6-2-0-50.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Mike Bellamy 5-49-0; Steven Williams 5-49-0; FLA – Terence Barber 4-29-0.



1990 CITRUS BOWL

JAN. 1, 1990 // ORLANDO, FLA.

Illinois snapped a 26-year bowl victory drought with a 31-21 win over Virginia in the Florida Citrus Bowl. Illinois jumped on the Cavaliers early, with linebacker Bill Henkel recovering a fumble on the opening kickoff. Five plays later, quarterback Jeff George drilled a 15-yard scoring strike to Steven Williams. After Virginia tied the game early in the second quarter, George directed Illinois on an 80-yard scoring drive. Illinois opened the second half with an 84-yard drive capped by fullback Howard Griffith's three-yard touchdown. Early in the fourth quarter, receiver Mike Bellamy scored on a 26-yard pass from George to clinch an Illini victory. George earned MVP honors, completing 26-of-38 for 321 yards and three TDs.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	7	10	7	7	31
Virginia	0	7	7	7	21

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL S. Williams 15 pass from George (Higgins kick)
- UVA Finkelston 30 pass from Moore (McInerney kick)
- ILL Dan Donovan 1 pass from George (Higgins kick)
- ILL Doug Higgins 34 FG
- ILL Howard Griffith 3 run (Higgins kick)
- UVA Marcus Wilson 2 run (McInerney kick)
- ILL Mike Bellamy 24 pass from George (Higgins kick)
- UVA Moore 4 pass from S. Moore (McInerney kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 176-321-497; UVA – 110-112-222.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Griffith 18-93-0, Steve Feagin 10-54-0; UVA – Terry Kirby 8-64-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – George 38-26-1-3-321; UVA – S. Moore 27-17-2-2-191.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Bellamy 8-166-1, Williams 4-45-1; UVA – Finkelston 3-69-1, Herman Moore 5-56-1.



1991 HALL OF FAME BOWL

JAN. 1, 1991 // TAMPA, FLA.

The Fighting Illini's trip to the Hall of Fame Bowl would be Illinois' third bowl appearance in as many years under John Mackovic, but it would also be the most disappointing. The Tigers took the opening kickoff and marched 71 yards in 16 plays before All-American kicker Chris Gardocki kicked an 18-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead. Record-setting Illini running back Howard Griffith fumbled on Illinois' first play from scrimmage, and on the very next play, Tiger quarterback DeChane Cameron hit Doug Thomas with a 14-yard touchdown pass to give his team a 10-0 lead. The Tiger offense tacked on two more touchdowns in the second quarter, while the Clemson defense held the Fighting Illini to just 22 total yards in the half. Illinois got its offense on track in the second half with 225 yards, but never could find paydirt.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	0	0	0	0
Clemson	10	14	3	3	30

SCORING SUMMARY

- CLEM Chris Gardocki 18 FG
- CLEM Doug Thomas 14 pass from DeChane Cameron (Gardocki kick)
- CLEM Howard Hall 17 pass from Cameron (Gardocki kick)
- CLEM Arlington Nunn 34 interception return (Gardocki kick)
- CLEM Chris Gardocki 26 FG
- CLEM Chris Gardocki 43 FG

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 62-185-247; CLEM – 148-157-305.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Howard Griffith 15-59-0; CLEM – Cameron 17-76-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Jason Verduzco 25-13-2-0-121; CLEM – Cameron 20-14-0-2-141.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Shawn Wax 6-77-0; Steven Mueller 3-76-0; CLEM – Thomas 5-57-1; Terry Smith 3-43-0.



1991 JOHN HANCOCK BOWL

DEC. 31, 1991 // EL PASO, TEXAS

The Illini were playing their first game under new head coach Lou Tepper, who was named John Mackovic's replacement a little more than two weeks earlier when Mackovic took the head coaching job at Texas. The Illinois defense certainly came to play, holding the high-octane UCLA attack to just 268 yards of total offense. The Illini offense didn't fare much better, though, totaling 308 yards of its own in a classic defensive struggle. Illinois missed an early scoring opportunity when Jason Verduzco's pass was intercepted at the Bruin goal line. The Illinois defense forced a UCLA fumble six plays later, but promptly turned the ball back to the Bruins at the UI 24-yard line after a blocked punt. The Illinois defense held UCLA to a field goal. Both teams traded punches until Illini freshman Chris Richardson kicked a 27-yard field goal. The score remained tied until the opening drive of the fourth quarter when Illinois' Filmel Johnson fumbled a UCLA punt at the Illinois 11-yard line that led to a 19-yard Louis Perez field goal. Illinois LB Mike Poloskey earned the Jimmy Rogers Jr. Trophy as the game's Most Valuable Lineman.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	3	0	0	3
UCLA	3	0	0	3	6

SCORING SUMMARY

- UCLA Louis Perez 32 FG
- ILL Chris Richardson 27 FG
- UCLA Louis Perez 19 FG

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 119-189-308; UCLA – 92-176-268.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Steve Feagin 12-71-0; UCLA – Kevin Williams 24-52-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Jason Verduzco 38-17-3-0-189; UCLA – Tommy Maddox 28-17-1-0-176.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – John Wright 9-94-0; UCLA – Sean LaChapelle 5-69-0; Ricky Davis 4-41-0.



1992 HOLIDAY BOWL

DEC. 30, 1992 // SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

Coach Lou Tepper ended his first full year at the helm of the Illini by leading the team to its fifth-consecutive bowl appearance, the longest such streak in school history. Illinois' offense got off to a quick start against Hawaii, marching 73 yards in nine plays to take a 7-0 lead after the first quarter. The Illini were down by three, 10-7, at halftime, but Hawaii stormed out of the locker room to piece together scoring drives of 80 and 62 yards. On its opening possession of the fourth quarter, a botched Illini lateral gave Hawaii the ball on the Illini's 21, but the Illinois defense held the Rainbows to a field goal. On Illinois' next possession, an interception gave Hawaii the ball once again, and the Rainbows proceeded to kill Illinois' hopes for a victory by cruising for another score. John Wright caught his second TD pass of the contest in the waning minutes to make the final score 27-17.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	7	3	0	7	17
Hawaii	0	7	10	10	27

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL Wright 14 pass from Verduzco (Richardson kick)
- HAW Travis Sims 6 run (Elam kick)
- ILL Chris Richardson 19 FG
- HAW Travis Sims 1 run (Elam kick)
- HAW Jason Elam 45 FG
- HAW Jason Elam 37 FG
- HAW Branch 53 pass from Carter (Elam kick)
- ILL Wright 18 pass from Verduzco (Richardson kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 108-248-356; HAW – 287-115-402.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Darren Boyer 11-39-0; Steve Feagin 7-31-0; HAW – Travis Sims 29-113-2; Michael Carter 21-105-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Jason Verduzco 34-26-1-2-248; HAW – Michael Carter 16-6-2-1-15.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – John Wright 7-82-2; HAW – Darrick Branch 1-53-1.



1994 LIBERTY BOWL

DEC. 31, 1994 // MEMPHIS, TENN.

