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# FIGHTING ILLINI

## F O O T B A L L

FIGHTINGILLINI.COM

#9 ILLINOIS  
FIGHTING ILLINI  
2-0, 0-0 BIG TEN



VS



WESTERN MICHIGAN  
BRONCOS  
0-2, 0-0 MAC

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2025 | 6 P.M. CT | CHAMPAIGN, ILL. | MEMORIAL STADIUM

### LIVE COVERAGE

#### TV | FS1

- » Noah Reed (play-by-play)
- » Robert Smith (analyst)

**FS1**

#### 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 **TuneIn** online radio, **SiriusXM 83**, the **SiriusXM App**, and at **FightingIllini.com/live**.

### #9 ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (2-0)

Aug. 29	Western Illinois	W, 52-3
Sept. 6	at Duke	W, 45-19
Sept. 13	Western Michigan <i>FamLLy Day</i>	6 p.m. CT (FS1)
Sept. 20	at #22 Indiana	6:30 p.m. CT (NBC)
Sept. 27	USC <i>Homecoming</i>	TBA
Oct. 4	at Purdue	TBA
Oct. 11	#1 Ohio State <i>Hail to the Orange Out</i>	TBA
Oct. 25	at Washington	TBA
Nov. 1	Rutgers <i>Dads Day</i>	TBA
Nov. 15	Maryland <i>Military Appreciation</i>	TBA
Nov. 22	at Wisconsin	TBA
Nov. 29	Northwestern <i>Senior Day</i>	TBA

Rankings are AP Top 25

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### ILLINOIS RETURNS HOME TO FACE WESTERN MICHIGAN

- After a 2-0 start and a 45-19 win at Duke last week, Illinois is back home to host Western Michigan in front of a sold out crowd for FamLLy Day at Memorial Stadium.
- Illinois is on a six-game winning streak, tied for the longest active winning streak in the nation with reigning national champion Ohio State and Memphis.
- Illinois' six-game winning streak is tied for its longest since a seven-game winning streak from 2010-11 (2010 Texas Bowl + first six games of 2011). The Illini also went on a six-game winning streak under Bielema from Sept. 22-Oct. 29, 2022.

### ILLINOIS IN THE RANKINGS

- Illinois moved up two spots to #9 in this week's AP Top 25, the program's first top-10 ranking since December 2001.
- Illinois also moved up to #9 in this week's US LBM Coaches Poll, a jump of three-spots from one week prior.
- Illinois' #9 ranking is the program's highest September ranking since 1964, Dick Butkus' senior season.
- Illinois had its highest preseason ranking (#12) since 1990, when the Illini started #11 in the Preseason AP Top 25.
- Illinois' #12 preseason ranking is the ninth-highest in program history since the AP Preseason Poll began in 1950.
- Illinois was ranked in the Preseason AP Top 25 and the Preseason Coaches Poll for the first time since 2008.

### TOUGH, SMART, DEPENDABLE

- Illinois is tied for second in the nation in turnover margin per game (+3.0), behind only Arizona (+3.5).
- Illinois has started the season with zero turnovers in its first two games for the first time since 2001.
- Illinois has thrown only six interceptions over the last two seasons (2024-25), tied with Army and James Madison for the fourth-fewest in the nation over that span. Only Marshall (5), Vanderbilt (5), and Missouri (5) have thrown fewer interceptions than Illinois over the last two seasons.
- Illinois is 9-0 when it has committed zero or one turnover over the last two seasons (2024-25).
- Illinois is 10-1 when it has forced one or more turnovers over the last two seasons (2024-25).

### THE ILLINOIS OFFENSE

- QB **Luke Altmyer** is 10th in the nation and fourth in the Big Ten in passing efficiency (195.9).
- **Altmyer** and Oregon's Dante Moore are the only Big Ten QBs with back-to-back games of 3+ passing touchdowns.
- **Altmyer** is 10th in the nation and leads the Big Ten in passing touchdowns (6).
- WR **Hank Beatty** is eighth in the nation and second in the Big Ten in receiving yards (236).
- **Beatty** leads the nation in all-purpose yards (394).
- WR **Justin Bowick** is second in the nation and tied for the Big Ten lead in receiving touchdowns (3).
- Illinois has scored 45+ points in the first two games of the season for the second time in program history and the first time since 1942. The 1942 Illini started the season with wins over South Dakota (46-0) and Butler (67-0).
- Illinois has scored 38 or more points in five of its last six games dating back to last season.

### THE ILLINOIS DEFENSE

- Illinois has forced six turnovers this season, tied for fourth in the nation behind only Arizona, Tulane, and UNLV (7 each).
- Illinois leads the nation with five fumble recoveries.
- Illinois is second in the nation in forced fumbles (4), behind only Ball State (5). The Illini led the Big Ten and ranked t-10th in the nation in forced fumbles (15) in 2024.
- Illinois forced five turnovers at Duke, four fumble recoveries (3 forced) and one interception.
- OLB **Gabe Jacas** is the only player in the nation with a sack and a forced fumble in back-to-back games this season.

**FAMILY**

## QUICK FACTS

### UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

**Location:** Urbana-Champaign (140,000)

**Founded:** 1867

**Enrollment:** 59,238

**Colors:** Orange & Blue

**Nickname:** Fighting Illini

**Conference:** Big Ten

**President:** Timothy L. Killeen

**Chancellor:** Charles Lee Isbell Jr.

**Director of Athletics:** Josh Whitman

**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (60,670)

**Stadium Surface:** FieldTurf

### HEAD COACH

**Bret Bielema**

Overall Record: 127-80 (.614), 17th season

Record at Illinois: 30-22 (.577), 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:** 642-628-51 (136th year in 2025)

**All-Time Big Ten Record:** 368-462-32 (130th year)

**Memorial Stadium Record:** 290-257-14 (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 SPECIAL TEAMS

- **Hank Beatty** ranks second in the nation in yards per punt return (33.3), behind only Indiana's Jonathan Brady (35.8). He led the Big Ten and ranked fourth in the nation with 14.1 yards per punt return in 2024.
- **Beatty's** 14.1-yard punt return average in 2024 ranked No. 7 in Illinois single-season history.
- **Beatty's** 310 punt return yards in 2024 ranked No. 2 in Illinois single-season history, behind only Dike Eddleman's 77-year-old Illinois record of 323 punt return yards set in 1947.
- **Keelan Crimmins** averaged 48.0 yards per punt at Duke, including a 60-yard punt and a punt inside the 20-yard line that was muffed and set up Illinois' first touchdown.
- Illinois' special teams unit ranked #16 in the nation by ESPN's special teams efficiency metric in 2024.

## 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.

### Rank Team Returning Bowl Starters

1.	Illinois	18
	Michigan	18
3.	Arizona State	16
	Clemson	16
	Penn State	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.

## THE BIELEMA ERA

- **Bret Bielema** is 30-22 during his Illinois career. Since Robert Zuppke went undefeated in two of his first three seasons at Illinois from 1913-15, Bielema's 30-22 start is the second-best through 52 games by an Illini head coach, behind only Mike White (31-20-1, 1980 through 1984 Week 6).
- Among head coaches that have led Illinois to 30+ wins, Bielema's .577 winning percentage is the third-best of all-time, behind only Robert C. Zuppke (.618) and John Mackovic (.663).
- **Bielema** is the fourth-fastest to 30 wins in Illinois history, behind only Robert Zuppke (44 games, 1914-19), John Mackovic (45 games, 1988-91), and Mike White (50 games, 1980-84).
- **Bielema's** 18 Big Ten wins through his first four seasons at Illinois are the most since John Mackovic won 22 in his first four seasons from 1988-91.
- **Bielema's** six ranked wins (AP/Coaches/CFP) during his first four seasons are the second-most in program history, behind only John Mackovic (8, 1988-91).
- **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.
- **Bielema** has had the Illini ranked in 20 AP polls during his first five seasons in Champaign. It is the most weeks ranked for the Illini during a five-year stretch in 35 years.
- **Bielema** joined John Mackovic (1988-91) and Lou Tepper (1992-95) as the only head coaches in Illinois history to win 5+ games in each of their first four seasons leading the Fighting Illini.
- **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** is 10-8 in Big Ten road games at Illinois. His 10 Big Ten road wins are tied for the second-most by an Illini head coach in his first four seasons, behind only Mike White (11, 1980-83) and tied with Lou Tepper (10, 1992-95) and John Mackovic (10, 1988-91).

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

### STUDENT-ATHLETES

18	Michael Bartolotta	BAR-toh-LAW-tuh
80	Hank Beatty	BAY-dee
0	Justin Bowick	BOH-ick
6	Jaheim Clarke	jah-HEEM
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
8	Malik Elzy	muh-LEEK EHLL-zee
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

## ATTENDANCE GROWTH

- 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.
- Student season tickets sold out on Aug. 18.
- Illinois' matchups against Western Michigan (Sept. 13), USC (Sept. 27), and Ohio State (Oct. 11) are sold out.
- Over the last four seasons, Illinois has experienced the largest growth in attendance in the nation and the largest growth in the Big Ten by a wide margin. Average attendance increased by nearly 20,000 from 2021 to 2024, ranking Illinois #1 in the nation in three-year growth (+19,403 average attendance gained) and #9 in the nation in percentage growth (+54.89% attendance increase).

## BEATTY BREAKS RED'S RECORD VS. WESTERN ILLINOIS

- 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).

Rank	Player	Punt Return Yards
1.	Hank Beatty vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025	133
2.	Red Grange vs. Nebraska, 10/6/1923	125
3.	Eugene Wilson vs. San Diego St., 9/11/1999	109
4.	Dike Eddleman vs. Minnesota, 10/18/1947	102

- 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.
- Beatty added five receptions for 108 yards to total 241 all-purpose yards in the game.

## 2024 - ONE OF THE BEST SEASONS IN ILLINOIS HISTORY

- Tied the program record for wins in a season (10).
- Highest final AP Top 25 ranking since 2001 (#16).
- Tied the program record for AP Top 25 wins in a season (4).
- Cheez-It Citrus Bowl champions, the program's first bowl win since 2011.
- Led the nation in fourth-quarter comebacks (5).
- Tied the program record for one-score wins in a season (5).
- Won six Big Ten games for the first time since 2007.
- Best home attendance since 2009 (54,750).

## CHEEZ-IT CITRUS BOWL CHAMPIONS

- In one of the biggest bowl wins in program history, #20 Illinois took down #14 South Carolina, 21-17, at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on Dec. 31, 2024 to cap a historic 10-win season.
- Illinois completed its nation-leading fifth fourth-quarter comeback of the 2024 season in the victory.
- Illinois won a bowl game for the first time since Dec. 31, 2011 (Kraft Fight Hunger vs. UCLA, W, 20-14).
- Illinois defeated an SEC team for the first time in program history (previously 0-6).
- The Citrus Bowl was Illinois' second New Year's bowl game in the last three seasons, along with the 2023 ReliaQuest Bowl following Illinois' 8-4 regular season in 2022. The last time Illinois played in two New Year's bowls in a three-year span was 1990-91, when the program played in the 1990 Citrus Bowl and the 1991 Hall of Fame Bowl (now the ReliaQuest Bowl).
- Illinois played in two bowls over a three-year stretch for the first time since back-to-back bowl seasons in 2010 and 2011.
- **Bret Bielema** was the first Illini coach to go to two bowl games in his first four seasons since Lou Tepper from 1991-94.
- With South Carolina ranked #14 in the AP Top 25, the win marked Illinois' highest ranked win over a nonconference opponent since defeating #9 Colorado, 23-22, Sept. 15, 1990.
- DB **Matthew Bailey** tied the Illinois bowl record with 13 tackles in the victory over South Carolina.

## 10-WIN ILLINOIS

- Illinois tied the program record for wins in a season with 10, set four times previously in 1902, 1983, 1989, and 2001.
- Illinois won 9+ regular season games for the eighth time in program history (1892, 1902, 1904, 1983, 1989, 2001, 2007).
- Illinois won 23 games over the three-year span from 2022-24, tying the program's most wins in a three-year span since winning 24 games from 1988-90. Illinois also won 23 games from 1999-2001.
- Illinois had six Big Ten wins for the first time since going 6-2 in Big Ten games in 2007 on the way to the 2008 Rose Bowl.
- Illinois had its third six-win Big Ten season in the last 30 years (2001, 2007, 2024).
- 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.



## RETURNING STARTERS

### FROM THE CITRUS BOWL VICTORY (18)

No.	Player	Pos.	Yr.
1	Kaleb Patterson	DB	Jr.
3	Alec Bryant	OLB	Sr.
5	Torrie Cox Jr.	DB	Sr.
7	Matthew Bailey	DB	Jr.
7	Alexander Capka-Jones	WR	Sr.
9	Luke Altmeyer	QB	Sr.
10	Miles Scott	DB	Sr.
14	Xavier Scott	DB	Sr.
17	Collin Dixon	WR	So.
17	Gabe Jacas	OLB	Sr.
21	Aidan Laughery	RB	Jr.
41	James Kreutz	LB	Jr.
58	Melvin Priestly	OL	Sr.
64	Josh Kreutz	OL	Sr.
73	Josh Gesky	OL	Sr.
74	J.C. Davis	OL	Sr.
75	Brandon Henderson	OL	Jr.
85	Tanner Arkin	TE	Sr.

## 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 Giants  
 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  
 CB Devon Witherspoon, Seattle Seahawks

### Practice Squad

DL TeRah Edwards, Los Angeles Chargers  
 OL Kendrick Green, Buffalo Bills  
 WR Malik Turner, San Francisco 49ers  
 WR Isaiah Williams, Cincinnati Bengals

## BIG COMEBACKS AND BIG WINS

- 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 had a 10-4 record in one-score games from 2023-24, including a 5-1 record in one-score games in 2024. The Illini had one-score wins over #19 Kansas, #22 Nebraska, Purdue, Rutgers, and #14 South Carolina in 2024.
- Seven of Illinois' 10 one-score wins from 2023-24 came in the final minute or overtime.
- Illinois was underdogs in six of its 10 one-score wins from 2023-24, including five as road/neutral dogs.
- In 2024, **Luke Altmeyer** led the nation in game-winning touchdown passes with three (at Nebraska, Purdue, at Rutgers).
- **Altmeyer** has led five game-winning drives in the final minute or OT during his Illini career, including four in Big Ten wins. He leads the nation in career game-winning drives of all active quarterbacks in 2025.

## FOUR RANKED WINS IN 2024

- 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.
- Illinois had ranked wins over Kansas (#19), Nebraska (#22), Michigan (#24), and South Carolina (#14).
- Illinois went 4-2 against AP Top 25 teams in 2024. From the 2008 Rose Bowl game through the 2023 season, Illinois went 3-40 against AP Top 25 teams.
- All four of Illinois' ranked wins came as underdogs.
- Illinois had two AP Top 25 wins during September for the first time in program history.
- Against Michigan, Illinois won a ranked vs. ranked game at Memorial Stadium for the first time since 1991, when #20 Illinois defeated #11 Ohio State, 10-7 (Oct. 12, 1991).
- Illinois won two ranked vs. ranked games in a single season for the first time since 2001 (Nebraska, Michigan).
- The Sept. 15 AP Top 25 poll marked the earliest in a season that Illinois had been voted into the top 25 since 2008.
- Illinois was ranked #11 in the nation by ESPN's strength of record metric.

## SUCCESS IN CLOSE GAMES

- Illinois is 10-4 in one-score games over the last two seasons (2023-24), tying the program record for one-score wins (5) in back-to-back seasons. The 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 #14 South Carolina (Cheez-It Citrus Bowl).
- Illinois was an underdog in six of its 10 one-score wins over the past two 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).
- Seven of Illinois' 10 one-score wins over the last two seasons have come in the final minute or overtime. In 2024, Illinois topped Nebraska and Purdue in overtime and beat Rutgers with 0:04 left. In 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 five game-winning drives in the final minute or overtime during his Illini career, the most in the nation during that span. He led the Illini on last-second field goal drives against Toledo (0:05) and Maryland (0:00) in 2023. In 2024, he 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.
- Illinois ran three offensive plays in overtime in 2024 and scored two touchdowns (both Altmeyer to Bryant TD passes).

## RECENT NFL DRAFT SUCCESS

- Illinois WR **Pat Bryant** was selected by the Denver Broncos in the third round of the 2025 NFL Draft.
- **Bryant** was the Illini's eighth top-100 pick among the 12 NFL Draft selections during **Bielema's** four years at Illinois.
- Illinois is one of only three Big Ten programs to have a wide receiver drafted in each of the last two NFL Drafts, along with Ohio State and Oregon.
- Since **Bielema** arrived at Illinois, the Illini's eight top-100 NFL Draft picks ranks fourth in the Big Ten behind only Michigan, Ohio State, and Penn State (among teams in the league the last four years).
- **Bret Bielema** has the most top-100 picks of any coach in Illini history during their first four seasons as head coach.
- **Bielema** has had 56 NFL Draft selections during his 16 seasons as a head coach.

## RECRUITING THE STATE

- Illinois native **Bret Bielema** has made a dedicated effort to recruit the state of Illinois since his arrival in Champaign.
- The Illini have 50 players on the roster that played IHSA football.

## 2025 AWARD AND HONORS

### QB Luke Altmyer

- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Second Team
- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team
- » 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

### TE Tanner Arkin

- » John Mackey Award Watch List

### DB Matthew Bailey

- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team

### WR Hank Beatty

- » Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week vs. WIU
- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Second Team (Punt Returner)
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Second Team (Punt Returner)
- » Paul Hornung Award Watch List

### WR Hudson Clement

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team

### P Keelan Crimmins

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team

### OL J.C. Davis

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten First Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » Outland Trophy Watch List

### 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
- » ESPN Preseason All-America First Team
- » Athlon Preseason All-America Third Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-America Fourth Team
- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten First Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten First Team
- » Lott IMPACT Trophy Watch List
- » Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List
- » Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List
- » Lombardi Award Watch List

### RB Aidan Laughery

- » Doak Walker Award Watch List

### LB Kenenna Odeluga

- » Allstate Good Works Team nominee
- » Wuerffel Trophy Watch List

### DB Kaleb Patterson

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team

### OL Melvin Priestly

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team

### LB Dylan Rosiek

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team

### 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
- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten First Team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten First Team
- » Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Watch List
- » Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List
- » Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List

### DL James Thompson Jr.

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team

### Head Coach Bret Bielema

- » Allstate Good Works Team nominee
- » Dodd Trophy Watch List

## FLORIDA TO ILLINOIS TO THE NFL

- Over the last four years, Illinois is #3 in the nation in taking Florida high school recruits and getting them drafted.
- Six Illini have come from Florida high schools, then were drafted out of Illinois since Bielema's arrival.

Floridian Illini	Florida HS Town	NFL Draft
WR Pat Bryant	Jacksonville, Fla.	2025, Denver (3rd, 74)
DT Jer'Zhan Newton	St. Petersburg, Fla.	2024, Washington (2nd, 36)
DB Devon Witherspoon	Pensacola, Fla.	2023, Seattle (1st, 5)
DB Jartavius Martin	Lehigh Acres, Fla.	2023, Washington (2nd, 47)
DB Sydney Brown *	Bradenton, Fla.*	2023, Philadelphia (3rd, 66)
DB Kerby Joseph	Orlando, Fla.	2022, Detroit (3rd, 97)

\* - Sydney Brown is originally from Canada, attended high school in Florida.

\* - Sydney's brother, Chase Brown, is not on this list because he played at Western Michigan out of high school.

- The Illini (6) trail only Miami (8) and Florida (7) at producing Florida draft picks over the last four years.
- No out-of-state program has had more Floridians that they signed out of high school drafted over past four years than Illinois.

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT SUCCESS

- Illinois was one of only five schools to win a bowl game and at least one game in the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments in 2024-25, along with Connecticut, Iowa State, Michigan, and Mississippi.
- Illinois was one of only 16 schools to qualify for a bowl game and the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments in 2024-25, along with Alabama, Baylor, Connecticut, Duke, Iowa State, Liberty, Louisville, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Vanderbilt.

