



**ILLINOIS
FIGHTING ILLINI**
1-0, 0-0 BIG TEN



VS



**DUKE
BLUE DEVILS**
1-0, 0-0 ACC

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, 2026 | 2:30 P.M. CT | CHAMPAIGN, ILL. | GIES MEMORIAL STADIUM

LIVE COVERAGE

TV | FS1

- » Jack Kizer (play-by-play)
- » Mark Helfrich (analyst)

FS1

RADIO | Busey Bank Illini Sports Network

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



The broadcast can be heard live on Tuneln radio, SiriusXM (113/232), the Fighting Illini App, the Varsity App, and at [FightingIllini.com/live](https://fightingillini.com/live).

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (1-0)

Sept. 3	UAB	W, 42-23
Sept. 12	Duke <i>Hall of Fame Weekend</i>	2:30 p.m. CT (FS1)
Sept. 19	Southern Illinois	1 p.m. CT (Peacock)
Sept. 26	at #1 Ohio State	TBA
Oct. 3	Purdue <i>Homecoming / Hail to the Orange Out</i>	TBA
Oct. 10	at Michigan State	TBA
Oct. 24	#6 Oregon <i>Military Appreciation</i>	TBA
Oct. 31	at Maryland	TBA
Nov. 6	Nebraska <i>Hail to the Blue Out</i>	7 p.m. CT (FOX)
Nov. 13	at UCLA	8 p.m. CT (FOX)
Nov. 21	#21 Iowa <i>Senior Day</i>	TBA
Nov. 28	Northwestern	TBA

Rankings are AP Top 25

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ILLINOIS, DUKE SET FOR PREMIER BIG TEN/ACC MATCHUP

- Illinois takes on reigning ACC champion Duke in one of the marquee nonconference matchups of the 2026 season.
- The Illini and Blue Devils are two of the most successful programs in Power-4 over the last two seasons, with Illinois registering 20 wins since 2024 and Duke having won 19 games since 2024.
- Illinois is coming off back-to-back 9+ win seasons for the first time in program history, while Duke won nine games in both 2024 and 2025, marking just the second time in program history Duke posted consecutive nine-win campaigns.
- Illinois is receiving votes in both the AP Top 25 and Coaches Poll.

STACKING WINS

- Illinois ranks fourth in the Big Ten - behind only Indiana, Ohio State, and Oregon - in four major categories over the last two seasons: winning percentage (.741), ranked wins (6), home wins (13), and Power-4 wins (15).
- Illinois has the fourth-best record in the Big Ten over the last two seasons:

Rank	Team	Overall Record	Pct.
1.	Indiana	28-2	.933
2.	Oregon	27-3	.900
3.	Ohio State	27-4	.871
4.	Illinois	20-7	.741
5.	Penn State	21-9	.700
6.	Iowa	18-9	.667
	Michigan	18-9	.667
8.	USC	18-10	.643
9.	Minnesota	17-10	.630

- Illinois has six ranked wins over the last three seasons (2024-26), including five AP-ranked wins (Tennessee was ranked #23 by the coaches but unranked in the AP at last year's Music City Bowl), the fourth-most ranked wins in the Big Ten.
- Illinois had 15 Power-4 wins from 2024-25, fourth in the Big Ten behind only Ohio State (21), Indiana (21), and Oregon (20).
- Illinois set the program record for the most wins at Gies Memorial Stadium over a two-year period (12) from 2024-25. The Illini went 12-2 at home over the last two years with 6-1 records at home in back-to-back seasons.
- Illinois went 19-7 from 2024-25, including 15 Power-4 wins, 11 Big Ten wins, and wins over teams from every other Power-4 conference: the SEC (vs Tennessee, 2025; vs. South Carolina, 2024), the ACC (at Duke, 2025), and the Big XII (Kansas, 2024).
- Illinois was one of 15 teams to have consecutive 9+-win seasons in 2024 and 2025, along with Alabama, BYU, Duke, Georgia, Indiana, Louisville, Miami (Fla.), Notre Dame, Ohio State, Ole Miss, Oregon, SMU, TCU, and Texas.
- Illinois is 6-4 against ranked teams and 14-3 against unranked teams over the last three seasons (2024-26).
- Illinois is looking to be postseason eligible for a third straight season, a feat the program has not achieved since 1992.
- Illinois has won 10 straight nonconference games dating back to 2023.
- Illinois is looking to start 2-0 for the third straight season.

ON THE RISE

- Illinois set the program record for the most wins over a two-year period with 19 from 2024-25.
- Illinois had back-to-back 9+-win seasons for the first time in program history with 10 wins in 2024 and nine in 2025.
- Illinois had 37 wins from 2021-25, tied for its most wins over a five-year period since 1901-05.
- Illinois had 32 wins from 2022-25, tied for its most wins over a four-year period since 1900-03.
- Illinois had 8+ wins three times in a four-year span for the first time since 1901-04.

FAMILY

QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location: Urbana-Champaign (140,000)

Founded: 1867

Enrollment: 60,848

Colors: Orange & Blue

Nickname: Fighting Illini

Conference: Big Ten

President: Timothy L. Killeen

Chancellor: Charles L. Isbell, Jr.

Director of Athletics: Josh Whitman

Stadium: Gies Memorial Stadium (60,670)

Stadium Surface: FieldTurf

HEAD COACH

Bret Bielema

Overall Record: 136-84 (.618), 18th season

Record at Illinois: 38-26 (.594), 6th season

COORDINATORS AND POSITION COACHES

Barry Lunney, Jr., Offensive Coordinator

Bobby Hauck, Defensive Coordinator

Chris Hurd, Special Teams Coordinator

Ronnie Bradford, Secondary

Roger Cooper, Inside Linebackers

Jared Elliott, Tight Ends

Mike Linehan, Defensive Ends

Archie McDaniel, Outside Linebackers

Bart Miller, Offensive Line

Mike Neu, Pass Game Coordinator

Corey Parker, Defensive Backs

Artur Sitkowski, Quarterbacks

Justin Stepp, Wide Receivers

Jordan Thomas, Defensive Line/Run Game Coordinator

Tyrone Wheatley, Running Backs

FOOTBALL INFORMATION

2025 Record: 9-4, 5-4 (T-7th, Big Ten)

2025 Starters Returning/Lost: 7/15

Offense: 4/7 Defense: 3/8

2025 Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 25/43

All-Time Record: 652-632-51 (137th year in 2025)

All-Time Big Ten Record: 373-466-32 (131st year)

Gies Memorial Stadium Record: 300-257-14 (103rd year)

Big Ten Championships (Last): 15 (2001)

National Championships (Last): 5 (1951)

Bowl Appearances: 22 (10-12 record)

Last Bowl Appearance: 2025 Music City Bowl (W)

FOOTBALL CONTACT INFORMATION

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FIGHTINGILLINI.COM

THE BIELEMA ERA

- **Bret Bielema** is 38-26 during his Illinois career. His .594 winning percentage is the second-best in Illinois history among head coaches that have coached at least 50 games for the Fighting Illini.
- Best winning percentages in Illinois history (minimum 50 games):

Rank	Illinois Head Coach	Win Pct.	Record
1.	Robert Zuppke, 1913-41	.618	131-81-13
2.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	.594	38-26
3.	Mike White, 1980-87	.533	47-41-3
4.	Ray Eliot, 1942-59	.532	83-73-11

- **Bielema** set the program record for wins in a head coach's first five seasons. Bielema won 37 games during his first five seasons at Illinois, passing **Mike White's** 34 wins from 1980-84. Bielema is two wins away from tying White's record for wins in a head coach's first six seasons (40).
- **Bielema** is the first head coach in Illinois history to win 9+ games twice and win 8+ games three times.
- Illinois won 23 Big Ten Conference games in **Bret Bielema's** first five seasons at Illinois. It was Illinois' most Big Ten wins in a five-year period since also winning 23 Big Ten games from 1990-94.
- **Bielema** has eight ranked wins as Illinois head coach, tied for the second-most in program history with John Mackovic (1988-91) and behind only Ray Eliot's 23 ranked wins (1942-59).
- **Bielema** is 8-9 against ranked teams as Illinois head coach. His .470 winning percentage against ranked teams is the second-best in Illinois history, behind only **John Mackovic** (8-8, .500). Rankings include AP, Coaches, and CFP polls.
- **Bielema** is the first head coach in Illinois history to win 5+ games in each of his first five seasons in Champaign.
- **Bielema's** five road/neutral ranked wins (AP/Coaches/CFP) are the most of any coach in Illini history during his first five seasons in Champaign (2021 Penn State, 2021 Minnesota, 2024 Nebraska, 2024 South Carolina, 2025 Tennessee).
- **Bielema's** 11 Big Ten road wins tied **Mike White** for the most by an Illinois head coach during his first five seasons.
- Since **Bielema's** arrival for the 2021 season, Illinois' 14 wins as an underdog are the most in the Big Ten, according to data compiled by TeamRankings.com. The Illini's .424 winning percentage as an underdog (14-19) is the second-best in the Big Ten behind only Michigan's .438 (7-9) mark.
- **Bielema** tied the Illinois record for most bowl victories (2) during last year's Liberty Mutual Music City Bowl. Prior to Bielema, only **Ray Eliot** (1947 Rose, 1952 Rose) had won two bowl games as the head coach at Illinois.
- **Bielema** tied the Illinois record for most bowls coached during last year's Liberty Mutual Music City Bowl:

Rank	Illinois Head Coach	Bowls	Bowls Coached (Season)
1.	Bret Bielema, 2021-25	3	ReliaQuest (2022), Citrus (2024), Music City (2025)
	Lou Tepper, 1991-96*	3	John Hancock (1991), Holiday (1992), Liberty (1994)
	John Mackovic, 1988-91*	3	All-American (1988), Citrus (1989), Hall of Fame (1990)
	Mike White, 1980-87	3	Liberty (1982), Rose (1983), Peach (1985)

* - Lou Tepper coached the 1991 John Hancock Bowl after John Mackovic's departure.

THE ILLINOIS OFFENSE

- Illinois offensive coordinator **Barry Lunney Jr.** is the longest tenured offensive coordinator in the Big Ten.
- In the season-opening win over UAB, Illinois quarterback **Katin Houser** had the eighth-best passing efficiency in a game in program history and the best ever in an Illini debut (224.6). Houser was 13-of-17 passing, totaled 211 yards of offense, and accounted for four touchdowns (3 passing, 1 rushing).
- The Illinois offense has improved every year since **Lunney's** arrival. The Illini averaged 24.2 points per game in Lunney's first year in 2022, followed by 24.5 in 2023, 28.3 in 2024, and 29.4 in 2025.
- From **Lunney's** first season in 2022 through the 2025 season, Illinois ranked second in the Big Ten in completion percentage (65.1), fourth in passer rating (143.9), fifth in points (1,359), fifth in passing touchdowns (83), and fifth in passing yards (11,739) among the 14 teams that were in the league all four seasons (2022-25).
- Under **Lunney**, former QB **Luke Altmeyer** ranked among the best quarterbacks in the Big Ten in nearly every major passing category in 2025, including completion percentage (67.4, 6th), passer rating (153.8, 6th), touchdown passes (22, 6th), and passing yards (3,007, 7th). Altmeyer concluded one of the greatest careers in Illinois history ranking in the program's top five in passer rating (144.31, 1st), completion percentage (64.36, 1st), quarterback wins (23, 2nd), touchdown passes (57, 2nd), and passing yards (7,607, 5th).

THE ILLINOIS DEFENSE

- Illinois' new defense is run by first-year defensive coordinator **Bobby Hauck**, the former Montana and UNLV head coach.
- LB **Ismael Kante** has the second-longest interception return for a touchdown in the nation this season (59 yards vs. UAB).
- DB **Matthew Bailey** is the only player in the nation returning after leading his team in tackles in 2024 and 2025. Bailey was Illinois' leading tackler in the opener against UAB with eight tackles.
- Illinois' starting defensive backs include three highly under-recruited players:
 - » CB **Xavier Scott** had 0 Power-4 offers.
 - » S **Matthew Bailey** had 0 Power-4 offers.
 - » CB **Juice Clarke** had 1 Power-4 offer (Iowa State).

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

STUDENT-ATHLETES

55 Tony Balanganayi	buh-LONG-uh-NY
24 Javari Barnett	juh-VAR-ee
19 Nate Cichy	sih-CHEE
13 Hudson Clement	cluh-MENT
31 Murphy Clement	cluh-MENT
35 Kaedyn Cobbs	KAY-dihn
32 Tywan Cox	ty-WAWN
83 Kaden Feagin	KAY-dihn FAY-gihn
76 Dylan Frechette	freh-SHETT
56 Guillermo Gallardo	ghee-AIR-moh ghy-ARD-doh
16 Tanner Heckel	HECK-uhl
56 JJ Hirdes	HUR-duss
89 Tanner Hollinger	HAWL-ing-er
90 Carter Janki	JANN-kee
54 Demetrius John	DUH-me-TREE-us
26 Ismael Kante	IHZ-mayl KON-tay
71 Nathan Knapik	kuh-NAP-ick
10 James Kreutz	KREW-tz
21 Aidan Laughery	LAW-fer-ree
70 Maika Matelau	my-KUH MAT-uh-LAU
68 Michael McDonough	mick-DUHN-uh
37 Ethan Moczulski	muh-CHOW-skee
18 Mason Muragin	mur-AH-ghin
15 Jershaun Newton	jur-SHAWN
27 Lucas Osada	oh-SAY-duh
53 Kai Pritchard	KY
0 Nas Rankin	NOSS
27 Corey Rashad	ruh-SHAWD
81 Lars Rau	ROW
0 Mac Resetich	ruh-SEHT-itch
40 Ean Rhea	EE-uhn RAY
54 Griffin Rousseau	ROO-soh
13 Xanai Scott	zuh-NEYE
1 Xavier Scott	EX-ay-veer
74 Zafir Stewart	zuh-FEAR
88 Davin Stoffel	STAW-ful
25 Des Straughton	STRAWT-uhn
62 Casey Thomann	THOH-man
20 Almirian Thomas	ahl-MEER-ee-un
17 Isaiah Thomison	TAH-mih-suhn
78 Eddie Tuerk	TERK
85 Will Vala III	VOLL-uh
5 Ca'Lil Valentine	kuh-LEEL
9 Lavon Williams	luh-VONN
22 Cedric Wyche II	WHY-ch

COACHES

Bret Bielema	BEEL-ma
Barry Lunney Jr.	LUN-ee
Bobby Hauck	HOWK

STADIUM

Gies Memorial Stadium	GEESE
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IN THE RANKINGS

- Illinois finished the 2025 season ranked #25 in the US LBM Coaches Poll. The Illini were one spot out of the AP Top 25.
- Illinois finished ranked in back-to-back seasons in 2024-25 for the first time since 1989-90.
- Illinois went 6-4 against ranked opponents over the last two seasons (2024-25). From the 2008 Rose Bowl game through the 2023 season, Illinois went 5-41 against ranked teams and two of those wins were under Bielema in 2021 (at #7/8 Penn State; at #20 Minnesota).
- Illinois' ranked wins from 2024-25: #19/20 Kansas, at #22/22 Nebraska, #24/22 Michigan, and vs. #14/14 South Carolina in 2024, then #21/22 USC and #-/23 Tennessee in 2025.
- All six of Illinois' ranked wins from 2024-25 came as underdogs.
- Illinois beat 2+-ranked opponents in back-to-back seasons for the first time since a three-year run from 1989-91.
- Illinois had a 2-2 record against ranked teams in 2025, one year after tying the program record with four ranked wins in 2024. The 2024 team joined the 1946 and 1983 teams as the only squads in Illini history to defeat four AP Top 25 ranked teams.
- Illinois was ranked in the AP poll for 20 weeks over the last two seasons, sixth-best among Big Ten teams:

Rank	Team	Weeks Ranked (2024-26)
1.	Ohio State	35
	Oregon	35
3.	Indiana	30
4.	Michigan	25
	Penn State	24
6.	Illinois	20

USC (18), Nebraska (3), Iowa (4), and Washington (1) have also been ranked, while all other Big Ten teams have 0 weeks.

ONE-SCORE WINS

- Since **Bret Bielema's** arrival at Illinois for the 2021 season, the Illini are 17-12 (.586) in one-score games.
- Illinois has won five straight one-score games dating back to the 2024 win at Rutgers.
- Illinois is 8-1 in one-score games over the last three seasons (2024-26).
- Illinois is 13-4 in one-score games over the last four seasons (2023-26).
- Illinois tied the program record for one-score wins with five in 2023 and 2024 (record first set in 1934).
- Illinois went a perfect 3-0 in one-score games in 2025: a 34-32 last-second victory over #21/22 USC, a 20-13 snow-covered win over Northwestern during Rivalry Week, and a 30-28 last-second victory over #-/23 Tennessee.
- Illinois was an underdog in eight of its 13 one-score wins from 2023-25, including six as road/neutral dogs.
- 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).
- Nine of Illinois' 13 one-score wins from 2023-25 came in the final minute or overtime.
 - » 2025: Illinois beat #21/22 USC and #-/23 Tennessee on game-winning field goals with 0:00 left.
 - » 2024: Illinois topped #22/22 Nebraska and Purdue in overtime and beat Rutgers with 0:04 left.
 - » 2023: Illinois had game-winning field goals to beat Toledo (0:05) and Maryland (0:00), and game-winning touchdowns at Minnesota (0:50) and against Indiana (OT) in back-to-back weeks in November.

COMEBACK WINS

- Illinois has seven fourth-quarter comeback wins over the last three years (2024-26).
- Illinois had two fourth-quarter comeback victories in 2025, a 34-32 win over #21/22 USC after trailing 32-31 before a game-winning 41-yard field goal as time expired and a 30-28 win over #-/23 Tennessee after trailing 28-27 before a game-winning 29-yard field goal as time expired.
- Five of Illinois' seven fourth-quarter comebacks in the last three years have come against ranked teams.

EXPERIENCED ROSTER

- Illinois' 2026 roster ranks among the most experienced in the nation according to research done by The Athletic (Division I only and top 105 players only):
 - » 14th in the nation and fifth in the Big Ten in career games played (1,438)
 - » 17th in the nation and fifth in the Big Ten in career starts (476)
 - » 36th in the nation and sixth in the Big Ten in career snaps played (36,863)

FORMER HEAD COACHES

- Illinois has six former head coaches on its staff: **Bobby Hauck** (Montana/UNLV), **Jared Elliott** (WIU), **Mike Neu** (Ball State), **Tyrone Wheatley** (Wayne State/Morgan State), **Mark Farley** (Northern Iowa), and **Myers Hendrickson** (WIU).

ILLINI IN THE NFL

Active Rosters AS OF SEPT. 4 2026

Isaiah Adams, Arizona Cardinals
 Tony Adams, Tennessee Titans
 Nick Allegretti, Washington Commanders
 Tanner Arkin, New England Patriots
 Chase Brown, Cincinnati Bengals
 Sydney Brown, Atlanta Falcons
 Pat Bryant, Denver Broncos
 J.C. Davis, New York Giants
 Tommy DeVito, New England Patriots
 TeRah Edwards, Carolina Panthers
 Jake Hansen, Houston Texans
 Nate Hobbs, San Francisco 49ers
 Gabe Jacas, New England Patriots
 Ted Karras, Cincinnati Bengals
 Vederian Lowe, San Francisco 49ers
 Jartavius Martin, Washington Commanders
 Chase McLaughlin, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
 Jer'Zhan Newton, Washington Commanders
 Alex Palczewski, Denver Broncos
 Del'Shawn Phillips, Los Angeles Chargers
 James Thompson Jr., San Francisco 49ers
 Isaiah Williams, New York Jets
 Devon Witherspoon, Seattle Seahawks

Physically Unable to Perform

Tip Reiman, Arizona Cardinals
 Kerby Joseph, Detroit Lions

Injured Reserve

Kendrick Green, Cleveland Browns
 Milo Eifler, Tennessee Titans

Practice Squad

Luke Altmyer, Detroit Lions
 Josh Gesky, Green Bay Packers
 Miles Scott, Denver Broncos
 Casey Washington, Carolina Panthers

BIELEMA'S ILLINOIS NFL DRAFTEES

Year, Position, Name, Team, Round, Pick

2026 OLB Gabe Jacas, New England, 2nd, 55th pick
 2026 OL J.C. Davis, New York Giants, 6th, 192nd pick
 2026 DB Miles Scott, Denver, 7th, 246th pick
 2025 WR Pat Bryant, Denver, 3rd, 74th pick
 2024 DT Jer'Zhan Newton, Washington, 2nd, 36th pick
 2024 OL Isaiah Adams, Arizona, 3rd, 71st pick
 2024 TE Tip Reiman, Arizona, 3rd, 82nd pick
 2024 WR Casey Washington, Atlanta, 6th, 187th pick
 2023 CB Devon Witherspoon, Seattle, 1st, 5th pick
 2023 DB Jartavius Martin, Washington, 2nd, 47th pick
 2023 DB Sydney Brown, Philadelphia, 3rd, 66th pick
 2023 RB Chase Brown, Cincinnati, 5th, 163rd pick
 2022 DB Kerby Joseph, Detroit, 3rd, 97th pick
 2022 C Doug Kramer, Chicago, 6th, 207th pick
 2022 OL Vederian Lowe, Minnesota, 6th, 184th pick

MUSIC CITY BOWL CHAMPIONS

- Illinois beat #23-ranked Tennessee, 30-28, on a walk-off field goal in the Music City Bowl to end the 2025 season.
- Illinois won bowl games in back-to-back seasons for the second time in history (2010-11), and **Bret Bielema** became the first coach in program history to win a bowl game in back-to-back seasons.
- Illinois held Tennessee to a season-low 278 total yards. Tennessee entered the Music City Bowl ranking fourth in the nation in total offense with 482.0 yards per game.
- Illinois outgained Tennessee by 139 yards, the second-biggest margin against the Vols in 2025 behind only Vanderbilt (+200). Only Vanderbilt (+200), Illinois (+139), Arkansas (+11), and Georgia (+6) outgained Tennessee in 2025.

