



KENT STATE BASEBALL

2018 Golden Flashes Media Notes

Baseball Contact: Ty Linder | tlinder@kent.edu | 330.672.8416 | kentstatesports.com | @KentStBaseball

2018 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
February		0-0
F16	@ Sam Houston State	7:30
F17	@ Sam Houston State	4:00
F18	@ Sam Houston State	2:00
F23	@ Belmont	4:00
F24	@ Lipscomb	2:00
F25	@ Middle Tennessee	1:00
March		0-0
M2	@ Winthrop	4:00
M3	@ Winthrop	3:00
M4	@ Winthrop	2:00
M9	@ Arkansas	4:05
M10	@ Arkansas	3:05
M11	@ Arkansas	2:05
M14	Malone	4:00
M16	@ Western Carolina	4:00
M17	@ Western Carolina	2:00
M18	@ Western Carolina	1:00
M20	Youngstown State	4:00
M23	Ball State	4:00
M24	Ball State	3:00
M25	Ball State	1:00
M27	@ Notre Dame	6:05
M28	@ Notre Dame	6:05
M30	@ Western Michigan	3:00
M31	@ Western Michigan	1:00
April		0-0
A1	@ Western Michigan	1:00
A3	Bowling Green	4:00
A4	@ Ohio State	6:35
A6	@ Central Michigan	3:05
A7	@ Central Michigan	2:05
A8	@ Central Michigan	1:05
A10	@ Pittsburgh	6:00
A11	Canisius	6:00
A13	Northern Illinois	6:00
A14	Northern Illinois	4:00
A15	Northern Illinois	1:00
A17	@ Bowling Green	3:05
A18	Pittsburgh	6:00
A20	Ohio	6:00
A21	Ohio	4:00
A22	Ohio	1:00
A24	@ Canisius	3:00
A27	@ Toledo	3:05
A28	@ Toledo	1:05
A29	@ Toledo	1:05
May		0-0
M4	Bowling Green	6:00
M5	Bowling Green	4:00
M6	Bowling Green	1:00
M11	Eastern Michigan	6:00
M12	Eastern Michigan	4:00
M13	Eastern Michigan	1:00
M15	@ Youngstown State	12:00
M17	@ Miami	5:00
M18	@ Miami	4:00
M19	@ Miami	1:00
M23	MAC Tournaments – Avon, OH	

All times EAST

Kent State's 2018 Record

0-0

At a NEUTRAL site

0-0

At HOME

0-0

Against the MAC

0-0

On the ROAD

0-0

Current Streak

none

GAME

1



Kent State Golden Flashes

0-0

Head Coach: Jeff Duncan (5th)

Sam Houston St. Bearcats

0-0

Head Coach: Matt Deggs (4th)

BY THE NUMBERS

	KSU	SAM
OVERALL	0-0	0-0
CURRENT	W0	W0
CONF	0-0	0-0
NON-CONF	0-0	0-0
HOME	0-0	0-0
AWAY	0-0	0-0
NEUTRAL	0-0	0-0
LAST FIVE	0-0	0-0
LAST TEN	0-0	0-0

Friday, February 16, 2018

Don Sanders Stadium (1,163) – Huntsville, Texas

TV: ESPN3

RADIO: None

DIAMOND DIALOGUE

- Kent State is opening its 91st season of baseball this weekend.
- The Golden Flashes have won either the Mid-American Conference regular season or tournament championship in 10 of the last 11 seasons.
- KSU has been tabbed the pre-season league favorite in both the regular and post-season.
- Kent State's current NCAA Regional Tournament drought of three seasons is the longest since 1995-2000.
- The Golden Flashes will take aim at their 20th consecutive season with at least 30 victories. KSU has had one sub-.500 season since 1981.
- Kent State's first trip to the state of Texas since a visit to Baylor in 2015.
- Senior lefty Eli Kraus is poised to return to the front of KSU's rotation after compiling records of 9-1 and 8-3 in 2016 and 2017, respectively.
- The Golden Flashes return three of their top five hitters from 2017 in Mason Mamarella (.330), Nick Kanavas (.308) and Tim DalPorto (.304).
- This is the first meeting between Kent State and Sam Houston State.
- The Bearcats have been to the NCAA Regionals in five of the last six years. In 2017 Sam Houston State advanced the Super Regionals for the first time in school history.