Making its sixth bowl appearance in seven years, Illinois dominated Liberty Bowl opponent East Carolina from the beginning. The Illini took a 14-0 first-quarter lead on Johnny Johnson touchdown passes to Ken Dilger and Jasper Strong. In the second quarter the Illini added a Chris Richardson field goal and a touchdown reception by Jason Dulick to pull away, 24-0. Illinois' final score came in the third quarter on another Johnson TD strike, this time to Ty Douthard. Johnson's four touchdown passes and 250 yards passing earned him Most Valuable Offensive Player and Most Valuable Player of the Game honors. The Illini defense forced four interceptions and a fumble, allowing a total of only 271 total yards. All-American linebacker Simeon Rice led the way with 10 tackles. The Liberty Bowl was the Illini's first Bowl victory since 1990. Illinois' 30-0 victory was the most lopsided win in Liberty Bowl history and was the only shutout posted among the 1994-95 Bowls.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	14	10	6	0	30
East Carolina	0	0	0	0	0

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL Dilger 17 pass from Johnny Johnson (Richardson kick)
- ILL Strong 73 pass from Johnson (Richardson kick)
- ILL Richardson 21 FG
- ILL Jason Dulick 5 pass from Johnson (Richardson kick)
- ILL Ty Douthard 30 pass from Johnson (kicked failed)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 134-255-389; ECU – 92-179-271.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Ty Douthard 13-52-0; Robert Holcombe 12-46-0; ECU – Marcus Crandell 41-20-4-0-179.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Johnny Johnson 30-18-0-4-250; Scott Weaver 4-2-0-0-5; ECU – Marcus Crandell 41-20-4-0-179.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): UI – Jasper Strong 3-96-1, Ken Dilger 7-60-1, Jason Dulick 3-30-1; ECU – Scott Richards 4-25-0, Jason Nichols 6-55-0.



1999 MICRONPC.COM BOWL

DEC. 30, 1999 // MIAMI, FLA.

The Illini took advantage of the school's first bowl appearance in five years with an impressive 63-21 victory over highly touted running back Thomas Jones and the Virginia Cavaliers. In a game which pitted two evenly matched, 7-4 squads, the Illini dominated with 611 yards of total offense and nine touchdowns. On the first drive of the game, Kurt Kittner led the Illini down field 71 yards and scored on a one-yard run. The Illini then rattled off 35 unanswered points, including a flea-flicker pass from wide receiver Brandon Lloyd to Kittner for 30 yards and a halftime score of 42-7. Kittner threw a school-record 24th touchdown pass on a one-yard reception to Jameel Cook. The Illini broke 22 Illinois and Micronpc.com Bowl records that night and scored the second-most points in collegiate bowl history.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	14	28	7	14	63
Virginia	7	0	7	7	21

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL Kurt Kittner 1 yd run (Neil Rackers kick)
- UVA Thomas Jones 7 yd run (Todd Braverman kick)
- ILL Rocky Harvey 47 yd run (Rackers kick)
- ILL Kittner 30 yd pass from Lloyd (Rackers kick)
- ILL Jameel Cook 61 yd pass from Kittner (Rackers kick)
- ILL Steve Havard 2 yd run (Rackers kick)
- ILL Cook 1 yd pass from Kittner (Rackers kick)
- UVA Kevin Coffey 5 yd pass from Ellis (Braverman kick)
- ILL Havard 2 yd run (Rackers kick)
- ILL Harvey 9 yd run (Rackers kick)
- ILL Kirk Johnson 1 yd run (Rackers kick)
- UVA Thompson 55 yd pass from Rivers (Braverman kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 325-286-611; UVA – 172-208-380.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Harvey 10-122-2; Havard 15-75-2; Kittner 4-11-1; Johnson 3-5-1; UVA — Jones 23-110-1.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Kittner 24-14-1-2-254; UVA – Ellis 32-15-1-1-146.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Cook 4-88-2, Lloyd 3-57-0, Dean 2-42-0, Young 1-31-0, Kittner 1-30-1; UVA — Jones 5-31-0, McMullen 3-31-0.



2002 SUGAR BOWL

JAN. 1, 2002 // NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Big Ten champion Illinois made a late rally but couldn't overcome LSU's fast start as it fell in its first-ever Bowl Championship Series contest 47-34 at the Nokia Sugar Bowl. The Tigers scored the game's first 28-points and jumped out to a 34-7 halftime advantage thanks to a 27-point second quarter that saw Domanick Davis run for a pair of scores and Rohan Davey throw for two more. The Illini matched LSU's hot start with a second half rally as Kurt Kittner threw for 182 yards and three scores after halftime to cut the Tiger lead to 13 midway through the fourth quarter. But Illinois couldn't get any closer as LSU converted a pair of third downs to run out the clock and get the win.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	7	14	13	34
LSU	7	27	7	6	47

SCORING SUMMARY

- LSU Domanick Davis 4 yard run (Corbello kick)
- LSU Davis 25 yard run (kick blocked)
- LSU Davis 16 yard run (Corbello kick)
- LSU Reed 5 yard pass from Davey (Corbello kick)
- ILL Hodges 2 yard pass from Kittner (Christofilakos kick)
- LSU Robert Royal 7 yard pass from Davey (Corbello kick)
- ILL Lloyd 17 yd pass from Kittner (Christofilakos kick)
- LSU Reed 32 yard pass from Davey (Corbello kick)
- ILL Lloyd 10 yd pass from Kittner (Christofilakos kick)
- ILL Young 17 yd pass from Kittner (Christofilakos kick)
- LSU Davis 4 yard run (pass failed)
- ILL Young 40 yard pass from Lloyd (pass failed)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 61-302-363; LSU – 151-444-595.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Harvey 9-42; Lloyd 1-14; Davis 4-13; Harris 2-3; LSU — Davis 28-122-4; Henderson 13-54.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Kittner 35-14-1-262-4; LSU — Davey 53-31-0-444-3.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Young 6-178-2; Lloyd 5-56-2; Davis 2-24; Harvey 1-42; Hodges 1-2-1; LSU — Reed 14-239-2; Clayton 8-120; Myers 4-51; Royal 2-15-1; Webster 2-14; Davis 1-5.



2008 ROSE BOWL

JAN. 1, 2008 // PASADENA, CALIF.

The Illini took themselves out of the 2008 Rose Bowl game with four turnovers, which resulted in 28 USC points, and squandered four trips in the red zone for no points to fall to the Trojans, 49-17. Making their first bowl appearance in six years, the Big Ten's second-place team squared off against No. 6 USC, the Pac-10 champs. Junior tailback Rashard Mendenhall rattled off 155 rushing yards on USC's fourth-ranked defense and added another 59 yards receiving. With a 21-3 halftime deficit, Illinois came out in the second half, scoring a quick touchdown on a 79-yard run by Mendenhall. After another 55-yard burst by Mendenhall, the Illini threatened inside the 20-yard line, but a Jacob Willis fumble near the goal line gave the momentum back to USC. From there, the Trojans scored 28 unanswered points before an Arrelious Benn 56-yard reception from Eddie McGee capped the game's scoring in the fourth quarter. Sophomore defender Vontae Davis tied an Illinois bowl record with 13 solo tackles. Early in the game, senior safety Justin Harrison picked off a John David Booty pass, returning it 45 yards, but a missed field goal gave the Illini no points.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	3	7	7	17
USC	14	7	14	14	49

SCORING SUMMARY

- USC Washington 8 yard pass from Booty (Buehler kick)
- USC Reed 34 yard pass from Green (Buehler kick)
- USC Washington 3 yard run (Buehler kick)
- ILL Jason Reda 28 yard field goal
- ILL Rashard Mendenhall 79 yard run (Reda kick)
- USC Davis 2 yard pass from Booty (Buehler kick)
- USC McKnight 6 yard run (Buehler kick)
- USC Ausberry 15 yard pass from Booty (Buehler kick)
- USC Hershel 3 yard run (Buehler kick)
- ILL Benn 56 yard pass from McGee (Reda kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 144-301-445; USC – 344-289-633.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – R. Mendenhall 17-155-1; McGee 2-7; Weil 2-1; Duffrene 1-0; Williams 15-(19); USC — McKnight 10-125-1; Johnson 9-104; Washington 12-75-1; Dennis 6-30-1; Adewale 1-17; Bradford 1-5; Havili 1-5; Booty 3-(17).
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Williams 35-21-2-0-245; McGee 1-1-0-1-56; USC — Booty 37-25-1-3-255; Green 1-1-0-1-34.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Benn 5-80-1; R. Mendenhall 5-59; Willis 4-74; Cumberland 3-37; Warren 3-25; Gamble 2-26; USC — Davis 7-87-1; McKnight 6-45; Havili 4-63; Washington 3-12; Ausberry 2-28; Johnson 2-15; Reed 1-34; Hazelton 1-5.