TURNOVER BATTLE

- Illinois was +1 in the turnover battle against UAB with one interception and zero turnovers committed.
- Illinois is 16-2 when it committed zero or one turnover over the last three seasons (2024-26). The Illini's two losses during that stretch were at Indiana and at Wisconsin in 2025.
- Illinois are 16-1 when it has forced one or more turnovers over the last three seasons (2024-26). The Illini's only loss during that stretch was at Oregon in 2024, when the Illini forced a fourth-quarter interception.
- Illinois threw only 12 interceptions from 2024-25, the fewest in the Big Ten and tied for the fourth fewest in the nation behind only Army (9), Marshall (10), and Connecticut (10).

ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO RISE

- Illinois' season tickets sold out for a second straight season and student tickets sold out for a third straight season.
- Illinois hosted 408,453 fans at Gies Memorial Stadium this season for an average of 58,350 fans per game in 2025.
- Illinois' 2025 season attendance surpassed 400,000 for the sixth time in program history and the first time since 1994.
- Illinois' 58,350 fans per game in 2025 was the program's highest since 2009 when 59,544 fans attended per game.
- Illinois sold out four straight games in 2025, tying the program's longest sellout streak since 1982-87 (28 straight). The Illini also sold out four straight games during the 2008 season.
- Illinois sold out games against Western Michigan (Sept. 13), USC (Sept. 27), Ohio State (Oct. 11), and Rutgers (Nov. 1).
- Illinois' attendance has increased every season since head coach **Bret Bielema** arrived in 2021.
- Illinois has a five-year attendance average of 43,886 since **Bielema**'s arrival, reflecting a 32.96% growth over the previous five seasons. It is the largest percent growth in the nation among Power-4 programs.
- Illinois' attendance has increased by 65% since **Bielema** arrived in 2021. Illinois was #5 in the nation in percent growth from 2021 compared to 2025.

TOP-RANKED RECRUITING CLASS IN PROGRAM HISTORY

- Illinois signed the top-rated class in program history in 2026.
- Illinois' 2026 class was ranked #21 in the nation by 247Sports, eclipsing the previous high of #22 in 2007 and 2008.
- Illinois signed its fifth-straight top-50 recruiting class in 2026. Prior to Bielema's arrival in 2021, Illinois had signed only three top-50 classes in the previous 10 years combined.
- Bielema has signed four of the five highest-ranked Illini recruiting classes of the past 15 years, according to 247Sports.
- Illinois native **Bret Bielema** has made a dedicated effort to recruit the state of Illinois since his arrival in Champaign. He continued the strong commitment to the state by signing eight players from Illinois in 2026, including two of the top six and all eight within the top 40 according to 247Sports. The Illini has 39 players that played IHSA football.

HALFTIME LEADS

- Illinois is 19-0 when leading at halftime over the last three seasons (2024-26).

REST UP

- Illinois is 20-6 in games with more than six days rest since **Bret Bielema**'s arrival in 2021, including 18-4 over the last five seasons (2022-26), a 10-2 record over the last three seasons (2024-26), and a 5-1 record since 2025.
- Illinois is 7-2 following bye weeks under **Bielema**.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

- Illinois is second in the nation in sets of brothers on its roster with three (Only Oregon's 4 is more). Last year, Illinois had an unprecedented five sets of brothers on the team, the most in the nation.
- Illinois' brothers: Hudson and Murphy Clement; Xavier and Xanai Scott; Maurice and Champ Smith.
- Illinois has a number of other family connections on its roster:
 - » WR Jershaun Newton's brother, Johnny, was an All-American defensive lineman at Illinois.
 - » OL Nathan Knapik's brother, Ayden, played at Illinois and is now a student assistant coach for the team.
 - » LB James Kreutz's brother, Josh, played at Illinois from 2021-25 and was a two-time captain.
 - » OL Jake Renfro's father, Rick, was a letterwinner on the 1983 Big Ten championship team at Illinois.
 - » WR Karson Kaiser's father, Jay, is a former Illini staffer and now the Jacksonville Jaguars' Asst. to the Head Coach.

AWARDS AND HONORS

DB Matthew Bailey

- » Bednarik Award Watch List
- » Lott IMPACT Trophy Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

WR Hudson Clement

- » Senior Bowl 300

OL Brandon Henderson

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

QB Katin Houser

- » Manning Award Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

OL Maika Matelau

- » Polynesian Player of the Year Watch List

WR Jayshon Platt

- » Biltz Award Watch List
- » Jet Award Watch List

OL Jake Renfro

- » Rimington Trophy Watch List
- » Comeback Player of the Year Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

DB Xavier Scott

- » Comeback Player of the Year Watch List
- » Senior Bowl 300

RB Ca'Lil Valentine

- » Doak Walker Award Watch List

Head Coach Bret Bielema

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

ILLINOIS TEAM CAPTAINS

DB Matthew Bailey

WR Collin Dixon

QB Katin Houser

RB Aidan Laughery

OL Jake Renfro

DB Xavier Scott

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Illinois had a 3.14 team GPA during the Fall 2025 semester and a 3.20 team GPA during the Spring 2026 semester, the program's two highest team GPAs on record (since 2003).
- Illinois had 65 student-athletes with a GPA above 3.0 during the spring, 34 over 3.50, and eight with a perfect 4.0.
- Illinois has seven straight semesters above a 3.0 team GPA, the most consecutive semesters over 3.0 in program history.
- Illinois had 24 college graduates on its 2025 roster, the fourth-most in the Big Ten behind only Northwestern (34), UCLA (31), and Minnesota (25). Illinois' 24 graduates were the 16th-most in the nation.

NFL DRAFT SUCCESS

- Three Fighting Illini were selected in the 2026 NFL Draft: OLB **Gabe Jacas** was selected by the New England Patriots (Round 2, No. 55), OL **J.C. Davis** was taken by the New York Giants (Round 6, No. 192), and DB **Miles Scott** was drafted by the Denver Broncos (Round 7, No. 246).
- **Jacas** was the Illini's ninth top-100 pick among the 15 NFL Draft selections during **Bielema's** five years at Illinois.
- Since **Bielema** arrived at Illinois, the Illini's nine top-100 NFL Draft picks ranks tied for fourth (with Iowa) in the Big Ten behind only Ohio State, Michigan, and Penn State (among teams in the league the last four years).
- **Bielema** has had 59 NFL Draft selections during his first 17 seasons as a head coach. He ranks seventh among active head coaches in total NFL Draft picks as a head coach.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT SUCCESS

- Illinois was one the only school in the nation to win a bowl game, an NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament game, and an NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament game in each of the last two years. It was the sixth time in Big Ten Conference history a school completed the feat in back-to-back years, as Illinois joined Michigan State (2012-13/2013-14), Ohio State (2009-10/2010-11), Purdue (1997-98/1998-99), and Iowa (twice: 1995-96/1996-97 and 1986-87/1987-88).
- Illinois was one of only 10 schools to qualify for a bowl game and the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments in back-to-back years in 2024-25 and 2025-26, along with Alabama, Connecticut, Duke, Iowa State, Louisville, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas, and Vanderbilt.
- Illinois was one of only 10 schools to finish ranked in the Top 25 of the Coaches Poll in both football and men's basketball, along with Alabama, Houston, Iowa, Miami (Fla.), Michigan, Texas, Texas Tech, Vanderbilt, and Virginia.

GIES MEMORIAL STADIUM

- University of Illinois alumnus **Larry Gies** made a \$100 million gift to the Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics on September 9, 2025. In recognition of Gies' contribution, Illinois' Memorial Stadium, now two years removed from its 100th anniversary, is known as Gies Memorial Stadium.
- Gies made the gift in memory of his late father, Larry Gies, Sr., a United States Army veteran. His father's unwavering dedication to his country and selfless service left a lasting impression on Gies, who now seeks to preserve his father's legacy through this remarkable gesture. Gies Memorial Stadium will continue to serve as a powerful symbol honoring all soldiers who have fought bravely to protect our nation's freedom. Through this contribution, Gies hopes to inspire remembrance, gratitude, and continued support for our nation's men and women in uniform.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S LARGEST VIDEOBOARD

- Illinois installed the largest main video display in college football, totaling 17,300+ square feet.
- Top five largest displays in college football:
 1. Illinois (17,315 sq. ft.)
 2. Auburn (10,690 sq. ft.)
 3. Purdue (8,461 sq. ft.)
 4. Oregon (8,208 sq. ft.)
 5. Michigan (8,165 sq. ft.)
- The new south end zone display will measure approximately 69 feet high by 250 feet wide and will feature a 10-millimeter pixel spacing for high-resolution imagery and improved contrast.
- The display features 16 million pixels and would be the fifth-largest display in professional football. It is roughly the same size as the main outfield display at Citi Field in New York and 3.4 times the size of the main display at Soldier Field in Chicago. For reference, it would take 1,621 60-inch televisions to cover the entire display.
- The videoboard project included 16 LED displays that combine for more than 26,750 square feet and 30 million pixels at Gies Memorial Stadium.
- Illinois' tech upgrades this offseason also included a new sound system, new lights, and an upgraded wifi system.

BUSEY BANK PATCH

- In July, Busey Bank became the Official Financial Services Partner of the Fighting Illini and, beginning this fall, will be featured as the inaugural jersey patch partner for Illinois Athletics.
- Founded just months apart in 1867 and 1868, respectively, the University of Illinois and Busey Bank have a long and storied history of helping shape Champaign-Urbana and communities across Illinois.

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	ELIG.	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	PREVIOUS COLLEGE
0	Nas Rankin	WR	6' 0"	170	Fr.	Chicago, Ill.	Morgan Park	
0	Mac Resetich	DB	6' 0"	210	Sr.	Spring Valley, Ill.	Spring Valley Hall	
1	Jayshon Platt	WR	6' 1"	195	5th	North Port, Fla.	Venice	Florida Atlantic
1	Xavier Scott	DB	5' 11"	195	5th	Riviera Beach, Fla.	Dwyer	
2	Carson Boyd	QB	6' 0"	190	So.	St. Louis, Mo.	Cardinal Ritter	
3	Kenyon Alston	WR	6' 2"	195	Fr.	Orlando, Fla.	Bishop Moore Catholic	
3	Nick Hankins Jr.	DB	6' 0"	205	Fr.	Belleville, Ill.	Belleville West	
4	Daniel Brown	LB	6' 1"	255	5th	Kansas City, Kan.	Bishop Ward	Hutchinson CC
4	Katin Houser	QB	6' 3"	225	5th	Anaheim, Calif.	St. John Bosco	East Carolina
5	Jakwon Morris	DB	6' 0"	185	Jr.	Tupelo, Miss.	Tupelo	Northwest Mississippi CC
5	Ca'Lil Valentine	RB	5' 11"	205	Jr.	Hayward, Calif.	Chandler (Ariz.)	
6	Juice Clarke	DB	6' 1"	185	Sr.	Ft. Myers, Fla.	Riverdale	
6	Jershaun Newton	WR	6' 0"	215	So.	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Clearwater Central Catholic	
7	Matthew Bailey	DB	6' 2"	225	5th	Moline, Ill.	Moline	
7	Michael Clayton II	QB	6' 4"	205	Fr.	Orlando, Fla.	Miami Edison	
8	Jacob Eberhart	WR	6' 4"	220	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo.	Kirkwood	
8	Cameron Thomas	LB	6' 0"	220	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Lakota West	
9	RJ Jones III	WR	6' 0"	175	So.	Fort Pierce, Fla.	Vero Beach	
9	Alex Perry	WR	6' 5"	220	5th	Port Charlotte, Fla.	Port Charlotte	FIU
9	Lavon Williams	DB	5' 10"	195	5th	San Antonio, Texas	Roosevelt	East Texas A&M
10	James Kreutz	LB	6' 2"	240	5th	Bannockburn, Ill.	Loyola Academy	
10	Ty Robinson	WR	6' 4"	205	6th	Denver, Colo.	Eaglecrest	Ball State
11	Jacob Alexander	LB	6' 4"	245	Fr.	Chicago, Ill.	Lincoln Way East	
11	Brayden Trimble	WR	6' 1"	195	So.	Mt. Zion, Ill.	Mt. Zion	
12	Dane Eisenmenger	QB	6' 4"	215	Fr.	Philo, Ill.	Unity	
12	Isaiah Williams	DB	6' 2"	210	Fr.	Houston, Texas	Fort Bend Marshall	
13	Hudson Clement	WR	6' 1"	215	5th	Martinsburg, W.Va.	Martinsburg	West Virginia
13	Xanai Scott	DB	5' 11"	210	So.	Riviera Beach, Fla.	Cardinal Newman	
14	Andre Lovett Jr.	DB	6' 1"	190	So.	Blue Island, Ill.	Eisenhower	
14	Maurice Smith Jr.	TE	6' 4"	255	5th	Fort Pierce, Fla.	Vero Beach	Chowan
15	Kingston Shaw	DL	6' 3"	260	Fr.	Apopka, Fla.	The First Academy	
16	Logan Farrell	TE	6' 3"	255	So.	Arlington Heights, Ill.	John Hersey	
16	Tanner Heckel	DB	5' 11"	195	Jr.	Lyndon, Kan.	Lyndon	
17	Collin Dixon	WR	6' 1"	215	Sr.	Tallmadge, Ohio	Tallmadge	
17	Isaiah Thomison	DL	6' 3"	290	Sr.	Fayetteville, Tenn.	Fayetteville	Bowling Green
18	Jack Gray	P	6' 2"	210	Fr.	Adelaide, South Australia	Immanuel	
18	Mason Muragin	LB	6' 4"	250	Sr.	Macomb, Mich.	De La Salle	
19	Nate Cichy	WR	6' 1"	195	Fr.	Mount Prospect, Ill.	Mount Prospect	
20	John Forster	RB	5' 10"	195	So.	Saddle Brook, N.J.	St. Joseph Regional	
20	Almirian Thomas	DB	5' 11"	180	Fr.	Fort Myers, Fla.	Cape Coral	
21	Ben Clawson	DB	6' 0"	210	5th	Arlington Heights, Ill.	Hersey	
21	Aidan Laughery	RB	5' 11"	200	5th	Gibson City, Ill.	GCMS	
22	Deuce Fillmore	DB	5' 11"	190	Sr.	Biloxi, Miss.	Biloxi	Georgia State
22	Cedric Wyche II	RB	5' 10"	210	So.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	St. Thomas Aquinas	
23	Jordan Anderson	RB	6' 4"	240	5th	Naperville, Ill.	Joliet Catholic	
23	Jaylen Stewart	LB	6' 2"	240	Fr.	Houston, Texas	Pearland	
24	Javari Barnett	RB	6' 1"	235	Fr.	Tampa, Fla.	Tampa Bay Tech	
24	Will Holmes	DL	6' 4"	260	Jr.	Detroit, Mich.	Western International	Utah State
25	Des Straughton	DB	6' 0"	210	So.	Detroit, Mich.	Roseville	
25	Nelsyn Wheeler	RB	5' 9"	205	Fr.	Grand Island, Neb.	Millard South	
26	Ismael Kante	LB	6' 2"	240	5th	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	Park Center	Iowa Central CC
27	Lucas Osada	K	6' 1"	195	Jr.	Charlottesville, Va.	Woodberry Forest	North Carolina
27	Corey Rashad	RB	5' 8"	185	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.	Marist	
28	Kayden Bennett	LB	6' 1"	235	Fr.	Windsor, Conn.	Suffield Academy	
28	Karson Kaiser	WR	6' 1"	175	Jr.	Weston, Fla.	Champaign Centennial (Ill.)	
29	James Finley IV	DB	6' 2"	195	So.	Portage, Ind.	Andrean	Northern Illinois
30	Tony Williams	LB	5' 11"	235	Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla.	Raines	
31	Murphy Clement	RB	6' 0"	215	Jr.	Martinsburg, W.Va.	Martinsburg	West Virginia
32	Tywan Cox	DB	5' 10"	190	So.	Miami, Fla.	Miami Northwestern	