## 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 ranks as 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).

Older Brother	Younger Brother	Hometown
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.
- Bielema famously recruited J.J. Watt to Wisconsin, then his brother, Derek.
- Bielema also coached twins Chase and Sydney Brown at Illinois. Both were selected in the 2023 NFL Draft to become the sixth set of twins drafted in the same NFL Draft.

## REST UP

- Illinois is 16-5 in games with more than six days rest since Bielema's arrival in 2021, including 14-3 over the last four seasons (2022-25) and a 6-1 record over the last two seasons (2024-25).

## 14 ILLINI EARN ALL-BIG TEN ACCOLADES IN 2024

- 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**.
- All four full-time Illini offensive line starters earned All-Big Ten status. OT **J.C. Davis** was named to the All-Big Ten Third Team, while C **Josh Kreutz**, OG **Josh Gesky**, and OT **Melvin Priestly** earned honorable mention accolades.
- 2024 was the third consecutive year that every full-time starter on the offensive line earned All-Big Ten honors. Illinois and Penn State are the only programs in the Big Ten to accomplish that feat in each of the last three seasons.

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	Jaheim 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	Malik Elzy	WR	6-2	225	Jr.	Chicago, Ill.	Simeon	
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

**74 J.C. DAVIS**

LT, 6-5, 335, SR.

OAKLAND, CALIF. / McClymonds / NEW MEXICO

- » 2025 Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten First Team
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Third Team (coaches) and Honorable Mention (media)
- » Entered 2025 with 37 consecutive starts
- » No. 11-graded pass-blocking lineman in bowl games according to PFF (87.6, min. 59 snaps) in Cheez-It Citrus Bowl victory over No. 14 South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Two-Time All-Mountain West at New Mexico (2022 honorable mention, 2023 first team)
- » 2021 All-CCCA first team at Contra Coast College
- » Communication major at Illinois

OUTLAND TROPHY WATCH LIST  
SENIOR BOWL 300**START STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2022	UNM	12	12
2023	UNM	12	12
2024	ILL	13	13
2025	ILL	2	2
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>

**73 JOSH GESKY**

LG, 6-5, 335, SR.

MANTENO, ILL. / MANTENO

- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches & media)
- » Two-time Academic All-District and 2025 Academic All-American candidate
- » 2023 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention
- » No. 12-graded pass-blocking lineman in bowl games according to PFF (87.4, min. 59 snaps) in Cheez-It Citrus Bowl victory over No. 14 South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Started 2023 at RG and moved to LG prior to Week 3 vs. #7 Penn State (9/16/23)
- » Kinesiology major at Illinois

**START STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2021	ILL	--	--
2022	ILL	11	0
2023	ILL	11	8
2024	ILL	13	13
2025	ILL	2	2
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>23</b>

**64 JOSH KREUTZ**

C, 6-2, 290, SR.

BANNOCKBURN, ILL. / LOYOLA ACADEMY

- » Two-time team captain
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches & media)
- » Entered 2025 with 25 consecutive starts
- » Father, Olin, was a six-time Pro Bowler with the Chicago Bears
- » Brother, James, is a linebacker for the Illini
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2025 with a degree in recreation, sport, & tourism

**START STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2021	ILL	3	0
2022	ILL	13	0
2023	ILL	12	12
2024	ILL	13	13
2025	ILL	2	2
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>27</b>

**75 BRANDON HENDERSON**

RG, 6-5, 335, JR.

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL. / EAST ST. LOUIS (ILL.)

- » Started the final seven games of the 2024 season at right guard
- » Caught game-tying touchdown pass from Luke Altmyer on fourth-and-2 from the Nebraska 6-yard line in the fourth quarter of Illinois' OT road win over the #22 Cornhuskers (9/20/24)
- » Helped East St. Louis to the 2022 IHSA 6A state championship at Memorial Stadium
- » 2022 IHSFCA 6A All-State honorable mention
- » High school teammate of Illini teammates Jojo Hayden and Melvin Priestly
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

**START STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2023	ILL	9	0
2024	ILL	13	7
2025	ILL	2	1
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>

**58 MELVIN PRIESTLY**

RT, 6-4, 305, SR.

ST. LOUIS, MO. / EAST ST. LOUIS (ILL.) / GRAMBLING STATE

- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches)
- » No. 78 overall player in college football according to CBS.com's spring rankings
- » Transferred to Illinois in January 2024 from Grambling State
- » Enters 2025 with 28 career starts (13 at Illinois)
- » Helped East St. Louis to a 2021 IHSA 6A state runner-up finish
- » Sociology major at Illinois

**START STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2022	GRAM	11	5
2023	GRAM	11	10
2024	ILL	13	13
2025	ILL	2	2
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>30</b>

**MOST OL GAMES PLAYED**

- Illinois has one of the most experienced offensive lines in the nation, ranking #4 in the nation in games played among offensive linemen and #1 in the Big Ten entering 2025.

Rank	Team	Games Played (Entering 2025)
1.	Virginia	334
2.	UTSA	288
3.	Florida State	265
4.	Illinois	259
5.	Oregon	253

**MOST OL GAMES STARTED**

- Illinois' offensive line entered the 2025 season with the second-most starts in the nation, behind only Virginia. The list below includes FBS and FCS starts only.

Rank	Team	Games Started (Entering 2025)
1.	Virginia	213
2.	Illinois	169
3.	Kentucky	166
4.	Texas Tech	165
5.	Texas A&M	156



## QUARTERBACKS



### 9 LUKE ALTMYER

QB, 6-2, 215, SR.

STARKVILLE, MISS. / STARKVILLE / OLE MISS

- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (Coaches and Media)
- » Third-year starter (24 career starts, 23 at Illinois)
- » Leads the nation in career game-winning drives in the final minute/OT among active quarterbacks with five
- » Passing efficiency of 144.0 in 2024 was the second-best single-season mark in Illinois history
- » 22 touchdown passes in 2024 matched Juice Williams (2008) and Jeff George (1989) for third-most in a single season in Illinois history
- » Last 21 games at Illinois (after 4 INT game vs. Penn State in 2023): 373-587 (63.5%), 4,542 yards, 38 passing TDs, 9 interceptions, 5 rushing TDs and has led Illinois to a 15-6 record
- » Only QB in the nation with four touchdown passes in a top-25 road win in 2024 (at Nebraska)
- » Transferred to Illinois with three years of eligibility prior to the 2023 season
- » Unanimous four-star recruit and the No. 11-ranked pro-style QB in the nation coming out of high school
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in December 2024 with a degree in communication



MAXWELL AWARD WATCH LIST  
WALTER CAMP AWARD WATCH LIST  
DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD WATCH LIST  
MANNING AWARD WATCH LIST  
UNITAS GOLDEN ARM WATCH LIST  
SENIOR BOWL 300

#### PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YDS	YD/ATT	TD	INT	LNG	SACK	RTG
2021	MISS	5	20	37	54.1	192	5.2	1	2	37	9	95.8
2022	MISS	4	8	17	47.1	125	7.4	2	1	36	1	135.9
2023	ILL	9	175	270	64.8	1,883	7.0	13	10	54	34	131.9
2024	ILL	13	211	347	60.8	2,717	7.8	22	6	64	32	144.0
2025	ILL	2	39	52	75.0	513	9.9	6	0	59	7	195.9
CAREER		33	453	723	62.7	5,430	7.5	44	19	64	83	140.6

#### RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2021	MISS	5	21	0	0.0	0	14
2022	MISS	4	4	3	0.8	1	5
2023	ILL	9	94	282	3.0	3	72
2024	ILL	13	99	217	2.2	4	37
2025	ILL	2	12	-12	-1.0	0	25
CAREER		33	223	486	2.2	8	72



### 10 ETHAN HAMPTON

QB, 6-3, 230, JR.

ELLBURN, ILL. / AURORA CHRISTIAN / NORTHERN ILLINOIS

- » Started 10 games at quarterback for Northern Illinois in 2024
- » Led NIU to one of the biggest upsets in program history when he threw for 198 yards and one touchdown in a 16-14 win at #5 Notre Dame (9/7/2024)
- » Graduated from Northern Illinois in December 2024 with a degree in management & marketing
- » Enrolled in the recreation, sport, & tourism master's program at Illinois



#### PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YDS	YD/ATT	TD	INT	LNG	SACK	RTG
2021	NIU	2	4	10	40.0	23	2.3	0	0	14	2	59.3
2022	NIU	4	72	122	59.0	798	6.5	7	6	70	6	123.1
2023	NIU	4	19	33	57.6	147	4.5	2	2	17	0	102.9
2024	NIU	11	144	247	58.3	1,600	6.5	12	6	83	13	123.9
2025	ILL	1	1	1	100.0	14	14.0	0	0	14	0	217.6
CAREER		22	240	413	58.1	2,582	6.3	21	14	83	21	120.6

#### RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2021	NIU	2	5	-10	-2.0	0	9
2022	NIU	4	12	-6	-0.5	0	9
2023	NIU	4	4	6	1.5	0	6
2024	NIU	11	53	129	2.4	2	32
2025	ILL	1	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		22	223	486	2.2	8	72

## RUNNING BACKS



### 3 KADEN FEAGIN

RB, 6-3, 255, JR.

ATWOOD, ILL. / ALAH

- » Hometown of Atwood is 30 miles south of Memorial Stadium
- » 2025 Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team
- » Missed the final eight games of 2024 after hip surgery on 10/18/24
- » 2023 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention as a true freshman
- » Began career with 74 consecutive carries without a negative rush, and was only stopped behind the line of scrimmage twice in 95 attempts during his true freshman season in 2023
- » Placed second in long jump at the 2021 IHSA track and field state finals
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

DOAK WALKER AWARD WATCH LIST  
COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST

#### RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	ILL	9	95	438	4.6	2	25
2024	ILL	5	67	306	4.6	3	34
2025	ILL	2	30	122	4.1	2	18
CAREER		16	192	866	4.5	7	34

#### RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	ILL	9	9	116	12.9	1	54
2024	ILL	5	5	37	7.4	0	12
2025	ILL	2	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		16	14	153	10.9	1	54



### 21 AIDAN LAUGHERY

RB, 5-11, 200, JR.

GIBSON CITY, ILL. / GCMS

- » Hometown of Gibson City is 32 miles north of Memorial Stadium
- » Rushed 16 times for 67 yards in Cheez-It Citrus Bowl win over No. 14 South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Big Ten Co-Offensive Player of the Week after rushing 12 times for a career-best 172 yards and career-high three touchdowns in win at Northwestern (11/30/24)...was first 100-yard game of his career and the first multi-score game of his career...all three touchdowns were over 30 yards, including a career-long 64-yarder in the third quarter
- » Led GCMS to IHSA 2A state title; also ran track in high school
- » Graduated from Illinois in August 2025 with a degree in recreation, sport, & tourism
- » Enrolled in the management master's program at Illinois



DOAK WALKER AWARD WATCH LIST

#### RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	ILL	1	3	9	3.0	0	5
2023	ILL	9	16	81	5.1	1	19
2024	ILL	12	97	589	6.1	4	64
2025	ILL	2	15	106	7.1	2	57
CAREER		24	131	785	6.0	7	64

#### RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	ILL	1	0	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	9	2	24	12.0	0	12
2024	ILL	12	9	32	3.6	0	10
2025	ILL	2	2	22	11.0	0	17
CAREER		24	13	78	6.0	0	17



### 5 CA'LIL VALENTINE

RB, 5-11, 190, SO.

HAYWARD, CALIF. / CHANDLER (AZ)

- » Scored first-career touchdown at #1 Oregon (10/26/24) as a true freshman
- » Carried the ball five times for a career-best 53 yards in win vs. Central Michigan. Also had a new career-long 22-yard rush in the contest (9/14/24)
- » Rushed for what was then a career-high 25 yards vs. #19 Kansas (9/7/24)
- » Made his Illinois debut vs. Eastern Illinois...rushed for 16 yards on first-career carry (8/29/24)
- » Four-star recruit by ESPN, On3, and Rivals
- » Rushed for 3,242 yards and 42 rushing touchdowns during three-year high school career
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

#### RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2024	ILL	12	53	212	4.0	1	22
2025	ILL	2	15	95	6.3	1	23
CAREER		14	68	307	4.5	2	23

#### RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2024	ILL	12	5	30	6.0	0	15
2025	ILL	2	2	14	7.0	0	12
CAREER		14	7	44	6.3	0	15

## 1A RUNNING BACKS

- Illinois running backs Kaden Feagin and Aidan Laughery represent two of the smallest football-playing schools in the state of Illinois. Both are from the state's smallest division, 1A:
  - » Feagin played at Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond (ALAH) High School, 30 miles south of Memorial Stadium. ALAH's enrollment was 298 during Feagin's senior season.
  - » Laughery played at Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley (GCMS) High School, 32 miles north of Memorial Stadium. GCMS's enrollment was 282 during Laughery's senior season.

**80 HANK BEATTY**

WR, 5-11, 185, SR.

ROCHESTER, ILL. / ROCHESTER

- » National leader in all-purpose yards (394)
- » Eighth in the nation and second in the Big Ten in receiving yards (236)
- » Back-to-back 100-yard receiving games to start the 2025 season, the first two of his career
- » 25-yard rushing touchdown at Duke after lining up at quarterback
- » Set the Illinois single-game punt return yardage record (133) against WIU (8/29/25), breaking Red Grange's 102-year-old program record (125) set in 1923 vs. Nebraska
- » 2024 Phil Steele All-America Honorable Mention as a punt returner
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Third Team (media) and Honorable Mention (coaches) as a return specialist
- » Led the Big Ten and ranked third in the nation with 14.1 yards per punt return in 2024
- » Finished with 310 punt return yards in 2024, the second-most in a single season in program history and finished just 13 yards shy of equaling Dike Eddleman's program record set in 1947
- » Led Rochester to the 2019 IHSA 5A state title with 12 receptions for 212 yards and three touchdowns to earn player of the game honors
- » 2021-22 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year
- » Played quarterback in high school
- » Marketing major at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	ILL	12	7	25	3.6	0	8
2023	ILL	12	8	65	8.1	0	26
2024	ILL	13	20	294	14.7	1	59
2025	ILL	2	13	236	18.2	0	59
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>

**RUSHING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	ILL	12	0	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	1	11	11.0	0	11
2025	ILL	2	1	25	25.0	1	25
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>

**PUNT RETURN STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	ATT	YDS	TD	FC	LNG
2022	ILL	12	2	2	0	0	2
2023	ILL	12	1	6	0	0	6
2024	ILL	13	22	310	0	0	59
2025	ILL	2	4	133	1	0	69
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>

**0 JUSTIN BOWICK**

WR, 6-4, 210, JR.

POWDER SPRINGS, GA. / PACE ACADEMY / BALL STATE

- » Signed with Illinois in Dec. 2024 and transferred with two seasons of eligibility remaining
- » Started four games at Ball State in 2024 and redshirted the season
- » Third on Ball State's team in receiving yards (383) and touchdown receptions (3) despite only playing in four games in 2024
- » Started collegiate career at Eastern Illinois in 2022 and 2023
- » Communication major at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	EIU	7	13	250	19.2	3	63
2023	EIU	11	30	459	15.3	5	52
2024	BALL	4	20	383	19.1	3	57
2025	ILL	2	7	73	10.4	3	21
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>63</b>

**13 HUDSON CLEMENT**

WR, 6-1, 215, JR.

MARTINSBURG, W. VA. / MARTINSBURG / WEST VIRGINIA

- » 2025 Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team
- » Transferred to Illinois with two years of eligibility remaining
- » Signed with Illinois on Jan. 2, 2025, on the same day as his brother, Murphy
- » No. 2-graded transfer wide receiver in the nation, according to PFF
- » 20 career starts at West Virginia
- » Career-high 11 receptions for a season-high 166 receiving yards and two touchdowns against Memphis in the Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl (12/17/24)
- » Majoring in recreation, sport, & tourism at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	WV	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	WV	11	22	480	21.8	4	70
2024	WV	12	51	741	14.5	5	44
2025	ILL	2	3	44	14.7	0	27
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>70</b>

**17 COLLIN DIXON**

WR, 6-1, 215, SO.

TALLMADGE, OHIO / TALLMADGE

- » Played in all 13 games as a redshirt freshman in 2024 as Illinois' No. 3 receiver
- » Started 10 games in 2024 as a redshirt freshman
- » Redshirted during the 2023 season as a true freshman
- » Earned three first-team Suburban League honors in football, and track and field, and was a two-time all-conference selection in basketball
- » Caught 201 passes for 3,561 yards and 43 touchdowns during his high school career
- » Marketing major at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	18	264	14.7	0	41
2025	ILL	2	4	44	11.0	1	33
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>

**8 MALIK ELZY**

WR, 6-2, 225, JR.

CHICAGO, ILL. / SIMEON

- » Recorded career-long 34-yard touchdown reception in 2024 opener vs. Eastern Illinois (8/29/24)
- » Played in nine games as a true freshman at Illinois in 2023
- » Caught first-career touchdown against #7 Penn State (9/16/23)
- » Four-star recruit by 247Sports Composite, Rivals, and On3 Consensus
- » Highest-rated wide receiver to commit to Illinois since Arrelious Benn in 2007
- » Brother, Devonta, played football at Division II Northwood University in Michigan
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	ILL	9	5	52	10.4	1	19
2024	ILL	10	4	77	19.3	1	34
2025	ILL	2	4	46	11.5	0	15
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>

**86 CHRISTIAN ABNEY**

TE, 6-6, 255, JR.

ZIONSVILLE, IND. / ZIONSVILLE / BALL STATE

- » Transferred to Illinois in May 2025 with two years of eligibility remaining
- » High school quarterback, switched to tight end at Ball State
- » Nine starts at tight end at Ball State (3 in 2023, 6 in 2024)
- » Management major at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	BALL	7	3	16	5.3	0	10
2024	BALL	12	5	50	10.0	1	22
2025	ILL	2	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

**23 JORDAN ANDERSON**

TE, 6-4, 240, JR.

NAPERVILLE, ILL. / JOLIET CATHOLIC

- » Missed 2023 season with knee injury sustained during fall camp
- » Did not play in a game and redshirted in first season at Illinois in 2022
- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN, On3, and Rivals
- » Set IHSA record with 306 rushing yards in the 2021 Class 4A championship game, adding four rushing touchdowns and a receiving touchdown
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**85 TANNER ARKIN**

TE, 6-4, 265, SR.

FORT COLLINS, COLO. / FOSSIL RIDGE / COLORADO STATE

- » Two-time team captain
- » Caught his third touchdown pass of the season and also rushed for a career-long 36 yards on a fake punt in win vs. #24 Michigan (10/19/24)
- » Career highs in receptions (4) and yards (28) to go along with one touchdown at #22 Nebraska (9/20/24)
- » Scored first collegiate TD on first reception as an Illini vs. Wisconsin (10/21/23)
- » Transferred to Illinois with three seasons of eligibility remaining prior to the 2023 season
- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports Composite
- » Three-sport letterman in high school, also competed in basketball and track & field and won the Colorado state discus championship in 2020
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2025 with a degree in kinesiology

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2021	CSU	4	1	9	9.0	0	9
2022	CSU	12	14	116	8.3	0	26
2023	ILL	12	1	1	1.0	1	1
2024	ILL	13	16	111	6.9	3	16
2025	ILL	2	2	14	7.0	1	11
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>

**14 COLE RUSK**

TE, 6-5, 250, SR.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL. / ROCK ISLAND / MURRAY STATE

- » Touchdown reception at Duke was his first career reception for the Illini
- » Missed the 2024 season with a torn ACL suffered in Fall Camp
- » 2023 FCS All-American Third Team at Murray State
- » Grew up an Illini fan
- » Father, Steve, lettered in wrestling at Illinois from 1994-95 and was a two-time NCAA qualifier
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2025 with a degree in communication

**COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST****RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	EIU	1	0	0	0	0	0
2023	MURR	11	39	512	13.1	6	47
2024	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	1	8	8.0	1	8
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>47</b>

**88 DAVIN STOFFEL**

TE, 6-6, 260, SO.