POSSIBLE POSITION STARTERS

#	Player	Pos	Yr.	Notable
2	Tim Dalporto	C	Sr.	Hit .304 last year with two road home runs
17	Pete Schuler	1B	Jr.	In first two seasons, has 9 homers and 53 RBIs
10	Kian O'Brien	2B	Jr.	Rookie from Wisc. will have 2 seasons of eligibility
8	John Matthews	SS	So.	Started 32 games as a rookie in 2017 with 8 doubles
14	Josh Hollander	3B	Jr.	Team's leading hitter in 2017 MAC Tournament
13	Nick Kanavas	LF	R-Sr.	Hit .308 with 8 doubles and a home run last season
11	Mason Mamarella	CF	Sr.	Swiped a team-best 18 bases last season
7	Reilly Hawkins	RF	Sr.	Led off 2017 with a homer on second pitch of game
25	Brad Hamilton	DH	Sr.	Has seven career home runs including GW vs. Canisius
31	Eli Kraus	P	Sr.	17 career wins places him in team top 10 history
30	Joey Murray	P	Jr.	2017 Mid-American Conference Pitcher of the Year
21	Jared Skolnicki	P	R-Sr	5-2 with 3.71 ERA in first season after TJ surgery

QUICK FACTS**Institution Information**

Location – Kent, OH 44240

- 54 miles SW of Cleveland
- 140 miles NE of Columbus
- 100 miles NW of Pittsburgh

Founded – 1910

Enrollment – 23,178

Nickname – Golden Flashes

Colors – Navy Blue and Gold

Affiliation – NCAA Division I

Conference – Mid American Conference

Home venue – Schoonover Stadium

Year Built – 2005

- Lights added 2013
- Indoor facility added 2014
- Shaw sports turf added 2015

University President – Dr. Beverly Warren

Director of Athletics – Joel Nielsen

Coaching Staff

Head Coach – Jeff Duncan (Arizona State)

Years/Record – 4/148-75

Associate Head Coach – Mike Birkbeck

Assistant Coach – Derek Simmons

Assistant Coach – Tony Caldwell

Sports Medicine – Kevin Kamlowsky

Team Information

2017 Record – 37-18

2017 MAC Record/Finish – 18-6/First (+2)

2016 Record – 44-14

2016 MAC Record/Finish – 20-4/First (+5)

Position Players Returning/Lost - 7/3

Newcomers - 10

Program History

First Season – 1915

All-Time Record – 1,808 wins 1,286 losses

All-Time MAC – 774 wins 567 losses

MAC Regular Season Pennants – 14

MAC Tournament Pennants – 11

NCAA Regional Appearances – 13

Regional Record – 15-27

NCAA Super Regional Appearances – 1

Super Regional Record – 2-1

NCAA CWS Appearances – 1

College World Series Record – 1-2

Communications

Baseball Contact – Ty Linder

Office Phone – 330.672.8416

E-mail – tlinder@kent.edu

Mail – MAC Center, 1025 Risman Drive

Twitter – @KentStBaseball

Web site – kentstatesports.com

SERIES HISTORY

This is the first meeting ever between the two programs. Kent State last made visits to the Lone Star State in 2015 and 2011. KSU is 6-7 all-time against current members of the Southland Conference.

GETTING TO KNOW KENT STATE

- Kent State is located in Kent, Ohio, about 50 miles southwest of Cleveland.
- The school and community are both named after Marvin Kent, who was influential in making the area a hub for the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad.
- The university, which had a fall 2017 enrollment of 39,367, is the third-largest in the state of Ohio behind Ohio State and Cincinnati.
- KSU boasts several notable alumni in the fields of sports and entertainment, including Nick Saban, Julian Edelman, Lou Holtz, James Harrison, Antonio Gates, Drew Carey, Arsenio Hall and Michael Keaton.

PRIDE IN THE PROGRAM

Kent State's baseball tradition dates back more than 100 years. Originally called the "Normal Nine," it first tasted post-season success in 1964. In 1993, the Golden Flashes came within one win of winning a regional title, knocking off eventual national champion LSU in the process.