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	ELIG.	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL	PREVIOUS COLLEGE
33	Grant Beerman	LB	6' 5"	240	So.	West Chester, Ohio	Lakota West	
34	Erik Gayle	LB	6' 3"	240	So.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Withrow	
35	Kaedy Cobbs	DB	6' 1"	220	Fr.	Denton, Texas	Guyer	
37	Caden Considine	DB	6' 0"	215	Fr.	Byron, Ill.	Byron	
37	Ethan Moczulski	K	5' 11"	195	5th	Spokane, Wash.	Mt. Spokane	Washington
38	Jack Paris	LB	6' 2"	225	So.	River Forest, Ill.	Fenwick	
40	Ean Rhea	LB	6' 2"	240	5th	Glade Spring, Va.	Patrick Henry	Emory & Henry
43	Joe Barna	DL	6' 4"	280	Jr.	Wheaton, Ill.	Wheaton North	
44	Patrick Mahoney III	LS	6' 2"	210	Sr.	Northbrook, Ill.	Glenbrook North	
45	Robert Edmonson	LB	6' 2"	240	Sr.	Houston, Texas	Shadow Creek	Colorado State
48	Carter Smith	DL	6' 3"	250	Jr.	Rolling Meadows, Ill.	Fremd	
49	Zach Haber	LS	5' 10"	220	Sr.	Durango, Colo.	Durango	Arkansas
51	Parker Crim	DL	6' 3"	270	Fr.	Lima, Ohio	Elida	
51	Alfred Washington	OL	6' 7"	310	Sr.	Pensacola, Fla.	Escambia	Northeast Mississippi CC
52	Pat Farrell	DL	6' 5"	285	Sr.	Oak Lawn, Ill.	St. Rita	
52	Champ Smith	OL	6' 6"	330	Fr.	Fort Pierce, Fla.	Vero Beach	
53	Kai Pritchard	OL	6' 5"	290	Fr.	Little Egg Harbor, N.J.	Donovan Catholic	
54	Demetrius John	DL	6' 3"	295	Jr.	Columbus, Ohio	Dublin Coffman	
54	Griffin Rousseau	OL	6' 7"	315	So.	Stoughton, Wis.	Stoughton	
55	Tony Balanganayi	DL	6' 4"	290	Fr.	Palatine, Ill.	Palatine	
55	TJ McMillen	OL	6' 3"	300	Sr.	Naperville, Ill.	St. Francis	
56	Guillermo Gallardo	DL	6' 3"	315	5th	Bloomington, Ill.	Normal Community	New Mexico Military Institute
56	JJ Hirdes	OL	6' 6"	290	So.	Coopersville, Mich.	Coopersville	
57	Zach Barrett	OL	6' 3"	295	Jr.	Orland Park, Ill.	Carl Sandburg	
59	Jake Renfro	OL	6' 4"	320	7th	Mokena, Ill.	Providence Catholic	Wisconsin
62	Casey Thomann	OL	6' 8"	330	Fr.	Olney, Ill.	Richland County	
65	Dezmond Schuster	OL	6' 5"	330	6th	Gonzales, La.	East Ascension	Hutchinson CC (Kan.)
66	Brandon Hansen	OL	6' 6"	320	Jr.	Mundelein, Ill.	Mundelein	
68	Michael McDonough	OL	6' 3"	315	So.	Tinley Park, Ill.	Andrew	
70	Maika Matelau	OL	6' 3"	305	So.	Ontario, Calif.	Upland	Mt. San Antonio College
71	Nathan Knapik	OL	6' 7"	300	Jr.	Kennewick, Wash.	Kennewick	Idaho
72	Christian Martin	OL	6' 7"	310	Sr.	St. Rose, La.	Destrehan	Colorado State
74	Zafir Stewart	OL	6' 6"	325	Jr.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Imhotep Charter	
75	Brandon Henderson	OL	6' 5"	320	Sr.	East St. Louis, Ill.	East St. Louis	
76	Dylan Frechette	OL	6' 6"	325	So.	Central Falls, R.I.	Cardinal Newman (Fla.)	
78	Eddie Tuerk	OL	6' 4"	315	Jr.	La Grange, Ill.	Lyons Township	
79	TJ Taylor	OL	6' 5"	330	Jr.	Santa Clarita, Calif.	Golden Valley	College of the Canyons
80	Eddie Kasper	WR	5' 10"	170	5th	Burlington, Wis.	Wheaton Academy	Illinois State
81	Leslie Mosley Jr.	WR	5' 10"	175	Fr.	Belle Glade, Fla.	Cardinal Newman	
81	Lars Rau	P	6' 3"	195	Jr.	Novato, Calif.	San Marin	Texas State
82	Jacob Harvey	WR	6' 0"	200	Fr.	Mt. Zion, Ill.	Mt. Zion	
83	Kaden Feagin	TE	6' 3"	260	Sr.	Atwood, Ill.	ALAH	
84	Grant Smith	TE	6' 5"	225	So.	Forsyth, Ill.	Maroa-Forsyth	
85	Will Vala III	TE	6' 3"	245	Fr.	Downers Grove, Ill.	Downers Grove North	
86	Christian Abney	TE	6' 6"	260	Sr.	Zionsville, Ind.	Zionsville	Ball State
87	BJ Thurman	TE	6' 4"	235	So.	Berkeley, Calif.	Berkeley	College of San Mateo
88	Davin Stoffel	TE	6' 6"	265	Sr.	Mosinee, Wis.	Mosinee	South Dakota State
89	Tanner Hollinger	TE	6' 5"	245	Jr.	Stromsburg, Neb.	Cross County	
90	Carter Janki	DL	6' 5"	295	5th	Redding, Conn.	Joel Barlow	Penn
91	Cameron Brooks	DL	6' 3"	305	So.	Chicago, Ill.	Homewood-Flossmoor	
92	Deon Williams	DL	6' 2"	305	So.	Las Vegas, Nev.	Liberty	City College of San Francisco
94	Connor Sullivan	DL	6' 4"	290	So.	Glenview, Ill.	Loyola Academy	Washington State
95	Isaiah White	DL	6' 2"	325	So.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Ben Davis	
96	Darrell Prater	DL	6' 3"	310	5th	Fort Payne, Ala.	Fort Payne	Jacksonville State
98	Joshua Davis	DL	6' 3"	285	So.	Pinola, Miss.	Mendenhall	Copiah-Lincoln CC
99	King Liggins	DL	6' 3"	300	Fr.	Crete, Ill.	Brother Rice	
99	Landen Von Seggern	TE	6' 4"	280	Fr.	Omaha, Neb.	Millard South	

Class is based off the five-year eligibility model (Fr.=first year; So.=second year; Jr.=third year; Sr.=fourth year; 5th=fifth year)

NAME	YR	YRS/AT ILL	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Christian Abney	Sr.	4 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	Ball St.	Ball St.			
Jacob Alexander	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Kenyon Alston	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Jordan Anderson	5th	5 / 5	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
Matthew Bailey	5th	5 / 5	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
Tony Balanganayi	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Joe Barna	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Javari Barnett	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Zach Barrett	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Grant Beerman	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Kayden Bennett	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Carson Boyd	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Cameron Brooks	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Daniel Brown	5th	5 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Hutchison CC	Hutchison CC		
Nate Cichy	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Juice Clarke	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Ben Clawson	5th	5 / 5	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
Michael Clayton II	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Hudson Clement	5th	5 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia		
Murphy Clement	Jr.	3 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	West Virginia				
Kaedyn Cobbs	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Caden Considine	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Tywan Cox	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Parker Crim	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Joshua Davis	So.	2 / 1	Illinois	Copiah-Lincoln CC					
Collin Dixon	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Jacob Eberhart	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Robert Edmonson	Sr.	4 / 1	Illinois	Colorado St.	Prairie View A&M	Prairie View A&M			
Dane Eisenmenger	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Logan Farrell	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Pat Farrell	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Kaden Feagin	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Deuce Fillmore	Sr.	4 / 1	Illinois	Georgia St.	Miss. Gulf Coast CC	Miss. Gulf Coast CC			
James Finley IV	So.	2 / 1	Illinois	Northern Illinois					
John Forster	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Dylan Frechette	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Guillermo Gallardo	5th	5 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	NM Military Inst.	NM Military Inst.		
Erik Gayle	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Jack Gray	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Zach Haber	Sr.	4 / 1	Illinois	Arkansas	Butler CC	New Mexico State			

NAME	YR	YRS/AT ILL	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Nick Hankins Jr.	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Brandon Hansen	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Jacob Harvey	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Tanner Heckel	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Brandon Henderson	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
JJ Hirdes	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Tanner Hollinger	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Will Holmes	Jr.	3 / 1	Illinois	Utah State	Utah State				
Katin Houser	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	East Carolina	East Carolina	Michigan State	Michigan State		
Carter Janki	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	Penn	Penn	Penn	Penn		
Demetrius John	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
RJ Jones III	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Karson Kaiser	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Ismael Kante	5th	5 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	Iowa Central CC	Northern State	Northern State		
Eddie Kasper	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	Illinois State	Illinois State	Illinois State	Illinois State		
Nathan Knapik	Jr.	3 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	Idaho				
James Kreutz	5th	5 / 5	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
Aidan Laughery	5th	5 / 5	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
King Liggins	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Andre Lovett Jr.	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Patrick Mahoney III	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Christian Martin	Sr.	4 / 1	Illinois	Colorado State	Colorado State	Colorado State			
Maika Matelau	So.	2 / 1	Illinois	Mt. San Antonio Col.					
Michael McDonough	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
TJ McMillen	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Ethan Moczulski	5th	5 / 2	Illinois	Washington	Illinois	Texas A&M	Texas A&M		
Jakwon Morris	Jr.	3 / 1	Illinois	NW Miss. CC	NW Miss. CC				
Leslie Mosley Jr.	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Mason Muragin	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Jershaun Newton	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Lucas Osada	Jr.	3 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	North Carolina				
Jack Paris	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Alex Perry	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	FIU	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii		
Jayshon Platt	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	FAU	FAU	FAU	FAU		
Darrell Prater	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	Jacksonville St.	Jacksonville St.	Jacksonville St.	Jacksonville St.		
Kai Pritchard	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Nas Rankin	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Corey Rashad	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Lars Rau	Jr.	3 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	Texas State				
Jake Renfro	7th	7 / 1	Illinois	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati

NAME	YR	YRS/AT ILL	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Mac Resetich	Sr.	4 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois			
Ean Rhea	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	Emory & Henry	Emory & Henry	Emory & Henry	Emory & Henry		
Ty Robinson	6th	6 / 1	Illinois	Ball State	Ball State	Ball State	Colorado	Colorado	
Griffin Rousseau	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Dezmond Schuster	6th	6 / 4	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Hutchison CC	Hutchison CC	
Xanai Scott	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Xavier Scott	5th	5 / 5	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois		
Kingston Shaw	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Carter Smith	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Champ Smith	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Grant Smith	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Maurice Smith Jr.	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	Chowan	Chowan	Long Island	Long Island		
Jaylen Stewart	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Zafir Stewart	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Davin Stoffel	Sr.	4 / 2	Illinois	Illinois	South Dakota St.	South Dakota St.			
Des Straughton	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Connor Sullivan	So.	2 / 1	Illinois	Washington St.					
TJ Taylor	Jr.	3 / 1	Illinois	Col. of the Canyons	Col. of the Canyons				
Casey Thomann	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Almirian Thomas	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Cameron Thomas	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Isaiah Thomison	Sr.	4 / 1	Illinois	Bowling Green	Memphis	Memphis			
BJ Thurman	So.	2 / 1	Illinois	Col. of San Mateo					
Brayden Trimble	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Eddie Tuerk	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Will Vala III	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Ca'Lil Valentine	Jr.	3 / 3	Illinois	Illinois	Illinois				
Landen Von Seggern	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Alfred Washington	Sr.	4 / 1	Illinois	NE Miss. CC	NE Miss. CC	Arkansas Tech			
Nelsyn Wheeler	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Isaiah White	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					
Deon Williams	So.	2 / 1	Illinois	City Col. of San Fran.					
Isaiah Williams	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Lavon Williams	5th	5 / 1	Illinois	East Texas A&M	East Texas A&M	East Texas A&M	East Texas A&M		
Tony Williams	Fr.	1 / 1	Illinois						
Cedric Wyche II	So.	2 / 2	Illinois	Illinois					

**72 CHRISTIAN MARTIN**

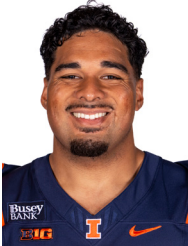
LT, 6-7, 310, SR.

ST. ROSE, LA. // DESTREHAN / COLORADO STATE

- » Transferred to Illinois from Colorado State where he played in 25 games with 12 career starts
- » Enrolled at Illinois in January 2026 and participated in spring practice
- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports Composite
- » All-District First Team selection in high school
- » Also played basketball in high school
- » Major: Communication

START STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2023	CSU	0	--
2024	CSU	13	0
2025	CSU	12	12
2026	ILL	1	1
CSU TOTALS		25	12
ILLINOIS TOTALS		1	1
CAREER TOTALS		26	13

**70 MAIKA MATELAU**

LG, 6-3, 305, SO.

ONTARIO, CALIF. // UPLAND / MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

- » Transferred to Illinois after one season at Mt. San Antonio College
- » Enrolled at Illinois in January 2026 and participated in spring practice
- » No. 1 junior college interior lineman in the nation according to 247Sports
- » No. 16 junior college player in the nation by 247Sports
- » Three-star recruit coming out of Upland High School
- » Served on a mission to Tonga for two years after high school graduation
- » Parents, Lisa and Sai, are immigrants from Tonga
- » Major: Exploratory Studies

POLYNESIAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST**START STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2026	ILL	1	1
CAREER		1	1

**59 JAKE RENFRO**

C, 6-4, 320, 7TH

MOKENA, ILL. // PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC / CINCINNATI / WISCONSIN

- » No. 241 overall transfer and #13 transfer center by 247Sports; enrolled in January
- » Played in 38 career games with 36 starts at Cincinnati (2020-22) and Wisconsin (2023-25)
- » Named to 2025 Rimington Trophy Watch List before missing final eight games due to injury
- » In 12 starts at Wisconsin in 2024, allowed one sack and 10 pressures in 375 pass opportunities, via PFF
- » Started 13 of Cincinnati's 14 games in 2021, earning All-AAC first team honors while leading the Bearcats to a College Football Playoff berth
- » Two degrees from Wisconsin: B.S., Life Sciences Communication and M.S., Sports Leadership
- » Major: Health Communication


RIMINGTON TROPHY WATCH LIST
PANINI SENIOR BOWL TOP 300 WATCH LIST
COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST
START STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2020	CIN	7	6
2021	CIN	14	13
2022	CIN	0	--
2023	WISC	1	1
2024	WISC	12	12
2025	WISC	4	4
2026	ILL	1	1
CINCINNATI		21	19
WISCONSIN		17	17
ILLINOIS		1	1
CAREER		39	37

**75 BRANDON HENDERSON**

RG, 6-5, 320, SR.

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

- » 2026 Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » Started final seven games of the 2024 and final 12 games of 2025 at right guard
- » Caught game-tying touchdown pass 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 Gies Memorial Stadium
- » 2022 IHSFCA 6A All-State honorable mention
- » Illinois graduate with degree in Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
- » Major: Health Communication


ALLSTATE AFCA GOOD WORKS TEAM NOMINEE
ALLSTATE WUERFFEL TROPHY NOMINEE
START STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2023	ILL	9	0
2024	ILL	13	7
2025	ILL	13	12
2026	ILL	1	1
CAREER		36	20

**71 NATHAN KNAPIK**

RT, 6-7, 300, JR.

KENNEWICK, WASH. // KENNEWICK / IDAHO

- » First career start (left tackle) in Illinois' Music City Bowl win over #23 Tennessee (12/30/25)
- » Transferred to Illinois after playing five games as a freshman at Idaho in 2024
- » Two-time all-conference first team at Kennewick High School
- » Helped lead the Lions to a 3A state title in 2021
- » Older brother, Ayden, is in his first season as a student assistant coach for the Illini in 2026
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

START STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	START
2024	IDAHO	5	0
2025	ILL	4	1
2026	ILL	1	1
IDAHO		5	0
ILLINOIS		5	2
CAREER		10	2



2 CARSON BOYD

QB, 6-0, 190, SO.

ST. LOUIS, MO. // CARDINAL RITTER

- » Three-star recruit coming out of high school
- » Passed for 7,148 yards and 88 touchdowns and ran for 2,350 yards and 20 touchdowns during his high school career, while leading Cardinal Ritter to a 48-5 record
- » 2023 Missouri Football Coaches Association Class 5 All-State First Team and Player of the Year
- » Also ran track in high school
- » Father, Robert, played football at Illinois State and in the Continental Indoor Football League, and three older brothers also played college football
- » Major: Exploratory Studies

PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YDS	YD/ATT	TD	INT	LNG	SACK	RTG
2025	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2026	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CAREER		0	0	0	00.0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2025	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
2026	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
CAREER		0	0	0	0.0	0	0



7 MICHAEL CLAYTON II

QB, 6-4, 205, FR.

ORLANDO, FLA. // MIAMI EDISON

- » Three-star recruit coming out of high school
- » Enrolled at Illinois in January 2026 and participated in spring practice
- » Two-time team captain and three-year starter who threw for over 6,000 yards and 72 passing touchdowns while leading Miami Edison to a 30-6 record
- » Led his eighth grade team to the 2022 Pop Warner national title
- » Four-year member of his high school's honor roll
- » Major: Exploratory Studies

PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YDS	YD/ATT	TD	INT	LNG	SACK	RTG
2026	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CAREER		0	0	0	00.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2026	ILL	--	--	--	--	--	--
CAREER		0	0	0	0.0	0	0



4 KATIN HOUSER

QB, 6-3, 225, 5TH

ANAHEIM, CALIF. // ST. JOHN BOSCO / MICHIGAN STATE / EAST CAROLINA

- » 224.6 passer rating vs. UAB (9/3/26), the eighth-best mark in a game in program history and the best ever in an Illini debut
- » Responsible for four total touchdowns vs. UAB - three passing and one rushing - tying for the Big Ten single-game lead through Week 1; his sixth-career four TD game and first at Illinois
- » Enters Week 2 vs. Duke with 27 career starts, tied for the 12th-most among active quarterbacks in FBS
- » Joined the Illini in January as the No. 19 transfer QB in the nation and participated in spring practice
- » Threw for 6,438 yards and 43 touchdowns, plus 15 rushing touchdowns, during his first four seasons of college football
- » Tallied 3,300 yards and 19 touchdowns, with just six interceptions, and a 65.9 completion percentage (269/408) in 2025 at East Carolina
- » Earned bachelor's degree in Economics from East Carolina
- » Major: Health Communication



MANNING AWARD WATCH LIST
PANINI SENIOR BOWL TOP 300 WATCH LIST

PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YDS	YD/ATT	TD	INT	LNG	SACK	RTG
2022	MSU	1	1	2	50.0	2	1.0	0	0	2	0	58.4
2023	MSU	11	112	191	58.6	1130	5.9	6	5	61	15	113.5
2024	ECU	9	149	245	60.8	2006	8.2	18	11	64	10	144.9
2025	ECU	12	269	408	65.9	3300	8.1	19	6	79	13	146.3
2026	ILL	1	13	17	76.5	182	10.7	3	0	54	0	224.6
MICHIGAN ST.	12	113	193	58.5	1132	5.9	6	5	61	15	112.9	
EAST CAROLINA	21	418	653	64.0	5306	8.1	37	17	79	23	145.8	
ILLINOIS	1	13	17	76.5	182	10.7	3	0	54	0	224.6	
CAREER	34	544	863	63.0	6,620	7.7	46	22	79	38	140.0	

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	MSU	1	1	13	13.0	0	13
2023	MSU	11	48	-12	-0.3	2	15
2024	ECU	9	49	170	3.5	4	35
2025	ECU	12	85	193	2.3	9	14
2026	ILL	1	3	29	9.7	1	16
MICHIGAN ST.		12	49	1	0.0	2	15
EAST CAROLINA		21	134	363	2.7	13	35
ILLINOIS		1	3	29	9.7	1	16
CAREER		34	186	393	2.1	16	35



23 JORDAN ANDERSON

RB, 6-4, 240, 5TH

NAPERVILLE, ILL. // JOLIET CATHOLIC

- » Returned to running back for 2026 after moving to tight end room for 2025
- » Critical first-down rush in the final drive of Music City Bowl win over #23 Tennessee (12/30/25)
- » First career rushing touchdown at Washington (10/25/25)
- » Missed 2023 season with knee injury sustained during fall camp
- » Did not play in a game 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
- » Major: Management (Master's)
- » Completed bachelor's degree in Recreation, Sport, & Tourism in December 2025



RUSHING STATISTICS							
YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
2023	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
2024	ILL	13	6	12	2.0	0	5
2025	ILL	13	9	41	4.6	1	20
2026	ILL	1	3	5	1.7	0	4
CAREER		27	18	58	3.2	1	20

RECEIVING STATISTICS							
YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
2023	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
2024	ILL	13	0	0	0.0	0	0
2025	ILL	13	3	12	4.0	0	6
2026	ILL	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		27	3	12	4.0	0	6



21 AIDAN LAUGHERY

RB, 5-11, 200, 5TH

GIBSON CITY, ILL. // GCMS

- » Hometown of Gibson City is 32 miles north of Gies Memorial Stadium
- » Fighting Illini's active leader in the running backs room with 199 carries for 1,090 yards (5.5 avg.)
- » Eight-career rushing TDs also rank first among the Illini's current stable of rushers
- » In 2025, opened the year with 101 yards and two touchdowns against Western Illinois and capped the season with a team-high 77 yards in the Music City Bowl win vs. #23 Tennessee (12/30/25)
- » Rushed 16 times for 67 yards in Cheez-It Citrus Bowl win over #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)
- » Led GCMS to IHSA 2A state title; also ran track in high school
- » Major: Management (Master's)
- » Graduated from Illinois in August 2025 with a degree in Recreation, Sport, & Tourism



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	9	75	382	5.1	3	57
2026	ILL	1	8	29	3.6	0	7
CAREER		32	199	1,090	5.5	8	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	9	9	54	6.0	0	17
2026	ILL	1	1	17	17.0	0	17
CAREER		32	21	127	6.0	0	17



5 CA'LIL VALENTINE

RB, 5-11, 205, JR.