MOSINEE, WIS. / MOSINEE / SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

- » Transferred to Illinois in January 2025 with three years of eligibility remaining
- » 2024 MVFC All-Newcomer Team at South Dakota State
- » Played in two games in 2023 as part of South Dakota State's FCS national championship team
- » 2022 AI Toon Award winner as the top high school receiver in the state of Wisconsin
- » Mechanical engineering major at Illinois

**RECEIVING STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	SDSU	2	0	0	0	0	0
2024	SDSU	14	14	177	12.6	1	41
2025	ILL	2	1	12	12.0	0	12
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>

**36 TOMIWA DUROJAIYE**

DL, 6-5, 300, JR.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. / MIDDLETOWN (DEL.) / FLORIDA STATE

- » Played at Kentucky (2022), West Virginia (2023), and Florida State (2024) prior to Illinois
- » Played in 20 games in three seasons before transferring to Illinois
- » Transferred to Illinois with two seasons of eligibility remaining
- » No. 1 recruit in the state of Delaware by Rivals coming out of high school
- » Father, Bayo, is from Nigeria
- » Communication major at Illinois

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	UK	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	WV	13	23	9	14	0	3.5	0	0	0	0
2024	FSU	4	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	5	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**52 PAT FARRELL**

DL, 6-5, 280, SO.

OAK LAWN, ILL. / ST. RITA

- » Played in all 13 games in 2024 with one start
- » Did not play in a game and redshirted the 2023 season
- » 2022 All-Chicago Catholic League first team selection and CCL Green Defensive MVP
- » Advertising major at Illinois

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	4	2	2	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**92 GENTLE HUNT**

DL, 5-11, 295, SR.

HIGH SPRINGS, FLA. / GAINESVILLE / FLORIDA A&amp;M

- » Played in five games in 2024, including the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl, and redshirted the season
- » Transferred to Illinois in the Summer 2024 with one year of eligibility remaining
- » 2023 All-SWAC Second Team
- » Helped Florida A&M to the 2023 Celebration Bowl title
- » Graduated Florida A&M University in August 2024 with a degree in psychology
- » Crop sciences major at Illinois

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2021	FAMU	10	27	18	9	0	5	0	0	0	0
2022	FAMU	11	23	14	9	1	1	1	0	0	0
2023	FAMU	12	30	16	14	0	5.5	1	0	0	0
2024	ILL	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	7	4	3	0	1.5	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**44 ANGELO McCULLOM**

DL, 6-2, 300, SO.

PICKERINGTON, OHIO / PICKERINGTON NORTH

- » Played in seven games as a true freshman in 2024
- » OCC Ohio Defensive Player of the Year as a senior in high school
- » First played high school varsity football at age 13 as a freshman
- » Also played basketball, wrestled, and threw shot put in high school
- » Has seven siblings (three brothers, four sisters)

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2024	ILL	13	2	1	1	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**99 CURT NEAL**

DL, 6-0, 310, JR.

CORNELIUS, N.C. / HOUGH / WISCONSIN

- » Transferred to Illinois with two seasons of eligibility in December 2024
- » Played in 29 games with 13 starts at Wisconsin from 2022-24
- » Led all Wisconsin defensive linemen with 29 tackles in 2024
- » Redshirted the 2022 season after four games played
- » Social work major at Illinois

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	WIS	4	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	WIS	13	13	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	WIS	12	29	14	15	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**90 JAMES THOMPSON JR.**

DL, 6-6, 310, SR.

CINCINNATI, OHIO / ROGER BACON / WISCONSIN

- » 2025 Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » Transferred to Illinois with one year of eligibility remaining in January 2025
- » Missed 10 games with an injury in 2024 and redshirted the season
- » Played in 38 games with 18 starts at Wisconsin
- » Led all Wisconsin defensive linemen with 29 tackles in 2023
- » Graduated from the University of Wisconsin in December 2024 with a degree in community & organizational development

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2020	WIS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	WIS	10	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	WIS	13	22	10	12	0	2	0	0	0	0
2023	WIS	13	29	19	10	2	3	0	0	0	0
2024	WIS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**8 JEREMIAH WARREN**

DL, 6-3, 310, SO.

BELLEVILLE, MICH. / BELLEVILLE

- » Played in all 12 regular season games as a redshirt freshman in 2024
- » Attended the Big Ten's "Big Life Series: Selma to Montgomery" educational experience in July 2024
- » Serves as a SAAC representative for Illinois football
- » Played in two games and redshirted the season as a true freshman in 2023
- » Communication major at Illinois

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	10	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**43 JOE BARNA****OLB, 6-4, 265, SO.****WHEATON, ILL. / WHEATON NORTH**

- » Career-high five tackles (three solo, two assisted) against #9 Penn State (9/28/24)
- » 0.5 sack with three tackles (2 solo) in homecoming win over Central Michigan (9/14/24)
- » Three tackles (1 solo) with a sack for a loss of five yards in college debut vs. EIU (8/29/24)
- » Helped Wheaton North to state titles in 2021 and 2022
- » 2023 IHSFCA 7A All-State, DuKane Conference Defensive Lineman of the Year, and Wheaton North Defensive Player of the Year as a senior
- » General Studies major at Illinois

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS											
YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2024	ILL	10	16	8	8	0	1.5	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		12	18	9	9	0	1.5	0	0	0	0

**4 DANIEL BROWN****OLB, 6-1, 250, JR.****KANSAS CITY, KAN. / BISHOP WARD / HUTCHINSON CC**

- » Played in two games in 2024 and redshirted the season
- » Missed the first 11 games of the 2024 season with an injury
- » 2023 NJCAA All-American First Team
- » 2023 Jayhawk Conference Defensive Player of the Year
- » National leader in sacks among juco players with 18.0 in 11 games in 2023
- » Community health major at Illinois

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS											
YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2024	ILL	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

**3 ALEC BRYANT****OLB, 6-3, 250, SR.****HOUSTON, TEXAS / SHADOW CREEK / VIRGINIA TECH**

- » Entered 2025 with 37 career games played at Illinois and six career starts
- » Five starts at outside linebacker in 2025, including the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl
- » Sixth season of college football, sat out the 2021 season per NCAA transfer rules
- » Led Shadow Creek High School to the Texas 5A state championship as a senior in 2019
- » Communication major at Illinois



DEFENSIVE STATISTICS											
YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2020	VT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	ILL	12	11	8	3	1	1.5	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	26	8	18	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	22	15	7	2	2	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		40	62	32	30	3	4	0	0	0	0

**17 GABE JACAS****OLB, 6-3, 270, SR.****PORT ST. LUCIE, FLA. / FORT PIERCE CENTRAL**

- » 2025 ESPN Preseason All-America First Team
- » 2024 Phil Steele All-America Third Team
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Third Team (coaches & media)
- » 2022 Freshman All-American and All-Big Ten honorable mention
- » Ranks fifth in career sacks in Illinois program history with 19.0 entering Week 3 vs. Western Michigan
- » Top-25 nationally in forced fumbles (t-21st, 3) and sacks (t-24th, 8.0) during 2024 regular season
- » Tied for lead in the Big Ten in forced fumbles and fifth in sacks during the 2024 regular season
- » Tied with Oregon DE Matayo Uigalelei for second-most sacks in Big Ten games (7.0) in 2024
- » Career-high 13 tackles (six solo) with a career-high 2.5 sacks, 2.5 TFLs, two QB hurries, and a forced fumble vs. #24 Michigan (10/19/24) to earn Walter Camp National Player of the Week honors
- » No. 2 in Illinois history in sacks by a true freshman with 4.0 in 2022, behind only Simeon Rice
- » State champion and all-state wrestler in high school
- » Community health major at Illinois



**BEDNARIK AWARD WATCH LIST**  
**NAGURSKI TROPHY WATCH LIST**  
**LOMBARDI WATCH LIST**  
**LOTT IMPACT WATCH LIST**  
**SENIOR BOWL 300**

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS											
YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	ILL	13	36	14	22	0	4	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	31	22	9	1	4	1	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	74	39	35	0	8	3	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	6	5	1	1	3	2	0	0	0
CAREER		40	147	80	67	2	19	6	0	0	0

**9 LEON LOWERY JR.****OLB, 6-3, 255, SR.****ELIZABETH, N.J. / NORTH BRUNSWICK / WISCONSIN**

- » Started 22 of 24 games over the previous two seasons at Wisconsin (2024) and Syracuse (2023)
- » Entered 2025 with 24 career starts
- » Sixth season of college football
- » Led all Wisconsin outside linebackers with 29 tackles in 2024
- » Enrolled in the recreation, sport, & tourism master's program at Illinois



DEFENSIVE STATISTICS											
YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2020	SYR	3	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	SYR	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	SYR	12	22	14	8	1	1.5	0	0	0	0
2023	SYR	12	46	26	20	1	3.5	0	0	0	0
2024	WIS	12	29	18	11	0	1	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		43	109	64	45	2	6	0	0	0	0



## 45 MALACHI HOOD

LB, 6-2, 235, JR.

PLAINFIELD, ILL. / JOLIET CATHOLIC

- » Forced first- and second-career fumbles and sacks against Northwestern (11/30/24)
- » Recovered first-career fumble against #24 Michigan (10/19/24)
- » Missed 2023 season following injury during Fall Camp
- » Played in one game and redshirted the 2022 season
- » Led Joliet Catholic to the 2021 IHSA 4A state championship
- » Cousin, Marcus Hood, played linebacker at Illinois from 1997-2000
- » Political science major at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	ILL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	12	14	8	6	1	2	2	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 41 JAMES KREUTZ

LB, 6-2, 225, JR.

BANNOCKBURN, ILL. / LOYOLA ACADEMY

- » Career-high 12 tackles (two solo, 10 assisted) against Rutgers (11/23/24)
- » Named Illinois' Defensive Look Team Player of the Year during redshirt season in 2022
- » 2021 Illinois High School Football Coaches Association 8A All-State first team and Chicago Catholic League Blue Defensive Player of the Year
- » Brother of Illinois' starting center and team captain Josh Kreutz
- » Father, Olin Kreutz, was a six-time Pro Bowler for the Chicago Bears
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	ILL	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	18	9	9	0	1	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	54	26	28	1	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 39 KENENNA ODELUGA

LB, 6-1, 235, SR.

SOUTH HOLLAND, ILL. / MOUNT CARMEL

- » 2024-25 Big Ten Jackie Robinson Community & Impact Award nominee
- » 2024 Big Ten Sportsmanship Award recipient
- » Career-high two sacks against Michigan State (11/16/24)
- » Three-time Academic All-Big Ten
- » Ranked among the Big Ten's leaders during the 2023 season in fumbles recovered (t-2nd, 2) and forced fumbles (t-5th, 2)
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2025 with a degree in finance



ALLSTATE AFCA GOOD WORKS TEAM NOMINEE  
WUERFFEL TROPHY WATCH LIST

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2021	ILL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	ILL	13	8	5	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	11	37	24	13	1	1	2	0	0	0
2024	ILL	12	8	6	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 28 DYLAN ROSIEK

LB, 6-1, 235, SR.

EAST LAKE, FLA. / EAST LAKE

- » Two-time team captain
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches & media)
- » Finished the 2024 regular season 10th in the Big Ten in tackles per game (7.0)
- » Missed the final four games of the 2024 season with a leg injury
- » Had played in 35 consecutive games with 11 straight starts prior to injury in November 2024
- » 2023 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches & media)
- » Led the Big Ten and tied for third in the nation in forced fumbles (4) during the 2023 regular season, the fourth-most forced fumbles in Illinois single-season history
- » Ranked 14th in the BIG in tackles (82), eighth in conference games (70), during the 2023 regular season
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2025 with a degree in kinesiology



### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2021	ILL	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	ILL	13	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	82	52	30	3	1	4	0	0	0
2024	ILL	9	60	25	35	1	1.5	2	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 6 JAHEIM "JUICE" CLARKE

DB, 6-1, 175, JR.

FT. MYERS, FLA. / RIVERDALE

- » Missed first two games of 2025 season with a hamstring injury
- » Played in 24 games over his first two seasons in Champaign
- » First-career fumble recovery in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl against South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Career-high 12 tackles (eight solo) in first-career start against Northwestern (11/30/24)
- » Majoring in recreation, sport, & tourism at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	12	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	12	34	26	8	5	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 5 TORRIE COX JR.

DB, 5-9, 170, SR.

MIAMI, FLA. / CHAMINADE-MADONNA PREP / OHIO

- » Finished the 2024 regular season tied for sixth in the Big Ten in interceptions (3), 45th nationally
- » Season-high seven tackles (six solo) in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl against South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Interceptions against Northwestern (11/30/24), #22 Nebraska (9/20/24) and EIU (8/29/24) in 2024
- » Transferred to Illinois in Summer 2024 with two seasons of eligibility remaining
- » Played in 29 games over three seasons at Ohio, with 91 total tackles, 1.5 sacks, and four interceptions
- » Named a third team College Football News Freshman All-American as a redshirt freshman in 2022 at Ohio
- » Father, Torrie Cox Sr., played five years in the NFL with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after getting drafted in the sixth round of the 2003 NFL Draft
- » Communication major at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2021	OHIO	4	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2022	OHIO	13	52	37	15	6	0	2	3	39	0
2023	OHIO	12	36	21	15	1	1.5	1	1	22	0
2024	ILL	13	26	20	6	4	0	0	3	4	0
2025	ILL	2	6	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>



## 16 TANNER HECKEL

DB, 6-1, 195, SO.

LYNDON, KAN. / LYNDON

- » Played in all 13 games as a true freshman, primarily on special teams
- » Led Lyndon to a 13-0 record and the program's first-ever Kansas Eight-Man Division I State Championship as a senior
- » 2023 Kansas 8-Man Offensive Player of the Year
- » Won the Kansas state title in the long jump and triple jump, while also finishing second in the 100-meter dash, and third in the javelin as a junior
- » Majoring in recreation, sport & tourism at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2024	ILL	13	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	-1	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>



## 1 KALEB PATTERSON

DB, 6-1, 195, JR.

JACKSON, MISS. / TERRY / PEARL RIVER CC

- » 2025 Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » Started 12 games at cornerback in 2024
- » Played in four games and redshirted the season in 2023
- » Three-star juco recruit by 247Sports, ESPN and On3
- » 2022 All-MACCC first team (at Pearl River CC)
- » Played in all nine games, recording 12 tackles, two forced fumbles, and four PBUs as freshman at PRCC
- » Community health major at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	12	32	25	7	3	0	1	0	0	0
2025	ILL	2	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 14 XAVIER SCOTT

DB, 5-11, 195, SR.

RIVIERA BEACH, FLA. / DWYER

- » 2025 Athlon Preseason All-America Fourth Team
- » 2024 Phil Steele All-America Honorable Mention
- » 2024 All-Big Ten First Team (media)
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Second Team (coaches)
- » One of 15 semifinalists for the 2024 Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, given to the nation's best defensive back
- » Finished the 2024 regular season tied for second in the Big Ten in INTs (4), 15th nationally
- » Picked off sixth-career pass (fourth of the season) against Northwestern (11/30/24)
- » Forced three turnovers against #19 Kansas (9/7/24)
- » Recorded his first-career pick six and his first-career two-interception game against #19 Kansas
- » 2023 All-Big Ten honorable mention (coaches and media)
- » Led the Big Ten in pass breakups (11) and tied for the league lead in passes defended (14) during the 2023 regular season
- » Recorded two interceptions in 2023: at Kansas (9/8/23) and vs. Nebraska (10/6/23)
- » Made first start of his career in the 2023 ReliaQuest Bowl (1/2/23)
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

BEDNARIK WATCH LIST  
NAGURSKI TROPHY WATCH LIST  
PAYCOM JIM THORPE AWARD WATCH LIST  
SENIOR BOWL 300

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	ILL	11	15	13	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	57	48	9	11	0	1	2	0	0
2024	ILL	13	49	43	6	6	1	1	4	55	1
2025	ILL	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>



## 7 MATTHEW BAILEY

DB, 6-2, 215, JR.

MOLINE, ILL. / MOLINE

- » 2025 Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (media)
- » Tied Illinois bowl record with a career-high 13 tackles (five solo, eight assisted) in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl against South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Finished the 2024 regular season 14th in the Big Ten in tackles per game (6.8)
- » Recorded 11 tackles (six solo, five assisted), an interception (first of season, fourth of career) and a forced fumble against #24 Michigan (10/19/24)
- » Redshirted the 2023 season after missing 11 of 12 games due to injury
- » Three interceptions as a freshman ranked eighth in the Big Ten
- » Kinesiology major at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	ILL	13	10	7	3	2	0	0	3	22	0
2023	ILL	1	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	93	43	50	5	0	2	1	20	0
2025	ILL	2	7	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>



## 0 MAC RESETICH

DB, 6-0, 210, JR.

SPRING VALLEY, ILL. / SPRING VALLEY HALL

- » Interceptions against Northwestern in 2024 and Indiana in 2023
- » First-career sack in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl against #14 South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Originally committed to Black Hawk Community College to play baseball
- » Top 500 baseball recruit in the nation, according to Perfect Game
- » Scored 1,000 career points during high school basketball career
- » Only offer to play Division I football was from Illinois
- » Recreation, sport & tourism major at Illinois

### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	11	7	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
2024	ILL	13	20	16	4	0	1	0	1	28	0
2025	ILL	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>



## 10 MILES SCOTT

DB, 5-11, 210, SR.

DOLTON, ILL. / ST. THOMAS MORE

- » Two-time team captain
- » Started 25 of the last 26 games (2023-25)
- » Three-time Academic All-Big Ten (2022, 2023, 2024)
- » Played wide receiver in 2021 and 2022; switched to defensive back during 2023 spring practice
- » Recovered first fumble of the season, second of career, against #24 Michigan (10/19/24)
- » Recorded fourth-career interception and career-high nine tackles against #19 Kansas (9/7/24)
- » Recorded first-career forced fumble and third-career interception against EIU (8/29/24)
- » 5+ tackles in 10/12 games in 2023, ranking as the team's second-leading tackler (63)
- » Two pick-sixes of 48 yards vs. Toledo (9/2/23) and 55 yards vs. Northwestern (11/25/23) in 2023
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2025 with a degree in kinesiology



### DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2021	ILL	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	ILL	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	63	48	15	3	0	0	2	103	2
2024	ILL	13	55	33	22	4	0	1	2	0	0
2025	ILL	2	9	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2</b>





## 40 KEELAN CRIMMINS

P, 6-3, 230, SR.

SPOTSWOOD, AUSTRALIA / VICTORIA UNIVERSITY / PURDUE

- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches and media) at Purdue
- » Transferred to Illinois with one year of eligibility remaining, as the NCAA initially granted him three years when he first moved to the United States and attended Mississippi State
- » Ranked 13th in the nation and third in the Big Ten in yards per punt (44.9) in 2024
- » No. 2 single-season punting average in Purdue history (44.9) in 2024
- » Product of Prokick Australia
- » Also played cricket in Australia



### PUNTING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	PUNTS	AVG	LNG	YDS
2023	MSST	12	49	40.9	55	2,003
2024	PUR	12	64	44.9	64	2,871
2025	ILL	2	4	43.3	60	173
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5,047</b>



## 36 LANE HANSEN

LS, 6-0, 235, SR.