Kent State re-emerged onto the national stage in 2011 with a stunning 7-5 win at Texas in the NCAA Regional tournaments, then compiled a 21-game winning streak in 2012 en route to the school's first ever regional title and appearance in the Super Regionals. There, in a decisive third game in Oregon, all-time hits leader Jimmy Rider floated a single into left field in the bottom of the ninth to send KSU to the College World Series.

The Golden Flashes have spun 11 no-hitters – including Eric Lauer's 2016 gem which also clinched the regular season conference crown.

BACK-TO-BACK REGULAR SEASON TITLES

Kent State dominated Mid-American Conference regular season play in 2016 and 2017. The 2016 Flashes finished 20-4 – just slightly off the insane pace and school record of 24-3 set by the 2012 squad. Kent State's nearest threat in 2016 was Ball State, which finished five games off the pace. Last year, Kent State posted an 18-6 league mark, two games better than second place Central Michigan. In the last two seasons, KSU has not been swept in a MAC series and has lost two out of three only once.

LIFE BEGINS AT 30

2017 marked the 19th consecutive season in which Kent State won at least 30 games. During that near two-decade stretch, KSU has eclipsed the 40-win mark five times. Kent State is averaging 37 wins per season in that span.

2018 Mid-American Conference PRESEASON POLL

- 1 – Kent State – 98 (8)
- 2 – Central Michigan – 86
- 3 – Ball State – 73
- 4 – Ohio – 70
- 5 – Miami – 49 (1)
- 6 – Western Michigan – 47
- 7 – Eastern Michigan – 40
- 8 – Toledo – 36
- 9 – Northern Illinois – 35 (1)
- 10 – Bowling Green – 16

Poll was conducted by the league's 10 head coaches. Coaches were permitted to vote for their own teams.

2017 Mid-American Conference STANDINGS

No divisions; top six to tournament; top two receive byes

Place	Team	MAC	ALL
1	Kent State	18-6	35-16
2	Central Michigan	16-8	29-26
3	Ball State	14-10	30-26
4	Eastern Michigan	14-10	23-33
5	Ohio	13-11	27-26
6	Western Michigan	11-12	22-27
7	Northern Illinois	11-13	17-36
8	Toledo	9-15	16-39
9	Bowling Green	9-15	15-33
10	Miami	8-16	22-34

This Week in the MAC:

Kent State @ Sam Houston State
 Central Michigan @ UT Rio Grande Tour.
 Ball State @ Shipyard Classic - Charleston
 Eastern Michigan @ FGCU
 Ohio vs. Rider – Lexington, SC
 Western Michigan @ Houston Baptist
 Northern Illinois @ Central Arkansas
 Toledo @ Diamond 9 Invite – Kissimmee
 Bowling Green @ UAB
 Miami @ Arizona State

THE BOOK OF ELI

Kent State's senior southpaw Eli Kraus has rocketed up the Golden Flashes' pitching record lists during the past three seasons. The Medina, Ohio native has won 17 career games for the blue and gold over the previous two seasons after a breakout 9-1 effort in 2016 and 8-3 mark in 2017. As consistent as you'd ever want a starter to be, Kraus' splits from the past two campaigns tell the story:

- 2016 – 14 starts – 9-1 – 2.64 ERA – 88 2/3 IP – 59 K – 24 BB
- 2017 – 14 starts – 8-3 – 2.69 ERA – 93 2/3 IP – 73 K – 21 BB

Not only has Kraus become one of KSU's most reliable and decorated arms, he is also a self-taught guitarist, often times bringing the instrument on road trips to continue to tune his craft.

Kraus is a two-time First Team All-MAC selection and was named to the 2017 MAC All-Tournament team thanks to a career effort - a complete game three-hit shutout of Toledo with eight strikeouts and one walk in the post-season opener.