HAYWARD, CALIF. / CHANDLER (AZ)

- » 88 yards on 11 carries, including a career-long 54-yard TD run in season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » 2026 All-Big Ten by Phil Steele (Third Team) and Athlon (Fourth Team)
- » Led Illini with 131 carries and 614 yards, and added four rushing TDs in 2025
- » 65 yards on eight carries (8.1 avg.) in Music City Bowl victory over #23 Tennessee (12/30/25)
- » Six carries for 44 yards (7.3 avg.) and a rushing touchdown in road win at eventual ACC Champion Duke (9/6/25)
- » Career-high 95 rushing yards in win at Purdue (10/4/25)
- » 59 yards on eight carries (7.4 avg.) in home win over #21 USC (9/27/25)
- » Four-star recruit by ESPN, On3, and Rivals
- » No. 20 overall running back recruit in the nation by On3
- » Played high school football at Chandler (Ariz.), where he starred with now Oregon QB Dylan Raiola
- » Rushed for 3,242 yards and 42 rushing touchdowns during three-year high school career
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

DOAK WALKER AWARD WATCH LIST

RUSHING STATISTICS							
YEAR	TEAM	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2024	ILL	12	53	212	4.0	1	22
2025	ILL	13	131	614	4.7	4	25
2026	ILL	1	11	88	8.0	1	51
CAREER		26	184	826	4.5	5	25

RECEIVING STATISTICS							
YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2024	ILL	12	5	30	6.0	0	15
2025	ILL	13	10	55	5.5	0	18
2026	ILL	1	1	4	4.0	0	4
CAREER		26	16	89	5.6	0	18

KICKOFF RETURN STATISTICS							
YEAR	TEAM	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LNG	
2024	ILL	12	0	0	0	0	
2025	ILL	13	9	186	0	33	
2026	ILL	1	1	31	0	31	
CAREER		26	10	217	0	33	



13 HUDSON CLEMENT

WR, 6-1, 215, 5TH

MARTINSBURG, W. VA. // MARTINSBURG / WEST VIRGINIA

- » Enters Week 2 vs. Duke with a reception in 28 consecutive games, tied for fifth in the nation
- » Team-high 48 receiving yards in the Music City Bowl victory over #23 Tennessee (12/30/25)
- » Two touchdowns in 2025 home win vs. Maryland (11/15/25)
- » 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 in 23 games from 2022-24
- » Career-high 11 receptions 166 yards and two TDs vs. Memphis in the 2024 Frisco Bowl (12/17/24)
- » Major: Communication

PANINI SENIOR BOWL TOP 300 WATCH LIST

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	WVU	0	--	--	--	--	--
2023	WVU	11	22	480	21.8	4	70
2024	WVU	12	51	741	14.5	5	44
2025	ILL	13	36	454	12.6	3	27
2026	ILL	1	3	26	8.7	0	12
WEST VIRGINIA		23	73	1221	16.7	9	70
ILLINOIS		14	39	480	12.3	3	27
CAREER		37	112	1701	15.2	12	70



17 COLLIN DIXON

WR, 6-1, 215, SR.

TALLMADGE, OHIO // TALLMADGE

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » Career-high two receiving TDs in season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Tied for second in the Big Ten with two receiving TDs following Week 1 win vs. UAB
- » Started all 13 games in 2026 and ranked second on the team with 548 receiving yards
- » Led Illini and ranked 14th in the B1G with five receiving TDs during the 2025 regular season
- » Career-high 90 yards on four receptions in Illini win over #21 USC (9/27/25)
- » 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
- » Attended the 2026 B1G Student-Athlete Leadership Retreat
- » Major: Marketing

C

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
2024	ILL	13	18	264	14.7	0	41
2025	ILL	13	35	548	15.7	5	61
2026	ILL	1	6	70	11.7	2	18
CAREER		27	59	882	14.9	7	61



1 JAYSHON PLATT

WR, 6-1, 195, 5TH

NORTH PORT, FLA. // VENICE / FLORIDA ATLANTIC

- » Enrolled at Illinois in January 2026 and participated in spring practice
- » 46 catches for 720 yards (15.7 avg.) with five receiving touchdowns in 12 games at FAU in 2025
- » In 2025, ranked 30th in the nation with eight receptions over 30 yards and totaled 25 kickoff returns for 613 yards (24.5 avg.)
- » Four 100-yard receiving games including a career-high 121 yards and one TD at Navy (10/25/25)
- » Three-sport athlete at Venice High School (basketball and track), led the Indians to a state football championship in 2021
- » Major: Communication

BILETIKOFF AWARD WATCH LIST
JET AWARD WATCH LIST

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2022	FAU	11	3	26	8.7	0	14
2023	FAU	9	2	7	3.5	0	5
2024	FAU	4	4	38	9.5	1	11
2025	FAU	12	46	720	15.7	5	48
2026	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--
FLORIDA ATLANTIC		36	55	791	14.4	6	48
ILLINOIS		0	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		36	55	791	14.4	6	48



10 TY ROBINSON

WR, 6-4, 205, 6TH

DENVER, COLO. // EAGLECREST / COLORADO / BALL STATE

- » First receiving TD as an Illini on a 54-yard Hail Mary from Katin Houser as time expired in first half of season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Enrolled at Illinois in January 2026 and participated in spring practice
- » Three-star recruit coming out of high ranked as the #68 athlete in the nation by 247Sports
- » Two-way player at receiver and defensive back at Eaglecrest High School
- » Played football and basketball in high school and had Division I offers to play college basketball
- » Major: Management (Master's)
- » Earned bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from Ball State

🎓

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2021	CU	11	6	64	10.7	1	26
2022	CU	11	3	31	10.3	0	12
2023	BSU	2	6	111	18.5	1	27
2024	BSU	3	5	69	13.8	1	21
2025	BSU	10	11	113	10.3	0	21
2026	ILL	1	1	54	54.0	1	54
COLORADO		22	9	95	10.6	1	26
BALL STATE		15	22	293	13.3	2	27
ILLINOIS		1	1	54	54.0	1	54
CAREER		38	32	442	13.8	4	54



11 BRAYDEN TRIMBLE

WR, 6-1, 195, SO.

MT. ZION, ILL. // MT. ZION

- » First-career start and reception (11 yds) in season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Played in three games as a freshman at Illinois in 2025
- » Two-time IHSFCA Class 4A All-State and 2024 Champaign News-Gazette All-State selection
- » Finished high school career ranked ninth in Illinois high school football history with 215 career receptions, and 16th with 3,036 career receiving yards
- » Led Mt. Zion to the IHSA Class 4A state championship game as a senior
- » Also ran track and played basketball for Mt. Zion
- » Major: Communication

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2025	ILL	3	0	0	0.0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	1	11	11.0	0	11
CAREER		4	1	11	11.0	0	11



86 CHRISTIAN ABNEY

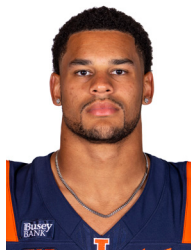
TE, 6-6, 260, SR.

ZIONSVILLE, IND. // ZIONSVILLE / BALL STATE

- » One reception for 12 yards in season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Has played in 13 of 14 games with five starts at tight end since joining the Fighting Illini
- » Transferred to Illinois in May 2025 with two years of eligibility remaining
- » Nine starts at tight end at Ball State (3 in 2023, 6 in 2024)
- » High school quarterback, switched to tight end at Ball State
- » Finished high school with 2,520 passing yards, 26 passing TDs, and eight rushing TDs
- » Major: Management

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	12	1	12	12.0	0	12
2026	ILL	1	1	12	12.0	0	12
BALL STATE		19	8	66	8.3	1	22
ILLINOIS		13	2	24	12.0	0	12
CAREER		32	10	90	9.0	1	22



83 KADEN FEAGIN

TE, 6-3, 260, SR.

ATWOOD, ILL. / ALAB

- » Moved to tight end from running back during the 2026 spring season
- » Has appeared twice on Bruce Feldman's College Football Freaks list, coming in at No. 24 in 2024, and entering 2026 at No. 41
- » 12th in the Big Ten in rushing touchdowns (7) during the 2025 regular season; added two receiving touchdowns for nine total scores on the season
- » 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
- » Four-star recruit by ESPN and Rivals out of high school
- » Hometown of Atwood is 30 miles south of Gies Memorial Stadium
- » Placed second in long jump at the 2021 IHSA track and field state finals
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

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	13	16	188	11.8	2	64
2026	ILL	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		28	30	341	11.4	3	64

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	13	122	507	4.2	7	26
2026	ILL	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
CAREER		28	284	1,251	4.4	12	34



88 DAVIN STOFFEL

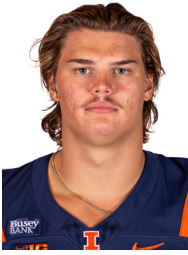
TE, 6-6, 265, SR.

MOSINEE, WIS. // MOSINEE / SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

- » Played in all 13 games in first season at Illinois in 2025
- » Caught one pass for 24 yards on the season at Wisconsin (11/22/25)
- » 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
- » Major: Mechanical Engineering

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG
2023	SDSU	2	0	0	0.0	0	0
2024	SDSU	14	14	177	12.6	1	41
2025	ILL	13	1	24	24.0	0	24
2026	ILL	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA ST.		16	14	177	12.6	1	41
ILLINOIS		14	1	24	24.0	0	24
CAREER		30	15	201	13.4	1	41



43 JOE BARN

DL, 6-4, 280, JR.

WHEATON, ILL. // WHEATON NORTH

- » 2026 Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten Fourth Team
- » 23 games played with one start in first two seasons at Illinois
- » Game-changing strip sack led to a fumble recovery TD in Music City Bowl win over #23 Tennessee (9/30/25)
- » Helped Wheaton North to state titles in 2021 and 2022
- » 2023 IHSFCA 7A All-State, DuKane Conference D-Lineman of the Year, and Wheaton North Defensive Player of the Year
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

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	13	20	7	13	2	2.0	1	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	5	1	4	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		24	41	16	25	2	3.5	1	0	0	0



52 PAT FARRELL

DL, 6-5, 285, SR.

OAK LAWN, ILL. // ST. RITA

- » Played in all 26 games with two starts over last three seasons
- » Career-high three total tackles at #19 Indiana (9/20/25)
- » Posted first full sack of his career in win vs. Western Michigan (9/13/25)
- » 2022 All-Chicago Catholic League first team selection and CCL Green Defensive MVP
- » Two-time Academic All-Big Ten
- » Attended the Uplifting Athletes Leadership Development Conference in Philadelphia in summer 2026
- » Major: Advertising

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2024	ILL	13	4	2	2	0	0.5	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	13	11	3	8	3	1.5	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	3	3	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		27	18	8	10	3	2.0	0	0	0	0



24 WILL HOLMES

DL, 6-4, 260, JR.

DETROIT, MICH. // WESTERN INTERNATIONAL / UTAH STATE

- » Transferred to Illinois after two seasons at Utah State
- » 45 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss, 2.0 sacks, one interception, one fumble recovery, and six quarterback hurries in 10 games with seven starts in 2025
- » Pitcher/outfielder in the Los Angeles Angels farm system from 2018-21
- » Never played organized football prior to college
- » Brother, Jaren, played college basketball at Iowa State and professionally in Europe
- » Major: Communication

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2024	USU	9	6	2	4	0	1.5	0	0	0	0
2025	USU	10	45	22	23	0	2.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	5	1	4	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
UTAH STATE		19	51	24	27	0	3.5	0	0	0	0
ILLINOIS		1	5	1	4	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		20	56	25	31	0	3.5	0	0	0	0



90 CARTER JANKI

DL, 6-5, 295, 5TH

REDDING, CONN. // JOEL BARLOW / PENN

- » Goes by the nickname "Woodie"
- » Transferred to Illinois after four seasons at Penn where he recorded 82 tackles and 7.5 sacks in 21 games played for the Quakers
- » Two-time All-Ivy League performer earning first team in 2025 and second team in 2024
- » Played football, basketball, and volleyball at Joel Barlow High School
- » Helped Barlow win the CIAC Boys Volleyball State Championship
- » Major: Management (Master's)
- » Completed bachelor's degree in Economics at Penn



DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	PENN	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2023	PENN	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2024	PENN	10	40	21	19	0	3.5	0	0	0	0
2025	PENN	10	42	20	22	2	4.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	2	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
PENN		21	82	41	41	2	7.5	0	0	0	0
ILLINOIS		1	2	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		22	84	41	43	2	7.5	0	0	0	0



96 DARRELL PRATER

DL, 6-3, 310, 5TH

FORT PAYNE, ALA. // FORT PAYNE / JACKSONVILLE STATE

- » Transferred to Illinois after four seasons at Jacksonville State where he tallied 63 tackles and 5.5 sacks in 39 games played for the Gamecocks
- » Career-high six tackles against Kennesaw State in the CUSA Championship (12/5/25)
- » Career-high 2.0 sacks at FIU (11/22/25)
- » Played defensive end and defensive tackle, as well as tight end and fullback at Fort Payne
- » Helped Fort Payne to the AHSAA Class 6A Playoffs each season and earned All-Region second team in 2020
- » Major: Communication

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	JSU	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2023	JSU	12	14	8	6	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
2024	JSU	13	26	4	21	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2025	JSU	14	23	14	9	0	4.5	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	3	2	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
JACKSONVILLE ST.		39	63	26	37	0	5.5	0	0	0	0
ILLINOIS		1	3	2	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		40	66	28	38	0	5.5	0	0	0	0

**33 GRANT BEERMAN****LB, 6-5, 240, SO.****WEST CHESTER, OHIO // LAKOTA WEST**

- » Played in the final 11 games, primarily on special teams, as a freshman in 2025
- » Career-high three tackles (all solo) in Illinois' win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Four-star recruit by Rivals and 247Composite
- » 103 tackles, 15.0 tackles for loss, 2.0 sacks, three pass breakups, one interception and one forced fumble as a senior at Lakota West
- » Also competed in basketball and track and field in high school
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2025	ILL	11	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	3	3	0	1	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		12	4	4	0	1	0.0	0	0	0	0

**4 DANIEL BROWN****LB, 6-1, 255, 5TH****KANSAS CITY, KAN. // BISHOP WARD / HUTCHINSON CC**

- » Played in nine games with two starts in 2025
- » Started Music City Bowl win vs. #23 Tennessee (12/30/25) and recorded a career-high five tackles (two solo)
- » Started first game at Illinois and made one tackle in win at Duke (9/6/25)
- » Missed the first 11 games of the 2024 season with an injury, playing in two contests
- » 2023 NCAA All-American First Team and Jayhawk Conference Defensive Player of the Year
- » Led the nation in sacks with 18.0 in 11 games in 2023
- » Major: Community Health

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	0
2025	ILL	9	11	4	7	1	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CAREER		11	11	4	7	1	0.0	0	0	0	0

**26 ISMAEL KANTE****LB, 6-2, 240, 5TH****BROOKLYN PARK, MINN. // PARK CENTER / NORTHERN STATE / IOWA CENTRAL CC**

- » Scored 54-yard TD on first-career interception in season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Played in all 13 games for Illinois in 2025, contributed primarily on special teams and played defensive snaps in 11 contests, including the Music City Bowl win vs. #23 Tennessee
- » Signed with Illinois in 2025 as the #1 juco LB and #21 juco player in the nation, according to 247Sports
- » 71 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss, 4.0 sacks and 5 PBUs in 2024 at Iowa Central CC
- » Major: Communication
- » Completed degree in Communication from Illinois in August 2026

**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	0
2025	ILL	13	8	3	5	1	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	6	2	4	0	0.0	0	1	59	1
CAREER		16	14	5	9	1	0.0	0	1	59	1

**41 JAMES KREUTZ****LB, 6-2, 240, 5TH****BANNOCKBURN, ILL. // LOYOLA ACADEMY**

- » Tied for fifth on the team with a career-most 3.5 tackles for loss in 2025
- » Career-high 12 tackles (two solo) against Rutgers (11/23/24)
- » 2021 IHSFCA 8A All-State First Team and Chicago Catholic League Blue Defensive Player of the Year
- » Father, Olin, was a six-time Pro Bowler for the Chicago Bears, and brother, former Illini Josh, is a rookie with the Indianapolis Colts in 2026
- » Major: Health Communication
- » Earned bachelor's degree from Illinois in Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

**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	0
2023	ILL	12	18	9	9	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	54	26	28	1	0.0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	12	29	15	14	3	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	3	1	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		41	105	51	54	4	1.0	0	0	0	0

**18 MASON MURAGIN****LB, 6-4, 250, SR.****MACOMB, MICH. // DE LA SALLE**

- » First-career tackles (three total, one solo) in season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Signed with Illinois as a 3-star recruit in 2023 but did not play due to injury in 2023 or 2024
- » Played in two games in 2025, making Illinois debut in opener vs. Western Illinois
- » Set De La Salle High School records for single-game TFLs (7.0), single-season TFLs (31.0), career TFLs (70.5), and career sacks (29.5); 2022 Metro Detroit Defensive POY, and two-time state champ.
- » Father, Kalani, played football at Central Michigan
- » Major: Communication

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2024	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2025	ILL	2	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	3	1	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		3	3	1	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

**40 EAN RHEA****LB, 6-2, 240, 5TH****GLADE SPRINGS, VA. // PATRICK HENRY / EMORY & HENRY**

- » Five tackles (four solo) and a sack in his Illinois debut vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Transferred to Illinois after four seasons at DII Emory & Henry
- » Posted 50 tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss, 12.0 sacks, and three forced fumbles to earn First Team All-America (AP, AFCA) honors as a senior in 2025
- » Played in 33 games with 22 starts for Emory & Henry, tallying 137 tackles (64 solo), 24.5 sacks, 44.0 tackles for loss, nine forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries, and one interception
- » Major: Strategic Brand Communication
- » Completed bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Emory & Henry

**DEFENSIVE STATISTICS**

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2026	ILL	1	5	4	1	0	1.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		1	5	4	1	0	1.0	0	0	0	0

**7 MATTHEW BAILEY**

DB, 6-2, 225, 5TH
MOLINE, ILL. // MOLINE

- » 2026 Preseason All-Big Ten Third Team (Athlon and Phil Steele)
- » Two-time All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (2024 media, 2025 coaches and media)
- » Led Illinois in total tackles each of the last two seasons with 76 in 2025 and 94 in 2024
- » Single-season career high in solo tackles (59) and tackles for loss (4.0) in 2025
- » Career-high eight solo tackles (10 total) in back-to-back games vs. Maryland (11/15/25) and at Wisconsin (11/22/25)
- » AP All-Bowl Team after tying Illinois bowl record with 14 tackles in Citrus Bowl win vs. #14 South Carolina
- » 11 tackles (six solo), an interception (fourth career) and a forced fumble in win vs. #24 Michigan (10/19/24)
- » Missed 11 of 12 games in 2023 season due to injury
- » Three interceptions as a freshman in 2022 ranked eighth in the Big Ten
- » Major: Health Communication
- » Completed degree in Kinesiology from Illinois in May 2026



CHUCK BEDNARIK AWARD WATCH LIST
LOTT IMPACT TROPHY WATCH LIST
PANINI SENIOR BOWL TOP 300 WATCH LIST

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	ILL	13	10	7	3	2	0.0	0	3	22	0
2023	ILL	1	5	3	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	93	43	50	5	0.0	2	1	20	0
2025	ILL	12	76	59	17	2	0.0	2	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	8	7	1	1	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		40	192	119	73	10	0.0	4	4	42	0

**6 JUICE CLARKE**

DB, 6-1, 185, SR.
FT. MYERS, FLA. // RIVERDALE

- » First name is Jaheim, but goes by his nickname "Juice"
- » 33 games played over his first three seasons at Illinois
- » 2025 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (media)
- » 29 tackles, 1.0 TFL, 7 PBUs, and 1 fumble recovery in final 8 games of 2025 after returning from injury
- » Fumble recovery in the Cheez-It Citrus Bowl win vs. #14 South Carolina (12/31/24)
- » Career-high 12 tackles (eight solo) in first-career start against Northwestern (11/30/24)
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

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	0
2024	ILL	12	34	26	8	5	0.0	0	0	0	0
2025	ILL	9	30	22	8	7	0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		34	70	52	18	12	0.0	0	0	0	0

**32 TYWAN COX**

DB, 5-10, 190, SO.
MIAMI, FLA. // MIAMI NORTHWESTERN

- » Four tackles (all solo) in Illinois debut vs. UAB (9/3/25)
- » Did not play in a game as a freshman in 2025
- » High school coach at Miami Northwestern was former NFL quarterback Teddy Bridgewater
- » Also ran track in high school
- » Father, Torrie Sr., played five seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; older brother, Torrie Jr., played two seasons at Illinois (2024-25) and was All-Big Ten Honorable Mention in 2025
- » Major: Communication

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2025	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2026	ILL	1	4	4	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		1	4	4	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

**16 TANNER HECKEL**

DB, 5-11, 195, JR.
LYNDON, KAN. // LYNDON

- » Played in all 26 games in his first two seasons at Illinois
- » Tied career-high with five tackles in win vs. #21 USC (9/27/25)
- » First-career sack and interception in Illinois' win at Duke (9/6/25)
- » Led Lyndon to a 13-0 record and the program's first-ever Kansas Eight-Man Division I State Championship as a senior and earned 2023 Kansas 8-Man Offensive Player of the Year honors
- » State title in long jump and triple jump, and finished second in 100-meter, and third in javelin as a junior
- » Major: Accountancy

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	0
2025	ILL	13	37	26	11	2	1.5	1	1	-1	0
2026	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CAREER		26	39	27	12	2	1.5	1	1	-1	0

**22 DEUCE FILLMORE**

DB, 5-11, 190, SR.
BILOXI, MISS. // MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST CC / GEORGIA STATE

- » First name is Damaryion, but goes by nickname "Deuce"
- » 12 starts as a junior at Georgia State in 2025
- » 48 tackles (30 solo) with 3.0 tackles for loss, three interceptions and six PBUs in 18 games played at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in 2023 and 2024
- » Played both ways at Biloxi High School, recording 39 tackles while adding 58 carries for 580 yards and six rushing touchdowns as a senior in 2022
- » Major: Communication

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2025	GSU	12	39	23	16	3	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	4	3	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
GEORGIA ST.		12	39	23	16	3	0.0	0	0	0	0
ILLINOIS		1	4	3	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		13	43	26	17	3	0	0	0	0	0



5 JAKWON MORRIS

DB, 6-0, 195, JR.