EAST LAKE, FLA. / EAST LAKE

- » Long snapper for punts
- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches & media)
- » Three-time Academic All-Big Ten
- » Handled long-snapping duties in all 12 games for punt, field goal, and PAT situations in 2023 and 2024 after splitting time in 2022
- » Brother, Jake, played linebacker at Illinois from 2016-21 and now plays in the NFL for the Houston Texans
- » Father, Shad Hansen, is BYU's all-time leading tackler (408 from 1989-92)
- » Graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2025 with a degree in kinesiology



### GAMES PLAYED STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G
2021	ILL	0
2022	ILL	10
2023	ILL	12
2024	ILL	13
2025	ILL	2
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>37</b>



## 44 PATRICK MAHONEY III

LS, 6-2, 225, SO.

NORTHBROOK, ILL. / GLENBROOK NORTH

- » Long snapper for field goals and extra points
- » Made Illinois debut in the 2025 season opener against Western Illinois
- » 2024 Academic All-Big Ten
- » Father played baseball at Central Michigan (1992-95)
- » Grandfather, Patrick Sr., played football and baseball at Vanderbilt
- » Journalism major at Illinois

### GAMES PLAYED STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G
2023	ILL	0
2024	ILL	0
2025	ILL	2
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>2</b>



## 24 DAVID OLANO

K, 5-11, 180, JR.

NAPERVILLE, ILL. / NAPERVILLE NORTH

- » 2024 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (coaches)
- » Missed field goal in 2025 vs. Western Illinois was blocked
- » Career-long 50-yard field goal against #19 Kansas (9/7/24)
- » 16-for-19 inside of 50 yards and 12-for-13 inside of 40 yards during his career
- » Played in nine games as Illinois' kickoff specialist as a true freshman in 2023
- » Ranked as the No. 3 kicker in the nation according to Sailer Kicking coming out of high school
- » Hit a 50-yard field goal at the All-American Bowl in the Alamodome, the longest in the event's history
- » DuPage Valley Conference Special Teams Player of the Year as a senior in 2022
- » Recreation, sport, & tourism major at Illinois

### KICKING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	FGM	FGA	FG%	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LNG	XP	PTS
2023	ILL	9	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	17	20	85.0	0-0	6-6	6-6	4-6	1-2	50	38-39	89
2025	ILL	2	2	3	66.7	0-0	0-1	2-2	0-0	0-0	35	13-13	19
<b>CAREER</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>8-8</b>	<b>4-6</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51-52</b>	<b>108</b>

Abney, Christian: Management  
 Altmeyer, Luke: Crop Science  
 Anderson, Jordan: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Arkin, Tanner: Health Communication  
 Bailey, Matthew: Kinesiology  
 Baker, Easton: Exploratory Studies  
 Ball, Aaron: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Barna, Joe: Exploratory Studies  
 Barrett, Zach: Political Science  
 Bartolotta, Michael: Management (Master's)  
 Beatty, Hank: Marketing  
 Beerman, Grant: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Bowick, Justin: Communication  
 Boyd, Carson: Exploratory Studies  
 Cameron Brooks: Exploratory Studies  
 Brown, Daniel: Community Health  
 Bryant, Alec: Health Communication  
 Capka-Jones, Alex: Management (Master's)  
 Clarke, Jaheim: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Clawson, Ben: Agribusiness, Markets, & Management  
 Clement, Hudson: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Clement, Murphy: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Coenen, Eli: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Cox, Torrie: Communication  
 Cox, Tywan: Communication  
 Crimmins, Keelan: Ed. Policy, Organization, & Leadership (Master's)  
 Davis, J.C.: Communication  
 Dixon, Collin: Marketing  
 Durojaiye, Tomiwa: Communication  
 Elzy, Malik: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Farrell, Logan: Business Undeclared  
 Farrell, Patrick: Advertising  
 Feagin, Kaden: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Forster, John: Exploratory Studies  
 Francis, Kellen: History  
 Frechette, Dylan: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Furtney, Jake: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Gallardo, Guillermo: Kinesiology  
 Gayle, Erik: Exploratory Studies  
 Gesky, Josh: Public Health (Master's)  
 Griffin, Grayson: Management (Master's)  
 Griffin, TJ: Organizational & Community Leadership  
 Griffin, Tysean: Urban Studies & Planning  
 Hampton, Ethan: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism (Master's)  
 Hansen, Brandon: Communication  
 Hansen, Lane: Health Communication  
 Hayden, Jolo: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Heckel, Tanner: Accountancy  
 Henderson, Brandon: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Hewitt, Carter: Crop Sciences  
 Hirdes, Jack: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Hollinger, Tanner: Exploratory Studies  
 Hollins, Ashton: Kinesiology  
 Hood, Malachi: Strategic Leadership & Management  
 Hunt, Gentle: Crop Science  
 Jacas, Gabe: Community Health  
 John, Demetrius: Communication  
 Jones III, Robert: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

Kaiser, Karson: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Kante, Ismael: Communication  
 Karriem, Saboor: Communication  
 Knapik, Ayden: Agribusiness, Markets, & Management  
 Knapik, Nathan: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Kreutz, James: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Kreutz, Josh: Health Communication  
 Laughery, Aidan: Management (Master's)  
 Leonard, Clayton: Kinesiology  
 Lovett, Andre: Communication  
 Lowery, Leon: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism (Master's)  
 Mahoney, Patrick: Journalism  
 McClure, Tyler: Strategic Leadership & Management  
 McCullom, Angelo: Exploratory Studies  
 McDonough, Michael: Mechanical Engineering  
 McMillan, Tyler: Sociology  
 McMillen, TJ: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Muragin, Mason: Communication  
 Neal, Curtis: Social Work  
 Newton, Jershaun: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Odeluga, Kenenna: Strategic Leadership & Management  
 Olano, David: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Osada, Lucas: Communication  
 Paris, Jack: Business Undeclared  
 Patterson, Kaleb: Community Health  
 Peters, Trey: ACES Undeclared  
 Petty, Trey: Exploratory Studies  
 Priestley, Melvin: Sociology  
 Rashad, Corey: Engineering Undeclared  
 Rau, Lars: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Resetich, Mac: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Reynolds, Amar: Exploratory Studies  
 Rooks, Tyson: Kinesiology  
 Rosiek, Dylan: Health Communication  
 Rousseau, Griffin: Exploratory Studies  
 Rusk, Cole: Management (Master's)  
 Sanders, Mario: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Schuster, Dezmond: Sociology  
 Scott, Miles: Health Communication  
 Scott, Xanai: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Scott, Xavier: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Smith, Carter: Mechanical Engineering  
 Smith, Grant: Engineering Undeclared  
 Stewart, Zafir: Exploratory Studies  
 Stoffel, Davin: Mechanical Engineering  
 Strain, Tyler: Health Communication  
 Straughton, Desmond: Kinesiology  
 Thompson, James: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism (Master's)  
 Trimble, Brayden: Communication  
 Tuerk, Eddie: Exploratory Studies  
 Turner, Donovan: Psychology  
 Valentine, Ca'Lil: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Warren, Jeremiah: Communication  
 White, Isaiah: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Woodward, Vernon: Sociology  
 Wyche, Cedric: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism  
 Zardzin, Luke: Management (Master's)

## COLLEGE GRADUATES (24)

### QB Luke Altmeyer

» December 2024 Graduate: Communication

### TE Tanner Arkin

» May 2025 Graduate: Kinesiology

### WR Michael Bartolotta

» May 2025 Graduate: Communication

### OLB Alec Bryant

» December 2024 Graduate: Communication

### WR Alex Capka-Jones

» May 2025 Graduate: Communication

### P Keelan Crimmins

» December 2021 Graduate (Victoria College): Educational Studies

### DB Grayson Griffin

» May 2025 Graduate: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

### QB Ethan Hampton

» December 2024 Graduate (NIU): Management & Marketing

### LS Lane Hansen

» August 2025 Graduate: Kinesiology

### DL Carter Hewitt

» August 2025 Graduate (Northern Iowa): Finance

### LB Malachi Hood

» August 2025 Graduate: Political Science

### DL Gentle Hunt

» August 2024 Graduate (Florida A&M): Psychology

### RB Aidan Laughery

» August 2025 Graduate: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

### OLB Leon Lowery

» May 2024 Graduate (Wisconsin): Human Development & Family Studies

### C Josh Kreutz

» August 2025 Graduate: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

### WR Tyler McClure

» May 2025 Graduate: Financial Planning

### OL Tyler McMillan

» August 2025 Graduate (Southeast Missouri): Professional Studies

### LB Kenenna Odeluga

» May 2025 Graduate: Finance

### LB Dylan Rosiek

» May 2025 Graduate: Kinesiology

### TE Cole Rusk

» May 2025 Graduate: Communication

### DB Miles Scott

» May 2025 Graduate: Kinesiology

### DB Tyler Strain

» August 2025 Graduate: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

### DL James Thompson Jr.

» December 2024 Graduate (Wisconsin): Community & Organizational Development

### TE Luke Zardzin

» August 2025 Graduate: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

## SERIES vs. WESTERN MICHIGAN

All-Time Series: Illinois leads, 4-2

» at Champaign: 4-1

» at Detroit (Ford Field): 0-1

Last: L, 34-10 (9/16/2016 at Illinois)

Streak: L1

» at Champaign: L1

Bielema vs. Western Michigan: 0-0



## LAST MEETING

WESTERN MICHIGAN	34
ILLINOIS	10

SEPT. 17, 2016

MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL. // 40,954

### SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Western Illinois	14	10	3	7	34
Illinois	0	7	3	0	10

### SCORING SUMMARY

#### First Quarter

WMU: Bogan 1 yard run (Hampton kick), 3:15 (5-60, 1:44)

WMU: Bogan 36 yard run (Hampton kick), 0:23 (2-81, 0:44)

#### Second Quarter

WMU: Terrell 3 yard run (Hampton kick), 14:56 (2-5, 0:14)

ILL: Johnson 56 yard pass from Lunt (McLaughlin kick), 6:39 (3-74, 1:26)

WMU: Hampton 32 yard field goal, 1:14 (11-65, 5:25)

#### Third Quarter

ILL: McLaughlin 22 yard field goal, 10:36 (10-61, 4:24)

WMU: Hampton 22 yard field goal, 3:19 (7-62, 2:52)

#### Fourth Quarter

WMU: Franklin 1 yard run (Hampton kick), 8:37 (6-65, 3:14)

### TEAM STATISTICS

Category	WMU	ILL
First Downs	20	15
Rushes-Yards	54-287	15-3
Passing Yards	150	312
Comp-Att-Int	9-13-0	29-42-1
Total Yards	437	315
Punts-Avg	5-200	8-325
Kickoff Returns	3-98	6-146
Penalties-Yards	5-36	7-48
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Sacks By	4-31	5-16
Third-down Conv	2-11	1-11
Time of Possession	35:00	25:00

### INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

**RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD):** WMU - Bogan 24-189-2, Franklin 17-78-1, Terrell 11-21-1. ILL - Vaughn 8-22-0, Foster 2-3-0

**PASSING (Comp-Att-Int-TD-Yds):** WMU - Terrell 9-13-0-0-150 ILL - Lunt 29-42-1-1-312

**RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD):** WMU - Davis 4-97-0, Thompson 3-27-0, Henry 1-0-0. ILL - Turner 9-107-0, Hardee 5-49-0, Johnson 3-64-1

**TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds):** WMU - Phillips 12, 1.0-1; Spillane 11, 1.0-2; Brown 8, 2.0-9. ILL - Smoot 8, 0.5-1; Phillips 8, 2.5-12; Milan 7, 2.5-4.

## THE ILLINOIS-WESTERN MICHIGAN SERIES

- Illinois holds a 4-2 lead in the all-time series vs. Western Michigan.
- The Illini are 4-1 against Western Michigan at Memorial Stadium.
- Illinois beat Western Michigan, 60-14, at Memorial Stadium in the first matchup in the series in 1947.
- The programs played five times from 2004-16 with Illinois winning home games in 2004 (30-27), 2011 (23-20), and 2012 (24-7).
- Western Michigan won the 2008 contest (23-17) at Ford Field in Detroit and defeated the Illini, 34-10, at Memorial Stadium in the most recent matchup in 2016.
- Illinois is 21-6 all-time against current MAC programs, including a 2-0 mark under head coach Bret Bielema who led the Illini to home wins over Toledo, 30-28 in the 2023 season opener, and Central Michigan, 30-9 in Week 3 of the 2024 campaign.

## ILLINOIS-WESTERN MICHIGAN CONNECTIONS

- Illinois assistant head coach/running backs coach **Thad Ward** spent the 2012 season as the wide receivers coach at Western Michigan. Ward developed the Broncos' Jaime Wilson, who had 67 receptions for 792 yards and six touchdowns, into the MAC Freshman of the Year.
- Six players on the 2025 Fighting Illini roster have played in 10 games against Western Michigan, with a combined 7-3 record, prior to transferring to Illinois: **Christian Abney** (0-2 at Ball State), **Torrie Cox** (2-0 at Ohio), **Keelan Crimmins** (1-0 at Mississippi State), **Ethan Hampton** (1-1 at Northern Illinois), **Leon Lowery** (1-0 at Wisconsin; 1-0 at Syracuse), and **Curt Neal** (1-0 at Wisconsin) have all played against the Broncos.
  - **Hampton** made the first start of his collegiate career vs. Western Michigan in his redshirt season for NIU on Nov. 23, 2021. He also led the Huskies to a 42-28 victory over WMU on Nov. 6, 2024, in his final season with the Huskies.
  - **Abney** scored the first touchdown of his collegiate career on a career-long 22-yard reception last year in Ball State's contest vs. WMU (10/5/24).
  - **Cox** set several career-high marks vs. Western Michigan during his time at Ohio. In the 2023 matchup between Ohio and WMU, he recorded the first full sack of his career and finished with a career-high 1.5 tackles for loss. In the 2022 game between the Bobcats and Broncos, he recorded a career-high two interceptions.
- **Dike Eddleman's** 92-yard punt return against Western Michigan on Nov. 8, 1947 still stands as the longest in Illinois history.
- Former Illinois running back and 2022 Doak Walker Award finalist **Chase Brown** began his collegiate career at Western Michigan before reuniting with twin brother, Illini safety Sydney Brown, at Illinois following his freshman season. The 2022 All-American and three-time All-Big Ten performer played in 13 games and recorded 71 carries for 352 yards as a true freshman for the Broncos in 2018. In four seasons at Illinois, he amassed 605 carries for 3,206 yards and 18 rushing touchdowns and was selected by the Cincinnati Bengals in the fifth round of the 2023 NFL Draft.





# BRET BIELEMA

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

IOWA, 1992

FIFTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

Bret Bielema was named as the 26th Fighting Illini Head Football Coach in the history of the program in December 2020. A native of Prophetstown, Illinois, Bielema has 27 years of collegiate coaching experience and compiled a 17-year record of 127-80 (.614) as head coach at Wisconsin, Arkansas, and Illinois.

Bielema, who signed a six-year agreement in 2025 that will keep him at Illinois through 2030, has elevated Illinois to new heights during his first four seasons with 28 wins, 18 Big Ten victories, and a victory in the 2024 Cheez-It Citrus Bowl to give Illinois its fifth 10-win season in program history. He has brought national relevance to the Fighting Illini program with continued appearances in the AP Top 25 and College Football Playoff rankings, two New Year's Bowls, three national award finalists, 11 All-Americans, and 12 NFL Draft picks since he arrived in 2021. In 16 years as a Power-4 head coach, Bielema has led 12 of his teams - including the 2024 Illinois squad - to bowl games.

In 2024, Illinois tied the program record for wins with 10, was ranked by the CFP selection committee for a program-record four straight weeks, appeared in 12 AP Top 25 polls, and tied the program record for ranked wins with four. The Fighting Illini capped one of the best seasons in program history by beating #14 South Carolina in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl, 21-17, in one of the top bowl game victories in Illinois history and finished the season ranked #16 in the AP Top 25.

In addition to the program's on-the-field success, Illinois has experienced the largest growth in attendance in the nation and the largest growth in the Big Ten by a wide margin since Bielema's arrival. Average attendance increased by nearly 20,000 from 2021 to 2024, ranking Illinois #1 in the nation in three-year growth (+19,403 average attendance gained). This season, 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 for kickoff against Western Illinois on Friday, Aug. 29, is expected to exceed 43,000.

Bielema was the first Illini coach to go to two bowl games in his first four seasons since Lou Tepper (1991-94), after guiding Illinois to the 2023 ReliaQuest Bowl, Illinois' first January bowl in 15 years, in just his second season in Champaign and the 2024 Cheez-It Citrus Bowl. The 2022 Illini won eight games, were ranked by the CFP committee for the first time in program history, reached as high as #14 in the AP poll, led the nation in scoring defense (12.8) for the first time in program history, and led the nation and set a school record in interceptions (24).

Two Illini were national awards finalists in 2022 in RB Chase Brown (Doak Walker Award) and CB Devon Witherspoon (Paycom Jim Thorpe Award), representing the first time an Illini finished in the top three of either the Doak Walker Award or Thorpe Award. Witherspoon was also Illinois' first winner of the Big Ten's Tatum-Woodson Defensive Back of the Year, one of five Illini to be named an All-American, and one of 19 Illini to earn All-Big Ten honors, the most in program history. Illinois' five All-Americans



included Witherspoon, who was the first Illini defensive back in history to be named a Consensus All-American, RB Chase Brown; DB Sydney Brown; DT Jer'Zhan Newton; and OL Alex Palczewski, who was the first Illini offensive tackle in history to earn a first team All-America honor. A year later in 2023, Newton became the program's next Consensus All-American and was a finalist for the Nagurski Trophy.

Bielema has also turned Illinois into one of the top programs in producing NFL talent. Illinois was one of five schools with three or more players drafted in the first three rounds in both the 2023 and 2024 NFL Drafts, along with Alabama, Georgia, Michigan, and Penn State. Of Bielema's 12 NFL Draft picks at Illinois, eight have been selected within the top-100 picks, the fourth-best mark in the Big Ten behind only Michigan, Ohio State, and Penn State among teams that have been in the league since 2021. Overall, Bielema has sent over 165 players to the NFL during his career as a head coach.

After the success of the 2022 season, Illinois had one of its most impressive NFL Drafts in recent history. Witherspoon was selected #5 overall to become the highest-drafted defensive back in Illinois history, and fellow DBs Jartavius Martin (No. 47 overall, Washington) and Sydney Brown (No. 66 overall, Philadelphia) went in the second and third rounds, respectively. The Illini were the only team in the nation to have three defensive backs off the board in the first three rounds of the 2023 NFL Draft. RB Chase Brown (No. 163 overall, Cincinnati) was also selected in the fifth round, Bielema's 11th running back coached in college to make it to the NFL.

The Illini followed up its success in the 2023 NFL Draft with four more selections in the 2024 NFL Draft. DT Jer'Zhan Newton (No. 36 overall, Washington) was the third-highest drafted defensive tackle in Illinois history, OL Isaiah Adams (No. 71 overall, Arizona) was the highest-drafted Illini offensive lineman since 2012, TE Tip Reiman (No. 82 overall, Arizona) was the second-highest drafted tight end in Illinois history, and WR Casey Washington (No. 187 overall, Atlanta) was the first Fighting Illini wide receiver drafted since 2012.