2010 TEXAS BOWL

DEC. 29, 2010 // HOUSTON, TEXAS

Mikel Leshoure ran for 184 yards and three touchdowns as Illinois earned its first bowl victory since 1999, beating Baylor 38-14 in the Texas Bowl. The Illini spoiled the Bears' first bowl appearance in 16 seasons. Both teams finished at 7-6. Leshoure had a 5-yard TD run in the second quarter, a 13-yard score in the third quarter, and another 5-yard touchdown run in the fourth period. The performance gave him the school single-season rushing record with 1,697 yards. The Illini built a 24-0 lead and Leshoure's last touchdown put the game out of reach. Leshoure was chosen the most valuable player. Illinois finished with 291 yards rushing and 533 yards of total offense to give coach Ron Zook his first bowl win as a head coach in his fourth try. Freshman quarterback Nathan Scheelhaase got off to a sensational start, completing all of his 13 passes in the first half, and finished 18 of 23 for 242 yards. He scored on a 55-yard touchdown run with 41 seconds to play to make it 38-14. Illinois opened the second half with an 87-yard drive capped by a 13-yard touchdown run by Leshoure. Leshoure also scored the 2-point conversion to extend the lead to 24-0 and set the Illinois single-season scoring record. Illinois led 9-0 before a 5-yard touchdown run by Leshoure about 10 minutes before halftime stretched the lead to 16-0. That score was set up by a 52-yard reception by Ryan Lankford a play earlier.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	6	10	8	14	38
Baylor	0	0	7	7	14

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL Derek Dimke 38 yard FG
- ILL Derek Dimke 28 yard FG
- ILL Derek Dimke 43 yard FG
- ILL Mikel Leshoure 5 yard run (Dimke kick)
- ILL Mikel Leshoure 13 yard run (Leshoure rush)
- BAY Jay Finley 4 yard run (Jones kick)
- BAY Kendall Wright 39 yard pass from Robert Griffin III (Jones kick)
- ILL Leshoure 5 yard run (Dimke kick)
- ILL Nathan Scheelhaase 55 yard run (Dimke kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 291-242-533; BAY – 124-313-437.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Leshoure 29-184-3; Ford 12-54-0; Scheelhaase 9-53-1; BAY — Finley 12-63-1; Griffin 16-44-0; Reese 1-17-0.
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Scheelhaase 23-18-0-0-242; BAY -- Griffin 41-30-0-1-306.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Jenkins 6-52-0; Fayson 4-31-0; Ford 3-29-0; Leshoure 2-21-0; Lankford 1-52-0; Millines 1-32-0; E. Wilson 1-25-0; BAY — Wright 12-127-1; Gordon 6-50-0; Taylor 5-81-0; Reese 3-22-0; Sampson 2-3-0; Williams 1-12-0; Monk 1-10-0; Buerck 1-8-0.



2011 KRAFT FIGHT HUNGER BOWL

DEC. 31, 2011 // SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Terry Hawthorne intercepted a Kevin Prince pass and returned it 39 yards for a touchdown with 43 seconds left in the third quarter to give Illinois its first lead of the game and the Illini held off UCLA for a 20-14 victory in the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl at AT&T Park. It marked the first time in school history that Illinois had won bowl games in consecutive years and snapped a six-game losing streak after the Illini began the season 6-0. Nathan Scheelhaase sealed the victory with a 60-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Jenkins midway through the fourth quarter. A stingy Illinois defense limited the Bruins to 18 yards rushing – the lowest by an FBS opponent since 2005 – and only 219 total yards of offense, and recorded five sacks, breaking the single-season school record. Consensus All-American Whitney Mercilus recorded 1.5 sacks, equaling Simeon Rice's school-record 16 from 1994, and giving him 22.5 tackles for loss on the season, the second-most in school history. Jenkins caught six passes for 80 yards on the day, falling two yards short of tying David Williams' single-season record for receiving yards with his season total of 1,276 yards. The game was played under unique circumstances as both schools had interim coaching staffs for the game, most of which were not retained after the bowl.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	3	7	10	20
UCLA	0	7	0	7	14

SCORING SUMMARY

- UCLA Embree 16 yard pass from Prince (Gonzalez kick)
- ILL Dimke 36 yard field goal
- ILL Hawthorne 39 yard interception return (Dimke kick)
- ILL Dimke 37 yard field goal
- ILL Jenkins 60 yd pass from Scheelhaase (Dimke kick)
- UCLA Rosario 38 yard pass from Prince (Gonzalez kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 178-148-326; UCLA – 30-201-231.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Scheelhaase 22-110; Young 12-45; Jenkins 1-16; Pollard 4-13; O'Toole 1-1; Team 1(-1); Millines 1(-2); Dimke 1(-4). UCLA – Coleman 9-39; Franklin 8-29; James 2(-6); Team 1(-13); Prince 10(-31).
 Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-TD-Yds.): ILL – Scheelhaase 18-30-1-1-139; O'Toole 0-2-0-0-0; Millines 1-1-0-0-9. UCLA – Prince 14-29-1-2-201.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Jenkins 6-80-1; Lankford 3-25; Millines 2-18; Viliunas 2-15; Young 2(-1); Scheelhaase 1-9; Harris 1-6; Davis 1-0; Pollard 1(-4). UCLA – Fauria 5-36; Smith 3-60; Rosario 3-55-1; Evans 1-29; Embree 1-16-1; Coleman 1-5.



2014 ZAXBY'S HEART OF DALLAS BOWL

DEC. 26, 2014 // DALLAS, TEXAS

Reilly O'Toole threw for 295 yards and a touchdown for the Fighting Illini and fellow seniors Jon Davis and Donovan Young each found the end zone in their final game in Orange and Blue. But special teams and big plays burned Illinois in a 35-18 loss in the 2014 Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl. Illinois (6-7) struggled early with penalties and missed field goals, but got within three points early in the fourth quarter. But Kenneth Dixon scored his second TD from one yard out with six minutes left to make it 28-18 and the Illini couldn't answer. Illinois appeared to have gotten a break when LaKeith Walls sacked Cody Sokol, causing him to fumble. Jihad Ward returned it 19 yards before Dixon forced a fumble and Sokol recovered. That drive was capped by Dixon's TD. O'Toole was 24 of 39 for a season-high 295 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	3	6	6	3	18
Louisiana Tech	14	7	0	14	35