TUPELO, MISS. // NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI CC

- » Four-star recruit coming out of junior college
- » Joined the Illini as the No. 1 junior college cornerback and No. 4 overall junior college player according to ESPN and Rivals
- » 35 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and 7 PBUs in 11 games in 2025 at NW Mississippi CC
- » Youngest of 11 children with five brothers and five sisters
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2026	ILL	1	2	2	0	1	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		1	2	2	0	1	0.0	0	0	0	0



0 MAC RESETICH

DB, 6-0, 210, SR.

SPRING VALLEY, ILL. // SPRING VALLEY HALL

- » Career-long 65-yard punt return to set up Illini's first TD in season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Interceptions against Northwestern in 2024 and Indiana in 2023
- » First-career sack in the 2024 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
- » Attended the 2026 BIG Student-Athlete Leadership Retreat
- » Major: Recreation, Sport & Tourism

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2023	ILL	11	7	5	2	0	0.0	0	1	0	0
2024	ILL	13	20	16	4	0	1.0	0	1	28	0
2025	ILL	13	19	12	7	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	4	4	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		38	50	37	13	0	1.0	0	2	28	0

PUNT RETURN STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	ATT	YDS	TD	FC	LNG
2023	ILL	11	0	0	0	0	0
2024	ILL	13	4	43	0	0	30
2025	ILL	13	0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	1	65	0	0	65
CAREER		38	5	108	0	0	65



1 XAVIER SCOTT

DB, 5-11, 195, 5TH

RIVIERA BEACH, FLA. // DWYER

- » 2026 Athlon Preseason All-America Fourth Team
- » 2024 Phil Steele All-America Honorable Mention
- » 2024 All-Big Ten First Team (media), Second Team (coaches)
- » One of 15 semifinalists for the 2024 Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, given to the nation's best defensive back
- » 2023 All-Big Ten honorable mention (coaches and media)
- » Missed final 10 games of the 2025 season due to injury and announced return on Jan. 15, 2026
- » Finished the 2024 regular season tied for second in the Big Ten in interceptions (4), 15th nationally
- » Picked off sixth-career pass (fourth of the season) against Northwestern (11/30/24)
- » First-career pick six, first-career two-interception game, and one forced fumble in win vs. #19 Kansas (9/7/24)
- » 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)
- » Major: Health Communication
- » Completed degree in Recreation, Sport, & Tourism from Illinois in August 2026



PANINI SENIOR BOWL TOP 300 WATCH LIST
COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	TKLS	SOLO	AST	PD	SACK	FF	INT	YDS	TD
2022	ILL	11	15	13	2	1	0.0	1	0	0	0
2023	ILL	12	57	48	9	11	0.0	1	2	0	0
2024	ILL	13	49	43	6	6	1.0	1	4	55	1
2025	ILL	3	6	3	3	2	0.0	0	0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	2	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
CAREER		40	129	109	20	20	1.0	3	6	55	1



44 PATRICK MAHONEY III

LS, 6-2, 210, SR.

NORTHBROOK, ILL. // GLENBROOK NORTH

- » Long snapper for field goals and extra points in all 13 games in 2025
- » Made Illinois debut in the 2025 season opener against Western Illinois
- » 2025 Big Ten Distinguished Scholar
- » Two-time Academic All-Big Ten in 2024 and 2025
- » Father played baseball at Central Michigan (1992-95)
- » Grandfather, Patrick Sr., played football and baseball at Vanderbilt
- » Major: Journalism

GAMES PLAYED STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G
2023	ILL	0
2024	ILL	0
2025	ILL	13
2026	ILL	1
CAREER		14



37 ETHAN MOCZULSKI

K, 5-11, 195, 5TH

SPOKANE, WASH. // TEXAS A&M / WASHINGTON

- » Career-most 6-for-6 on PATs in Illinois' season-opening victory over UAB (9/3/26)
- » Transferred to Illinois in 2024 after two seasons at Texas A&M, then played the 2025 season at Washington before returning to the Fighting Illini for 2026
- » Kickoff specialist for Illinois (2024) and Washington (2025), combining for 144 attempts for 9,098 yards and 89 touchbacks in that role.
- » 1-for-2 on two career field goals attempts of 50+ yards, including the Illinois school-record 59-yard FG made against Central Michigan (9/14/24) on first attempt of career
- » Major: Agricultural Communications

KICKING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	PAT	FG	120	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	PTS	LNG
2022	TAMU	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2023	TAMU	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0
2024	ILL	13	0-0	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	3	59
2025	WASH	13	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
2026	ILL	1	6-6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	0
TEXAS A&M	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0
WASHINGTON	13	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
ILLINOIS	14	6-6	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	9	59
CAREER	29	7-7	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	10	59

KICKOFF STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	ATT	YDS	OB	TB
2022	TAMU	0	--	--	--	--
2023	TAMU	2	3	190	1	0
2024	ILL	13	70	4333	5	38
2025	WASH	13	74	4765	3	51
2026	ILL	1	6	390	0	6
TEXAS A&M	2	3	190	1	0	
WASHINGTON	13	74	4765	3	51	
ILLINOIS	14	76	4723	5	44	
CAREER	29	153	9678	9	95	



81 LARS RAU

P, 6-3, 195, JR.

NOVATO, CALIF. // SAN MARIN / TEXAS STATE

- » First-career punt as an Illini for 42 yards in Illinois' season-opening win vs. UAB (9/3/26)
- » Serves as team's primary holder in field goal and PAT situations
- » Transferred to Illinois following one season at Texas State (2024)
- » Did not play in a game in first season at Illinois (2025)
- » Career-long 58-yard punt against Louisiana (10/29/24)
- » Started kicking and punting as a junior
- » Also played varsity soccer and baseball
- » Major: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

PUNTING STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TB	FC	IN20	50+	BLK
2024	TXST	13	24	870	36.3	58	0	17	6	2	0
2025	ILL	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2026	ILL	1	1	42	42.0	42	0	0	0	0	0
TEXAS STATE	13	24	870	36.3	58	0	17	6	2	0	
ILLINOIS	1	1	42	42.0	42	0	0	0	0	0	
CAREER	14	25	912	36.5	58	0	17	6	2	0	

Abney, Christian: Management
 Alexander, Jacob: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Alston, Kenyon: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Anderson, Jordan: Management (Master's)
 Bailey, Matthew: Health Communication
 Balanganayi, Tony: Exploratory Studies
 Barna, Joe: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Barnett, Javari: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Barrett, Zach: Political Science
 Beerman, Grant: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Bennett, Kayden: Journalism
 Boyd, Carson: Exploratory Studies
 Brooks, Cameron: Exploratory Studies
 Brown, Daniel: Community Health
 Cichy, Nate: Business Undeclared
 Clarke, Juice: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Clawson, Ben: Management (Master's)
 Clayton, Michael: Exploratory Studies
 Clement, Hudson: Communication
 Clement, Murphy: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Cobbs, Kaedyn: Business Undeclared
 Considine, Caden: Business Undeclared
 Cox, Tywan: Communication
 Crim, Parker: Communication
 Davis, Joshua: Kinesiology
 Dixon, Collin: Marketing
 Eberhart, Jacob: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Edmonson, Robert: Sociology
 Eisenmenger, Dane: Kinesiology
 Farrell, Logan: Business Undeclared
 Farrell, Patrick: Advertising
 Feagin, Kaden: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Fillmore, Deuce: Communication
 Finley IV, James: Integrative Biology
 Forster, John: Exploratory Studies
 Frechette, Dylan: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Gallardo, Guillermo: Health Communication
 Gayle, Erik: Exploratory Studies
 Gray, Jack: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Haber, Zach: Communication
 Hankins Jr., Nick: Business Undeclared
 Hansen, Brandon: Communication
 Harvey, Jacob: Engineering Undeclared
 Heckel, Tanner: Accountancy
 Henderson, Brandon: Health Communication
 Hirdes, Jack: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Hollinger, Tanner: Agricultural Communications
 Holmes, Will: Communication
 Houser, Katin: Health Communication
 Janki, Carter: Management (Master's)
 John, Demetrius: Communication
 Jones III, RJ: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Kaiser, Karson: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Kante, Ismael: Communication
 Kasper, Eddie: Strategic Brand Communication
 Knapik, Nathan: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Kreutz, James: Health Communication
 Laughery, Aidan: Management (Master's)
 Liggins, King: Journalism
 Lovett, Andre: Communication
 Mahoney III, Patrick: Journalism
 Martin, Christian: Communication
 Matelau, Maika: Exploratory Studies
 McDonough, Michael: Engineering Technology & Management
 for Agricultural Systems
 McMillen, TJ: Management (Master's)
 Moczulski, Ethan: Agricultural Communications
 Morris, Jakwon: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Mosley Jr., Leslie: Exploratory Studies
 Muragin, Mason: Communication
 Newton, Jershaun: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Osada, Lucas: Agribusiness, Markets, & Management
 Paris, Jack: Business Undeclared
 Perry, Alex: Communication
 Platt, Jayshon: Communication
 Prater, Darrell: Communication
 Pritchard, Kai: Exploratory Studies
 Rankin, Nas: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Rashad, Corey: Civil Engineering
 Rau, Lars: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Renfro, Jake: Health Communication
 Resetich, Mac: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Rhea, Ean: Strategic Brand Communication
 Robinson, Ty: Management (Master's)
 Rousseau, Griffin: Early Childhood Education
 Schuster, Dezmond: Health Communication
 Scott, Xanai: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Scott, Xavier: Health Communication
 Shaw, Kingston: Journalism
 Smith, Carter: Mechanical Engineering
 Smith, Champ: Sociology
 Smith, Grant: Communication
 Smith Jr., Maurice: Strategic Brand Communication
 Stewart, Jaylen: Media & Cinema Studies
 Stewart, Zafir: Communication
 Stoffel, Davin: Mechanical Engineering
 Straughton, Des: Kinesiology
 Sullivan, Conner: Psychology
 Taylor, TJ: Organizational & Community Leadership
 Thomann, Casey: Kinesiology
 Thomas, Almirian: Learning & Education Studies
 Thomas, Cameron: Exploratory Studies
 Thomison, Isaiah: Sociology
 Thurman, BJ: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Trimble, Brayden: Communication
 Tuerk, Eddie: Communication
 Vala III, Will: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Valentine, Ca'Lil: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Von Seggern, Landen: Kinesiology
 Washington, Alfred: Communication
 Wheeler, Nelsyn: Exploratory Studies
 White, Isaiah: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Williams, Deon: Communication
 Williams, Isaiah: Kinesiology
 Williams, Lavon: Sociology
 Williams, Tony: Business Undeclared
 Wyche II, Cedric: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

COLLEGE GRADUATES (18)

RB Jordan Anderson

» December 2025: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

DB Matthew Bailey

» May 2026: Kinesiology

DB Ben Clawson

» December 2025: Agribusiness, Markets, & Management

DL Guillermo Gallardo

» August 2026: Kinesiology

OL Brandon Henderson

» August 2026: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

QB Katin Houser

» December 2025: Economics (East Carolina)

DL Carter Janki

» December 2025: Economics (Penn)

LB Ismael Kante

» August 2026: Communication

WR Eddie Kasper

» May 2026: Recreation & Sport Management (Illinois State)

LB James Kreutz

» August 2026: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

RB Aidan Laughery

» August 2025: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

OL TJ McMillen

» August 2026: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

OL Jacob Renfro

» August 2024: Life Sciences Communication (Wisconsin)

» December 2025: M.S., Sports Leadership (Wisconsin)

DL Ean Rhea

» July 2026: Business Administration (Emory & Henry)

WR Ty Robinson

» December 2025: Communication Studies (Ball State)

OL Dezmond Schuster

» May 2026: Sociology

DB Xavier Scott

» August 2026: Recreation, Sport, & Tourism

TE Maurice Smith

» May 2024: Criminal Justice (Long Island)

» July 2025: M.A., Organizational Leadership (Chowan)



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)

2025 Liberty Mutual Music City Bowl

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

BRET BIELEMA

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

IOWA, 1992

SIXTH 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 18-year record of 135-84 (.616) as head coach at Wisconsin, Arkansas, and Illinois. His 135 career wins ranks seventh among active FBS coaches.

Bielema, who is under contract at Illinois through 2031, has elevated the Illini to new heights during his first five seasons with 37 wins, 23 Big Ten victories, and bowl victories in the 2024 Cheez-It Citrus Bowl and 2025 Liberty Mutual Music City Bowl. He has brought national relevance to the Fighting Illini program with continued appearances in the AP Top 25, Coaches Poll, and College Football Playoff rankings, three bowl games, three national award finalists, 14 All-Americans, and 12 NFL Draft picks since he arrived in 2021.

Bielema has led Illinois to its winningest five-year stretch (37 wins) since 1901-05 and more wins through his first five seasons than any coach in program history. The Illini have won 19 games over the last two seasons, setting the Illinois record for wins in a two-year period, after the first back-to-back 9+ win seasons in program history. He owns the Illinois records for bowl victories, bowl games coached, single-season wins, and wins in a head coach's first five seasons, plus he is the first head coach in Illinois history to win bowl games in back-to-back seasons. Bielema has guided Illinois to the 2023 ReliaQuest Bowl, Illinois' first January bowl in 15 years, the 2024 Citrus Bowl, and 2025 Music City Bowl.

In addition to the program's on-the-field success, Illinois has experienced the second-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 more than 23,000 per game from 2021 to 2025, a 65% boost that ranks Illinois among the best in the nation in fan support. In 2025, Illinois sold out of season tickets for the first time in at least 20 years and the Fighting Illini's final season attendance topped 400,000 for the first time since 1994. Financially, football ticket sales increased to a program-record \$15 million during the 2025 fiscal year, which led Illinois to top its departmental record for revenue.

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, the program's highest final ranking since 2001.

Bielema's Illini program broke out in 2022 during his second season in Champaign. 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).



The Bielema family at an Illini practice in Champaign.

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. Of Bielema's 15 NFL Draft picks at Illinois, nine have been selected within the top-100 picks, tied with Iowa for 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. The Illini were 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. Overall, Bielema has sent over 180 players to the NFL during his career as a head coach. His 59 NFL Draft picks are the seventh-most in the nation among active head coaches.

Illinois had one of its most impressive NFL Drafts in recent history during the 2023 NFL Draft. 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.

After wide receiver Pat Bryant (No. 74 overall, Denver) gave Illinois another top-100 pick in 2025, OLB Gabe Jacas (No. 55 overall, New England) continued Illinois' streak in 2026 with its fifth straight season of at least one top-100 NFL Draft pick. Jacas was one of three Illini chosen in 2026, along with OL J.C. Davis (No. 192 overall, New York Giants) and DB Miles Scott (No. 246 overall, Denver).

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 and Bielema following the Illini's win over Tennessee at the 2025 Music City Bowl.

THE BRET BIELEMA FILE

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

BIELEMA'S HEAD COACHING RECORD

YEAR	TEAM	RECORD	POSTSEASON
2006	Wisconsin	12-1	Capital One Bowl (W)
2007	Wisconsin	9-4	Outback Bowl (L)
2008	Wisconsin	7-6	Champs Sports Bowl (L)
2009	Wisconsin	10-3	Champs Sports Bowl (W)
2010	Wisconsin	11-2	Rose Bowl (L)
2011	Wisconsin	11-3	Rose Bowl (L)
2012	Wisconsin	8-5	Rose Bowl (did not coach game)
2013	Arkansas	3-9	
2014	Arkansas	7-6	Texas Bowl (W)
2015	Arkansas	8-5	Liberty Bowl (W)
2016	Arkansas	7-6	Belk Bowl (L)
2017	Arkansas	4-8	
2021	Illinois	5-7	
2022	Illinois	8-5	ReliaQuest Bowl (L)
2023	Illinois	5-7	
2024	Illinois	10-3	Cheez-It Citrus Bowl (W)
2025	Illinois	9-4	Music City Bowl (W)
2026	Illinois	1-0	
OVERALL	18TH SEASON	135-84 (.616)	BIG TEN: 60-41 (.594)

OFFENSIVE ASSISTANTS



BARRY LUNNEY JR.

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR
FIFTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

- » Longest-tenured offensive coordinator in the Big Ten
- » Averaged 29.4 points per game in 2025, the fifth-best offensive season in Illinois program history
- » In first four seasons, coached four of the top five single-season passer ratings in the Fighting Illini history (2022 DeVito, 2023 Paddock, 2024 & 2025 Altmeyer)
- » Since 2022 has led the Fighting Illini offense that ranks fifth in the BIG in points (1,359), passing touchdowns (83), and passing yards (11,739), among the 14 teams in the league all four seasons
- » 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



JARED ELLIOTT

TIGHT ENDS
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



BART MILLER

OFFENSIVE LINE
SIXTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



MIKE NEU

PASS GAME COORDINATOR
SECOND SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH



ARTUR SITKOWSKI

QUARTERBACKS
FOURTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



JUSTIN STEPP

WIDE RECEIVERS
THIRD SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



TYRONE WHEATLEY

RUNNING BACKS
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

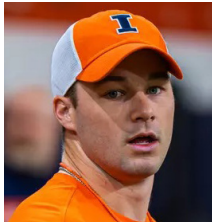
GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



BYRON BELL

ASSISTANT OFFENSIVE LINE
THIRD SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH



HARPER COLE

ASSISTANT WIDE RECEIVERS
SECOND SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



DESHAWN HANEY

ASSISTANT TIGHT ENDS
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



BLAKE SMITHBACK

OFFENSIVE FRONT ASSISTANT
SECOND SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



AYDEN KNAPIK

STUDENT ASSISTANT COACH
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

SPECIAL TEAMS ASSISTANTS

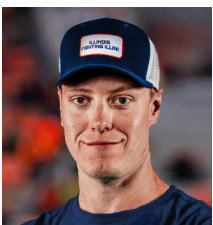


CHRIS HURD

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR
FOURTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

- » Enters his fourth season at Illinois and his first as the Fighting Illini's special teams coordinator
- » Served as Illinois' special teams analyst in 2023 before being elevated to senior special teams assistant for the 2024 and 2025
- » Helped the Fighting Illini special teams units rank #16 and #30 in the nation by ESPN's special teams efficiency metric in 2024 and 2025, respectively
- » Guided Illinois kickers and returners to All-Big Ten accolades in each of the last three seasons
- » Joined the Illini with 19 years of collegiate coaching experience after spending the 2022 season as a special teams analyst at Arkansas
- » Eight years of experience as a special teams coordinator at Florida Atlantic (2014-16), Chattanooga (2017-18), and Akron (2019-21)
- » Former walkon linebacker at North Texas, named the 2003 Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year for the Mean Green



STEVEN KOCH

ASSISTANT SPECIAL TEAMS
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

DEFENSIVE ASSISTANTS



BOBBY HAUCK

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

- » Enters first season as Illinois' defensive coordinator in 2026
- » Joined Illini with 38 years of college coaching experience, including a 166-92 record in 19 seasons as the head coach at Montana (2003-09; 2018-25) and UNLV (2010-14)
- » Left Montana as the winningest head coach in Big Sky Conference history with 151 overall victories and 86 wins in Big Sky Conference play
- » Led the Grizzlies to four FCS National Championship Game appearances, amassing 20 wins in 13-career playoff berths, ranking as the third-winningest coach in the history of the FCS playoffs behind Jim Tressel (23 wins at Youngstown State) and Jerry Moore (22 wins at Appalachian State)
- » Guided Montana to three top-20 national finishes in scoring defense over his final five seasons at the helm
- » Worked as an assistant coach at San Diego St. (2015-17), Washington (1999-02), Colorado (1995-98), Northern Arizona (1993-94), UCLA (1990-92), and Montana (1988-89)



RONNIE BRADFORD
SECONDARY
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH



ROGER COOPER
INSIDE LINEBACKERS
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH



MIKE LINEHAN
DEFENSIVE ENDS
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



ARCHIE MCDANIEL
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS
THIRD SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



COREY PARKER
DEFENSIVE BACKS
THIRD SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



JORDAN THOMAS
DEFENSIVE LINE
FIRST SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



MATT ELLERBOCK
ASSISTANT LINEBACKERS
SECOND SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



ALEX PANOS
ASSISTANT DEFENSIVE LINE
FIFTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



RYAN SIMERSON
ASSISTANT OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS
SIXTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD

SENIOR ANALYSTS



BEN MILLER
SENIOR HEAD COACH ANALYST
& ROSTER REVENUE SHARE
SIXTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: FIELD



DANNY CAMERON
SENIOR OFFENSIVE ANALYST/
ASSISTANT RUNNING BACKS
FIFTH SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH



MARK FARLEY
SENIOR OFFENSIVE ASSISTANT
SECOND SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH



MYERS HENDRICKSON
SENIOR DEFENSIVE ANALYST
THIRD SEASON AT ILLINOIS

GAME DAY LOCATION: BOOTH

SERIES vs. DUKE

All-Time Series: Illinois leads, 2-1
» in Champaign: 1-0

Last: W, 45-19 (9/6/2025 at Duke)
» in Champaign: W, 28-14 (10/23/1965)

Streak: W2
» in Champaign: W1

Bielema vs. Duke: 1-0
» as Illinois head coach: 1-0

LAST MEETING

#11 ILLINOIS45
DUKE19

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 marked its most in a road game since registering 48 at Purdue on Nov. 7, 2015.
- Illinois 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.