BOUGHS OF HOLLY

Despite battling injuries during his two-year Flashes' career, junior Josh Hollander has become a solid middle-infielder and tough out in the KSU lineup. He hit .295 a season ago with seven doubles, two triples and a home run. "Holly" knocked in 19 and was 7/8 in stolen base attempts. He was second on the team defensively with 110 assists and was a part of 16 double plays. The Cincinnati native was also Kent State's most reliable bat during the post-season, hitting .454 with an RBI, two runs scored and three walks. In the fall, he helped the KSU Gold squad defeat Blue in the Fall World Series, earning MVP honors.

MASTER MASON

While the top degree of Master Mason is the highest one can achieve in the annals of freemasonry, Kent State senior Mason Mamarella has certainly earned his spot at the top of Kent State's lineup. In his two seasons since coming to KSU following the discontinuation of Akron's baseball program in 2015, Mamarella has hit .303 and .330. His average of .330 to match the KSU area code was the team's second highest in 2017 and he was the only player on the roster to play in all 55 games. He collected five triples and six doubles with 26 runs batted in a year ago and swiped a team-best 18 bases.

NO ORDINARY JOE

Junior starting pitcher Joey Murray became Kent State's most decorated underclassman in 2017 when the righty posted a 6-1 record with a sparkling 1.80 ERA. KSU's Sunday starter (!) made 14 appearances on the year, including an eight-strikeout performance in the MAC Tournament. In 2016, he burst onto the scene with a mesmerizing eight-inning, 11-strikeout, no-walk effort in the tournament semi-finals to send KSU to the title tilt.

SERIES HISTORY

SAM HOUSTON STATE BEARKATS (0-0)
Home 0-0 | On the Road 0-0 | Neutral 0-0

PREVIOUS 10 MEETINGS**Date – Location – Result**

First meeting

STATISTICAL LEADERS (2017)**Batting Average**

SAM – Blake Chisholm – .343
KSU – Mason Mamarella – .330

Hits

SAM – Andrew Fregia – 84
KSU – Mason Mamarella – 71

Doubles

SAM – Blake Chisholm – 17
KSU – T. DalPorto/N. Kanavas/J. Matthews – 8

Triples

SAM – Andrew Fregia – 5
KSU – Mason Mamarella – 5

Home Runs

SAM – Andrew Fregia – 7
KSU – Pete Schuler – 6

Walks

SAM – Clayton Harp – 31
KSU – Mason Mamarella – 34

Stolen Bases

SAM – Andrew Fregia – 14
KSU – Mason Mamarella – 18

Pitching Victories

SAM – Hayden Wesneski – 10
KSU – Eli Kraus – 8

ERA

SAM – Jordan Cannon – 3.04
KSU – Joey Murray – 1.80

Strikeouts

SAM – Seth Ballew – 60
KSU – Joey Murray – 110

HEAD TO HEAD COMPARISONS

KSU	CATEGORY	SAM
37-18	Record	44-23
.293	Batting Average	.301
5.96	Runs per Game	6.61
10.21	Hits per Game	10
106	Doubles	109
13	Triples	28
41	Home Runs	31
290	RBI	395
211	Walks	262
63/96	Stolen Bases/Attempts	102/138
3.43	ERA	3.80
8	Shutouts	1
487	Strikeouts	522
.966	Fielding Percentage	.969

NATIONAL MEDIA HIGH ON FLASHES

Once, again, members of the national media think highly of the Golden Flashes coming into the 2018 season. In December, *Collegiate Baseball Newspaper* ranked KSU 34th in its Pre-season Top 40 poll. The publication also selected pitcher Joey Murray a Second-team Pre-Season All-American.

At the end of January, *Baseball America* picked Kent State as the “Team to Beat” in the Mid-American Conference. Citing the team’s pitching depth and veteran lineup, the preview added “If the Golden Flashes can put it all together (in the MAC Tournament), they have a team that would be dangerous in a regional.”

LOSS OF A LEGEND

During the off-season, the Kent State family lost a legendary figure. Gene “Stick” Michael passed away on Sept. 7 2017 following a heart attack. He was 79. Michael, who played both baseball and basketball at KSU, is responsible for the revival of the New York Yankees farm system in the early 1990s which then led to the dynasty of the late 1990s. As New York’s General Manager, he is credited for signing such young talent as Mariano Rivera, Andy Pettitte, Derek Jeter and Jorge Posada. At KSU, Michael lettered in baseball in 1958 and received his education degree in 1967. For several years, the natural grass home field at Kent was named in his honor.