SCORING SUMMARY

- LT Craft 16 yard run (Barnes kick)
- ILL Zalewski 27 yard field goal
- LT Dixon 8- yard pass from Sokol (Barnes kick)
- ILL Davis 25 yard pass from O'Toole (kick failed)
- LT Woods 69 yard interception return (Barnes kick)
- ILL Young 3 yard run (O'Toole pass failed)
- ILL Reisner 43 yard field goal
- LT Dixon 1 yard run (Barnes kick)
- LT Martin 28 yard run (Barnes kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 122-329-451; LT – 114-247-361.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Carries-Yards-TD): ILL – Ferguson 7-50, Dudek 1-50, Young 6-18-1, O'Toole 18-2-0, Davis 1-2. LT – Dixon 13-63-1, Martin 4-38-1, Craft 5-16-1, Henderson 3-11, Lee 1-0, Team 2-(-4), Sokol (3-(-10)).
 Passing (Comp-Att-INT-TD-Yds): ILL – O'Toole 24-39-1-1-295, Lunt 4-8-0-0-34. LT – Sokol 14-28-0-1-247.
 Receiving (Rec-Yards-TD): ILL – Dudek 7-73, Turner 6-84, Ferguson 6-54, Allison 4-72, Davis 2-38-1, Young 2-(-2), Hardee 1-10. LT – Henderson 4-93, Dixon 4-79-1, Turner 3-38, Taylor 2-20, Lee 1-17.
 Tackle Leaders (Tackles, TFL-Yds): ILL – Thomas III 5, Neal, Jr. 5, 1.0-1, Petty 5. LT – Villemez 10, 0.5-2, 1.5-5, Woods 9, Liggins 9, 1.0-7, Brice 6, 1.0-9, 1.0-9, Bates 6, 5.5-35, 4.5-32.



2019 REDBOX BOWL

DEC. 30, 2019 // SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

The Illini outgained Cal, 450-395, but did not force a turnover on defense for the first time in 2019. Brandon Peters passed for 273 yards and one touchdown for Illinois (6-7) in his return after sitting out the regular-season finale with a concussion. Peters, who was shaken up again after diving out of bounds following a scramble late in the fourth quarter, completed 22 of 37 passes and added a team-high 68 rushing yards. Cal's Chase Garbers threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score. The offensive MVP of the game, Garbers completed 22 of 31 passes for 272 yards with TD passes of 4, 3, 2 and 6 yards.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	10	3	0	7	20
California	7	14	7	7	35

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL McCourt 25 yard field goal
- CAL Moore 4 yard pass from Garbers (Thomas kick)
- ILL Barker 5 yard pass from Peters (McCourt kick)
- CAL Garbers 1 yard run (Thomas kick)
- CAL Brown Jr. 3 yard pass from Garbers (Thomas kick)
- ILL McCourt 30 yard field goal
- CAL Reinwald 2 yard pass from Garbers (Thomas kick)
- ILL Corbin 6 yard run (McCourt kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 165-285-450; CAL – 123-272-395

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Carries-Yards-TD): ILL – Peters 8-68-0, Corbin 14-41-1, Brown 11-39-0, Bonner 5-17-0. CAL – Brown Jr. 20-120-0, Dancy 2-11-0, Netherda 2-9-8-0, Collins 2-3-0, Garbers 11-(-19)-1.
 Passing (Comp-Att-INT-TD-Yds): ILL – Peters 22-37-1-1-273, Miller 1-1-0-0-12. CAL – Garbers 22-31-0-4-272.
 Receiving (Rec-Yards-TD): ILL – Navarro 6-77-0, Sandy 4-22-0, Barker 3-55-1, I. Williams 3-9-0, Davis 2-43-0, Brown 2-17-0, J. Williams 1-14-0, Washington 1-14-0, Palmer 1-12-0, Petitbon 0-14-0. CAL – Polk 5-105-0, Remigio 4-36-1, Tonges 3-65-0, Brown Jr. 3-17-1, Crawford 2-29-0, Collins 2-11-0, Moore 1-4-1, Dancy 1-3-0, Reinwald 1-2-1.
 Tackle Leaders (Tackles, TFL-Yds): ILL – Hobbs 9, 0.0-0, Tolson 9, 1.0-3, Brown 8, 0.0-0, Harding 6, 1.5-3. CAL – Weaver 9, 0.0-0, Deng 8, 0.0-0, Goode 8, 1.0-3, Johnson 3, 2.0-9



2023 RELIAQUEST BOWL

JAN. 2, 2023 // TAMPA, FLORIDA

Following its best season in 15 years, the Fighting Illini football program earned a berth in the ReliaQuest Bowl at Tampa's Raymond James Stadium. The Illini were ranked in the AP Top 25 for five straight weeks in 2022 and were also ranked in the College Football Playoff rankings for the first time in school history. Illinois' defense led the nation in scoring defense (12.8), interceptions (24), and takeaways (32), and ranked third in total defense (273.5). In the ReliaQuest Bowl, Illinois and #22/24 Mississippi State were tied 10-10 in the final minute before the Bulldogs kicked a game-winning field goal with four seconds remaining. Offensively, Tommy DeVito went 23-of-34 passing for 253 yards and a rushing touchdown, Isaiah Williams had career highs in receptions (10) and receiving yards (120), and Alex Palczewski became the second two-time bowl captain in Illini history and tied the FBS record for career starts (65). On the defensive side, Kendall Smith and Matthew Bailey both picked off passes to help the Illini break the single-season program record for interceptions.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	7	3	0	10
Mississippi State	0	3	0	16	19

SCORING SUMMARY

- ILL DeVito 2 yard rush (Griffin kick)
- MSU Biscardi 38 yard field goal
- ILL Griffin 52 yard field goal
- MSU Robinson 8 yard pass from Rogers (Biscardi kick)
- MSU Biscardi 27 yard field goal
- MSU Banks 60 yard fumble recovery

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 22-253-275; MSU – 116-274-390

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Carries-Yards-TD): ILL – Love 13-53-0, McCray 7-17-0, DeVito 10-(-35)-1; MSU - Price 7-68-0, Marks 10-50.
 Passing (Comp-Att-INT-TD-Yds): ILL - DeVito 23-34-253-0. MSU - Rogers 29-44-261-1.
 Receiving (Rec-Yards-TD): ILL -Williams 10-120-0, Washington 7-68-0.
 MSU - Robinson 7-81-1, Griffin 5-53, Walley 5-43.
 Tackle Leaders (Tackles, TFL-Yds): ILL - Smith 6, 0-0, INT, Barnes 6, 0-0, Bailey 5, 0-0, INT. MSU - Johnson 12, 1.5-11



2024 CHEEZ-IT CITRUS BOWL

DEC. 31, 2024 // ORLANDO, FLA.

In one of the biggest bowl wins in program history, No. 20 Illinois took down No. 14 South Carolina, 21-17, at Camping World Stadium in Orlando to cap a historic 10-win season. The Fighting Illini tied the program single-season record for wins with Victory No. 10 — Illinois' first 10-win season since 2001 — and tied the program record for ranked wins with their fourth in the Citrus Bowl. Mounting their nation-leading fifth fourth-quarter comeback of the year, the Illini took the lead with 7:29 remaining, forced a turnover on downs with just over three minutes to go inside of the red zone, and then ran out the clock on their ensuing possession. Cheez-It Citrus Bowl MVP Josh McCray ran for two touchdowns and 114 yards, including a game-sealing 60-yard run on third-and-2 from Illinois' own 15-yard line with 1:56 remaining, and QB Luke Altmyer threw for 174 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Matthew Bailey tied the Illinois bowl record with 13 tackles in the victory. Illinois finished the season ranked No. 16 in the AP Top 25, the program's highest finish since 2001.