## THE BIELEMA FILE

### HOMETOWN

Prophetstown, Illinois

### BIRTHDATE

January 13, 1970

### FAMILY

Wife: Jen

Daughters: Briella and Brexli

### EDUCATION

B.S., marketing - Iowa, 1992

### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

Iowa, 1989-92

Signed free-agent contract with the Seattle Seahawks, 1993

Milwaukee Mustangs, Arena Football League, 1994

### BOWL EXPERIENCE (HEAD COACH)

2024 Cheez-It Citrus Bowl

2023 ReliaQuest Bowl

2016 Belk Bowl

2015 Liberty Bowl

2014 Texas Bowl

2013 Rose Bowl \*

2012 Rose Bowl

2011 Rose Bowl

2009 Champs Sports Bowl

2008 Champs Sports Bowl

2008 Outback Bowl

2007 Capital One Bowl

\* - did not coach in the game



In Bielema's first season in Champaign, Illinois went 5-7 overall with a 4-5 Big Ten record, including ranked road wins over #7 Penn State in the longest game in college football history (9 OT) and #20 Minnesota, the Illini's first-ever win over a College Football Playoff ranked opponent. Illinois' scoring defense (31st from 97th), third-down defense (31st from 89th), and total defense (52nd from 114th) all improved more than 50 spots in the national rankings from 2020. The Illini made massive gains in the Big Ten defensive rankings as well, jumping 9+ spots in scoring defense (4th from 14th), touchdowns allowed (t-3rd from 14th), yards allowed per game (5th from 14th), and passing yards allowed per game (1st from 10th).

From 2006-12 Bielema was the head coach at Wisconsin, where he led the Badgers to three straight Big Ten championships (2010-12), six consecutive bowl games, and a 68-24 record (.739). Bielema then spent five seasons as head coach at Arkansas from 2013-17. After inheriting a depleted roster and enduring a difficult first season, he led the Razorbacks to three consecutive bowl games, including victories against Texas in 2014 and Kansas State in 2015.

In Bielema's debut season at Wisconsin in 2006, the Badgers finished 12-1, including a victory in the Capital One Bowl against Arkansas. He was the first coach in Big Ten history to win 10 games in his first season, the first Wisconsin coach to win 11 games prior to a bowl game, and he became the third coach in NCAA history to win 12 games in his first season. Bielema won 17 of his first 18 games with the Badgers. The Badgers shared or won Big Ten championships three straight seasons from 2010-12, and he led Wisconsin to victories in the first two Big Ten championship games.

Bielema's coaching pedigree and list of football mentors match that of any coach in the nation. He played for and coached under Hall-of-Famer Hayden Fry, helping the Hawkeyes share the 1990 Big Ten title with Illinois. After two years as a graduate assistant and six seasons as linebackers coach at Iowa, Bielema spent two years as co-defensive coordinator at Kansas State under Hall-of-Famer Bill Snyder, helping the Wildcats win the 2003 Big 12 Championship. Two seasons later, he was named defensive coordinator at Wisconsin under Hall-of-Famer Barry Alvarez and moved into the head coaching role of the Badgers in 2006 when Alvarez retired.

Bielema spent the previous three seasons before Illinois in the National Football League. His first two seasons in the NFL were with the New England Patriots as a consultant to six-time Super Bowl champion head coach Bill Belichick in 2018 and as the team's defensive line coach in 2019, when the Patriots won the AFC East with a 12-4 record and had the NFL's best defense. In Bielema's first season with the Patriots, New England went 11-5 and defeated the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LIII. He was the outside linebackers coach and senior assistant for the New York Giants during the 2020 season.

Bielema was a defensive lineman at Iowa from 1989-92, when he was a four-time letterman under Fry. After joining the team as a walk-on, Bielema earned a scholarship after his first year, started as a junior, and was named a team captain for his senior season. Bielema graduated from Iowa in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in marketing.

Following his graduation, Bielema signed a free-agent contract with the Seattle Seahawks and ended his playing career in 1994 as a member of the Milwaukee Mustangs of the Arena Football League.

He and his wife, Jen, have two daughters, Briella Nicole and Brexli Nichole.



Josh Whitman introduced Bret Bielema as Illinois head coach on Dec. 21, 2020.

## COACHING EXPERIENCE

2021-	Illinois	Head Coach
2020	New York Giants	Outside Linebackers, Senior Assistant Coach
2019	New England Patriots	Defensive Line
2018	New England Patriots	Consultant to the Head Coach
2013-17	Arkansas	Head Coach (29-34)
2006-12	Wisconsin	Head Coach (68-24)
2004-05	Wisconsin	Defensive Coordinator
2002-03	Kansas State	Co-Defensive Coordinator
1996-2001	Iowa	Linebackers
1994-95	Iowa	Graduate Assistant

## HEAD COACHING RECORD

YEAR	TEAM	RECORD	POSTSEASON
2006	Wisconsin	12-1	Capital One Bowl
2007	Wisconsin	9-4	Outback Bowl
2008	Wisconsin	7-6	Champs Sports Bowl
2009	Wisconsin	10-3	Champs Sports Bowl
2010	Wisconsin	11-2	Rose Bowl
2011	Wisconsin	11-3	Rose Bowl
2012	Wisconsin	8-5	Rose Bowl (did not coach game)
2013	Arkansas	3-9	
2014	Arkansas	7-6	Texas Bowl
2015	Arkansas	8-5	Liberty Bowl
2016	Arkansas	7-6	Belk Bowl
2017	Arkansas	4-8	
2021	Illinois	5-7	
2022	Illinois	8-5	ReliaQuest Bowl
2023	Illinois	5-7	
2024	Illinois	10-3	Cheez-It Citrus Bowl
2025	Illinois	2-0	
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>17TH SEASON</b>	<b>127-80 (.614)</b>	<b>BIG TEN: 55-37 (.598)</b>

## OFFENSIVE ASSISTANTS



### BARRY LUNNEY JR. GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR / QUARTERBACKS**  
FOURTH SEASON IN 2025

- » Longest-tenured offensive coordinator in the Big Ten
- » Averaged 27.7 points per Big Ten game last season, the 7th-best total in Illinois history and the 3rd-best over the last 35 seasons
- » In first three seasons, coached three of the top four single-season quarterback efficiencies in the Fighting Illini history (2022 DeVito, 2023 Paddock, 2024 Altmyer)
- » Spent seven seasons as an assistant at his alma mater, Arkansas, from 2013-19, including five seasons under Bret Bielema
- » Came to Champaign from UTSA, where he served as associate head coach/offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach in 2020 and 2021



### BART MILLER GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

**OFFENSIVE LINE**  
FIFTH SEASON IN 2025

- » 17 of Illinois starters during his first four seasons have earned All-Big Ten honors, including all five starters in both 2022 and 2023, and all four full-time starters in 2024
- » 17 all-conference linemen over the last four seasons rank fourth in the Big Ten over that timeframe, just two behind Ohio State and Penn State, and one behind Michigan
- » Coached under Bret Bielema at Wisconsin in 2011 (graduate assistant) and 2012 (offensive line coach)
- » Played offensive line at New Mexico from 2003-07
- » Played at Elk Grove High School in the Chicago area



### JUSTIN STEPP GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

**WIDE RECEIVERS**  
SECOND SEASON IN 2025

- » Over the past seven seasons coaching at Illinois, South Carolina, and Arkansas, he has helped eight receivers to 500+-yard seasons
- » Seven of Stepp's former wide receivers are currently on professional rosters, including six in the NFL
- » Produced top-100 NFL Draft picks in back-to-back seasons with Pat Bryant going in the third round of the 2025 NFL Draft to the Denver Broncos and Xavier Legette in the first round of the 2024 NFL Draft by the Carolina Panthers
- » Coached Courtland Sutton at SMU, who is now teammates with fellow Stepp product Pat Bryant on the Denver Broncos
- » Played college football at Furman from 2003-06



### THAD WARD GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

**ASSISTANT HEAD COACH / RUNNING BACKS**  
SIXTH SEASON IN 2025

- » Sixth season, and second stint, as running backs coach at Illinois in 2025
- » Elevated to Assistant Head Coach/ Running Backs Coach in March 2024
- » Spent three years as running backs coach at Illinois from 2016-18, then rejoined the Illini in January 2023
- » Wide receivers coach with Kansas State's 2022 Big XII championship team
- » Played college football at UCF (1999-2001) and Coffeyville Community College (1997-98)



**ARTUR SITKOWSKI**  
CO-QUARTERBACKS  
THIRD SEASON IN 2025



**BYRON BELL**  
ASSISTANT OFFENSIVE LINE  
SECOND SEASON IN 2025



**DANNY CAMERON**  
ASSISTANT TIGHT ENDS  
FOURTH SEASON IN 2025



**DAN ELLINGTON**  
ASSISTANT WIDE RECEIVERS  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025



**JAMES WHITE**  
ASSISTANT RUNNING BACKS  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025



**BLAKE SMITHBACK**  
OFFENSIVE FRONT ASSISTANT  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025

## SPECIAL TEAMS ASSISTANTS



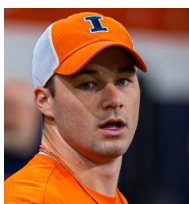
### ROBBY DISCHER GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

**SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR / TIGHT ENDS**  
THIRD SEASON IN 2025

- » Fighting Illini special teams unit ranked #16 in the nation by ESPN's special teams efficiency metric in 2024
- » PFF ranked Illinois' overall special teams unit as the seventh-best in the nation in 2023
- » Illinois led the nation in blocked kicks/punts (7) and had three more blocked kicks/punts than any other team in the nation during the 2023 regular season
- » Came to Illinois from Tulane, where he helped the Green Wave to AAC and Cotton Bowl championships as special teams coordinator in 2022
- » 2014 FootballScoop Special Teams Coordinator of the Year at Oklahoma State, becoming FootballScoop's first graduate assistant winner of any Coach of the Year award



**CHRIS HURD**  
SENIOR SPECIAL TEAMS ASST.  
THIRD SEASON IN 2025



**HARPER COLE**  
OFFENSIVE SKILL AND  
SPECIAL TEAMS ASSISTANT  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025



**AARON HENRY** **GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD**

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR / SECONDARY

FIFTH SEASON IN 2025 (THIRD AS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR)

- » 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 led the Big Ten and ranked t-10th in the nation in forced fumbles (15) in 2024
- » 2022 FootballScoop Defensive Backs Coach of the Year
- » Coached Illinois defensive back Devon Witherspoon into becoming the No. 5 overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft
- » Played under Bielema at Wisconsin, where he was an All-Big Ten first team defensive back and led the Badgers to consecutive Big Ten titles

**TERRANCE JAMISON** **GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD**

DEFENSIVE LINE

FIFTH SEASON IN 2025

- » Has led one of the best defensive line units in the Big Ten and the nation through his first four years in Champaign
- » Coached Jer'Zhan Newton to back-to-back All-American seasons in 2022 and 2023 and to the 2023 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year award
- » Coached several outstanding players in his career before joining the Illini, including 2015 C-USA Defensive Player of the Year Trey Hendrickson, multiple-Pro Bowler J.J. Watt at Wisconsin, fifth-round NFL Draft pick Broderick Washington at Texas Tech, and first-round pick George Karlaftis at Purdue
- » Two degrees from Wisconsin, a bachelor's in agricultural business management (2009) and a master's in educational leadership and policy analysis (2011)
- » Native of Harvey, Illinois, and graduated from Thornton Township High School

**ARCHIE McDANIEL** **GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH**

LINEBACKERS

SECOND SEASON IN 2025

- » 20th year of coaching, including 19 years in college
- » Helped Illinois to a 10-win season in 2024, his first season in Champaign
- » Came to Illinois from Houston, where he was the linebackers coach from 2021-23
- » Helped Houston to two bowl wins in three seasons and a top-20 finish in 2021
- » Played at Texas A&M and recorded 213 tackles, five sacks, and two interceptions during his three-year career from 2003-05

**COREY PARKER** **GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD**

DEFENSIVE BACKS

SECOND SEASON IN 2025

- » Illinois ranked fourth in the Big Ten with 12 interceptions during the 2024 regular season, his first season in Champaign
- » Illinois' defense posted a PFF coverage grade of 87.8 during the 2024 season, ranking 23rd nationally
- » Joined the Fighting Illini from Toledo, where he was the Rockets' cornerbacks coach from 2022-23, helping Toledo to two MAC Championship Game appearances
- » Coached Toledo cornerback Quinyon Mitchell into a two-time All-American and first-round pick in the 2024 NFL Draft
- » Had a 113-34 head coaching record in 13 years at River Rouge High School in Detroit, highlighted by winning a state title in 2019

**TRENT HARRIS** **GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD**

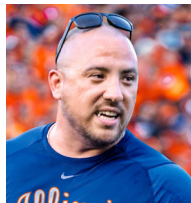
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

SECOND SEASON IN 2025 (FIRST AS OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS COACH)

- » Spent the 2024 season as the Illini's assistant outside linebackers coach
- » Took over leadership of the outside linebackers room for the final four games of 2024, helped guide one of the most productive outside linebacker groups in the Big Ten
- » Came to Illinois following a seven-year professional career that included stints in the NFL (2018-22), XFL (2023), and UFL (2024)
- » Played in the NFL under Bret Bielema for the New England Patriots (2018) and New York Giants (2020)
- » Played college football at Miami from 2014-17, earning All-ACC Third Team honors in 2017



**ALEX PANOS**  
CO-OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS  
FOURTH SEASON IN 2025



**MATT ELLERBROCK**  
ASSISTANT LINEBACKERS  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025



**HOUSTON GRIFFITH**  
ASSISTANT DEFENSIVE BACKS  
THIRD SEASON IN 2025



**ANTONIO JAMES**  
ASSISTANT DEFENSIVE LINE  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025



**RYAN SIMERSON**  
ASSISTANT SECONDARY  
FIFTH SEASON IN 2025



**BEN MILLER**  
SENIOR HEAD COACH ANALYST  
FIFTH SEASON IN 2025



**MYERS HENDRICKSON**  
SENIOR ANALYST  
SECOND SEASON IN 2025



**MIKE NEU**  
SENIOR OFFENSIVE ASSISTANT  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025



**JOE KIM**  
SKILL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR  
FIRST SEASON IN 2025

## Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Kaden Feagin	2	30	123	1	122	4.1	2	18	61.0
Aidan Laughery	2	15	116	10	106	7.1	2	57	53.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	2	15	101	6	95	6.3	1	23	47.5
Hank Beatty	2	1	25	0	25	25.0	1	25	12.5
Jordan Anderson	2	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1	0.5
Luke Almyer	2	12	41	53	-12	-1.0	0	25	-6.0
Team	2	5	0	5	-5	-1.0	0	0	-2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>166.0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>54.5</b>

## Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Luke Almyer	2	195.9	39-52-0	75.0	513	6	59	256.5
Ethan Hampton	2	217.6	1-1-0	100.0	14	0	14	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>196.4</b>	<b>40-53-0</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>263.5</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>124.6</b>	<b>39-68-1</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>245.0</b>

## Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Hank Beatty	2	13	236	18.2	0	59	118.0
Justin Bowick	2	7	73	10.4	3	21	36.5
Collin Dixon	2	4	44	11.0	1	33	22.0
Malik Elzy	2	4	46	11.5	0	15	23.0
Hudson Clement	2	3	44	14.7	0	27	22.0
Tanner Arkin	2	2	14	7.0	1	11	7.0
Aidan Laughery	2	2	22	11.0	0	17	11.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	2	2	14	7.0	0	12	7.0
Cole Rusk	2	1	8	8.0	1	8	4.0
Alexander Capka-Jones	1	1	12	12.0	0	12	12.0
Mario Sanders II	1	1	14	14.0	0	14	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>263.5</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>245.0</b>

## Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Hank Beatty	4	133	33.3	1	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

## Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Tanner Heckel	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	25	25.0	0	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Fumbles Recovered

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Kaleb Patterson	2	0	0.0	0	0
Tyler Strain	1	0	0.0	0	0
Matthew Bailey	1	0	0.0	0	0
Malachi Hood	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## Scoring

Player	td	fg	PAT				dxp	saf	pts
			kick	rush	rcv	pass			
David Olano	-	2-3	13-13	-	-	-	-	-	19
Justin Bowick	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Aidan Laughery	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Hank Beatty	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Kaden Feagin	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Tanner Arkin	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Cole Rusk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Collin Dixon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>13-13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3-3</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

## Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
David Olano	2-3	66.7	0-0	0-1	2-2	0-0	0-0	35	1
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>3-3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>

## FG Sequence

Team Name	Illinois	Opponents
Western Ill.	(35),28	(20)
Duke	(35)	(40),(40)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made

## All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Hank Beatty	2	25	236	133	0	0	394	197.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	2	95	14	0	25	0	134	67.0
Aidan Laughery	2	106	22	0	0	0	128	64.0
Kaden Feagin	2	122	0	0	0	0	122	61.0
Justin Bowick	2	0	73	0	0	0	73	36.5
Malik Elzy	2	0	46	0	0	0	46	23.0
Hudson Clement	2	0	44	0	0	0	44	22.0
Collin Dixon	2	0	44	0	0	0	44	22.0
Tanner Arkin	2	0	14	0	0	0	14	7.0
Mario Sanders II	1	0	14	0	0	0	14	14.0
Alexander Capka-Jones	1	0	12	0	0	0	12	12.0
Cole Rusk	2	0	8	0	0	0	8	4.0
Jordan Anderson	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
Tanner Heckel	2	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-0.5
Luke Altmyer	2	-12	0	0	0	0	-12	-6.0
Team	2	-5	0	0	0	0	-5	-2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>508.0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>301.5</b>

## Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Luke Altmyer	2	64	-12	513	501	250.5
Kaden Feagin	2	30	122	0	122	61.0
Aidan Laughery	2	15	106	0	106	53.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	2	15	95	0	95	47.5
Hank Beatty	2	1	25	0	25	12.5
Ethan Hampton	2	1	0	14	14	7.0
Jordan Anderson	2	1	1	0	1	0.5
Team	2	0	-5	0	-5	-2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>429.5</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>299.5</b>

## Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Keelan Crimmins	4	173	43.3	60	1	2	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

## Kickoffs

Player	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydln
David Olano	17	1105	65.0	17	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>26</b>

## Team Defense

			Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
##	Player	gp	ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
10	Miles Scott	2	8	1	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
45	Malachi Hood	2	5	3	8	1-2	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
28	Dylan Rosiek	2	2	6	8	1-1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
7	Matthew Bailey	2	6	1	7	.	.	.	.	1	1-0	1	.	.
92	Gentle Hunt	2	4	3	7	1.5-9	1.5-9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5	Torrie Cox Jr.	2	5	1	6	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
1	Kaleb Patterson	2	4	2	6	.	.	.	.	.	2-0	.	.	.
17	Gabe Jacas	2	5	1	6	3.5-13	3-12	.	1	1	.	2	.	.
90	James Thompson Jr.	2	.	6	6	1-2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
9	Leon Lowery	2	1	4	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
36	Tomiwa Durojaiye	2	4	1	5	1-7	1-7	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
14	Xavier Scott	2	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
96	Eli Coenen	2	1	2	3	0.5-2	0.5-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Alec Bryant	2	1	2	3	0.5-1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
43	Joe Barna	2	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
44	Angelo McCullom	2	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Tanner Heckel	2	1	1	2	1-2	1-2	1--1	1	.	.	1	.	.
0	Mac Resetich	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
41	James Kreutz	2	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
42	Luke Zardzin	2	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
39	Kenenna Odeluga	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
20	Tyler Strain	2	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	1-0	.	.	.
30	Jojo Hayden	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
52	Pat Farrell	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
99	Curt Neal	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
19	Tyson Rooks	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Daniel Brown	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
	Totals	2	61	42	103	11-39	7-32	1--1	3	9	5-0	4	0	0
	Opponents	2	65	74	139	15-70	7-53	0-0	5	3	0-0	0	1	0