KENT STATE BASEBALL RUNS ON DUNCAN

Since taking the reigns of the KSU Baseball program in the summer of 2013, Jeff Duncan has continued the winning ways of each of his predecessors. Duncan, who was at Purdue in 2012 when the Golden Flashes swept the field at the NCAA Gary Regional hosted by Purdue, has guided KSU to one MAC Tournament title (2014) and back-to-back regular season conference crowns in 2016 and 2017. Under the Chicagoland native’s leadership, Kent State boasts the following numbers:

- 148-77 overall record for an average season record of 37-19
- 72-30 MAC record for an average MAC record of 18-7
- 29-5 record in MAC series
- Have swept 10 MAC series
- Have only been swept once in a MAC series

SIMMONS JOINS COACHING STAFF

Kent State will have a new face on the bench in 2018. Derek Simmons joins Jeff Duncan’s staff after a year at Alabama. In Tuscaloosa, he worked with the infielders and hitters along with coaching first base and coordinating camps. Under Simmons, the Crimson Tide defense led the SEC with 50 double plays turned in 2017. He also spent time at Kennesaw State and Central Michigan along with Team USA. He played college baseball at Montevallo and Georgia State before playing one season of independent baseball.

13 NCAA REGIONAL APPEARANCES

1964 – 1992 – 1993 – 1994 – 2001 – 2002 – 2004 – 2007 – 2009 – 2010 – 2011 – 2012 – 2014

KENT STATE'S RECORD...

Overall	0-0
MAC	0-0
Interleague	0-0
Home	0-0
Away	0-0
Neutral	0-0
Day games	0-0
Night games	0-0
On grass	0-0
On turf	0-0
vs. Top 10	0-0
vs. Ranked	0-0
vs. Unranked	0-0
vs. Above .500	0-0
vs. Below .500	0-0
Following a WIN	0-0
Following a LOSS	0-0
Against LEFT starter	0-0
Against RIGHT starter	0-0
1-run games	0-0
2-run games	0-0
5+run games	0-0
Extra innings	0-0
Shutouts	0-0
Scoring 0-2 runs	0-0
Scoring 3-5 runs	0-0
Scoring 6-9 runs	0-0
Scoring 10+ runs	0-0
Scoring first	0-0
Opponent scores first	0-0
Leading after 7	0-0
Trailing after 7	0-0
Leading after 8	0-0
Trailing after 8	0-0
Hit 0 home runs	0-0
Hit 1 home run	0-0
Hit 2+ home runs	0-0
Opponent hit 0 home runs	0-0
Opponent hit 1 home run	0-0
Opponent hit 2+ home runs	0-0
Made 0 errors	0-0
Made 1 error	0-0
Made 2+ errors	0-0
Opponent made 0 errors	0-0
Opponent made 1 error	0-0
Opponent made 2+ errors	0-0
Tuesdays	0-0
Wednesdays	0-0
Fridays	0-0
Saturdays	0-0
Sundays	0-0
Longest winning streak	0
Longest losing streak	0
Largest winning margin	0
Largest losing margin	0

BACK COMES BIRKBECK

The Golden Flashes have certainly had continuity at the pitching coach department. Mike Birkbeck returns to the KSU coaching staff for year #22 in 2018. Since his first year in 1997, "Birky" has been responsible for transforming Kent State into one of the finest pitching factories in all of Division I college baseball. Under Birkbeck, Kent State has had 45 pitchers either drafted or signed into Major League Baseball – including 2011 and 2016 first round draft selections Andrew Chafin and Eric Lauer, respectively. Lauer's 0.69 ERA in 2016 earned him National Player and Pitcher of the Year honors. He has also overseen the top five pitching staffs in club history in terms of strikeouts in a single season. Three of the Golden Flashes' 11 no-hitters have occurred under Birkbeck, including April 23, 1997 – Birkbeck's first year – when Mike Skeeles beat Akron (ironically Birkbeck's alma mater) 1-0.