SCORING	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	7	0	7	7	21
South Carolina	3	0	7	7	17

SCORING SUMMARY

- USC Herrera 29 yard FG
- ILL Franklin 15 yard pass from Altmyer (Olano kick)
- USC Adaway 36 yard run (Herrera kick)
- ILL McCray 3 yard run (Olano kick)
- USC Simon 6 yard pass from Sellers (Herrera kick)
- ILL McCray 9 yard run (Olano kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

(Rushing-Passing-Total): ILL – 183-174-357; USC – 130-260-390.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Rushing (Atts.-Yds.-TD): ILL – McCray 13-114-2; Laughery 16-67-0; USC – Adaway III 14-69-1; Howell 5-31-0; Sellers 11-19-0.
 Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-TD-INT): ILL – Altmyer 22-13-1-1-174; USC – Sellers 34-24-1-0-260.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Benn 5-80-1; R. Mendenhall 5-59; Willis 4-74; Cumberland 3-37; Warren 3-25; Gamble 2-26; USC — Davis 7-87-1; McKnight 6-45; Havili 4-63; Washington 3-12; Ausberry 2-28; Johnson 2-15; Reed 1-34; Hazelton 1-5.
 Receiving (No.-Yds.-TD): ILL – Beatty 4-90-0; Franklin 4-39-1; Dixon 1-27-0; Elzy 1-11-0; Capka-Jones 1-5-0; USC – Simon 6-69-1; Harbor 4-61-0; Campbell 1-60-0; Adaway 7-37-0; Bennett Jr. 2-13-0.

TEAM TOTAL OFFENSE

Most Yards Gained

Illinois 611, vs. Virginia (1999 Micronpc.com)
 Opponent 633, USC (2008 Rose)

Fewest Yards Gained

Illinois 205, vs. UCLA (1984 Rose)
 Opponent 182, Washington (1964 Rose)

Most Touchdowns Scored (Rush/Pass)

Illinois 9, vs. Virginia (1999 Micronpc.com)
 Opponent 7, LSU (2002 Sugar) & USC (2008 Rose)

Fewest Touchdowns Scored (Rush/Pass)

Illinois 0, vs. UCLA (1991 John Hancock);
 0, vs. Clemson (1991 Hall of Fame)
 Opponent 0, UCLA (1991 John Hancock);
 0, East Carolina (1994 Liberty)

TEAM FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs

Illinois 29, vs. Virginia (1990 Citrus)
 Opponent 32, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Fewest First Downs

Illinois 14, vs. Clemson (1991 Hall of Fame)
 14, vs. UCLA (1991 John Hancock)
 14, vs. LSU (2002 Sugar)
 Opponent 12, UCLA (1947 Rose Bowl)
 12, Washington (1964 Rose)
 12, Florida (1988 All-American)

Most First Downs by Rushing

Illinois 19, vs. UCLA (1947 Rose)
 Opponent 16, Hawaii (1992 Holiday)

Fewest First Downs by Rushing

Illinois 3, vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty)
 3, vs. LSU (2002 Sugar)
 Opponent 2, UCLA (2011 Kraft Fight Hunger)

Most First Downs by Passing

Illinois 19, vs. Army (1985 Peach)
 Opponent 26, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Fewest First Downs by Passing

Illinois 4, vs. UCLA (1947 Rose)
 Opponent 4, Washington (1964 Rose)

Most First Downs by Penalty

Illinois 3, vs. Mississippi State (2023 ReliaQuest)
 3, vs. USC (2008 Rose)
 Opponent 5, California (2019 Redbox)

Fewest First Downs by Penalty

Opponent 0, South Carolina (2024 Citrus)

TEAM RUSHING

Most Rushes

Illinois 66, vs. Washington (1964 Rose)
 Opponent 64, Army (1985 Peach)

Fewest Rushes

Illinois 17, vs. UCLA (1984 Rose)
 Opponent 22, Mississippi State (2023 ReliaQuest)

Most Rushing Yards Gained

Illinois 361, vs. Stanford (1952 Rose)
 Opponent 344, USC (2008 Rose)

Fewest Rushing Yards Gained

Illinois 0, vs. UCLA (1984 Rose)
 Opponent 19, UCLA (2011 Kraft Fight Hunger)

Most Rushing Touchdowns

Illinois 6, vs. Virginia (1999 MicronPC.com)
 Opponent 4, LSU (2002 Sugar)

TEAM PASSING

Most Passes Attempted

Illinois 58, vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty)
 Opponent 53, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Fewest Passes Attempted

Illinois 15, (1947, 1952, 1964 Rose)
 Opponent 13, Alabama (1982 Liberty)

Most Passes Completed

Illinois 38, vs. Army (1985 Peach)
 Opponent 31, LSU (2002 Sugar)
 31, Baylor (2010 Texas)

Fewest Passes Completed

Illinois 4, vs. UCLA (1947 Rose)
 Opponent 6, Hawaii (1992 Holiday)

Most Passes Intercepted

Illinois 7, vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty)
 Opponent 4, UCLA (1947 Rose)

Fewest Passes Had Intercepted

Illinois 0, vs. Washington (1964 Rose); vs. Clemson (1991 Hall of Fame);
 vs. Baylor (2010 Texas); vs. Mississippi State (2023 ReliaQuest)
 Opponent 0, UCLA (1984 Rose); LSU (2002 Sugar); Baylor (2010 Texas);
 Louisiana Tech (2014 Heart of Dallas); California (2019 Redbox); South
 Carolina (2024 Citrus)

Most Yards Passing

Illinois 423, vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty)
 Opponent 444, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Fewest Yards Passing

Illinois 59, vs. Washington (1964 Rose)
 Opponent 68, Washington (1964 Rose)

Highest Completion Percentage

Illinois .782 (18-23), vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
 Opponent .721 (31-43), Baylor (2010 Texas)

Lowest Completion Percentage

Illinois .400, vs. Washington (1964 Rose)
 Opponent .353, Hawaii (1992 Holiday)

Most Touchdown Passes

Illinois 5, vs. LSU (2002 Sugar)
 Opponent 4, UCLA (1984 Rose);
 4, LSU (2002 Sugar);
 4, USC (2008 Rose);
 4, California (2019 Redbox)

TEAM PUNTING

Most Punts

Illinois 9, vs. LSU (2002 Sugar)
 Opponent 8, UCLA (1947 Rose);
 8, LSU (2002 Sugar);
 8, UCLA (2011 Kraft Fight Hunger)

Fewest Punts

Illinois 0, vs. Virginia (1999 Micronpc.com)
 Opponent 2, Hawaii (1992 Holiday); South Carolina (2024 Citrus)

Highest Punting Average

Illinois 50.5, vs. Stanford (1952 Rose)
 Opponent 52.5, South Carolina (2024 Citrus)

Lowest Punting Average

Illinois 33.3, vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty)
 Opponent 30.3, Stanford (1952 Rose)

Highest Punt Return Average

Illinois 17.0, vs. UCLA (1947 Rose)
 Opponent 14.5, UCLA (1991 John Hancock)

TEAM KICKOFF RETURNS

Most Kickoff Returns

Illinois 6, vs. Army (1985 Peach)
Opponent 8, UCLA (1947 Rose)

Highest Kickoff Return Average

Illinois 33.3, vs. UCLA (1984 Rose)
Opponent 32.6, UCLA (1947 Rose)