	ILLINI	OPP
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>22</b>
Points per game	48.5	11.0
Points Off Turnovers	21	0
<b>First Downs</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>
Rushing	18	7
Passing	22	21
Penalty	6	4
<b>Rushing Yardage</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>109</b>
Yards gained rushing	407	149
Yards lost rushing	75	40
Rushing attempts	79	50
Average per rush	4.2	2.2
Average per game	166.0	54.5
TDs Rushing	6	0
<b>Passing Yardage</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>490</b>
Comp-Att-Int	40-53-0	39-68-1
Average per pass	9.9	7.2
Average per catch	13.2	12.6
Average per game	263.5	245.0
TDs Passing	6	2
<b>Total offense</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>599</b>
Total plays	132	118
Average per play	6.5	5.1
Average per game	429.5	299.5
<b>Kick returns: #-Yards</b>	<b>1-25</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>Punt returns: #-Yards</b>	<b>4-133</b>	<b>1-4</b>
<b>Int returns: #-Yards</b>	<b>1--1</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>Kick return average</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Punt return average</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Int return average</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>5-5</b>
<b>Penalties-Yards</b>	<b>12-111</b>	<b>14-128</b>
Average per game	55.5	64.0
<b>Punts-Yards</b>	<b>4-173</b>	<b>7-286</b>
Average per punt	43.3	40.9
Net punt average	37.3	21.9
<b>Kickoffs-Yards</b>	<b>17-1105</b>	<b>7-389</b>
Average per kick	65.0	55.6
Net kick average	40.0	38.4
<b>Time of possession / game</b>	<b>34:27</b>	<b>25:33</b>
<b>3rd-down conversion</b>	<b>9/22</b>	<b>9/24</b>
3rd-down pct	41%	38%
<b>4th-down conversion</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>1/4</b>
4th-down pct	100%	25%
<b>Sacks by-Yards</b>	<b>7-32</b>	<b>7-53</b>
<b>Misc Yards</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Touchdowns scored</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Field goals - attempts</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>3-3</b>
<b>On-Side kicks</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>Red-zone scores</b>	<b>(10-12) 83%</b>	<b>(4-5) 80%</b>
<b>Red-zone touchdowns</b>	<b>(8-12) 67%</b>	<b>(2-5) 40%</b>
<b>PAT-attempts</b>	<b>(13-13) 100%</b>	<b>(1-1) 100%</b>
<b>2-point conversion-attempts</b>	<b>(0-0) 0%</b>	<b>(0-1) 0%</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>56040</b>	<b>23893</b>
Games / Avg per game	1/56040	1/23893
Neutral site games	-	0/0

## Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Illinois	21	24	21	31	0	97
Opponents	3	10	6	3	0	22

## Illinois Inside Opponent Red-Zone

				Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
Date	Opponent		Score	In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/29/2025	Western Ill.	W	52-3	7	5	31	4	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
09/06/2025	at Duke	W	45-19	5	5	31	4	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals 10 of 12 (83.3%)			12	10	62	8	2	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	1

## Opponents Inside Illinois Red-Zone

				Times	Times	Total		Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ					
Date	Opponent		Score	In RZ	Scored	Pts	TDs	TDs	TDs	Made	FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/29/2025	Western Ill.	W	52-3	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
09/06/2025	Duke	W	45-19	4	3	16	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
	Totals 4 of 5 (80.0%)			5	4	19	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0



## 3rd-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall		1st Qtr		2nd Qtr		3rd Qtr		4th Qtr		Overtime	
08/29/2025	Western Ill.	W	52-3	4-9	44.4	3-4	75.0	0-2	0.0	0-1	0.0	1-2	50.0	0-0	0.0
09/06/2025	at Duke	W	45-19	5-13	38.5	1-3	33.3	2-4	50.0	1-3	33.3	1-3	33.3	0-0	0.0
Illinois				9-22	40.9	4-7	57.1	2-6	33.3	1-4	25.0	2-5	40.0	0-0	0.0
Opponents				9-24	37.5	1-5	20.0	2-7	28.6	4-7	57.1	2-5	40.0	0-0	0.0

## 4th-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall		1st Qtr		2nd Qtr		3rd Qtr		4th Qtr		Overtime	
08/29/2025	Western Ill.	W	52-3	2-2	100.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	0-0	0.0
09/06/2025	at Duke	W	45-19	2-2	100.0	0-0	0.0	1-1	100.0	1-1	100.0	0-0	0.0	0-0	0.0
Illinois				4-4	100.0	0-0	0.0	2-2	100.0	1-1	100.0	1-1	100.0	0-0	0.0
Opponents				1-4	25.0	0-1	0.0	0-1	0.0	1-1	100.0	0-1	0.0	0-0	0.0

## Time of Possession

Date	Opponent		Score	Overall		1st Qtr		2nd Qtr		3rd Qtr		4th Qtr		Overtime	
08/29/2025	Western Ill.	W	52-3	32:42		07:02		10:30		04:47		10:23		00:00	
09/06/2025	at Duke	W	45-19	36:12		07:07		08:58		06:42		13:25		00:00	
Illinois				Total	68:54	14:09		19:28		11:29		23:48		00:00	
				Avg.	34:27	07:04		09:44		05:44		11:54		00:00	
Opponents				Total	51:06	11:57		14:26		06:38		18:05		00:00	
				Avg.	25:33	05:59		07:13		03:19		09:02		00:00	

## GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS



Opponent	Score	First Downs				Rushing Number-Yards	Passing		Total Offense Plays-Yards	Return Yards	Turn- Overs
		Total	Rush	Pass	Pen		Comp-Att-Int	Yards			
Western Ill.	52-3	21 / 11	10 / 2	9 / 7	2 / 2	37-209 / 26-27	18-22-0 / 14-29-0	231 / 134	59-440 / 55-161	133 / 0	0 / 1
Duke	45-19	25 / 21	8 / 5	13 / 14	4 / 2	42-123 / 24-82	22-31-0 / 25-39-1	296 / 356	73-419 / 63-438	24 / 4	0 / 5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97-22</b>	<b>46 / 32</b>	<b>18 / 7</b>	<b>22 / 21</b>	<b>6 / 4</b>	<b>79-332 / 50-109</b>	<b>40-53-0 / 39-68-1</b>	<b>527 / 490</b>	<b>132-859 / 118-599</b>	<b>157 / 4</b>	<b>0 / 6</b>

Opponents	3rd Down Conversion	4th Down Conversion	Time of Possession	TOP Margin	Avg Yds/Rush	Avg Yds/Pass	Avg Yds/Play	Punting Number-Avg	Penalties Number-Yards	Sacks
Western Ill.	4-9 / 5-14	2-2 / 0-2	32:42 / 27:18	05:24	5.6 / 1.0	10.5 / 4.6	7.5 / 2.9	1-29.0 / 6-40.2	5-60.0 / 8-59.0	5 / 3
Duke	5-13 / 4-10	2-2 / 1-2	36:12 / 23:48	12:24	2.9 / 3.4	9.5 / 9.1	5.7 / 7.0	3-48.0 / 1-45.0	7-51.0 / 6-69.0	2 / 4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9-22 / 9-24</b>	<b>4-4 / 1-4</b>	<b>68:54 / 51:06</b>	<b>17:48</b>	<b>4.2 / 2.2</b>	<b>9.9 / 7.2</b>	<b>6.5 / 5.1</b>	<b>4-43.3 / 7-40.9</b>	<b>12-111.0 / 14-128.0</b>	<b>7 / 7</b>

Note: Game totals are displayed in the format TEAM/OPPONENT for each category

## GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS



### OFFENSIVE STARTERS

GAME	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	QB	RB	TE	TE/WR	WR	WR
Western Illinois	Davis	Gesky	Kreutz	B. Hansen	Priestly	Altmyer	Laughery	Arkin	Abney	Dixon	Elzy
Duke	Davis	Gesky	Kreutz	Henderson	Priestly	Altmyer	Laughery	Arkin	Clement	Dixon	Beatty
Western Michigan											
Indiana											
USC											
Purdue											
Ohio State											
Washington											
Rutgers											
Maryland											
Wisconsin											
Northwestern											
<i>Consecutive</i>	15	15	27	1	15	15	11	15	1	3	1
<i>Career</i>	15	23	27	8	15	24	11	18	21	12	1

### DEFENSIVE STARTERS

GAME	OLB	DL	DL/LB	DL	OLB	LB	CB	CB	CB	FS	SS
Western Illinois	Jacas	Thompson Jr.	Neal	Durojaiye	Bryant	Rosiek	Patterson	Cox	X. Scott	M. Scott	Bailey
Duke	Jacas	Thompson Jr.	Hood	Durojaiye	Brown	Rosiek	Patterson	Cox	X. Scott	M. Scott	Bailey
Western Michigan											
Indiana											
USC											
Purdue											
Ohio State											
Washington											
Rutgers											
Maryland											
Wisconsin											
Northwestern											
<i>Consecutive</i>	22	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	21	5	15
<i>Career</i>	33	2	1	2	1	19	14	10	27	27	17

Opp.	Qtr.	-----DRIVE STARTED-----			-----DRIVE ENDED-----			-CONSUMED-	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	Result	Ply-Yds.	TOP
WIU	1st	ILL41	10:57	DOWNS	WIU0	06:43	TD	8-59	04:14
WIU	1st	WIU26	06:36	FUMB	WIU0	03:48	TD	5-26	02:48
WIU	1st	ILL49	02:03	PUNT	WIU0	13:20	TD	7-51	03:43
WIU	2nd	ILL34	11:19	DOWNS	WIU17	07:54	FG	8-49	03:25
WIU	2nd	ILL38	05:43	PUNT	WIU0	03:09	TD	4-62	02:34
WIU	2nd	ILL43	01:32	PUNT	ILL31	00:44	PUNT	3-(-12)	00:48
WIU	3rd	ILL35	01:32	KO	WIU10	10:13	FGA	9-55	04:47
WIU	4th	ILL25	14:57	KO	WIU0	08:27	TD	10-75	06:30
WIU	4th	ILL33	06:22	PUNT	WIU0	05:27	TD	2-67	00:55
WIU	4th	WIU34	02:58	PUNT	WIU21	00:00	HALF	9-46	06:11
DUKE	1st	ILL25	10:26	KO	ILL40	08:09	PUNT	5-15	02:17
DUKE	1st	ILL27	06:41	PUNT	ILL38	04:05	PUNT	5-11	02:36
DUKE	1st	DUKE18	04:05	PUNT	DUKE0	01:51	TD	5-18	02:14
DUKE	2nd	ILL25	11:08	KO	DUKE0	05:01	TD	12-75	06:07
DUKE	2nd	ILL18	03:55	FUMB	ILL41	01:12	PUNT	6-23	02:43
DUKE	2nd	ILL25	00:08	KO	ILL24	00:00	HALF	1-(-1)	00:08
DUKE	3rd	ILL25	15:00	KO	DUKE0	09:34	TD	11-75	05:26
DUKE	3rd	ILL39	08:03	FUMB	DUKE0	06:54	TD	4-61	01:09
DUKE	3rd	ILL26	03:53	KO	DUKE17	14:04	FG	9-57	04:49
DUKE	4th	ILL11	10:59	INT	DUKE0	04:14	TD	12-89	06:45
DUKE	4th	DUKE23	04:04	FUMB	DUKE0	03:58	TD	1-23	00:06
DUKE	4th	ILL32	01:45	DOWNS	ILL29	00:00	HALF	3-(-3)	01:45

Team	Qtr.	-----DRIVE STARTED-----			-----DRIVE ENDED-----			-CONSUMED-	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	Result	Ply-Yds.	TOP
WIU	1st	WIU25	15:00	KO	ILL41	10:57	DOWNS	9-34	04:03
WIU	1st	WIU25	06:43	KO	WIU26	06:36	FUMB	1-1	00:07
WIU	1st	WIU25	03:48	KO	WIU18	02:03	PUNT	3-(-7)	01:45
WIU	2nd	WIU15	13:20	KO	ILL34	11:19	DOWNS	5-41	02:01
WIU	2nd	WIU25	07:54	KO	WIU37	05:43	PUNT	5-12	02:11
WIU	2nd	WIU25	03:09	KO	WIU21	01:32	PUNT	3-(-4)	01:37
WIU	2nd	WIU40	00:44	PUNT	WIU40	00:00	HALF	2-0	00:44
WIU	3rd	WIU18	10:13	FGA	WIU19	08:00	PUNT	3-1	02:13
WIU	3rd	WIU25	08:00	KO	ILL02	14:57	FG	16-73	08:03
WIU	4th	WIU25	08:27	KO	WIU34	06:22	PUNT	6-9	02:05
WIU	4th	WIU25	05:27	KO	WIU29	02:58	PUNT	3-9	02:29
DUKE	1st	DUKE25	15:00	KO	ILL23	10:26	FG	9-52	04:34
DUKE	1st	DUKE20	08:09	PUNT	DUKE28	06:41	PUNT	3-8	01:28
DUKE	1st	DUKE25	01:51	KO	ILL23	11:08	FG	14-52	05:43
DUKE	2nd	DUKE25	05:01	KO	ILL18	03:55	FUMB	4-57	01:06
DUKE	2nd	DUKE23	01:12	PUNT	ILL0	00:08	TD	9-77	01:04
DUKE	3rd	DUKE25	09:34	KO	ILL39	08:03	FUMB	4-36	01:31
DUKE	3rd	DUKE25	06:54	KO	ILL0	04:00	TD	7-75	02:54
DUKE	4th	DUKE25	14:04	KO	ILL29	10:59	INT	7-46	03:05
DUKE	4th	DUKE25	04:14	KO	DUKE23	04:04	FUMB	1-(-2)	00:10
DUKE	4th	DUKE25	03:58	KO	ILL32	01:45	DOWNS	7-43	02:13



<b>RUSHES</b>	42	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS RUSHING</b>	209	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>YARDS PER RUSH</b>	5.6	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>TD RUSHES</b>	3	at Duke (09/06/2025)
	3	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PASS ATTEMPTS</b>	31	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PASS COMPLETIONS</b>	22	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PASSING</b>	296	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PER PASS</b>	10.5	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>TD PASSES</b>	3	at Duke (09/06/2025)
	3	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>TOTAL PLAYS</b>	73	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	440	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>YARDS PER PLAY</b>	7.5	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>POINTS</b>	52	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>SACKS BY</b>	5	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	25	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PENALTIES</b>	7	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PENALTY YARDS</b>	60	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>TURNOVERS</b>	0	at Duke (09/06/2025)
	0	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PUNTS</b>	3	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PUNTING AVG</b>	48.0	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG PUNT</b>	60	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PUNTS INSIDE 20</b>	1	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG PUNT RETURN</b>	69	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)

<b>RUSHES</b>	26	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>YARDS RUSHING</b>	82	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PER RUSH</b>	3.4	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TD RUSHES</b>	0	at Duke (09/06/2025)
	0	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PASS ATTEMPTS</b>	39	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PASS COMPLETIONS</b>	25	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PASSING</b>	356	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PER PASS</b>	9.1	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TD PASSES</b>	2	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TOTAL PLAYS</b>	63	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	438	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PER PLAY</b>	7.0	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>POINTS</b>	19	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>SACKS BY</b>	4	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	21	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PENALTIES</b>	8	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PENALTY YARDS</b>	69	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TURNOVERS</b>	5	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PUNTS</b>	6	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PUNTING AVG</b>	45.0	at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG PUNT</b>	50	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PUNTS INSIDE 20</b>	0	at Duke (09/06/2025)
	0	Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>LONG PUNT RETURN</b>	4	at Duke (09/06/2025)

<b>RUSHES</b>	17	Kaden Feagin at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS RUSHING</b>	101	Aidan Laughery vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>TD RUSHES</b>	2	Aidan Laughery vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>LONG RUSH</b>	57	Aidan Laughery vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PASS ATTEMPTS</b>	31	Luke Altmyer at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PASS COMPLETIONS</b>	22	Luke Altmyer at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PASSING</b>	296	Luke Altmyer at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TD PASSES</b>	3	Luke Altmyer at Duke (09/06/2025)
	3	Luke Altmyer vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>LONG PASS</b>	59	Luke Altmyer vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	8	Hank Beatty at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS RECEIVING</b>	128	Hank Beatty at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TD RECEPTIONS</b>	2	Justin Bowick vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>LONG RECEPTION</b>	59	Hank Beatty vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PUNTS</b>	3	Keelan Crimmins at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PUNTING AVG</b>	48.0	Keelan Crimmins at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG PUNT</b>	60	Keelan Crimmins at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PUNTS INSIDE 20</b>	1	Keelan Crimmins at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG PUNT RETURN</b>	69	Hank Beatty vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>LONG KICKOFF RETURN</b>	21	Ca'Lil Valentine at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TACKLES</b>	6	Dylan Rosiek at Duke (09/06/2025)
	6	Miles Scott at Duke (09/06/2025)
	6	Matthew Bailey at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>SACKS</b>	2	Gabe Jacas vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>TACKLES FOR LOSS</b>	2.5	Gabe Jacas vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)

# OPPONENT GAME HIGHS (INDIVIDUAL)



<b>RUSHES</b>	12	Markell Holman vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>YARDS RUSHING</b>	30	Jaquez Moore at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TD RUSHES</b>	none	
<b>LONG RUSH</b>	15	Henry Belin IV at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PASS ATTEMPTS</b>	34	Darian Mensah at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PASS COMPLETIONS</b>	23	Darian Mensah at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS PASSING</b>	334	Darian Mensah at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TD PASSES</b>	2	Darian Mensah at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG PASS</b>	62	Darian Mensah at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>RECEPTIONS</b>	5	Andrel Anthony at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>YARDS RECEIVING</b>	88	Cooper Barkate at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TD RECEPTIONS</b>	2	Andrel Anthony at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG RECEPTION</b>	62	Chase Tyler at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>FIELD GOALS</b>	2	Todd Pelino at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG FIELD GOALS</b>	40	Todd Pelino at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>PUNTS</b>	6	Luke Droegemueller vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PUNTING AVG</b>	45.0	Kade Reynoldson at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG PUNT</b>	50	Luke Droegemueller vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>PUNTS INSIDE 20</b>	none	
<b>LONG PUNT RETURN</b>	4	Que'Sean Brown at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>LONG KICKOFF RETURN</b>	none	
<b>TACKLES</b>	9	Caleb Weaver at Duke (09/06/2025)
	9	Esteban Guillory vs Western Ill. (08/29/2025)
<b>SACKS</b>	2.5	Vincent Anthony Jr. at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>TACKLES FOR LOSS</b>	3	Nick Morris Jr. at Duke (09/06/2025)
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>	none	





GAME 1

WESTERN ILLINOIS ..... 3  
#12 ILLINOIS ..... 52

AUG. 29, 2025

MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL. // 56,040

## SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Western Illinois	0	0	0	3	3
Illinois	14	17	7	14	52

## SCORING SUMMARY

## First Quarter

ILL: Arkin 3 yd pass from Altmyer (Olano kick), 6:43 (8/59/4:14)

ILL: Bowick 3 yd pass from Altmyer (Olano kick), 3:48 (5/26/2:48)

## Second Quarter

ILL: Laughery 25 yd rush (Olano kick), 13:20 (7/51/3:43)

ILL: Olano 35 yd FG, 3:09 (8/49/3:25)

ILL: Bowick 13 yd pass from Altmyer (Olano kick), 3:09 (4/62/2:34)

## Third Quarter

ILL: Beatty 69 yd punt return (Olano kick), 8:00

## Fourth Quarter

WIU: Chadha 20 yd FG, 14:57 (16/73/8:03)

ILL: Feagin 7 yd rush (Olano kick), 8:27 (10/75/6:30)

ILL: Laughery 57 yd rush (Olano kick), 5:27 (2/67/0:55)

## TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	WIU
First Downs	21	11
Rushes-Yards	37-209	26-29
Passing Yards	231	134
Comp-Att-Int	18-22-0	14-29-0
Total Yards	440	163
Punts-Avg	1-29.0	6-40.2
Kickoff Returns	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns	4-133	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-60	8-59
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Sacks By	4	3
Third-down Conv.	4-9	5-14
Time of Possession	32:42	27:18

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING (Comp-Att-Yds-TD-INT): ILL - Altmyer 17-21-217-3-0

WIU - Irvin 14-29-134-0-0

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): ILL - Laughery 9-101-2

WIU - Holman 12-20-0

RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): ILL - Beatty 5-108-0

WIU - Davis 4-65-0

TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): ILL - Jacas 5, 2.5-8; Durojaiye 4, 1.0-7

WIU - Moko 9, 0.0-0; Wright 7, 0.0-0

## GAME NOTES

- Illinois is 5-0 in season openers under head coach Bret Bielema.
- Hank Beatty broke the school's 102-year-old single-game punt return record, totaling 133 yards on four returns. That eclipsed the record of 125 yards set by Red Grange vs. Nebraska (10/6/1923).
- Beatty's punt return TD was the first for an Illini player since V'Angelo Bentley vs. Ohio State (11/16/2013). The 69-yard score was Illinois' longest punt return touchdown since Christian Morton (80 yards) vs. Indiana (11/4/2000).
- Justin Bowick became the first player to record two receiving TDs in their Illini debut since Edwin Carter on Sept. 8, 2018.
- Aidan Laughery has posted a rushing score in three straight regular-season games for the Illini.
- Illinois moved to 18-0 against the other public universities in the state.