2018 SCHEDULE TIDBITS

The Golden Flashes will once again test themselves in the early season portion of the schedule. Aside from facing 2017 NCAA Super Regional qualifier Sam Houston State in the season's opening weekend, KSU will also make a March visit to the 29-time NCAA Regional participant Arkansas Razorbacks. It will be Kent State's first encounter with the Diamond Hogs since the 2012 College World Series. Sam Houston State and Arkansas combined for 89 wins a year ago. KSU will also make trips to Tennessee for the Mule Mix Classic, South Carolina for a three-game series against Winthrop and North Carolina for a three-game set against Western Carolina's Catamounts – the third straight year the Golden Flashes and WCU have met in a weekend series.

Once the season gets going, KSU has home-and-home single games scheduled with Pittsburgh, Youngstown State, Canisius and Bowling Green. They'll also visit South Bend for a brief two-game midweek series with Notre Dame. The Golden Flashes have also signed a second two-for-one with Ohio State, meaning the Flashes visit Columbus this April as well as 2020, with the Bucks returning to Kent in 2019.

BUILT ROAD TOUGH

Kent State has been one of the nation's best road teams over the past two seasons. Between 2016 and 2017, the Golden Flashes have posted a sparkling 42-15 record away from Portage County. That mark includes an impressive eight sweeps on the road.

SCOUTING SAM

The 2018 season opener will put the Golden Flashes to the test immediately. Sam Houston State is coming off its finest season in school history. The Bearkats hammered their way to a 44-23 campaign in 2017 which included Southland Conference and NCAA Lubbock Regional championships. The Kats have made eight NCAA Tournament appearances since 2007. To win their most recent title, Sam Houston State won three straight elimination games – including back-to-back one-run wins over host Texas Tech. Head coach Matt

THE LAST TIME...

Offense**Individual with 4 hits in a game**

Luke Burch – vs. Buffalo – 4.1.17 (4 1B)

Individual with 5 hits in a game

Luke Burch – vs. G. Washington – 2.27.16 (5 1B)

Individual with 6 hits in a game

Jeff Revesz – vs. Niagara – 4.17.13 (4 1B, 2 2B)

Individual with 2 hits in one inningLuke Burch – at W. Carolina – 3.18.17 (3rd – 1B, HR)**Individual hit for the cycle**

Anthony Gallas – at Winthrop – 3.20.10

Individual with 2 home runs in an inningJess Bechard – 3rd vs. Northern Illinois – 3.29.98**Individual with 2 home runs in a game**

Conner Simonetti – at Bowling Green – 5.15.16

Individual with 3 home runs in a game

Drew Saylor – at Marshall – 4.10.05

Individual with a grand slam

Dylan Rosa – vs. Toledo – 5.24.17 (post-season)

Individual with a pinch hit home run

Brad Hamilton – at Canisius – 5.3.17

Individual with a lead off home run

Reilly Hawkins – at Belmont – 2.17.17

Individual with 4 runs scored in a game

Mason Mamarella – vs. Central Michigan – 3.26.16

Individual with 5 runs scored in a game

Derek Toadvine – at Youngstown

Individual with 6 runs scored in a game

Jason Patton – at Ohio – 4.25.09

Every KSU starter got a hit

At Ball State – 3.26.17

KSU scored 10+ runs in an inning12 – 9th inning at Bowling Green – 5.13.16**Pitching****Individual with a no-hitter**

Eric Lauer – at Bowling Green – 5.13.16 (14-0)

Individual with a one-hitter

Ted Rose – vs. Ball State – 5.7.95 (1-0)

Individual with a two-hitter

Eric Lauer – vs. Toledo – 4.8.16 (3-0)

Individual with a complete game shutout

Eli Kraus – vs. Toledo – 5.24.17 (post-season) (7-0)

Individual with 10+ strikeouts in a game

12 – Joey Murray – vs. Miami – 5.14.17

Defense**KSU turned a triple play**8th inning at Coastal Carolina – 3.5.05**Team****Sudden death victory**

Def. Central Michigan 6-5 – 4.30.17 (1B in 10th)