Lowest Kickoff Return Average

Illinois 11.0, vs. UCLA (2011 Kraft Fight Hunger)
Opponent 9.0, UCLA (1991 John Hancock)

TEAM PENALTIES

Most Penalties Against

Illinois 15, vs. East Carolina (1994 Liberty)
Opponent 13, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Fewest Penalties Against

Illinois 2, vs. Clemson (1991 Hall of Fame); vs. South Carolina (2024 Citrus)
Opponent 3, Alabama (1982 Liberty); Army (1985 Peach);
Hawaii (1992 Holiday); UCLA (2011 Kraft Fight Hunger)

Most Yards Penalized

Illinois 164, vs. East Carolina (1994 Liberty)
Opponent 113, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Fewest Yards Penalized

Illinois 15, vs. South Carolina (2024 Citrus)
Opponent 14, Alabama (1982 Liberty)

TEAM FUMBLES

Most Fumbles

Illinois 6, vs. USC (2008 Rose)
Opponent 5, Washington (1964 Rose)

Fewest Fumbles

Illinois 0, vs. East Carolina (1994 Liberty); vs. Stanford (1952 Rose)
Opponent 0, Army (1985 Peach); USC (2008 Rose);
California (2019 Redbox); Mississippi State (2023 ReliaQuest)

Most Fumbles Lost

Illinois 3, vs. Washington (1964 Rose)
Opponent 3, Alabama (1982 Liberty)

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

Most Carries

Illinois 29, Mikel Leshoure vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
Opponent 29, Travis Sims, Hawaii (1992 Holiday)

Most Yards Gained

Illinois 187, Mikel Leshoure vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
Opponent 159, Emmitt Smith, Florida (1988 All-American)

Yards per Rush (min. 5 carries)

Illinois 12.2, Rocky Harvey vs. Virginia (1999 Micronpc.com)
Opponent 12.5, Joe McKnight, USC (2008 Rose)

Most Rushing Touchdowns

Illinois 3, Mikel Leshoure vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
Opponent 4, Domenick Davis, LSU (2002 Sugar)

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

Most Passes Attempted

Illinois 55, Tony Eason vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty);
55, Jack Trudeau vs. Army (1985 Peach)
Opponent 53, Rohan Davey, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Most Passes Completed

Illinois 38, Jack Trudeau vs. Army (1985 Peach)
Opponent 31, Rohan Davey, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Most Touchdown Passes Thrown

Illinois 4, Johnny Johnson vs. East Carolina (1994 Liberty);
4, Kurt Kittner vs. LSU (2002 Sugar)
Opponent 4, Rick Neuheisel, UCLA (1984 Rose);
4, Chase Garbers, California (2019 Redbox)

Most Passing Yardage

Illinois 423, Tony Eason vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty)
Opponent 444, Rohan Davey, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Most Interceptions Thrown

Illinois 4, Tony Eason vs. Alabama (1982 Liberty)
Opponent 4, Marcus Crandell, East Carolina (1994 Liberty)

Best Completion Percentage (min. 5 att.)

Illinois .783, Nathan Scheelhaase (18-23) vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
Opponent .732, Robert Griffin III (30-41), Baylor (2010 Texas)

Consecutive Completions

Illinois 13 (to start game), Nathan Scheelhaase vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

Most Receptions

Illinois 10, Isaiah Williams vs. Mississippi State (2023 ReliaQuest)
10, David Williams vs. UCLA (1984 Rose)
Opponent 14, Josh Reed, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Most Reception Yardage

Illinois 178, Walter Young vs. LSU (2002 Sugar)
Opponent 239, Josh Reed, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Most Touchdown Receptions

Illinois 2, five times (last, Walter Young and Brandon Lloyd vs. LSU, 2002 Sugar)
Opponent 2, Karl Dorrell, UCLA (1984 Rose); Josh Reed, LSU (2002 Sugar)

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Most Touchdowns

Illinois 3, Mikel Leshoure (all rushing) vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
Opponent 4, Domanick Davis, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Most Points

Illinois 20, Mikel Leshoure vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
Opponent 24, Domanick Davis, LSU (2002 Sugar)

Most Extra Points

Illinois 9, Neil Rackers vs. Virginia (1999 Micronpc.com)
Opponent 7, David Buehler, USC (2008 Rose)

INDIVIDUAL FIELD GOALS

Longest Field Goal

Illinois 52, Caleb Griffin vs. Mississippi State (2023 ReliaQuest)
Opponent 45, Jason Elam, Hawaii (1992 Holiday)

Most Field Goals

Illinois 3, Derek Dimke (38, 28, 43) vs. Baylor (2010 Texas)
Opponent 3, Chris Gardocki, Clemson (1991 Hall of Fame)

TACKLES

Most Tackles

Illinois 13, Matthew Bailey vs. South Carolina (2024 Citrus);
13, Vontae Davis vs. USC (2008 Rose);
13, Moe Gardner vs. Florida (1988 All-American);
13, Don Thorp vs. UCLA (1984 Rose)
Opponent 15, Daren Hart, East Carolina (1994 Liberty)