GAME 2

#11 ILLINOIS ..... 45  
DUKE ..... 19

SEPT. 6, 2025

WALLACE WADE STADIUM // DURHAM, N.C. // 23,893

## SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	7	7	14	17	45
Duke	3	10	6	0	19

## SCORING SUMMARY

## First Quarter

DU: Pelino 40 yd FG, 10:26 (9/52/4:34)

ILL: Feagin 1 yd rush, 1:51 (5/18/2:14)

## Second Quarter

DU: Pelino 40 yd FG, 11:08 (14/52/5:43)

ILL: Rusk 8 yd pass from Altmyer (Olano kick), 5:01 (12/75/6:07)

DU: Anthony 5 yd pass from Mensah (Pelino kick), 0:08 (9/77/1:04)

## Third Quarter

ILL: Bowick 4 yd pass from Altmyer (Olano kick), 9:34 (11/75/5:26)

ILL: Beatty 25 yd rush (Olano kick), 6:54 (4/61/1:09)

DU: Anthony 6 yd pass from Mensah (2PTA failed), 4:00 (7/75/2:54)

## Fourth Quarter

ILL: Olano 35 yd FG, 14:04 (9/57/4:49)

ILL: Dixon 2 yd pass from Altmyer (Olano kick), 4:14 (12/89/6:45)

ILL: Valentine 23 yd rush (Olano kick), 3:58 (1/23/0:06)

## TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	DU
First Downs	25	21
Rushes-Yards	42-123	24-82
Passing Yards	296	356
Comp-Att-Int	22-31-0	25-39-1
Total Yards	419	438
Punts-Avg	3-48.0	1-45.0
Kickoff Returns	1-25	0-0
Punt Returns	0-0	1-4
Penalties-Yards	7-51	6-69
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	4-4
Sacks By	2	4
Third-down Conv.	5-13	4-10
Time of Possession	36:12	23:48

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING (Comp-Att-Yds-TD-INT): ILL - Altmyer 22-31-296-3-0

DU - Mensah 23-34-334-2-1

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): ILL - Feagin 17-48-1

DU - Moore 6-30-0

RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): ILL - Beatty 8-128-0

DU - Barkate 4-88-0

TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): ILL - Bailey 6, 0.0-0; M. Scott 6, 0.0-0

DU - Weaver 9, 0.0-0; Morris 8, 3.0-7

## GAME NOTES

- Head coach Bret Bielema won his 30th game at Illinois, passing Bob Blackman and moving into a tie with John Mackovic for the seventh-most wins in history by an Illinois head coach.
- The Illini defense recorded five takeaways, their most since forcing six at Northwestern on Nov. 26, 2022.
- Illinois' 45 points are its most in a road game since registering 48 at Purdue on Nov. 7, 2015.
- Illinois has scored 45+ points in the first two games of the season for the second time in program history and the first time since 1942.
- Illinois started the season with zero turnovers in its first two games for the first time since 2001.

## AP TOP 25



RK	TEAM	LAST	FIRST	PTS.	RECORD
1	Ohio State	1	57	1614	2-0
2	Penn State	2	5	1524	2-0
3	LSU	3	2	1487	2-0
4	Oregon	6	1	1375	2-0
5	Miami	5		1360	2-0
6	Georgia	4		1350	2-0
7	Texas	7		1248	1-1
8	Notre Dame	9		1086	0-1
9	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>1001</b>	<b>2-0</b>
10	Florida State	14		954	2-0
11	South Carolina	10		927	2-0
12	Clemson	8		894	1-1
13	Oklahoma	18		893	2-0
14	Iowa State	16		794	3-0
15	Tennessee	22		537	2-0
16	Texas A&M	19		532	2-0
17	Ole Miss	20		518	2-0
18	South Florida	NR		444	2-0
19	Alabama	21		396	1-1
20	Utah	25		361	2-0
21	Texas Tech	24		347	2-0
22	Indiana	23		331	2-0
23	Michigan	15		250	2-2
24	Auburn	NR		172	2-0
25	Missouri	NR		109	2-0

## BIG TEN STANDINGS



TEAM	BIG TEN		OVERALL		PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	STREAK
	W	L	W	L					
Southern California	0	0	2	0	132	33	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Oregon	0	0	2	0	128	16	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Illinois	0	0	2	0	97	22	1-0	1-0	Won 2
Minnesota	0	0	2	0	89	10	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Nebraska	0	0	2	0	88	17	1-0	0-0	Won 2
Ohio St.	0	0	2	0	84	7	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Indiana	0	0	2	0	83	23	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Penn St.	0	0	2	0	80	11	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Rutgers	0	0	2	0	79	48	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Michigan St.	0	0	2	0	65	46	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Purdue	0	0	2	0	65	17	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Maryland	0	0	2	0	59	16	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Wisconsin	0	0	2	0	59	10	2-0	0-0	Won 2
Washington	0	0	1	0	38	21	1-0	0-0	Won 1
Iowa	0	0	1	1	47	23	1-0	0-1	Lost 1
Michigan	0	0	1	1	47	41	1-0	0-1	Lost 1
Northwestern	0	0	1	1	45	30	1-0	0-1	Won 1
UCLA	0	0	0	2	33	73	0-1	0-1	Lost 2

# NATIONAL RANKINGS (TEAM)



STATISTIC	NATIONAL RANK	BIG TEN RANK	ILLINOIS VALUE	NATIONAL LEADER	VALUE	BIG TEN LEADER	VALUE
3rd Down Conversion Pct (134 ranked)	75	12	0.409	Utah	0.767	Washington	0.704
3rd Down Conversion Pct Defense (134 ranked)	80	13	0.375	Virginia	0.095	Minnesota	0.143
4th Down Conversion Pct (122 ranked)	1	1	1.000	29 teams tied	1.000	Illinois	1.000
4th Down Conversion Pct Defense (113 ranked)	16	3	0.250	15 teams tied	0.000	Washington	1.000
Blocked Kicks (7 ranked)				Texas Tech	3	Indiana	0.000
Blocked Kicks Allowed (131 ranked)	113	17	1	112 teams tied	0	Michigan St.	0.000
Blocked Punts (4 ranked)				Texas Tech	3	7 teams tied	1
Blocked Punts Allowed (134 ranked)	1	1	0	125 teams tied	0	16 teams tied	0
Completion Percentage (134 ranked)	13	4	0.755	Rice	0.818	6 teams tied	1
Defensive TDs (7 ranked)				6 teams tied	2	18 teams tied	0
					Oregon	Nebraska	0.793
					2	Minnesota	2
Fewest Penalties (134 ranked)	67	15	12	New Mexico	3	Ohio St.	5
						Purdue	5
						Wisconsin	5
Fewest Penalties Per Game (134 ranked)	69	15	6.00	New Mexico	1.50	Ohio St.	2.50
						Purdue	2.50
						Wisconsin	2.50
Fewest Penalty Yards (134 ranked)	86	15	111	Notre Dame	15	Ohio St.	30
Fewest Penalty Yards Per Game (134 ranked)	86	15	55.50	New Mexico	9.00	Ohio St.	15.00
First Downs Defense (134 ranked)	44	10	32	Minnesota	10	Minnesota	10
				TCU	10		
First Downs Offense (134 ranked)	50	9	46	Western Ky.	70	Washington	60
Fumbles Lost (134 ranked)	1	1	0	53 teams tied	0	7 teams tied	0
Fumbles Recovered (35 ranked)	1	1	5	Illinois	5	Illinois	5
Kickoff Return Defense (134 ranked)	1	1	0.00	14 teams tied	0.00	Illinois	0.00
						Indiana	0.00
						Wisconsin	0.00
Kickoff Returns (120 ranked)	30	3	25.00	Arkansas St.	64.00	Penn St.	35.33
Net Punting (134 ranked)	99	14	37.25	Purdue	51.33	Purdue	51.33
Passes Had Intercepted (134 ranked)	1	1	0	47 teams tied	0	10 teams tied	0
Passes Intercepted (56 ranked)	56	11	1	Maryland	6	Maryland	6
				UNLV	6		
Passing Offense (134 ranked)	35	5	263.5	Baylor	429.5	Southern California	405.0
Passing Yards Allowed (134 ranked)	102	16	245.0	Minnesota	65.0	Minnesota	65.0
Passing Yards per Completion (134 ranked)	35	7	13.18	Air Force	26.50	Southern California	18.41
Punt Return Defense (134 ranked)	69	14	4.00	Iowa St.	-3.50	Purdue	-3.00
Punt Returns (133 ranked)	2	1	33.25	Iowa St.	39.33	Illinois	33.25
Red Zone Defense (90 ranked)	52	9	0.800	Ohio St.	0.000	Ohio St.	0.000
Red Zone Offense (133 ranked)	80	12	0.833	46 teams tied	1.000	7 teams tied	1.000
Rushing Defense (134 ranked)	11	4	54.5	BYU	7.0	Minnesota	31.5
Rushing Offense (134 ranked)	70	12	166.0	Navy	379.5	Indiana	311.0
Sacks Allowed (134 ranked)	127	17	3.50	12 teams tied	0.00	Maryland	0.00
						Ohio St.	0.00
						Oregon	0.00
Scoring Defense (133 ranked)	29	9	11.0	BYU	1.5	Ohio St.	3.5
Scoring Offense (133 ranked)	13	4	48.5	Southern California	66.0	Southern California	66.0
Tackles for Loss Allowed (133 ranked)	114	17	7.50	Ohio St.	1.00	Ohio St.	1.00
Team Passing Efficiency (134 ranked)	14	4	196.35	Air Force	288.40	Southern California	237.09
Team Passing Efficiency Defense (134 ranked)	78	15	124.65	Nebraska	64.59	Nebraska	64.59
Team Sacks (123 ranked)	11	3	3.50	Air Force	6.00	Southern California	4.50
Team Tackles for Loss (133 ranked)	73	10	5.5	UTEP	11.5	Southern California	10.5
Time of Possession (134 ranked)	15	7	34:27	Army West Point	38:32	Indiana	36:59
Total Defense (134 ranked)	54	11	299.5	Minnesota	96.5	Minnesota	96.5
Total Offense (134 ranked)	46	7	429.5	Southern California	676.0	Southern California	676.0
Turnover Margin (133 ranked)	2	1	3.00	Arizona	3.50	Illinois	3.00
Turnovers Gained (92 ranked)	4	1	6	Arizona	7	Illinois	6
				Tulane	7	Maryland	6
				UNLV	7		
Turnovers Lost (134 ranked)	1	1	0	22 teams tied	0	4 teams tied	0
Winning Percentage (115 ranked)	1	1	1.000	55 teams tied	1.000	14 teams tied	1.000

# NATIONAL RANKINGS (INDIVIDUAL)



STATISTIC	PLAYER	NATIONAL RANK	BIG TEN RANK	VALUE	NATIONAL LEADER	VALUE	BIG TEN LEADER	VALUE
All Purpose (200 ranked)	Hank Beatty	1	1	197.00	Hank Beatty, Illinois	197.00	Hank Beatty, Illinois	197.00
Combined Kick Returns (200 ranked)	Hank Beatty	18	2	133	Bryce Noernberg, Kansas St.	339	Jonathan Brady, Indiana	143
	Ca'Lil Valentine	165	25	27				
Completion Percentage (122 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	15	5	0.750	Julian Sayin, Ohio St.	0.795	Julian Sayin, Ohio St.	0.795
Completions Per Game (98 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	43	7	19.50	Sawyer Robertson, Baylor	30.50	Dylan Raiola, Nebraska	28.50
Field Goal Percentage (105 ranked)	David Olano	75	13	0.667	56 players tied	1.000	9 players tied	1.000
Field Goals Per Game (96 ranked)	David Olano	58	11	1.00	Ryan Barker, Penn St.	3.00	Ryan Barker, Penn St.	3.00
					Jackson Kleather, Bowling Green	3.00		
					Will Ferrin, BYU	3.00		
Forced Fumbles (9 ranked)	Gabe Jacas	2	1	1.00	DeJuan Echoles Jr., Ball St.	1.50	Dani Dennis-Sutton, Penn St.	1.00
	Matthew Bailey	9	3	0.50			Gabe Jacas, Illinois	1.00
	Tanner Heckel	9	3	0.50				
Fumbles Recovered (7 ranked)	Kaleb Patterson	2	7	2	Matt Kingsbury, Minnesota	3	Matt Kingsbury, Minnesota	3
Interceptions Per Game (13 ranked)	Tanner Heckel	13	4	0.50	10 players tied	1.00	Louis Moore, Indiana	1.00
							John Nestor, Minnesota	1.00
							Preston Zachman, Wisconsin	1.00
Passing Efficiency (122 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	11	4	195.9	Evan Simon, Temple	263.3	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	262.4
Passing TDs (37 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	10	1	6	Taylen Green, Arkansas	10	5 players tied	6
					Maverick McIvor, Western Ky.	10		
Passing Yards (130 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	32	3	513	Maverick McIvor, Western Ky.	941	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	707
Passing Yards Per Game (130 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	29	3	256.5	Sawyer Robertson, Baylor	429.5	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	353.5
Passing Yards per Completion (122 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	31	7	13.15	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	22.81	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	22.81
Punt Return TDs (2 ranked)	Hank Beatty	2	1	1	Vicari Swain, South Carolina	3	4 players tied	1
Punt Returns (71 ranked)	Hank Beatty	3	2	33.3	Vicari Swain, South Carolina	37.4	Jonathan Brady, Indiana	35.8
Receiving TDs (26 ranked)	Justin Bowick	2	1	3	Beau Sparks, Texas St.	5	Justin Bowick, Illinois	3
							Nick Marsh, Michigan St.	3
							Elijah Sarratt, Indiana	3
Receiving Yards (198 ranked)	Hank Beatty	8	2	236	Jaden Bradley, UNLV	262	Makai Lemon, Southern California	248
Receiving Yards Per Game (200 ranked)	Hank Beatty	8	2	118.0	Jordan Dwyer, TCU	136.0	Makai Lemon, Southern California	124.0
Receptions Per Game (161 ranked)	Hank Beatty	21	2	6.50	Lewis Bond, Boston College	11.00	Ian Strong, Rutgers	8.00
Rush Yards Per Carry (149 ranked)	Kaden Feagin	105	20	4.07	Colton Joseph, Old Dominion	10.36	Waymond Jordan, Southern California	9.95
Sacks (114 ranked)	Gabe Jacas	5	1	1.5	Vincent Anthony Jr., Duke	2.00	Gabe Jacas, Illinois	1.50
					Isaac Hubert, Air Force	2.00		
Tackles For Loss (72 ranked)	Gabe Jacas	18	3	1.75	Mekhi Mason, Louisiana Tech	3.00	Dani Dennis-Sutton, Penn St.	2.25
Total Offense (200 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	52	8	250.5	Sawyer Robertson, Baylor	430.0	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	360.5
Total Touchdowns (71 ranked)	Justin Bowick	15	4	3	Jonah Coleman, Washington	7	Jonah Coleman, Washington	7
Yards per Pass Attempt (122 ranked)	Luke Altmeyer	17	4	9.87	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	16.83	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	16.83
Yards per Reception (200 ranked)	Hank Beatty	61	9	18.15	Cade Wolford, Kent St.	32.00	Javon Tracy, Minnesota	29.00



## OFFENSE

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
QB	9	Luke Altmyer	2
RB	21	Aidan Laughery	2
WR	17	Collin Dixon	2
	8	Malik Elzy	1
	80	Hank Beatty	1
TE	85	Tanner Arkin	2
	13	Hudson Clement	1
	86	Christian Abney	1
LT	74	J.C. Davis	2
LG	73	Josh Gesky	2
C	64	Josh Kreutz	2
RG	66	Brandon Hansen	1
	75	Brandon Henderson	1
RT	58	Melvin Priestly	2

## DEFENSE

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
DL	36	Tomiwa Durojaiye	2
	90	James Thompson Jr.	2
	99	Curt Neal	1
LB	28	Dylan Rosiek	2
	45	Malachi Hood	1
OLB	17	Gabe Jacas	2
	3	Alec Bryant	1
	4	Daniel Brown	1
CB	1	Kaleb Patterson	2
	5	Torrie Cox Jr.	2
	14	Xavier Scott	2
SS	7	Matthew Bailey	2
FS	10	Miles Scott	2

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
K	24	David Olano	2
P	40	Keelan Crimmins	2
LS (K)	44	Patrick Mahoney III	2
LS (P)	36	Lane Hansen	2

## CAREER STARTS

PLAYER	'25	'24	'23	'22	'21	TOT
Davis, J.C.	2	13	12*	12*	---	39
Knapik, Ayden	---	14*	13*	7*	---	34
Cox Jr., Torrie	2	8	11*	12*	0*	33
Jacas, Gabe	2	13	10	8	---	33
Priestly, Melvin	2	13	10*	5*	---	30
Arkin, Tanner	2	13	3	10*	0*	28
Kreutz, Josh	2	13	12	0	0	27
Scott, Miles	2	12	12	0	1	27
Scott, Xavier	1	13	11	1	---	27
Hunt, Gentle	0	0	8*	10*	8*	26
Altmyer, Luke	2	13	9	1*	0*	25
Lowery Jr., Leon	0	10*	12*	2*	0*	24
Gesky, Josh	2	13	8	0	---	23
Clement, Hudson	1	12*	8*	---	---	21
Thompson Jr., James	2	0*	11*	7*	0*	20
Rosiek, Dylan	2	9	8	0	0	19
Bailey, Matthew	2	13	1	1	---	17
Bowick, Justin	0	4*	10*	3*	---	17
McMillan, Tyler	---	11*	6*	0*	0*	17
Hewitt, Carter	0	12*	4*	0*	---	16
Neal, Curt	1	12*	1*	0*	---	14
Stoffel, Davin	0	14*	0*	---	---	14
Hampton, Ethan	0	10*	0*	3*	0*	13
Patterson, Kaleb	2	12	0	---	---	14
Dixon, Collin	2	10	0	---	---	12
Laughery, Aidan	2	9	0	0	---	11
Abney, Christian	1	6*	3*	---	---	10
Feagin, Kaden	0	4	4	---	---	8
Henderson, Brandon	1	7	0	---	---	8
Bryant, Alec	1	5	1	0	---	7
Kreutz, James	0	4	1	0	---	5
Odeluga, Kenenna	0	0	5	0	0	5
Durojaiye, Tomiwa	2	0	0	0	---	2
Beatty, Hank	1	0	0	0	---	1
Brown, Daniel	1	---	---	---	---	1
Capka-Jones, Alex	0	1	0	---	---	1
Clarke, Jaheim	---	1	0	---	---	1
Elzy, Malik	1	0	0	---	---	1
Hood, Malachi	1	0	---	0	---	1
Farrell, Pat	0	1	---	---	---	1
Hansen, Brandon	1	0	---	---	---	1
Karriem, Saboor	0	1	0	---	---	1
Resetich, Mac	0	1	0	---	---	1