Victory vs. a #1 ranked opponent

Def. #1 Florida 5-4 – 6.18.12

Victory vs. a ranked opponent

Def. #21 Baylor 11-3 – 2.21.15

Sudden death victory in post-season

Def. #8 Oregon 3-2 in B9 (J. Rider 1B) (6.11.12)

Sudden death victory in MAC Tournament

Def. E. Mich. 9-8 in B10 (Bases Loaded BB) (5.29.10)

Extra innings of 15 or more

15 – vs. Toledo – 4.21.17 (def. TOL 1-0)

Extra innings of 20 or more

21 – vs. Kentucky – 6.1.12 (def. KEN 7-6)

Scored 20 runs

21 – vs. Niagara – 4.17.13 (def. NIA 21-2)

Scored 30 runs

31 – at Bowling Green – 4.15.12 (def. BG 31-20)

Had a 10-game winning streak

11 – April 10-29 2016

Had a 20+ game winning streak

21 – April 27-June 9 2012

Deggs has led the Bearkats to two straight 40-win seasons in 2016 and 2017. Rookie pitcher Hayden Wesneski had an unbelievable freshman year, going 10-2 with an ERA of 3.93. He was named the Southland Conference Freshman of the Year. Located roughly 65 miles north of Houston, Sam Houston State's most recognizable alumnus is former CBS Evening News anchor Dan Rather.

CRACK ONE OPEN

The Golden Flashes have posted a 3-7 record in season openers over the past 10 years. They are 1-3 under Jeff Duncan, including a 15-0 rout of Belmont a year ago. KSU began the magical 2012 season with a 5-0 shutout of Georgia Tech and bounced UNC-Greensboro on the road in 2009. Some of the opening day losses have come to solid opposition, such as fourth-ranked Virginia in 2016, at Arizona in 2014 and Georgia Tech in Atlanta in 2011.

ON THE AIR

Since 2006, the excitement of Golden Flashes baseball has been heard on the Kent State Radio Network. In 2018 the action returns to the airwaves on the network – accessible via the iHeart Radio or Tunein apps. Each can be used on a smartphone, pc or tablet. For the 11th year, Ty Linder serves as the dual "Voice of the Flashes" – as both radio play-by-play and Schoonover Stadium public address voice. For select games Linder will be joined by Jacob Pavilack. Pavilack is in his fifth year as a Kent State Radio Network announcer.



Kent State's 2017 addition to an already-impressive collection of jewelry came thanks to a roster dominated by underclassmen such as Pete Schuler (17), Reilly Hawkins (7) and Tim DalPorto (2).

13 NCAA REGIONAL APPEARANCES

1964 – 1992 – 1993 – 1994 – 2001 – 2002 – 2004 – 2007 – 2009 – 2010 – 2011 – 2012 – 2014