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	ELIG.	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	PREVIOUS COLLEGE
0	Justin Bowick	WR	6-4	210	Jr.	Powder Springs, Ga.	Pace Academy	Ball State
0	Mac Resetich	DB	6-0	210	Jr.	Spring Valley, Ill.	Spring Valley Hall	
1	Kaleb Patterson	DB	6-1	195	Jr.	Jackson, Miss.	Terry	Pearl River CC
1	Mario Sanders II	WR	5-10	195	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.	Minneapolis North	Iowa Central CC
2	Ashton Hollins	WR	6-5	195	Jr.	Lucedale, Miss.	George County	
2	Saboor Karriem	DB	6-3	210	Jr.	West Orange, N.J.	West Orange	
3	Alec Bryant	OLB	6-3	250	Sr.	Houston, Texas	Shadow Creek	Virginia Tech
3	Kaden Feagin	RB	6-3	255	Jr.	Atwood, Ill.	ALAH	
4	Carson Boyd	QB	6-0	190	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo.	Cardinal Ritter	
4	Daniel Brown	OLB	6-1	250	Jr.	Kansas City, Kan.	Bishop Ward	Hutchinson CC
5	Torrie Cox Jr.	DB	5-9	170	Sr.	Miami, Fla.	Chaminade-Madonna Prep	Ohio
5	Ca'Lil Valentine	RB	5-11	200	So.	Hayward, Calif.	Chandler (Ariz.)	
6	Juice Clarke	DB	6-1	175	Jr.	Ft. Myers, Fla.	Riverdale	
7	Matthew Bailey	DB	6-2	215	Jr.	Moline, Ill.	Moline	
7	Alexander Capka-Jones	WR	6-4	195	Sr.	Oak Park, Calif.	Oak Park	Moorpark College
8	Jeremiah Warren	DL	6-3	310	So.	Belleville, Mich.	Belleville	
9	Luke Altmeyer	QB	6-2	215	Sr.	Starkville, Miss.	Starkville	Mississippi
9	Leon Lowery Jr.	OLB	6-3	255	Sr.	Elizabeth, N.J.	North Brunswick	Wisconsin
10	Ethan Hampton	QB	6-3	230	Jr.	Elburn, Ill.	Aurora Christian	Northern Illinois
10	Miles Scott	DB	5-11	210	Sr.	Dolton, Ill.	St. Thomas More (Conn.)	
11	Brayden Trimble	WR	6-1	190	Fr.	Mt. Zion, Ill.	Mt. Zion	
11	Donovan Turner	DB	6-2	190	Jr.	Long Beach, Calif.	Long Beach Poly	Long Beach City College
12	Trey Petty	QB	6-0	205	R-Fr.	Starkville, Miss.	Starkville	
12	Amar Reynolds	DB	6-0	190	R-Fr.	Fort Pierce, Fla.	Vero Beach	
13	Hudson Clement	WR	6-1	215	Jr.	Martinsburg, W.Va.	Martinsburg	West Virginia
13	Xanai Scott	DB	5-11	205	Fr.	Riviera Beach, Fla.	Cardinal Newman	
14	Cole Rusk	TE	6-5	250	Sr.	Rock Island, Ill.	Rock Island	Murray State
14	Xavier Scott	DB	5-11	195	Sr.	Riviera Beach, Fla.	Dwyer	
15	Andre Lovett Jr.	DB	6-1	190	Fr.	Blue Island, Ill.	Eisenhower	
15	Jershaun Newton	QB	6-0	215	Fr.	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Clearwater Central Catholic	
16	Logan Farrell	TE	6-2	260	Fr.	Arlington Heights, Ill.	John Hersey	
16	Tanner Heckel	DB	5-11	195	So.	Lyndon, Kan.	Lyndon	
17	Collin Dixon	WR	6-1	215	So.	Tallmadge, Ohio	Tallmadge	
17	Gabe Jacas	OLB	6-3	270	Sr.	Port St. Lucie, Fla.	Fort Pierce Central	
18	Michael Bartolotta	WR	6-2	215	Sr.	Orland Park, Ill.	Marist	Iowa Central CC
18	Mason Muragin	OLB	6-4	250	So.	Macomb, Mich.	De La Salle	
19	Tyson Rooks	DB	6-4	205	Jr.	St. Simons Island, Ga.	Glynn Academy	
20	John Forster	RB	5-10	195	Fr.	Montvale, N.J.	St. Joseph Regional	
20	Tyler Strain	DB	5-9	200	Sr.	Pace, Fla.	Pace	
21	Ben Clawson	DB	6-0	205	Jr.	Arlington Heights, Ill.	Hersey	
21	Aidan Laughery	RB	5-11	200	Jr.	Gibson City, Ill.	GCMS	
22	RJ Jones III	DB	6-0	175	Fr.	Fort Pierce, Fla.	Vero Beach	
22	Cedric Wyche II	RB	5-10	215	Fr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	St. Thomas Aquinas	
23	Jordan Anderson	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	Naperville, Ill.	Joliet Catholic	
24	David Olano	K	5-11	180	Jr.	Naperville, Ill.	Naperville North	
24	Vernon Woodward III	DB	6-1	200	R-Fr.	DeLand, Fla.	Winter Park	
25	Aaron Ball	RB	5-11	205	R-Fr.	Chicago, Ill.	St. Laurence	
25	Des Straughton	DB	6-0	210	Fr.	Detroit, Mich.	Roseville	
26	Ismael Kante	OLB	6-2	235	Jr.	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	Park Center	Iowa Central CC
27	Lucas Osada	K/P	6-1	200	So.	Charlottesville, Va.	Woodberry Forest	North Carolina
27	Corey Rashad	RB	5-8	185	So.	Chicago, Ill.	Marist	
28	Karson Kaiser	WR	6-1	170	R-Fr.	Weston, Fla.	Champaign Centennial (Ill.)	
28	Dylan Rosiek	LB	6-1	235	Sr.	East Lake, Fla.	East Lake	
29	TJ Griffin	LB	6-0	220	Jr.	Hickory Hills, Ill.	Amos Alonzo Stagg	
30	Jojo Hayden	LB	6-2	245	So.	East St. Louis, Ill.	East St. Louis	
31	Murphy Clement	RB	6-0	215	R-Fr.	Martinsburg, W.Va.	Martinsburg	West Virginia
32	Tywan Cox	DB	5-10	175	Fr.	Miami, Fla.	Miami Northwestern	

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	ELIG.	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	PREVIOUS COLLEGE
33	Grant Beerman	LB	6-5	230	Fr.	West Chester, Ohio	Lakota West	
34	Erik Gayle	OLB	6-3	230	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Withrow	
35	Grayson Griffin	DB	5-11	200	Sr.	Aurora, Ill.	St. Francis	
36	Tomiwa Durojaiye	DL	6-5	300	Jr.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Middletown (Del.)	Florida State
36	Lane Hansen	LS	6-0	235	Sr.	East Lake, Fla.	East Lake	
38	Jack Paris	LB	6-2	220	Fr.	River Forest, Ill.	Fenwick	
39	Kenenna Odeluga	LB	6-1	235	Sr.	South Holland, Ill.	Mount Carmel	
39	Trey Peters	TE	6-5	230	Fr.	Mahomet, Ill.	Mahomet-Seymour	
40	Keelan Crimmins	P	6-3	230	Sr.	Spotswood, Australia	Victoria University	Purdue
41	James Kreutz	LB	6-2	225	Jr.	Bannockburn, Ill.	Loyola Academy	
42	Luke Zardzin	LB	6-0	225	Sr.	Mount Prospect, Ill.	Prospect	
43	Joe Barna	OLB	6-4	265	So.	Wheaton, Ill.	Wheaton North	
44	Patrick Mahoney III	LS	6-2	225	So.	Northbrook, Ill.	Glenbrook North	
44	Angelo McCullom	DL	6-2	300	So.	Pickerington, Ohio	Pickerington North	
45	Malachi Hood	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Plainfield, Ill.	Joliet Catholic	
47	Easton Baker	LB	6-0	220	R-Fr.	Stansbury, Utah	Stansbury	
48	Carter Smith	OLB	6-3	245	R-Fr.	Rolling Meadows, Ill.	Fremd	
51	Clayton Leonard	OLB	6-4	250	Jr.	Danforth, Ill.	Iroquois West	
52	Pat Farrell	DL	6-5	280	So.	Oak Lawn, Ill.	St. Rita	
54	Demetrius John	DL	6-3	280	R-Fr.	Columbus, Ohio	Dublin Coffman	
54	Griffin Rousseau	OL	6-7	320	Fr.	Stoughton, Wis.	Stoughton	
55	TJ McMillen	OL	6-3	295	So.	Naperville, Ill.	St. Francis	
56	Guillermo Gallardo	DL	6-3	320	Jr.	Bloomington, Ill.	Normal Community	New Mexico Military Institute
56	JJ Hirdes	OL	6-6	290	Fr.	Coopersville, Mich.	Coopersville	
57	Zach Barrett	OL	6-3	295	R-Fr.	Orland Park, Ill.	Carl Sandburg	
58	Melvin Priestly	OL	6-4	305	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo.	East St. Louis (Ill.)	Grambling State
63	Dezmond Schuster	OL	6-5	335	Sr.	Gonzales, La.	East Ascension	Hutchinson CC (Kan.)
64	Josh Kreutz	OL	6-2	290	Sr.	Bannockburn, Ill.	Loyola Academy	
65	Kellen Francis	OL	6-5	320	So.	Princeville, Ill.	Princeville	Butler CC (Kan.)
66	Brandon Hansen	OL	6-6	335	So.	Mundelein, Ill.	Mundelein	
68	Michael McDonough	OL	6-3	310	Fr.	Tinley Park, Ill.	Andrew	
70	Tyler McMillan	OL	6-5	335	Jr.	Detroit, Mich.	River Rouge	Southeast Missouri
71	Nathan Knapik	OL	6-7	300	R-Fr.	Kennewick, Wash.	Kennewick	Idaho
72	Ayden Knapik	OL	6-6	305	Sr.	Kennewick, Wash.	Kennewick	Idaho
73	Josh Gesky	OL	6-5	335	Sr.	Manteno, Ill.	Manteno	
74	J.C. Davis	OL	6-5	335	Sr.	Oakland, Calif.	McClymonds	New Mexico
75	Brandon Henderson	OL	6-5	335	Jr.	East St. Louis, Ill.	East St. Louis	
76	Dylan Frechette	OL	6-6	310	Fr.	Central Falls, R.I.	Cardinal Newman (Fla.)	
78	Eddie Tuerk	OL	6-4	320	R-Fr.	La Grange, Ill.	Lyons Township	
79	Zafir Stewart	OL	6-6	350	R-Fr.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Imhotep Charter	
80	Hank Beatty	WR	5-11	185	Sr.	Rochester, Ill.	Rochester	
81	Lars Rau	P	6-3	215	So.	Novato, Calif.	San Marin	Texas State
82	Jake Furtney	TE	6-4	250	R-Fr.	St. Charles, Ill.	St. Charles North	
83	TySean Griffin	WR	5-10	180	R-Fr.	Chicago, Ill.	Morgan Park	
84	Grant Smith	TE	6-5	225	Fr.	Forsyth, Ill.	Maroa-Forsyth	
85	Tanner Arkin	TE	6-4	265	Sr.	Fort Collins, Colo.	Fossil Ridge	Colorado State
86	Christian Abney	TE	6-6	255	Jr.	Zionsville, Ind.	Zionsville	Ball State
87	Tyler McClure	WR	6-2	205	Sr.	Champaign, Ill.	Centennial	Kaskaskia College
88	Davin Stoffel	TE	6-6	260	So.	Mosinee, Wis.	Mosinee	South Dakota State
89	Tanner Hollinger	TE	6-5	230	R-Fr.	Stromsburg, Neb.	Cross County	
90	James Thompson Jr.	DL	6-6	310	Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Roger Bacon	Wisconsin
91	Cameron Brooks	DL	6-3	305	Fr.	Chicago, Ill.	Homewood-Flossmoor	
92	Gentle Hunt	DL	5-11	295	Sr.	High Springs, Fla.	Gainesville	Florida A&M
94	Carter Hewitt	DL	6-5	300	Sr.	Jewell, Iowa	South Hamilton	Northern Iowa
95	Isaiah White	DL	6-2	335	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Ben Davis	
96	Eli Coenen	DL	6-7	290	So.	Baldwin, Wis.	Baldwin-Woodville	Bemidji State
99	Curt Neal	DL	6-0	310	Jr.	Cornelius, N.C.	Hough	Wisconsin