THE ILLINOIS-DUKE SERIES

- Saturday's matchup is the fourth overall, and the second in as many seasons, in the all-time series between the Fighting Illini and the Blue Devils.
- Illinois leads, 2-1, following the #11 Illini's 45-19 road win in Durham last season.
- Duke won the teams' first matchup, 15-13, in Durham in 1958.
- Illinois defeated Duke, 28-14, in the Blue Devils' only visit to Champaign in 1965.

ILLINOIS-DUKE CONNECTIONS

- Former Illinois cornerback **V'Angelo Bentley** is the cornerbacks coach for Duke. Bentley was a two-time All-Big Ten honorable mention selection and totaled 133 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, and two interceptions in 47 career games (32 starts) from 2012-15. He is the only player in Illinois history to score touchdowns on a kick return, punt return, interception return, and fumble return in a career. Bentley is Illinois' career kick return yardage record holder (1,860).
- Former Illinois assistant coach **Trent Harris** is in his first season as the defensive ends coach for Duke. Harris joined the Illini in 2024 as the program's assistant outside linebackers coach and was promoted to outside linebackers coach in 2025. In 2025, Harris coached All-Big Ten First Team selection Gabe Jacas, who led the Big Ten in sacks (11.0) during the regular season and ranked second in forced fumbles (3) and fourth in sack yards (60). Jacas was selected by the New England Patriots with the No. 55 overall pick in the 2026 NFL Draft.
- Duke's senior director of recruiting operations and strategy, **Natalie Woch**, is an Illinois alumna who spent the 2025 season as the Fighting Illini's director of recruiting operations. Woch also served as a student recruiting assistant for the Illini while completing her bachelor's degree in sports management with a minor in public relations from Illinois in 2024.
- Illinois and Duke are two of only 15 teams to enter the 2026 season off of two consecutive 9+ win seasons (2024 and 2025), along with Alabama, BYU, Georgia, Indiana, Louisville, Miami (Fla.), Notre Dame, Ohio State, Ole Miss, Oregon, SMU, TCU, and Texas.
- The Fighting Illini and Blue Devils are two of only 10 schools to qualify for a bowl game and the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments in back-to-back years in 2024-25 and 2025-26, along with Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa State, Louisville, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas, and Vanderbilt.
- The Illinois men's basketball program is also scheduled for a marquee nonconference matchup vs. Duke this season. The Fighting Illini will visit the Blue Devils at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Nov. 17.

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	11	90	2	88	8.0	1	51	88.0
Aidan Laughery	1	8	29	0	29	3.6	0	7	29.0
Katin Houser	1	3	29	0	29	9.7	1	16	29.0
Jordan Anderson	1	3	5	0	5	1.7	0	4	5.0
Team	1	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-1.0
Total	1	26	153	3	150	5.8	2	51	150.0
Opponents	1	48	211	17	194	4.0	1	24	194.0

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Katin Houser	1	224.6	13-17-0	76.5	182	3	54	182.0
Total	1	224.6	13-17-0	76.5	182	3	54	182.0
Opponents	1	121.6	18-31-1	58.1	219	1	42	219.0

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Collin Dixon	1	6	70	11.7	2	18	70.0
Hudson Clement	1	3	26	8.7	0	12	26.0
Ty Robinson	1	1	54	54.0	1	54	54.0
Aidan Laughery	1	1	17	17.0	0	17	17.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	1	4	4.0	0	4	4.0
Brayden Trimble	1	1	11	11.0	0	11	11.0
Total	1	13	182	14.0	3	54	182.0
Opponents	1	18	219	12.2	1	42	219.0

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Mac Resetich	1	65	65.0	0	65
Total	1	65	65.0	0	65
Opponents	1	19	19.0	0	19

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Ismael Kante	1	59	59.0	1	59
Total	1	59	59.0	1	59
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	31	31.0	0	31
Total	1	31	31.0	0	31
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0

Fumbles Recovered

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Total	0	0	0.0	0	0
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0

Scoring

Player			PAT						
	td	fg	kick	rush	rcv	pass	dxp	saf	pts
Collin Dixon	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Ty Robinson	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ethan Moczulski	-	-	6-6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ismael Kante	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Katin Houser	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	6	0-0	6-6	0	0	0	0	0	42
Opponents	2	3-3	2-2	0	0	0	0	0	23

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Opponents	3-3	100.0	0-0	2-2	1-1	0-0	0-0	35	0

FG Sequence

Team Name	Illinois	Opponents
UAB		(26),(23),(35)

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Katin Houser	1	20	29	182	211	211.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	11	88	0	88	88.0
Aidan Laughery	1	8	29	0	29	29.0
Jordan Anderson	1	3	5	0	5	5.0
Team	1	0	-1	0	-1	-1.0
Total	1	43	150	182	332	332.0
Opponents	1	79	194	219	413	413.0

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Lars Rau	1	42	42.0	42	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	42	42.0	42	0	0	0	0	0
Opponents	2	97	48.5	52	0	0	1	1	0

Kickoffs

Player	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob	retn	net	ydIn
Ethan Moczulski	6	390	65.0	6	0			
Total	6	390	65.0	6	0	0	40	25
Opponents	6	387	64.5	5	0	1	38.5	26

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	88	4	0	31	0	123	123.0
Collin Dixon	1	0	70	0	0	0	70	70.0
Mac Resetich	1	0	0	65	0	0	65	65.0
Ismael Kante	1	0	0	0	0	59	59	59.0
Ty Robinson	1	0	54	0	0	0	54	54.0
Aidan Laughery	1	29	17	0	0	0	46	46.0
Katin Houser	1	29	0	0	0	0	29	29.0
Hudson Clement	1	0	26	0	0	0	26	26.0
Brayden Trimble	1	0	11	0	0	0	11	11.0
Jordan Anderson	1	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Team	1	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	-1.0
Total	1	150	182	65	31	59	487	487.0
Opponents	1	194	219	19	0	0	432	432.0

##	Player	gp	Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
			ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
7	Matthew Bailey	1	7	1	8	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
26	Ismael Kante	1	2	4	6	.	.	1-59	.	.	.	.	.	.
43	Joe Barna	1	1	4	5	0.5-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
24	Will Holmes	1	1	4	5	0.5-1	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.
40	Ean Rhea	1	4	1	5	2-11	1-10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	Deuce Fillmore	1	3	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Tywan Cox	1	4	.	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
0	Mac Resetich	1	4	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
33	Grant Beerman	1	3	.	3	1-3	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
18	Mason Muragin	1	1	2	3	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
52	Pat Farrell	1	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Nick Hankins Jr.	1	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
96	Darrell Prater	1	2	1	3	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10	James Kreutz	1	1	2	3	0.5-0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
38	Jack Paris	1	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5	Jakwon Morris	1	2	.	2	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
1	Xavier Scott	1	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
90	Carter Janki	1	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
54	Demetrius John	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Juice Clarke	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
83	Kaden Feagin	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
21	Ben Clawson	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8	Cameron Thomas	1	1	.	1	1-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
20	Almirian Thomas	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
98	Joshua Davis	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Totals	1	52	22	74	6-17	1-10	1-59	4	6	0-0	0	0	0
	Opponents	1	28	14	42	2-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	0-0	0	0	0

	ILLINI	OPP
Scoring	42	23
Points per game	42.0	23.0
Points Off Turnovers	7	0
First Downs	17	24
Rushing	6	12
Passing	9	11
Penalty	2	1
Rushing Yardage	150	194
Yards gained rushing	153	211
Yards lost rushing	3	17
Rushing attempts	26	48
Average per rush	5.8	4.0
Average per game	150.0	194.0
TDs Rushing	2	1
Passing Yardage	182	219
Comp-Att-Int	13-17-0	18-31-1
Average per pass	10.7	7.1
Average per catch	14.0	12.2
Average per game	182.0	219.0
TDs Passing	3	1
Total offense	332	413
Total plays	43	79
Average per play	7.7	5.2
Average per game	332.0	413.0
Kick returns: #-Yards	1-31	0-0
Punt returns: #-Yards	1-65	1-19
Int returns: #-Yards	1-59	0-0
Kick return average	31.0	0.0
Punt return average	65.0	19.0
Int return average	59.0	0.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	1-3	9-69
Average per game	3.0	69.0
Punts-Yards	1-42	2-97
Average per punt	42.0	48.5
Net punt average	23.0	16.0
Kickoffs-Yards	6-390	6-387
Average per kick	65.0	64.5
Net kick average	40.0	38.5
Time of possession / game	18:57	41:03
3rd-down conversion	3/6	10/19
3rd-down pct	50%	53%
4th-down conversion	1/2	3/4
4th-down pct	50%	75%
Sacks by-Yards	1-10	0-0
Misc Yards	0	0
Touchdowns scored	6	2
Field goals - attempts	0-0	3-3
On-Side kicks	0-0	0-0
Red-zone scores	(3-3) 100%	(5-5) 100%
Red-zone touchdowns	(3-3) 100%	(2-5) 40%
PAT-attempts	(6-6) 100%	(2-2) 100%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-0) 0%	(0-0) 0%
Attendance	52673	0
Games / Avg per game	1/52673	0/0
Neutral site games	-	0/0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Illinois	14	7	7	14	0	42
Opponents	3	10	3	7	0	23

Illinois Inside Opponent Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total	Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ						
			In RZ	Scored	Pts				FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game	
09/03/2026	UAB	W 42-23	3	3	21	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals 3 of 3 (100.0%)			3	3	21	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Opponents Inside Illinois Red-Zone

Date	Opponent	Score	Times	Times	Total	Rush	Pass	FGs	Failed to score inside RZ						
			In RZ	Scored	Pts				FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game	
09/03/2026	UAB	W 42-23	5	5	23	2	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totals 5 of 5 (100.0%)			5	5	23	2	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0

3rd-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
09/03/2026	UAB	W 42-23	3-6 50.0	0-0 0.0	0-2 0.0	3-4 75.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
Illinois			3-6 50.0	0-0 0.0	0-2 0.0	3-4 75.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
Opponents			10-19 52.6	3-5 60.0	2-5 40.0	0-2 0.0	5-7 71.4	0-0 0.0

4th-Down Conversions

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
09/03/2026	UAB	W 42-23	1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
Illinois			1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0	0-1 0.0	1-1 100.0	0-0 0.0	0-0 0.0
Opponents			3-4 75.0	0-0 0.0	1-1 100.0	1-1 100.0	1-2 50.0	0-0 0.0

Time of Possession

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Overtime
09/03/2026	UAB	W 42-23	18:57	02:09	05:21	04:45	06:42	00:00
Illinois			Total 18:57	02:09	05:21	04:45	06:42	00:00
			Avg. 18:57	02:09	05:21	04:45	06:42	00:00
Opponents			Total 41:03	11:33	10:57	06:17	12:16	00:00
			Avg. 41:03	11:33	10:57	06:17	12:16	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			
UAB	42-23	17 / 24	6 / 12	9 / 11	2 / 1	26-150 / 48-194	13-17-0 / 18-31-1	182 / 219	43-332 / 79-413	155 / 19	0 / 1
Totals	42-23	17 / 24	6 / 12	9 / 11	2 / 1	26-150 / 48-194	13-17-0 / 18-31-1	182 / 219	43-332 / 79-413	155 / 19	0 / 1

Opponents	3rd Down	4th Down	Time of Possession	TOP Margin	Avg Yds/Rush	Avg Yds/Pass	Avg Yds/Play	Punting Number-Avg	Penalties Number-Yards	Sacks
	Conversion	Conversion								
UAB	3-6 / 10-19	1-2 / 3-4	18:57 / 41:03	-22:06	5.8 / 4.0	10.7 / 7.1	7.7 / 5.2	1-42.0 / 2-48.5	1-3.0 / 9-69.0	1 / 0
Totals	3-6 / 10-19	1-2 / 3-4	18:57 / 41:03	-22:06	5.8 / 4.0	10.7 / 7.1	7.7 / 5.2	1-42.0 / 2-48.5	1-3.0 / 9-69.0	1 / 0

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
UAB	Martin	Matelau	Renfro	Henderson	Knapik	Houser	Laughery	Abney	Trimble	Dixon	Clement
Duke											
Southern Illinois											
Ohio State											
Purdue											
Michigan State											
Oregon											
Maryland											
Nebraska											
UCLA											
Iowa											
Northwestern											
<i>Consecutive</i>	13	1	1	13	2	20	1	1	1	14	2
<i>Career</i>	13	1	37	20	2	27	13	14	1	24	30

DEFENSIVE STARTERS

GAME	DL	DL	DL	LB	LB	LB	CB	CB	CB	FS	SS
UAB	Farrell	Prater	Barna	Muragin	Kante	Kreutz	Xav. Scott	Clarke	Morris	Resetich	Bailey
Duke											
Southern Illinois											
Ohio State											
Purdue											
Michigan State											
Oregon											
Maryland											
Nebraska											
UCLA											
Iowa											
Northwestern											
<i>Consecutive</i>	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
<i>Career</i>	2	9	2	1	1	7	29	11	1	2	28

Opp.	Qtr.	-----DRIVE STARTED-----			-----DRIVE ENDED-----			-CONSUMED-	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	Result	Ply-Yds.	TOP
UAB	1	UAB30	08:58	PUNT	UAB0	07:55	TD	3-30	01:03
UAB	1	ILL25	02:24	KO	UAB0	01:18	TD	3-75	01:06
UAB	2	ILL2	11:29	PUNT	ILL8	09:13	PUNT	3-6	02:16
UAB	2	ILL25	05:50	KO	ILL50	03:03	DOWNS	6-25	02:47
UAB	2	ILL34	00:13	KO	UAB0	00:00	TD	3-66	00:13
UAB	3	ILL25	15:00	KO	UAB0	10:15	TD	11-75	04:45
UAB	3	ILL25	03:58	KO	UAB0	12:25	TD	13-75	06:33
UAB	4	ILL25	00:09	KO	ILL24	00:00	HALF	1--1	00:09

OPPONENT DRIVES



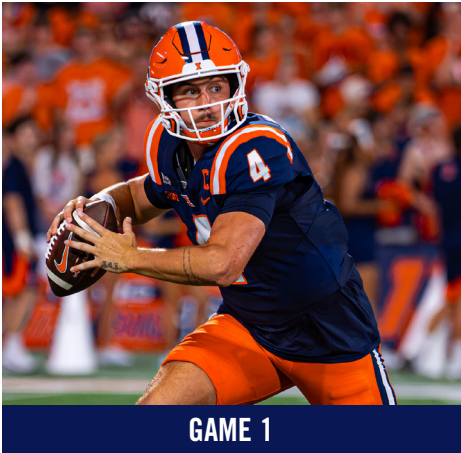
Team	Qtr.	-----DRIVE STARTED-----			-----DRIVE ENDED-----			-CONSUMED-	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	Result	Ply-Yds.	TOP
UAB	1	UAB25	15:00	KO	ILL50	08:58	PUNT	10-25	06:02
UAB	1	UAB25	07:55	KO	ILL8	02:24	FG	12-67	05:31
UAB	1	UAB25	01:18	KO	UAB46	11:29	PUNT	8-21	04:49
UAB	2	ILL31	09:13	PUNT	ILL4	05:50	FG	6-27	03:23
UAB	2	ILL50	03:03	DOWNS	ILL0	00:18	TD	10-50	02:45
UAB	3	UAB25	10:15	KO	ILL17	03:58	FG	11-58	06:17
UAB	4	UAB25	12:25	KO	ILL31	05:48	INT	13-44	06:37
UAB	4	UAB25	05:48	KO	ILL0	00:09	TD	12-75	05:39

RUSHES	26	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	150	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER RUSH	5.8	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD RUSHES	2	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	17	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	13	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PASSING	182	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PASS	10.7	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD PASSES	3	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL PLAYS	43	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL OFFENSE	332	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PLAY	7.7	UAB (09/03/2026)
POINTS	42	UAB (09/03/2026)
SACKS BY	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
FIRST DOWNS	17	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTIES	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTY YARDS	3	UAB (09/03/2026)
TURNOVERS	0	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTING AVG	42.0	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT	42	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	0	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	65	UAB (09/03/2026)

RUSHES	48	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	194	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER RUSH	4.0	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD RUSHES	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	31	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	18	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PASSING	219	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PASS	7.1	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD PASSES	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL PLAYS	79	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL OFFENSE	413	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PLAY	5.2	UAB (09/03/2026)
POINTS	23	UAB (09/03/2026)
SACKS BY	0	UAB (09/03/2026)
FIRST DOWNS	24	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTIES	9	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTY YARDS	69	UAB (09/03/2026)
TURNOVERS	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS	2	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTING AVG	48.5	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT	52	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	19	UAB (09/03/2026)

RUSHES	26	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	150	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER RUSH	5.8	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD RUSHES	2	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	17	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	13	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PASSING	182	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PASS	10.7	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD PASSES	3	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL PLAYS	43	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL OFFENSE	332	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PLAY	7.7	UAB (09/03/2026)
POINTS	42	UAB (09/03/2026)
SACKS BY	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
FIRST DOWNS	17	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTIES	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTY YARDS	3	UAB (09/03/2026)
INTERCEPTIONS BY	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTING AVG	42.0	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT	42	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	0	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	65	UAB (09/03/2026)

RUSHES	48	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS RUSHING	194	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER RUSH	4.0	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD RUSHES	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS ATTEMPTS	31	UAB (09/03/2026)
PASS COMPLETIONS	18	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PASSING	219	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PASS	7.1	UAB (09/03/2026)
TD PASSES	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL PLAYS	79	UAB (09/03/2026)
TOTAL OFFENSE	413	UAB (09/03/2026)
YARDS PER PLAY	5.2	UAB (09/03/2026)
POINTS	23	UAB (09/03/2026)
SACKS BY	0	UAB (09/03/2026)
FIRST DOWNS	24	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTIES	9	UAB (09/03/2026)
PENALTY YARDS	69	UAB (09/03/2026)
INTERCEPTIONS BY	0	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS	2	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTING AVG	48.5	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT	52	UAB (09/03/2026)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	1	UAB (09/03/2026)
LONG PUNT RETURN	19	UAB (09/03/2026)



UAB23
ILLINOIS42

SEPT. 3, 2026
GIES MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL. // 52,673

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
UAB	3	10	3	7	23
Illinois	14	7	7	14	42

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter		
ILL: Dixon 18 yd pass from Houser (Moczulski kick), 7:55 (3/30/1:03)		0-7
UAB: Delange 26 yd FG, 2:24 (12/67/5:31)		3-7
ILL: Valentine 51 yd rush (Moczulski kick), 1:18 (3/75/1:06)		3-14
Second Quarter		
UAB: Delange 23 yd FG, 5:50 (6/27/3:23)		6-14
UAB: Robinson II 10 yd pass from Burton (Delange kick), 0:18 (10/50/2:45)		13-14
ILL: Robinson 54 yd pass from Houser (Moczulski kick), 0:00 (3/66/00:13)		13-21
Third Quarter		
ILL: Dixon 14 yd pass from Houser (Moczulski kick), 10:15 (11/75/4:45)		13-28
UAB: Delange 35 yd FG, 3:58 (11/58/6:17)		16-28
Fourth Quarter		
ILL: Houser 6 yd run (Moczulski kick), 12:25 (13/75/6:33)		16-35
ILL: Kante 59 yd interception (Moczulski kick), 5:48		16-42
UAB: Burton 5 yd run (Delange kick), 0:09 (12/75/5:39)		23-42

TEAM STATISTICS

Category.....	UAB.....	ILL.....
First Downs.....	24.....	17.....
Rushes-Yards.....	48-194.....	26-150.....
Passing Yards.....	219.....	182.....
Comp-Att-Int.....	18-31-1.....	13-17-0.....
Total Yards.....	413.....	332.....
Punts-Avg.....	2-48.5.....	1-42.0.....
Kickoff Returns-Avg.....	0-0.0.....	1-31.0.....
Punt Returns-Avg.....	1-19.0.....	1-65.0.....
Penalties-Yards.....	9-69.....	1-4.....
Fumbles-Lost.....	0-0.....	0-0.....
Sacks By-Yards.....	0-0.....	1-10.....
Third-down Conv.....	10-19.....	3-6.....
Time of Possession.....	41:03.....	18:57.....