ROSTERS AND PRONUNCIATIONS

2018 KENT STATE BASEBALL NUMERICAL ROSTER AND PRONUNCIATIONS						
NO	NAME	POS	HT	YR	B/T	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/LAST SCHOOL)
2	Tim DalPorto	C/INF	6'3	SR	R/R	Chicago, Ill. (Nazareth Academy)
3	Jack Zimmerman	OF/LHP	5'10	FR	L/L	Akron, Ohio (Green)
5	Greg Lewandoski	INF	5'10	FR	R/R	Port Orange, Fla. (Spruce Creek)
6	John Schreiber (SHRY-ber)	LHP	5'9	RJR	L/L	Mayfield Village, Ohio (Mayfield Village Mayfield)
7	Reilly Hawkins	OF	5'11	RSR	L/R	Chardon, Ohio (Chardon)
8	John Matthews	INF/RHP	6'1	SO	R/R	Punxsutawney, Pa. (Punxsutawney Area)
9	Kevin Dobos (DOE-biss)	C	6'	SO	R/R	Marvin, N.C. (Marvin Ridge)
10	Kian O'Brien (KEY-an)	INF	5'11	JR	R/R	Madison, Wis. (Madison LaFollette/Madison College)
11	Mason Mamarella	OF	6'	SR	B/L	Dover, Ohio (Dover/Akron)
12	Ben Carew	OF	6'1	SO	R/R	Appleton, Wis. (Kimberly)
13	Nick Kanavas (Can-uh-vuss)	OF	6'1	RSR	R/R	Brookfield, Wis. (Brookfield East/Madison College)
14	Josh Hollander	INF	5'10	JR	R/R	Loveland, Ohio (Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller)
15	THURMAN MUNSON - RETIRED					
16	Tyler Drabick (Dray-bick)	RHP	6'3	SO	R/R	North Canton, Ohio (North Canton Hoover)
17	Pete Schuler	C	6'3	JR	L/R	Pleasant Prairie, Wis. (St. Joseph)
18	Connor Wollersheim (Shy)	LHP	6'2	JR	L/L	Neenah, Wis. (Appleton North)
19	Zach Spangler	RHP	6'3	RSR	R/R	Cranberry Township, Pa. (Seneca Valley)
21	Jared Skolnicki	LHP	6'2	RSR	B/L	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Keystone Oaks)
22	Austin Havekost (HAVE-uh-cost)	RHP	6'4	RSO	R/R	Seville, Ohio (Medina Senior)
23	Nick Elsen	OF	6'3	FR	R/R	Kenosha, Wis. (Indian Trail)
25	Brad Hamilton	C	6'3	SR	R/R	Avon Lake, Ohio (Avon Lake)
26	Pavin Parks (like Gavin)	INF/RHP	6'1	JR	L/R	Uniontown, Ohio (Akron Manchester/Seminole State C.C.)
27	Peyton Deats	LHP	6'1	FR	L/L	Tiffin, Ohio (Tiffin Calvert)
28	Michael Turner	C	6'	FR	L/R	Warren, Ohio (Warren Champion)
29	Collin Romel	LHP	6'2	FR	L/L	Olmsted Falls, Ohio (Olmsted Falls)
30	Joey Murray	RHP	6'2	JR	R/R	Dublin, Ohio (Dublin Coffman)
31	Eli Kraus	LHP	6'1	SR	L/L	Medina, Ohio (Medina Buckeye)
32	Chris Martin	RHP	6'	RJR	L/R	Mason, Ohio (Mason)
33	Trevor Pittman	RHP	6'1	FR	R/R	Eaton, Ohio (Eaton)
34	Ryan Lane	RHP	6'3	FR	R/R	New London, Ohio (New London)
35	Robert Zeigler (ZIG-ler)	RHP	6'4	RSR	R/R	Defiance, Ohio (Defiance/Kentucky)
36	Zach Schultz	RHP/OF	6'	SO	L/R	Indiana, Pa. (Indiana)
38	Patrick Ferguson	INF	6'2	SO	L/R	North Huntingdon, Pa. (Pittsburgh Central Catholic)
40	Wyatt Larimer	RHP	6'1	FR	R/R	Lake Milton, Ohio (Berlin Center Western Reserve)
44	Mark Herron	OF	6'2	RFR	L/R	Cortland, Ohio (Warren G. Harding)
51	Joe Watts	INF	6'5	RSO	R/R	Kent, Ohio (Kent Roosevelt)
67	Jarrett Smetana	UTL	6'3	RSO	R/R	Chardon, Ohio (Burton Berkshire)
Coaching Staff						
Head Coach		Associate HC/Pitching		Assistant Coach		Assistant Coach
24 – Jeff Duncan		20 – Mike Birkbeck		4 – Derek Simmons		37 – Tony Caldwell
5 th Season – Arizona St.		22 nd Season – Akron		1 st Season – Georgia St.		1 st Season - Auburn

13 N C A A R E G I O N A L A P P E A R A N C E S**1964 – 1992 – 1993 – 1994 – 2001 – 2002 – 2004 – 2007 – 2009 – 2010 – 2011 – 2012 – 2014****2018 KENT STATE GAME-BY-GAME SCHEDULE AND RESULTS**

Gm#	Date	Opp	R	RA	INN	W-L	RANK	GB	WP	TIME	ATT	STRK
1	F – 2.16	SAM	?	?	?	?-?	-	-	?	?::??	?	+-
2	S – 2.17	SAM	?	?	?	?-?	-	-	?	?::??	?	+-
3	S – 2.18	SAM	?	?	?	?-?	-	-	?	?::??	?	+-