Team Results

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
	08/29/2025	Western Ill.	W	52-3	56040
	09/06/2025	at Duke	W	45-19	23893
	09/13/2025	Western Mich.	W	38-0	60670
*	09/20/2025	at Indiana	L	10-63	56088
*	09/27/2025	Southern California	W	34-32	60670
*	10/04/2025	at Purdue	W	43-27	56551
*	10/11/2025	Ohio St.	L	16-34	60670
*	10/25/2025	at Washington	L	25-42	68630
*	11/01/2025	Rutgers	W	35-13	60670
*	11/15/2025	Maryland	W	24-6	56416
*	11/22/2025	at Wisconsin	L	10-27	67876
*	11/29/2025	Northwestern	W	20-13	53317

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Ca'Lil Valentine	12	123	573	24	549	4.5	4	25	45.8
Kaden Feagin	12	119	513	14	499	4.2	7	26	41.6
Aidan Laughery	8	62	320	15	305	4.9	3	57	38.1
Luke Altmeyer	12	90	441	253	188	2.1	4	36	15.7
Hank Beatty	12	3	41	0	41	13.7	1	25	3.4
Jordan Anderson	12	7	26	0	26	3.7	1	20	2.2
Collin Dixon	12	2	5	0	5	2.5	0	3	0.4
Keelan Crimmins	12	1	0	14	-14	-14.0	0	0	-1.2
Team	12	12	0	25	-25	-2.1	0	0	-2.1
Total	12	419	1919	345	1574	3.8	20	57	131.2
Opponents	12	380	1684	196	1488	3.9	14	84	124.0

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Luke Altmeyer	12	157.1	226-332-5	68.1	2811	21	64	234.3
Ethan Hampton	4	81.7	3-4-1	75.0	27	0	14	6.8
Hank Beatty	12	395.2	2-2-0	100.0	31	1	28	2.6
Total	12	157.6	231-338-6	68.3	2869	22	64	239.1
Opponents	12	130.9	259-411-6	63.0	2718	19	62	226.5

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Hank Beatty	12	64	826	12.9	3	62	68.8
Hudson Clement	12	33	406	12.3	3	27	33.8
Collin Dixon	12	33	538	16.3	5	61	44.8
Cole Rusk	12	19	217	11.4	1	27	18.1
Justin Bowick	11	19	234	12.3	4	25	21.3
Kaden Feagin	12	16	188	11.8	2	64	15.7
Tanner Arkin	12	11	91	8.3	2	28	7.6
Aidan Laughery	8	9	54	6.0	0	17	6.8
Malik Elzy	4	7	84	12.0	0	25	21.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	12	7	27	3.9	0	12	2.3
Ashton Hollins	12	3	90	30.0	1	49	7.5
Jordan Anderson	12	3	12	4.0	0	6	1.0
Alexander Capka-Jones	9	2	31	15.5	0	19	3.4
Mario Sanders II	3	2	32	16.0	0	18	10.7
Luke Altmeyer	12	1	3	3.0	1	3	0.3
Davin Stoffel	12	1	24	24.0	0	24	2.0
Christian Abney	10	1	12	12.0	0	12	1.2
Total	12	231	2869	12.4	22	64	239.1
Opponents	12	259	2718	10.5	19	62	226.5

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	8-4	6-1	2-3	0-0
CONFERENCE	5-4	4-1	1-3	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	3-0	2-0	1-0	0-0

Team Statistics

	ILLINI	OPP
First Downs	249	243
Rushing	96	81
Passing	125	147
Penalty	28	15
Rushing Yardage	1574	1488
Rushing attempts	419	380
Average per rush	3.8	3.9
Average per game	131.2	124.0
TDs Rushing	20	14
Passing Yardage	2869	2718
Comp-Att-Int	231-338-6	259-411-6
Average per pass	8.5	6.6
Average per catch	12.4	10.5
Average per game	239.1	226.5
TDs Passing	22	19
Total offense	4443	4206
Average per play	5.9	5.3
Average per game	370.3	350.5
Kick returns: #-Yards	10-224	10-225
Punt returns: #-Yards	13-213	9-38
Int returns: #-Yards	6-32	6-49
Fumbles-Lost	10-5	16-9
Penalties-Yards	56-493	71-626
Punts-Avg	36-42.8	43-43.0
Time of possession / game	30:30	29:30
3rd-down conversion	58/138	71/159
4th-down conversion	12/20	14/27
PAT-attempts	(41-41) 100%	(31-31) 100%
2-point conversion-attempts	(1-2) 50%	(1-3) 33%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Miles Scott	3	33	11.0	0	33
Dylan Rosiek	1	0	0.0	0	0
Torrie Cox Jr.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Tanner Heckel	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
Total	6	32	5.3	0	33
Opponents	6	49	8.2	0	34