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

PASSING (Comp-Att-Yds-TD-INT): UAB - Ryder 18-31-2190-1-1
ILL - Houser 13-17-182-3-0
RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): UAB - Robinson II 14-59-0; McReynolds 13-56-0
ILL - Valentine 11-88-1; Houser 3-29-1
RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): UAB - Smith 2-57-0; Mims 4-52-0
ILL - Dixon 6-70-2; Robinson 1-54-1
TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): UAB - Byard 7, 1.5-1; Sweeting 5, 0.5-1
ILL - Bailey 8, 0.0-0; Kante 6, 0.0-0

GAME NOTES

- Bret Bielema is the first Illinois head coach to win his first six season openers since Robert Zuppke from 1913-18.
- Illinois is 13-2 at home over the last three seasons (2024-26).
- Illinois has won 10 straight nonconference games dating back to 2023.
- Collin Dixon recorded the first two-TD game of his career.
- Ca'Lil Valentine posted a career-long rushing touchdown (51 yards).
- Ty Robinson hauled in a 54-yard Hail Mary from Katin Houser as time expired in the first half to give the Illini a 21-13 lead.
- Ismael Kante recorded six total tackles and a 59-yard interception return for a touchdown.
- Ean Rhea recorded five tackles and a sack in his Illinois debut.

TOP 25 RANKINGS



AP TOP 25 (WEEK 2)

RK	TEAM	FIRST	POINTS	RECORD	LAST
1	Ohio State	46	1684	1-0	1
2	Georgia		1532	1-0	3
3	Notre Dame	4	1512	1-0	4
4	Texas	2	1462	1-0	5
5	Indiana	8	1428	1-0	6
6	Oregon	3	1422	1-0	2
7	Miami (FL)	1	1405	1-0	7
8	LSU	5	1315	1-0	11
9	Ole Miss		1154	1-0	9
10	Texas A&M		1079	1-0	8
11	Oklahoma		1039	1-0	10
12	Alabama		910	1-0	13
13	Texas Tech		900	1-0	12
14	Southern Cal		861	2-0	T14
15	BYU		840	1-0	T14
16	Penn State		621	1-0	18
17	SMU		501	1-0	19
18	Tennessee		491	1-0	20
19	Washington		489	1-0	17
20	Utah		381	1-0	21
21	Iowa		369	1-0	22
22	Houston		214	1-0	23
23	Missouri		182	1-0	25
24	Louisville		163	0-1	24
25	Virginia		89	1-0	RV

US LBM COACHES POLL (WEEK 2)

RK	TEAM	FIRST	POINTS	RECORD	LAST
1	Ohio State	50	1801	1-0	1
2	Georgia	7	1672	1-0	3
3	Texas	1	1600	1-0	4
4	Notre Dame	4	1558	1-0	5
5	Indiana	11	1537	1-0	6
6	Oregon	1	1524	1-0	2
7	Miami (FL)		1477	1-0	7
8	LSU		1279	1-0	13
9	Texas A&M		1204	1-0	8
10	Oklahoma		1184	1-0	9
11	Ole Miss		1141	1-0	10
12	Alabama		1059	1-0	11
13	Texas Tech		955	1-0	12
14	USC		919	2-0	14
15	BYU		838	1-0	15
16	Penn State		612	1-0	17
17	SMU		517	1-0	20
18	Tennessee		513	1-0	18
19	Washington		432	1-0	19
20	Utah		415	1-0	21
21	Iowa		411	1-0	22
22	Houston		236	1-0	24
23	Missouri		231	1-0	25
24	Michigan		164	1-0	16
T25	Virginia		157	1-0	NR
T25	Florida		157	1-0	NR

BIG TEN STANDINGS



TEAM	BIG TEN				OVERALL				STREAK	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA				
USC	0	0	0	0	2	0	81	26	W2	2-0	0-0	0-0
Illinois	0	0	0	0	1	0	42	23	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Indiana	0	0	0	0	1	0	52	16	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Iowa	0	0	0	0	1	0	40	0	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Maryland	0	0	0	0	1	0	62	0	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Michigan	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	12	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Michigan St.	0	0	0	0	1	0	30	20	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	1	0	59	7	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	1	0	49	21	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Northwestern	0	0	0	0	1	0	34	18	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Ohio State	0	0	0	0	1	0	56	3	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Oregon	0	0	0	0	1	0	34	27	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Penn State	0	0	0	0	1	0	45	0	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Purdue	0	0	0	0	1	0	44	19	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
UCLA	0	0	0	0	1	0	45	24	W1	0-0	1-0	0-0
Washington	0	0	0	0	1	0	24	10	W1	1-0	0-0	0-0
Rutgers	0	0	0	0	0	1	21	37	L1	0-1	0-0	0-0
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	41	L1	0-0	0-0	0-1

Statistic	National Rank	Conference Rank	Value	National Leader	Value	Conference Leader	Value
3rd Down Conversion Pct (135 ranked)	44	8	0.500	South Carolina	0.875	Minnesota Southern California	0.667 0.667
3rd Down Conversion Pct Defense (137 ranked)	116	18	0.526	5 teams tied	0.000	Washington	0.000
4th Down Conversion Pct (96 ranked)	61	10	0.500	41 teams tied	1.000	6 teams tied	1.000
4th Down Conversion Pct Defense (102 ranked)	99	13	0.750	57 teams tied	0.000	10 teams tied	0.000
Blocked Kicks (4 ranked)				Sacramento St. San Diego St. Virginia Tech	2 2 2	Purdue Wisconsin	1 1
Blocked Kicks Allowed (129 ranked)	1	1	0	128 teams tied	0	17 teams tied	0
Blocked Punts (4 ranked)				Sacramento St. San Diego St. Virginia Tech	2 2 2	Purdue Wisconsin	1 1
Blocked Punts Allowed (135 ranked)	1	1	0	134 teams tied	0	18 teams tied	0
Completion Percentage (137 ranked)	23	6	0.765	Southern California	0.881	Southern California	0.881
Defensive TDs (3 ranked)	3	1	1	North Dakota St. Temple	2 2	Illinois Purdue	1 1
Fewest Penalties (135 ranked)	1	1	1	Illinois Kansas St. Utah	1 1 1	Illinois	1
Fewest Penalties Per Game (137 ranked)	1	1	1.00	Illinois Kansas St. Utah	1.00 1.00 1.00	Illinois	1.00
Fewest Penalty Yards (137 ranked)	1	1	3	Illinois	3	Illinois	3
Fewest Penalty Yards Per Game (137 ranked)	1	1	3.00	Illinois	3.00	Illinois	3.00
First Downs Defense (137 ranked)	103	16	24	Minnesota Texas A&M	4 4	Minnesota	4
First Downs Offense (137 ranked)	110	16	17	Southern California	56	Southern California	56
Fumbles Lost (122 ranked)	1	1	0	78 teams tied	0	12 teams tied	0
Fumbles Recovered (17 ranked)				16 teams tied	2	5 teams tied	1
Kickoff Return Defense (137 ranked)	2	2	0.00	Washington	-2.00	Washington	-2.00
Kickoff Returns (102 ranked)	15	3	31.00	Georgia Tech	65.00	Michigan St.	47.00
Net Punting (132 ranked)	127	17	23.00	Air Force	56.50	Purdue	49.00
Passes Had Intercepted (136 ranked)	1	1	0	74 teams tied	0	11 teams tied	0
Passes Intercepted (26 ranked)	26	4	1	Southern Miss. North Dakota St. Memphis	4 4 4	Maryland	3
Passing Offense (137 ranked)	99	17	182.0	Pittsburgh	480.0	Ohio St.	434.0
Passing Yards Allowed (137 ranked)	88	15	219.0	Kansas St. New Mexico Texas A&M	30.0 30.0 30.0	Minnesota	59.0
Passing Yards per Completion (137 ranked)	39	7	14.00	Iowa St.	21.67	Northwestern	19.50
Punt Return Defense (137 ranked)	130	18	19.00	Colorado	-10.00	12 teams tied	0.00
Punt Returns (137 ranked)	1	1	65.00	Illinois	65.00	Illinois	65.00
Red Zone Defense (72 ranked)	72	9	1.000	20 teams tied	0.000	4 teams tied	0.000
Red Zone Offense (129 ranked)	1	1	1.000	68 teams tied	1.000	11 teams tied	1.000
Rushing Defense (137 ranked)	113	17	194.0	Arizona	-7.0	Iowa	7.0
Rushing Offense (137 ranked)	79	10	150.0	Army West Point	569.0	Maryland	365.0
Sacks Allowed (137 ranked)	1	1	0.00	37 teams tied	0.00	6 teams tied	0.00

Statistic	National Rank	Conference Rank	Value	National Leader	Value	Conference Leader	Value
Scoring Defense (137 ranked)	93	14	23.0	9 teams tied	0.0	Iowa Maryland Penn St.	0.0 0.0 0.0
Scoring Offense (130 ranked)	41	9	42.0	Louisiana Tech	80.0	Maryland	62.0
Tackles for Loss Allowed (134 ranked)	11	2	2.00	10 teams tied	1.00	Michigan	1.00
Team Passing Efficiency (137 ranked)	7	2	224.64	Indiana	285.03	Indiana	285.03
Team Passing Efficiency Defense (137 ranked)	75	11	121.60	Louisiana Tech	41.33	Maryland	54.21
Team Sacks (82 ranked)	82	13	1.00	Tennessee	7.00	Iowa	6.00
Team Tackles for Loss (132 ranked)	45	9	6.0	Virginia Tech	18.0	Minnesota Penn St.	9.0 9.0
Time of Possession (137 ranked)	135	18	18:57	Michigan St.	43:16	Michigan St.	43:16
Total Defense (137 ranked)	106	17	413.0	Texas A&M	67.0	Maryland	85.0
Total Offense (137 ranked)	103	16	332.0	Mississippi St.	762.0	Ohio St.	671.0
Turnover Margin (135 ranked)	28	5	1.00	4 teams tied	4.00	Maryland Washington	3.00 3.00
Turnovers Gained (55 ranked)	55	7	1	North Dakota St.	6	Maryland UCLA Washington	3 3 3
Turnovers Lost (132 ranked)	1	1	0	46 teams tied	0	9 teams tied	0
Winning Percentage (93 ranked)	1	1	1.000	85 teams tied	1.000	16 teams tied	1.000

Statistic	Player	National Rank	Conference Rank	Value	National Leader	Value	Conference Leader	Value
All Purpose (194 ranked)	Ca'Lil Valentine	57	14	123.00	Javon Tracy, Minnesota	265.00	Javon Tracy, Minnesota	265.00
Blocked Kicks (1 ranked)					Chakai Scott, Sacramento St.	2		
Combined Kick Returns (195 ranked)	Mac Resetich Ca'Lil Valentine	29 76	8 16	65 31	Cannon DeVries, BYU	173	Javon Tracy, Minnesota	167
Completion Percentage (123 ranked)	Katin Houser	22	6	0.765	Gunner Stockton, Georgia	0.938	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	0.889
Completions Per Game (146 ranked)	Katin Houser	95	14	13.00	Caden Veltkamp, Fla. Atlantic	34.00	Dante Moore, Oregon	28.00
Field Goal Percentage (96 ranked)					70 players tied	1.000	9 players tied	1.000
Field Goals Per Game (41 ranked)					Liam Boyd, Michigan St.	5.00	Liam Boyd, Michigan St.	5.00
Forced Fumbles (79 ranked)					78 players tied	1.00	5 players tied	1.00
Fumbles Recovered (2 ranked)					Max Carroll, TCU	2	5 players tied	1
Interceptions Per Game (90 ranked)	Ismael Kante	5	3	1.00	Kobi Albert, Southern Miss.	3.00	Messiah Delhomme, Maryland Ta'Shawn James, UCLA	2.00 2.00
Kickoff Return TDs (1 ranked)					Cannon DeVries, BYU Rahkeem Smith, Georgia Tech Jaylon Hawkins, San Diego St.	1 1 1		
Kickoff Returns (43 ranked)					Rahkeem Smith, Georgia Tech	65.0	Lee Beebe Jr., Indiana	36.0
Passes Defended (74 ranked)	Matthew Bailey Grant Beerman Tywan Cox Jakwon Morris Ismael Kante	74 74 74 74 74	17 17 17 17 17	1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00	Jordan Allen, Houston	4.00	Josh Fussell, Northwestern Braden Turner, Northwestern	3.00 3.00
Passing Efficiency (123 ranked)	Katin Houser	12	4	224.6	Josh Hoover, Indiana	285.0	Josh Hoover, Indiana	285.0
Passing TDs (8 ranked)					Mason Heintschel, Pittsburgh	7	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	5
Passing Yards (150 ranked)	Katin Houser	91	16	182	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	635	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	635
Passing Yards Per Game (148 ranked)	Katin Houser	89	16	182.0	Mason Heintschel, Pittsburgh	453.0	Dante Moore, Oregon	378.0
Passing Yards per Completion (123 ranked)	Katin Houser	37	8	14.00	Jaylen Raynor, Iowa St.	23.00	Rocco Becht, Penn St.	20.85
Points Responsible For (197 ranked)	Katin Houser Collin Dixon	15 95	2 17	24 12	Mason Heintschel, Pittsburgh	42	Jayden Maiava, Southern California	36
Points Responsible For Per Game (189 ranked)	Katin Houser Collin Dixon	10 80	1 16	24.0 12.0	Mason Heintschel, Pittsburgh	42.0	5 players tied	24.0
Punt Return TDs (2 ranked)					Javon Tracy, Minnesota	2	Javon Tracy, Minnesota	2
Punt Returns (68 ranked)					Isaiah Sategna III, Oklahoma	57.5	Javon Tracy, Minnesota	41.8
Punting (58 ranked)					Kade Reynoldson, Duke	54.3	Hunter Green, Washington	50.8
Receiving TDs (8 ranked)	Collin Dixon	8	3	2	Jamill Williams, Jacksonville St.	4	KJ Duff, Rutgers Trent Mosley, Southern California	3 3
Receiving Yards (149 ranked)	Collin Dixon	124	23	70	Malachi Toney, Miami (FL)	234	Trent Mosley, Southern California	222
Receiving Yards Per Game (199 ranked)	Collin Dixon Ty Robinson	100 165	19 30	70.0 54.0	Malachi Toney, Miami (FL)	234.0	KJ Duff, Rutgers	196.0
Receptions Per Game (130 ranked)	Collin Dixon	41	9	6.00	Gavin Freeman, Baylor Malachi Toney, Miami (FL)	12.00 12.00	KJ Duff, Rutgers	9.00
Rush Yards Per Carry (170 ranked)	Ca'Lil Valentine	12	3	8.00	Kamari Moulton, Iowa	16.64	Kamari Moulton, Iowa	16.64
Rushing TDs (2 ranked)					Jaylin Carter, Memphis	5	Wayne Knight, UCLA Darius Taylor, Minnesota	3 3
Rushing Yards (148 ranked)	Ca'Lil Valentine	59	9	88	Jaylin Carter, Memphis	280	Kamari Moulton, Iowa	183
Rushing Yards Per Game (195 ranked)	Ca'Lil Valentine	45	7	88.0	Nate Sheppard, Duke	227.0	Kamari Moulton, Iowa	183.0
Sacks (29 ranked)	Ean Rhea	29	5	1.00	Xavier Gilliam, Tennessee Lamont Lester Jr., Colorado Isaac Terrell, Iowa St.	3.00 3.00 3.00	DD Holmes, Maryland Eyan Thomas, Maryland	2.00 2.00

Statistic	Player	National Rank	Conference Rank	Value	National Leader	Value	Conference Leader	Value
Scoring (181 ranked)	Collin Dixon	29	8	12.0	JC French IV, Cincinnati	24.0	4 players tied	18.0
	Katin Houser	181	30	6.0				
	Ismael Kante	181	30	6.0				
	Ethan Moczulski	181	30	6.0				
	Ty Robinson	181	30	6.0				
	Ca'Lil Valentine	181	30	6.0				
Solo Tackles (54 ranked)	Matthew Bailey	9	3	7.00	Caleb Clark-Glover, Marshall	9.00	Robert Fitzgerald, Northwestern Isaiah Jones, Indiana	8.00
					EJ Smith, Nevada	9.00		8.00
					Eric Winters, Auburn	9.00		
Tackles For Loss (75 ranked)	Ean Rhea	21	3	2.00	Xavier Gilliam, Tennessee	5.00	Caleb Bacon, Penn St.	3.00
Total Interceptions (8 ranked)	Ismael Kante	8	3	1	Kobi Albert, Southern Miss.	3	Messiah Delhomme, Maryland Ta'Shawn James, UCLA	2 2
Total Offense (199 ranked)	Katin Houser	92	16	211.0	Mason Heintschel, Pittsburgh	476.0	Dante Moore, Oregon	373.0
	Ca'Lil Valentine	181	27	88.0				
Total Points Scored (145 ranked)	Collin Dixon	40	9	12	Jaylin Carter, Memphis	30	5 players tied	18
Total Tackles (137 ranked)	Matthew Bailey	87	16	8.0	Popo Aguirre, NC State	18.0	Mason Posa, Wisconsin	15.0
Total Touchdowns (100 ranked)	Collin Dixon	24	6	2	Jaylin Carter, Memphis	5	5 players tied	3
	Katin Houser	100	16	1				
	Ismael Kante	100	16	1				
	Ty Robinson	100	16	1				
	Ca'Lil Valentine	100	16	1				
Yards per Pass Attempt (100 ranked)	Katin Houser	26	8	10.71	Rocco Becht, Penn St.	15.06	Rocco Becht, Penn St.	15.06
Yards per Reception (199 ranked)					Grayson Rigdon, Arizona St.	55.00	Griffin Wilde, Northwestern	34.67

OFFENSE

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
QB	4	Katin Houser	1
RB	21	Aidan Laughery	1
WR	13	Hudson Clement	1
	17	Collin Dixon	1
	11	Brayden Trimble	1
TE	86	Christian Abney	1
LT	72	Christian Martin	1
LG	70	Maika Matelau	1
C	59	Jake Renfro	1
RG	75	Brandon Henderson	1
RT	71	Nathan Knapik	1

DEFENSE

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
DL	43	Joe Barna	1
	52	Pat Farrell	1
	96	Darrell Prater	1
LB	26	Ismael Kante	1
	10	James Kreutz	1
	18	Mason Muragin	1
CB	6	Jaheim Clarke	1
	5	Jakwon Morris	1
	1	Xavier Scott	1
SS	7	Matthew Bailey	1
FS	0	Mac Resetich	1

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
K	37	Ethan Moczulski	1
P	81	Lars Ru	1
H	81	Lars Rau	1
LS	44	Patrick Mahoney III	1