--- = Did not play, not on squad, or lower level college;

0 = Played, didn't start

\* - Previous FBS/FCS institution

80 points:	87 vs. Illinois Wesleyan (87-3), 10/5/1912
70 points:	79 vs. Illinois State (79-6), 9/16/1944
60 points:	65 at Michigan (65-67), 11/6/2010
50 points:	52 vs. Western Illinois (52-3), 8/29/2025
40 points:	45 at Duke (45-19), 9/6/2025
Allowed 0 points:	vs. Eastern Illinois (45-0), 08/29/2024
Allowed 0 points in 2nd half:	vs. #24 Michigan, 10/19/2024
Did not score a touchdown:	vs. Iowa (9-6) 10/8/2022
400 rushing yards:	430 vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018
300 rushing yards:	357 at Penn State 10/23/2021
Three 70+ yard runs:	3 (72, 72, 77) vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018
Fewer than 100 rushing yards:	24, vs. #19 Kansas, 09/07/2024
Fewer than 50 yards rushing:	34 at #9 Penn State, 09/28/2024
Fewer than 20 yards rushing:	19 vs. Nebraska 10/6/2023
Negative yards net rushing:	-27 vs. Arizona, 9/18/1993
One first down:	
Zero first downs:	
400 passing yards:	507 vs. Indiana, 11/11/2023
300 passing yards:	379 vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024
Fewer than 100 passing yards:	80 vs. #24 Michigan, 10/20/2024
4 TD catches by tight ends:	4 vs. Miami (Ohio), 9/28/2013
700 total net yards:	723 vs. Illinois-Normal, 9/16/1944
600 total net yards:	662 vs. Indiana, 11/11/2023
500 total net yards:	556 vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024
Fewer than 200 total net yards:	93 vs. Wisconsin 10/9/2021
Fewer than 100 total net yards:	93 vs. Wisconsin 10/9/2021
9+ sacks in a game:	9 at Purdue, 11/3/2001
6+ sacks in a game:	6 at Minnesota 11/3/2021
No sacks allowed:	vs. Michigan State, 11/16/2024
Back-to-back games with no sacks allowed:	vs. Iowa, 10/8/2022 and vs. Minnesota, 10/16/2022
15+ TFL in a game:	15 vs. San Jose St., 9/21/2002
10+ TFL in a game:	11 vs. Iowa 10/8/2022
10+ passes broken up:	11 vs. Florida Atlantic, 9/23/2023
Forced 5+ turnovers:	5 at Duke, 9/6/2025
No turnovers:	at Duke, 9/6/2025
Back-to-back games with no turnovers:	vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025 and at Duke, 9/6/2025
Two successful two-point conversions:	at Kansas (2), 9/8/2023
Five field goals:	5 vs. Wisconsin, 10/20/2001
Missed extra point kick:	at Rutgers, 11/23/2024
Blocked two kicks:	2 at South Florida, 9/15/2017
Blocked two punts:	2 vs. Indiana, 10/23/2010
Entire game without punting:	vs. Miami (Ohio), 9/28/2013
No penalties:	vs. Wisconsin 10/9/2021
A successful on-side kick:	vs. Penn State, 11/22/2014
Overtime game:	Win vs. Purdue, 50-49, 10/12/2024
Overtime game at home:	Win vs. Purdue, 50-49, 10/12/2024
A game with a weather delay:	at South Florida, 9/15/2017 (0:37 delay)
A game was postponed:	vs. Kent State, 9/4/2015 (2:50 delay)
	Eventually postponed and played next day on 9/5/2015

## OPPONENT

--  
 70, Michigan (70-21), 11/7/1981  
 63, Maryland (63-33), 10/27/2018  
 56, at Penn State (21-56), 12/19/2020  
 49, Purdue (49-50, OT), 10/12/2024  
 vs. Wisconsin (0-24), 10/9/2021  
 at #9 Penn State (7-21), 09/28/2024  
 Western Illinois (3-52), 8/29/25  
 411, at Northwestern, 12/12/2020  
 330, at Indiana, 09/2/2022

82, at Duke, 9/6/2025  
 29, vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025  
 2, Wisconsin, 10/1/2022  
 -10, Murray State, 9/3/2016  
 Missouri, 9/10/1994  
 Michigan, 10/27/1934  
 423, at Virginia, 9/11/2021  
 329, at Northwestern, 11/30/2024  
 38, Minnesota, 10/15/2022

712, Maryland, 10/27/2018  
 674, vs. Nebraska, 9/21/2019  
 527, at #1 Oregon, 10/26/2024  
 163, vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025  
 96, South Dakota State, 9/10/2011

7, at #9 Penn State, 9/28/2024  
 at Rutgers, 11/3/2024

13, at #9 Penn State, 9/28/24  
 13, Iowa, 11/18/23  
 5 vs. Penn State, 9/16/2023  
 vs. Michigan State, 11/16/2024

Northwestern (2), 11/29/2014

vs. Michigan State, 11/16/2024

at Nebraska, 10/1/2016

## ILLINOIS

## OPPONENT

## Rushing

300 yards rushing:	330, Mikel Leshoure vs. Northwestern, 11/20/2010	
250 yards rushing:	257, Chase Brown vs. Charlotte, 10/2/2021	256, Jordan Canzeri, Iowa, 10/10/2015
200 yards rushing:	223, Chase Brown at Penn State 10/23/2021	224, Mohamed Ibrahim, Minnesota, 11/7/2020
150 yards rushing:	172, Aidan Laughery at Northwestern, 11/30/2024	224, Mohamed Ibrahim, Minnesota, 11/7/2020
Back-to-back 175-yard rushing games:	Rashard Mendenhall (189 vs. Ball State, 10/27/2007 & 201 at Minnesota, 11/3/2007)	
Back-to-back 150-yard rushing games:	Chase Brown (151 vs. Wyoming, 8/27/2022 & 199 at Indiana, 9/2/2022)	
Three Consecutive 140-yard rushing games:	Chase Brown (146 vs. Iowa, 10/8/22; 180 vs. Minnesota, 10/15/22; 149 at Nebraska, 10/29/22)	
10+ consecutive 100-yard rushing games:	Chase Brown, 11/27/2021-11/5/2022 (10 games)	
Two rushers with 175 yards:	Harvey (215), Havard (175) vs. Middle Tennessee, 9/12/1998	
Two rushers with 100 yards:	C. Brown. (223) and McCray (142) at Penn State, 10/23/2021	Browne (118), Mockabee (102), vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024
80+ yard rushing play:	80, Chase Brown vs. Charlotte, 10/2/2021	
75+ yard rushing play:	77, Reggie Corbin vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018 (3rd quarter)	79, Justin Jackson, vs. Northwestern, 11/25/17
Two 40+ runs in one quarter:	56 and 56 (2nd), Kendrick Foster vs. Murray State, 9/3/2016	Carlos Hyde (51, 55 in 4th), Ohio State, 11/16/2013
True-freshman rushed for 100 yards:	Josh McCray, 156 at Purdue, 9/25/2021	
True-freshman rushed for 100 yards in first career game:	E.B. Halsey, 139 vs. Missouri, 8/30/2003	
40 rushing attempts:	41, Chase Brown vs. Minnesota, 10/15/2022	
30 rushing attempts:	33, Chase Brown vs. Michigan State, 11/5/2022	
Two rushers with 2 TDs:	Corbin (2) & Bush, Jr. (2) vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018	
8 TDs rushing:	Howard Griffith (8) vs. Southern Illinois, 9/22/1990	
4 TDs rushing:	Antoineo Harris (4) vs. Indiana, 10/27/2002	
3 TDs rushing:	Aidan Laughery (3) at Northwestern, 11/30/2024	
2+ TDs rushing by a QB:	Luke Altmeyer (2) at Kansas, 9/8/2023	Athan Kaliakmanis (2) at Rutgers, 11/23/2024

## Receiving

200 yards receiving:	218, Casey Washington vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023	246, Roy Roundtree, Michigan, 11/6/2010
150 yards receiving:	197, Pat Bryant at Rutgers, 11/23/2024	156, Cam Camper, Indiana, 9/2/2022
100 yards receiving:	108, Hank Beatty vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025	119, A.J. Henning, at Northwestern, 11/30/2024
Two 100-yard receivers:	Pat Bryant (112) and Isaiah Williams (103) vs. Chattanooga, 09/22/2022	Cam Camper (156), D.J. Matthews Jr (109), at Indiana, 9/2/2022
Running back with 100+ yards receiving:	100, Josh Ferguson vs. Northwestern, 10/27/2015	
70+ yard pass play:	80, Casey Washington from John Paddock vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023	75, Penn State (Sean Clifford to Jahan Dotson), 12/19/2020
60+ yard pass play:	64, Pat Bryant from Luke Altmeyer at Rutgers, 11/23/2024	60, South Carolina (LaNorris Sellers to Dalevon Campbell), 12/31/2024
50+ yard pass play:	59, Hank Beatty from Luke Altmeyer vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025	52, Michigan St. (Aidan Chiles to Aziah Johnson), 11/16/2024
10+ receptions:	13, Isaiah Williams vs. Minnesota, 11/4/2023	10, A.J. Henning, at Northwestern, 11/30/2024
Two receivers with 2 TDs:	Will Judson and Chris Duval vs. Missouri, 8/30/2008	
Three receiving TDs:	Casey Washington (3) vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023	
Offensive lineman caught a pass:	Brandon Henderson, (1 rec. 4 yds.), at #22 Nebraska, 09/20/24	
Offensive lineman scored a TD:	Brandon Henderson, 4-yard reception, at #22 Nebraska, 09/20/24	

## Passing

600 yards passing:	621, Dave Wilson at Ohio State, 11/8/1980	
500 yards passing:	507, John Paddock vs. Indiana, 11/11/2023	
400 yards passing:	456, Wes Lunt vs. Western Kentucky, 9/6/2014	405, Brennan Armstrong, at Virginia, 9/11/2021
300 yards passing:	379, Luke Altmeyer, vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024	330, Connor Bazelak, at Indiana, 9/2/2022
Consecutive 300-yard passing games:	N. Scheelhaase at Penn State (321, 11/2/2013) and at Indiana (450, 11/9/2013)	
Three consecutive 300-yard passing games:	Jason Verduzco vs. East Carolina (352, 8/31/1991), at Missouri (431, 9/14/1991) and vs. Houston (341, 9/21/1991)	
6 TDs passing:	Dave Wilson at Ohio State, 11/8/1980	
5 TDs passing:	John Paddock (5) vs. Indiana, 11/11/2023	Brennan Armstrong (5) at Virginia, 9/11/2021
4 TDs passing:	Luke Altmeyer (4), at #22 Nebraska, 9/20/2024	Brennan Armstrong (5) at Virginia, 9/11/2021
3 TDs passing:	Luke Altmeyer (3) at Duke, 9/6/2025	Dillon Gabriel (3) at #1 Oregon, 10/26/2024
Two 65-plus yard TD passes in the same game:	N. Scheelhaase, 77 & 67 yds to A.J. Jenkins at Indiana, 10/8/11	
10+ consecutive completions in a game:	Luke Altmeyer (10) vs. Minnesota, 11/2/2024	Dillon Gabriel (11) at #1 Oregon, (10/26/24)
Back-to-back games w/ 10+ consecutive completions:	Tommy DeVito (10) at Indiana, 9/2/2022 and (13) vs. Virginia, 9/10/2022	
Non-QB with passing TD:	Isaiah Williams (WR) vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023	Trey Potts (RB) vs. Penn State, 9/16/2023

	ILLINOIS	OPPONENT
<b>Defense</b>		
20 Tackles:	J Leman (20) vs. Missouri, 9/1/2007	
19 Tackles:	Clayton Fejedelem (19) vs. Wisconsin, 10/24/2015	
4 interceptions:	Mike Gow (4) vs. Stanford, 9/21/1974	
3 interceptions:	Eugene Wilson (3) vs. Penn State, 11/10/2001	
2 interceptions:	Xavier Scott vs. #19 Kansas, 09/07/2024	Devin Turner at Northwestern, 11/30/2024
3+ sacks in a game:	Seth Coleman (3.0) at Maryland, 10/14/2023	
5+ TFLs in a game:	Isaiah Gay (5.5) at Iowa, 11/20/21	
4+ TFLs in a game:	Isaiah Gay (5.5) at Iowa, 11/20/21	
4+ PBU's in a game:	Devon Witherspoon (4) vs. Nebraska, 8/28/2021	Jermari Harris (4), Iowa, 11/18/2023
3+ PBU's in a game:	Xavier Scott (3) vs. Wisconsin, 10/21/2023	Cody Lindenberg (3), vs. Minnesota, 11/2/2024
3+ PBU's in back-to-back games:	Devon Witherspoon (3) at Indiana, 9/2/22 and (3) vs. Virginia, 9/10/22	
Interception by a lineman:	Keith Randolph, vs. Chattanooga, 9/22/2022	
Interception return for TD:	Xavier Scott (30 yards) vs. #19 Kansas, 09/07/2024	Devin Turner (13 yards) at Northwestern, 11/30/2024
Two players with interception returns for TD in a game:	Pat Nixon-Youman (68 yards), Jonathan Brown (66 yards) vs. Indiana, 10/23/2010	
Fumble recovery for TD:	Sydney Brown (53 yards) at Northwestern, 11/26/2022	Will Heldt, vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024
Fumble recovery TD, INT TD, 2 INTs in one game:	Sydney Brown at Northwestern, 11/26/2022	
Forced 3 turnovers:	Xavier Scott (2 INT, 1 FF) vs. #19 Kansas, 9/7/2024	
Two defensive touchdowns:	Sydney Brown (1 INT TD, 1 FR TD) at Northwestern, 11/26/2022	
Safety:	Kerby Joseph special teams tackle vs. Nebraska 8/28/2021	Joe Evans (tackle in end zone), Iowa, 11/18/2023
Defensive extra point:	Nate Hobbs (75 yards) at USF, 9/15/2017	
<b>Total Offense/All-Purpose</b>		
500 yards total offense:	503, Juice Williams vs. Minnesota, 10/11/2008	
400 yards total offense:	439, Luke Altmyer vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024	
300 yards passing and 100 yards rushing:	431 (310-121), Juice Williams at Michigan, 10/4/2008	
300 all-purpose yards:	328, A.J. Jenkins vs. Northwestern, 10/1/2011	
200 all-purpose yards:	241, Hank Beatty vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025	
4 total TDs:	Luke Altmyer (3 pass, 1 rush) vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024	Dillon Gabriel (3 pass, 1 rush) at #1 Oregon, 10/26/2024
2 TDs in 1 minute:	Ke'Shawn Vaughn at Purdue (3rd quarter), 11/7/2015	
<b>Special Teams</b>		
5 field goals:	Doug Higgins vs. Michigan State, 10/20/1990	
4 field goals:	James McCourt (4) vs. Northwestern, 11/27/21	Dragan Kesich, vs. Minnesota, 11/2/2024
3 field goals:	David Olano (3) vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024	Alex Felkins, Penn State, 9/16/2023
Made 50+ yard field goal:	Ethan Moczulski (59) vs. Central Michigan, 09/14/2024	
Three 50+ yard field goals:	--	Tim Douglas (51, 58, 51), Iowa, 9/26/1998
Blocked a punt:	Ashton Hollins at Purdue, 9/30/2023	
Blocked punt for a touchdown:	Dawson DeGroot (block), Stanley Green (TD) vs. Western Illinois, 9/8/2018	A.J. Epenesa (19 yards), Iowa, 11/17/2018
Blocked two field goals:	Terrell Washington vs. NIU, 9/8/2001	
Blocked two PATs:	Rob Bain at Penn State, 10/31/2015	
Blocked a field goal:	Ezekial Holmes vs. #24 Michigan, 10/19/2024	DJ Taylor, Western Illinois, 8/29/2025
Blocked a PAT:	Alec Bryant at Iowa, 11/18/2023	
Punt return for TD:	Hank Beatty (69 yards) vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025	K. Groenewed (61 yards), Iowa, 11/17/2018
Kickoff return for TD:	V'Angelo Bentley (100 yards) vs. Southern Illinois, 8/31/2013	C. Jones (100 yards), Iowa, 11/20/21
Blocked FG returned for TD:	Travis Williams (66 yards) vs. Illinois State, 9/6/2003	
Two-point conversion:	vs. #24 Michigan, 10/19/2024 (Leary pass to Frankflin)	Wisconsin, 10/21/23 (Nowakowski pass)
Two two-point conversions in the same game:	2 at Kansas, 9/8/2023 (McCray rush; Altmyer pass to Love III)	



## Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
08/29/2025	Western Ill.	W	52-3	56040
09/06/2025	at Duke	W	45-19	23893

## Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Kaden Feagin	2	30	123	1	122	4.1	2	18	61.0
Aidan Laughery	2	15	116	10	106	7.1	2	57	53.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	2	15	101	6	95	6.3	1	23	47.5
Hank Beatty	2	1	25	0	25	25.0	1	25	12.5
Jordan Anderson	2	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1	0.5
Luke Altmyer	2	12	41	53	-12	-1.0	0	25	-6.0
Team	2	5	0	5	-5	-1.0	0	0	-2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>166.0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>54.5</b>

## Passing

Player	gp	effc	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Luke Altmyer	2	195.9	39-52-0	75.0	513	6	59	256.5
Ethan Hampton	2	217.6	1-1-0	100.0	14	0	14	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>196.4</b>	<b>40-53-0</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>263.5</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>124.6</b>	<b>39-68-1</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>245.0</b>

## Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Hank Beatty	2	13	236	18.2	0	59	118.0
Justin Bowick	2	7	73	10.4	3	21	36.5
Collin Dixon	2	4	44	11.0	1	33	22.0
Malik Elzy	2	4	46	11.5	0	15	23.0
Hudson Clement	2	3	44	14.7	0	27	22.0
Tanner Arkin	2	2	14	7.0	1	11	7.0
Aidan Laughery	2	2	22	11.0	0	17	11.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	2	2	14	7.0	0	12	7.0
Cole Rusk	2	1	8	8.0	1	8	4.0
Alexander Capka-Jones	1	1	12	12.0	0	12	12.0
Mario Sanders II	1	1	14	14.0	0	14	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>263.5</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>245.0</b>

## Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	2-0	1-0	1-0	0-0
CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	2-0	1-0	1-0	0-0

## Team Statistics

	ILLINI	OPP
<b>First Downs</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>
Rushing	18	7
Passing	22	21
Penalty	6	4
<b>Rushing Yardage</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>109</b>
Rushing attempts	79	50
Average per rush	4.2	2.2
Average per game	166.0	54.5
TDs Rushing	6	0
<b>Passing Yardage</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>490</b>
Comp-Att-Int	40-53-0	39-68-1
Average per pass	9.9	7.2
Average per catch	13.2	12.6
Average per game	263.5	245.0
TDs Passing	6	2
<b>Total offense</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>599</b>
Average per play	6.5	5.1
Average per game	429.5	299.5
<b>Kick returns: #-Yards</b>	<b>1-25</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>Punt returns: #-Yards</b>	<b>4-133</b>	<b>1-4</b>
<b>Int returns: #-Yards</b>	<b>1--1</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>5-5</b>
<b>Penalties-Yards</b>	<b>12-111</b>	<b>14-128</b>
<b>Punts-Avg</b>	<b>4-43.3</b>	<b>7-40.9</b>
<b>Time of possession / game</b>	<b>34:27</b>	<b>25:33</b>
<b>3rd-down conversion</b>	<b>9/22</b>	<b>9/24</b>
<b>4th-down conversion</b>	<b>4/4</b>	<b>1/4</b>
<b>PAT-attempts</b>	<b>(13-13) 100%</b>	<b>(1-1) 100%</b>
<b>2-point conversion-attempts</b>	<b>(0-0) 0%</b>	<b>(0-1) 0%</b>

## Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Tanner Heckel	1	-1	-1.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>