CAREER STARTS

FBS/FCS ONLY

PLAYER	'26	'25	'24	'23	'22	'21	TOT
Renfro, Jake	1	4*	12*	1*	0*	13*	37 ^R
Clement, Hudson	1	9	12*	8*	--	--	30
Scott, Xavier	1	3	13	11	1	--	29
Bailey, Matthew	1	12	13	1	1	--	28
Houser, Katin	1	12*	7*	7*	0*	--	27
Perry, Alex	--	13*	7*	6*	0*	--	26
Dixon, Collin	1	13	10	0	--	--	24
Janki, Carter	0	10*	10*	0*	--	--	20
Henderson, Brandon	1	12	7	0	--	--	20
Williams, Lavon	0	10*	9*	0*	--	--	19
Abney, Christian	1	4	6*	3*	--	--	14
Stoffel, Davin	0	0	14*	0*	--	--	14
Laughery, Aidan	1	3	9	0	0	--	13
Martin, Christian	1	12*	0*	--	--	--	13
Feagin, Kaden	0	4	4	4	--	--	12
Fillmore, Deuce	0	12*	0*	0*	--	--	12
Clarke, Juice	1	9	1	0	--	--	11
Prater, Darrell	1	3*	4*	1*	--	--	9
Heckel, Tanner	--	9	0	--	--	--	9
Platt, Jayshon	--	9*	0*	0*	0*	--	9
Kreutz, James	1	1	4	1	0	--	7
Holmes, Will	0	7*	0*	--	--	--	7
Valentine, Ca'Lil	0	6	0	--	--	--	6
Edmonson, Robert	0	4*	2*	0*	--	--	6
Robinson, Ty	0	2*	3*	0*	0*	0*	5
Finley IV, James	--	4*	--	--	--	--	4
Barna, Joe	1	1	0	--	--	--	2
Farrell, Pat	1	0	1	--	--	--	2
Knapik, Nathan	1	1	0*	--	--	--	2
Resetich, Mac	1	0	1	0	--	--	2
Brown, Daniel	--	2	--	--	--	--	2
Kante, Ismael	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
Matelau, Maika	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
Morris, Jakwon	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
Muragin, Mason	1	0	--	--	--	--	1
Trimble, Brayden	1	0	--	--	--	--	1
Hanson, Brandon	--	1	0	--	--	--	1
McMillen, TJ	0	1	0	--	--	--	1

^R = Jake Renfro also started six games in 2020

-- = Did not play in a game/not on squad/non-FBS/FCS;

0 = Played but did not 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
Allowed 0 points:	vs. Eastern Illinois (45-0), 8/29/2024
Allowed 0 points in 2nd half:	vs. Maryland, 11/15/2025
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:	2 at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
Fewer than 50 yards rushing:	2 at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
Fewer than 20 yards rushing:	2 at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
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
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
Fewer than 200 total net yards:	159 at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
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. UAB, 9/3/2026
Back-to-back games with no sacks allowed:	vs. Iowa, 10/8/2022; vs. Minnesota, 10/16/2022
15+ TFL in a game:	15 vs. San Jose State, 9/21/2002
10+ TFL in a game:	11 vs. Iowa 10/8/2022
10+ passes broken up:	10 vs. Maryland, 11/15/2025
Forced 5+ turnovers:	5 at Duke, 9/6/2025
Two successful two-point conversions:	2 at Kansas, 9/8/2023
Five field goals:	5 at Purdue, 10/4/2025
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
Zero punts:	vs. Miami (Ohio), 9/28/2013
Zero penalties:	vs. Wisconsin 10/9/2021
Successful on-side kick:	vs. Penn State, 11/22/2014
Two two-point conversions:	2 at Kansas (McCray rush; Altmeyer pass to Love III), 9/8/2023
Overtime game:	vs. Purdue (50-49), 10/12/2024
Overtime game at Gies Memorial Stadium:	vs. Purdue (50-49), 10/12/2024
A game with a weather delay:	at South Florida (0:37 delay), 9/15/2017
A game was postponed:	vs. Kent State (2:50 delay), 9/4/2015
	<i>Eventually postponed and played next day on 9/5/2015</i>

OPPONENT

70 vs. Michigan (70-21), 11/7/1981
63 at #19 Indiana (63-10), 9/20/2025
63 at #19 Indiana (63-10), 9/20/2025
Wisconsin (0-24), 10/9/2021
at Indiana, 9/20/2025
Western Illinois (3-52), 8/29/25
411 at Northwestern, 12/12/2020
312 at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
91 vs. Northwestern, 11/29/2025
29 vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025
2 vs. Wisconsin, 10/1/2022
-10 vs. Murray State, 9/3/2016
1 vs. Missouri, 9/10/1994
0 vs. Michigan, 10/27/1934
423 at Virginia, 9/11/2021
92 at Wisconsin, 11/22/2025
712 at Maryland, 10/27/2018
674 vs. Nebraska, 9/21/2019
163 vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025
96 vs. South Dakota State, 9/10/2011
7 at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
at Washington, 10/25/2025
13 at #9 Penn State, 9/28/2024
10 at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
5 vs. Penn State, 9/16/2023
2 vs. Northwestern, 11/29/2014
vs. Michigan State, 11/16/2024
at Nebraska, 10/1/2016

ILLINOIS

OPPONENT

Rushing

300 yards rushing:	Mikel Leshoure (330) vs. Northwestern, 11/20/2010	Jordan Canzeri (256) at Iowa, 10/10/2015
250 yards rushing:	Chase Brown (257) vs. Charlotte, 10/2/2021	Mohamed Ibrahim (224) vs. Minnesota, 11/7/2020
200 yards rushing:	Chase Brown (223) at Penn State 10/23/2021	Mohamed Ibrahim (224) vs. Minnesota, 11/7/2020
150 yards rushing:	Aidan Laughery (172) at Northwestern, 11/30/2024	
Two consecutive 175-yard rushing games:	Rashard Mendenhall (2), 10/27/2007-11/3/2007	
Two consecutive 150-yard rushing games:	Chase Brown (2), 8/27/2022-9/2/2022	
Three consecutive 140-yard rushing games:	Chase Brown (3), 10/8/2-22-10/29/2022	
10+ consecutive 100-yard rushing games:	Chase Brown (10), 11/27/2021-11/5/2022	
Two rushers with 175 yards:	Harvey (215), Havard (175) vs. Middle Tennessee, 9/12/1998	Hyde (246), Miller (184) vs. #3 Ohio State, 11/16/2013
Two rushers with 100 yards:	Brown (223), McCray (142) at Penn State, 10/23/2021	Browne (118), Mockabee (102) vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024
80+ yard rushing play:	Chase Brown (80) vs. Charlotte, 10/2/2021	Mike Trumpy (80) at Northwestern, 11/20/2010
75+ yard rushing play:	Reggie Corbin (77) vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018	Justin Jackson (79) vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2017
Two 40+ runs in one quarter:	Kendrick Foster (56, 56; 2nd) vs. Murray State, 9/3/2016	Carlos Hyde (51, 55; 4th) vs. #3 Ohio State, 11/16/2013
True freshman rushed for 100 yards:	Josh McCray (156) at Purdue, 9/25/2021	Braelon Allen (131) vs. Wisconsin, 10/9/2021
True freshman rushed for 100 yards in first career game:	E.B. Halsey (139) vs. Missouri, 8/30/2003	
40 rushing attempts:	Chase Brown (41) vs. Minnesota, 10/15/2022	Jordan Canzeri (43) at #22 Iowa, 10/10/2015
30 rushing attempts:	Chase Brown (33) vs. Michigan State, 11/5/2022	Evan Hull (32) vs. Northwestern, 11/27/2021
Two rushers with 2 touchdowns:	Corbin (2), Bush Jr. (2) vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018	Sargent (2), Young (2) vs. Iowa, 11/17/2018
5+ TDs rushing:	Howard Griffith (8) vs. Southern Illinois, 9/22/1990	Brian Calhoun (5) vs. #15 Wisconsin, 10/29/2005
4+ TDs rushing:	Antoineo Harris (4) vs. Indiana, 10/27/2002	Mohamed Ibrahim (4) vs. Minnesota, 11/7/2020
3+ TDs rushing:	Aidan Laughery (3) at Northwestern, 11/30/2024	Mohamed Ibrahim (4) vs. Minnesota, 11/7/2020
2+ TDs rushing by a QB:	Luke Altmyer (2) at Kansas, 9/8/2023	Athan Kaliakmanis (2) at Rutgers, 11/23/2024

Receiving

200 yards receiving:	Casey Washington (218) vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023	Roy Roundtree (246) at Michigan, 11/6/2010
150 yards receiving:	Hank Beatty (186) at Purdue, 10/4/2025	Denzel Boston (153) at Washington, 10/25/2025
Two 100-yard receivers:	Bryant (112), Williams (103) vs. Chattanooga, 9/22/2022	Camper (156), Matthews Jr. (109) at Indiana, 9/2/2022
Running back with 100+ yards receiving:	Josh Ferguson (100) vs. Northwestern, 10/27/2015	Tellis Redmon (116) vs. Minnesota, 9/30/2000
70+ yard reception:	Casey Washington (80) vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023	Jahan Dotson (75) at Penn State, 12/19/2020
60+ yard reception:	Hank Beatty (62) at Purdue, 10/4/2025	Chase Tyler (62) at Duke, 9/6/2025
50+ yard reception:	Ty Robinson (54) vs. UAB, 9/3/2026	Chase Tyler (62) at Duke, 9/6/2025
10+ receptions:	Isaiah Williams (13) vs. Minnesota, 11/4/2023	Denzel Boston (10) at Washington, 10/25/2025
Two players with 2 receiving touchdowns:	Judson (2), Duvalt (2) vs. Missouri, 8/30/2008	Hemingway (2), Roundtree (2) at Michigan, 11/6/2010
Three receiving touchdowns:	Casey Washington (3) vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023	Jake Ferguson (3) vs. Wisconsin, 10/23/2020
Offensive lineman caught a pass:	Brandon Henderson (4-yard reception) at #22 Nebraska, 9/20/2024	Nolan Rucci (3-yard reception) vs. Wisconsin, 10/21/2023
Offensive lineman scored a TD:	Brandon Henderson (4-yard reception) at #22 Nebraska, 9/20/2024	Dom D'Antonio (3-yard run) vs. Northwestern, 11/25/2023
Quarterback caught a TD:	Luke Altmyer (3-yard reception) vs. #21 USC, 9/27/2025	David Blough (7-yard reception) vs. Purdue, 10/13/2018
Hail Mary TD reception to end a half	Ty Robinson (54) vs. UAB (1st Half), 9/3/2026	

Passing

600 yards passing:	Dave Wilson (621) at Ohio State, 11/8/1980	
500 yards passing:	John Paddock (507) vs. Indiana, 11/11/2023	
400 yards passing:	Wes Lunt (456) vs. Western Kentucky, 9/6/2014	Brennan Armstrong (405) at Virginia, 9/11/2021
Two consecutive 300-yard passing games:	Luke Altmyer (2), 9/27/2025-10/4/2025	
Three consecutive 300-yard passing games:	Jason Verduzco (3), 8/31/1991-9/21/1991	
6+ TDs passing:	Dave Wilson (6) at Ohio State, 11/8/1980	Tony Pike (6) vs. Cincinnati, 11/27/2009
5+ TDs passing:	Nate Scheelhaase (5) vs. Miami (Ohio), 9/28/2013	Fernando Mendoza (5) at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
4+ TDs passing:	Luke Altmyer (4) vs. Rutgers, 11/1/2025	Demond Williams Jr. (4) at Washington, 10/25/2025
3+ TDs passing:	Katin Houser (3) vs. UAB, 9/3/2026	Demond Williams Jr. (4) at Washington, 10/25/2025
3+ TDs passing in ILL debut:	Katin Houser (3) vs. UAB, 9/3/2026	
Two 65-plus yard TD passes:	Nathan Scheelhaase (77, 67) at Indiana, 10/8/2011	
10+ consecutive completions:	Luke Altmyer (10) vs. Minnesota, 11/2/2024	Fernando Mendoza (17) at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
Two consecutive games 10+ consecutive completions:	Tommy DeVito (2), 9/2/2022-9/10/2022	
Non-QB with passing touchdown:	Hank Beatty (WR) vs. #21 USC, 9/27/2025	Denzel Boston (WR) at Washington, 10/25/2025

	ILLINOIS	OPPONENT
Defense		
20 Tackles:	J Leman (20) vs. Missouri, 9/1/2007	Abdul Hodge (22), Chad Greenway (20) at Iowa, 10/1/2005
19 Tackles:	Clayton Fejedelem (19) vs. Wisconsin, 10/24/2015	Gerald Hodges (19) at Penn State, 10/29/2011
4 interceptions:	Mike Gow (4) vs. Stanford, 9/21/1974	
3 interceptions:	Eugene Wilson (3) vs. Penn State, 11/10/2001	
2 interceptions:	Miles Scott (2) vs. Northwestern, 11/29/2025	Devin Turner (2) at Northwestern, 11/30/2024
Two players with 2+ interceptions:	Sydney Brown (2), Devon Witherspoon (2) at Northwestern, 11/26/2022	Bryan Heinz (2), Marvin Ward (2) vs. Northwestern, 11/22/2003
3+ sacks:	Seth Coleman (3.0) at Maryland, 10/14/2023	Darryl Peterson (3.0) at Wisconsin, 11/22/2025
5+ TFLs:	Isaiah Gay (5.5) at Iowa, 11/20/2021	Josh Uche (5.0) vs. #16 Michigan, 10/12/2019
4+ TFLs:	Isaiah Gay (5.5) at Iowa, 11/20/2021	Abdul Carter (4.0) at #9 Penn State, 9/28/2024
4+ PBUs:	Devon Witherspoon (4) vs. Nebraska, 8/28/2021	Jermari Harris (4) at Iowa, 11/18/2023
3+ PBUs:	Xavier Scott (3) vs. Wisconsin, 10/21/2023	Cody Lindenberg (3) vs. Minnesota, 11/2/2024
Interception by a lineman:	Keith Randolph (1) vs. Chattanooga, 9/22/2022	Farell Gnago (1) vs. Rutgers, 11/1/2025
Interception return for TD:	Ismael Kante (59 yards) vs. UAB, 9/3/2026	Devin Turner (13 yards) at Northwestern, 11/30/2024
Two players with INT returns for TDs:	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 (16 yards) vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024
Fumble recovery TD, INT TD, 2 INTs:	Sydney Brown at Northwestern, 11/26/2022	
Forced 3 turnovers:	Xavier Scott (2 INT, 1 FF) vs. #19 Kansas, 9/7/2024	
2 defensive touchdowns:	Sydney Brown (1 INT TD, 1 FR TD) at Northwestern, 11/26/2022	Shaq Thompson (1 INT TD, 1 FR TD) at Washington, 9/13/2014
Safety:	Kerby Joseph (special teams tackle) vs. Nebraska 8/28/2021	Joe Evans (tackle in end zone) at Iowa, 11/18/2023
Defensive extra point:	Nate Hobbs (75 yards) at USF, 9/15/2017	
Total Offense/All-Purpose		
500 yards total offense:	Juice Williams (503) vs. Minnesota, 10/11/2008	
400 yards total offense:	Luke Altmeyer (439) vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024	Ryan Browne (415) vs. Purdue, 10/12/2024
300 yards passing and 100 yards rushing:	Juice Williams (310 pass, 121 rush) at Michigan, 10/4/2008	Adrian Martinez (328 pass, 118 rush) vs. Nebraska, 9/21/2019
300 all-purpose yards:	A.J. Jenkins (328) vs. Northwestern, 10/1/2011	Martavious Odoms (315) vs. Michigan, 10/4/2008
200 all-purpose yards:	Hank Beatty (241) vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025	Jahan Dotson (239) at Penn State, 12/19/2020
Accounted for 5 touchdowns:	Luke Altmeyer (4 pass, 1 rush) vs. Rutgers, 11/1/2025	Fernando Mendoza (5 pass) at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
Passing, rushing, and receiving touchdown:	Luke Altmeyer (2 pass, 1 rush, 1 rec.) vs. #21 USC, 9/27/2025	
2 TDs in 1 minute:	Ke'Shawn Vaughn (3rd quarter) at Purdue, 11/7/2015	
Special Teams		
5 field goals:	David Olano (5) at Purdue, 10/4/2025	
4 field goals:	David Olano (5) at Purdue, 10/4/2025	Dragan Kesich (4) vs. Minnesota, 11/2/2024
3 field goals:	David Olano (3) vs. Tennessee, 12/30/2025	Jonah Delange (3) vs. UAB, 9/3/2026
Made 50+ yard field goal:	Ethan Moczulski (59 yards) vs. Central Michigan, 9/14/2024	
Three 50+ yard field goals:		Tim Douglas (51, 58, 51), Iowa, 9/26/1998
Blocked punt:	Ashton Hollins (block) at Purdue, 9/30/2023	D'Angelo Ponds (block) at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
Blocked punt for a touchdown:	Dawson DeGroot (block), Stanley Green (TD) vs. WIU, 9/8/2018	D'Angelo Ponds (11 yards) at #19 Indiana, 9/20/2025
Blocked two field goals:	Terrell Washington (2) vs. Northern Illinois, 9/8/2001	
Blocked two PATs:	Rob Bain (2) at Penn State, 10/31/2015	
Blocked field goal:	Ezekiel Holmes (1) vs. #24 Michigan, 10/19/2024	DJ Taylor (1) vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025
Blocked PAT:	Alec Bryant (1) at Iowa, 11/18/2023	
Punt return for TD (non-block):	Hank Beatty (69 yards) vs. Western Illinois, 8/29/2025	Kyle Groenewed (61 yards) vs. Iowa, 11/17/2018
Kickoff return for TD:	V'Angelo Bentley (100 yards) vs. Southern Illinois, 8/31/2013	Joakim Dodson (94 yards) vs. Tennessee, 12/30/2025
Blocked FG returned for TD:	Travis Williams (66 yards) vs. Illinois State, 9/6/2003	

Team Results

Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
09/03/2026	UAB	W	42-23	52673

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	11	90	2	88	8.0	1	51	88.0
Aidan Laughery	1	8	29	0	29	3.6	0	7	29.0
Katin Houser	1	3	29	0	29	9.7	1	16	29.0
Jordan Anderson	1	3	5	0	5	1.7	0	4	5.0
Team	1	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-1.0
Total	1	26	153	3	150	5.8	2	51	150.0
Opponents	1	48	211	17	194	4.0	1	24	194.0

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Katin Houser	1	224.6	13-17-0	76.5	182	3	54	182.0
Total	1	224.6	13-17-0	76.5	182	3	54	182.0
Opponents	1	121.6	18-31-1	58.1	219	1	42	219.0

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Collin Dixon	1	6	70	11.7	2	18	70.0
Hudson Clement	1	3	26	8.7	0	12	26.0
Ty Robinson	1	1	54	54.0	1	54	54.0
Aidan Laughery	1	1	17	17.0	0	17	17.0
Ca'Lil Valentine	1	1	4	4.0	0	4	4.0
Brayden Trimble	1	1	11	11.0	0	11	11.0
Total	1	13	182	14.0	3	54	182.0
Opponents	1	18	219	12.2	1	42	219.0

Game Records

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

Team Statistics

	ILLINI	OPP
First Downs	17	24
Rushing	6	12
Passing	9	11
Penalty	2	1
Rushing Yardage	150	194
Rushing attempts	26	48
Average per rush	5.8	4.0
Average per game	150.0	194.0
TDs Rushing	2	1
Passing Yardage	182	219
Comp-Att-Int	13-17-0	18-31-1
Average per pass	10.7	7.1
Average per catch	14.0	12.2
Average per game	182.0	219.0
TDs Passing	3	1
Total offense	332	413
Average per play	7.7	5.2
Average per game	332.0	413.0
Kick returns: #-Yards	1-31	0-0
Punt returns: #-Yards	1-65	1-19
Int returns: #-Yards	1-59	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	1-3	9-69
Punts-Avg	1-42.0	2-48.5
Time of possession / game	18:57	41:03
3rd-down conversion	3/6	10/19
4th-down conversion	1/2	3/4
PAT-attempts	(6-6) 100%	(2-2) 100%
2-point conversion-attempts	(0-0) 0%	(0-0) 0%

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Ismael Kante	1	59	59.0	1	59
Total	1	59	59.0	1	59
Opponents	0	0	0.0	0	0