

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**52,066** – Attendance on Saturday night, K-State's eighth-straight sellout, largest crowd overall since the 2017 Oklahoma game and largest home-opening crowd since the 2015 South Dakota game.

**3,440** – Career passing yards by **Will Howard**, who now ranks 13th in school history.

**588** – Total offense by the Wildcats on Saturday night, the fifth most in a single game in school history and most since a school-record 658-yard output against North Texas in 2005.

**360** – Passing yards by K-State on Saturday, the most in a game since throwing for 400 yards at West Virginia in 2014.

**135** – Career receptions by **Phillip Brooks**, who now ranks sixth in school history.

**100** – Receiving yards by **Ben Sinnott**, a new career high... He is the first K-State tight end with a 100-yard receiving game since Jeron Mastrud at Kansas in 2006.

**100°** – Temperature at kickoff, the third highest in school history and hottest since a 102° game vs. Louisiana in 2013... The hottest in school history was 109° vs. Louisiana Tech in 2000.

**77** – Amount of players that saw action on Saturday night.

**51** – Distance of a **Chris Tennant** field goal in the second quarter... It tied his career long originally set at Texas in 2021.

**44** – Yardage on a third-quarter reception by **RJ Garcia II**, while he also had a 37-yard touchdown catch in the second quarter... His previous long catch was 25 yards on a touchdown in the 2022 Big 12 Championship vs. TCU.

**40** – Yardage on a reception by **Ben Sinnott** in the first quarter, bettering his previous long of 39 yards at West Virginia last season.

**26** – Career passing touchdowns by **Will Howard**, who now ranks 10th in school history.


**16** – Career starts by **Will Howard**, but Saturday night was his first in a season opener.


**6** – Rushing yards allowed by K-State on Saturday, the fewest surrendered in a game since Texas A&M had -13 yards in 2009.

**0** – Points allowed by K-State on Saturday... It was the second-straight season opener with a shutout, the first time the Wildcats did so in consecutive seasons since 1998 and 1999.



September 2, 2023 /// Bill Snyder Family Stadium /// Manhattan, Kan. /// Att: 52,118

 **SEMO** (0-1/0-0 OVC/BS) ..... **0**

 **K-STATE** (1-0/0-0 BIG 12) ..... **45**

## RECORDS

Saturday was the first all-time meeting between K-State and SEMO... K-State is now 4-0 all-time against current members of the OVC/Big South... The Wildcats improved to 88-35-5 all time in season openers, while they are now 95-28-5 in home openers... The Wildcats have won 30 of its 31 games against FCS opponents... K-State has now won six of their last seven season-opening games... K-State improved to 95-19 all-time in regular season non-conference games since 1990.

## SOLD OUT

The attendance for tonight's season opener was 52,066, which represented the Wildcats' eighth-straight sellout dating back to the 2022 season opener... It was the largest K-State home crowd since the 2017 Oklahoma game (52,122), while it was the largest home-opening crowd since the 2015 South Dakota game (53,297).

## SHUT OUT

K-State blanked SEMO a year after the Wildcats shut out South Dakota in the 2022 season opener... It was the first time the Kansas State defense posted shutouts in consecutive season openers since 1998 (Indiana State) and 1999 (Temple)... It was the largest K-State shutout since a 52-0 blanking of Bowling Green in 2019.

## LITTLE ON THE GROUND

The Wildcat defense allowed only six rushing yards to SEMO on Saturday night... It was the fewest rushing yards allowed since Texas A&M had -13 rushing yards in 2009.

## TOTAL OFFENSE

K-State put together 588 yards of total offense to rank fifth in school history... It was the most yards by the Wildcats since a school-record 658-yard output against North Texas in 2005... Among the 558 yards on Saturday, 360 came through the air, which was the most since a 400-yard passing game at West Virginia in 2014.

## HOWARD GETS FIRST-CAREER OPENING DAY START

Senior quarterback **Will Howard**, who has played in 23 career games with 16 starts, made his first start in a season opener on Saturday, throwing for 297 yards and two touchdowns on 18-of-26 aim... He also rushed three times for five yards and another score... Howard now has thrown multiple touchdown passes in seven of his last eight games dating back to last year's regular-season game at TCU... He moved into 13th place all-time at K-State with 3,440 career passing yards, while he is now in 10th place with 26 career passing touchdowns.

## THE TRIFECTA

**Will Howard** threw two touchdown passes, rushed for one and was also on the receiving end of an eight-yard touchdown catch from **Treshaun Ward**... He is the sixth Big 12 quarterback all time to have a passing, rushing and receiving touchdown in a game, but he is just the second ever to do all three in one quarter as he did so in the second frame... The last time a Big 12 signal caller did all three in a game was TCU's Kenny Hill vs. Stanford in 2017... The other time all three were done in the same quarter was Nebraska's Eric Crouch vs. California in 1999... There were three players last year who had all three in a game – Florida State's Jordan Travis at Syracuse and Oregon's Bo Nix at Colorado.

## RIGHT WHERE HE LEFT OFF

Junior tight end **Ben Sinnott** caught five passes for 100 yards, all coming in the first half... It was the first 100-yard receiving game by a K-State tight end since Jeron Mastrud had a 103-yard effort at Kansas in 2006... It was the 11th time in K-State history a tight end had 100 or more yards in a game... Sinnott's previous career high was 89 yards last year at Baylor.

## DOUBLE THE FUN

Both **Ben Sinnott** and sophomore wide receiver **RJ Garcia II** went over the 100-yard mark as Garcia finished the game with 119 yards on five receptions and one touchdown... It was the first time K-State had two 100-yard receivers since last year at Iowa State when **Phillip Brooks** (119 yards) and Malik Knowles (108 yards)... It was the first time K-State had such a game in consecutive seasons since 2013 and 2014... Garcia II's night included receptions of 44 yards and 37 yards, the latter being a touchdown in the second quarter... His previous career-long catch was a 25-yard touchdown against TCU in the 2022 Big 12 Championship.

## JACKSON STARTS OFF STRONG

Senior wide receiver **Jadon Jackson** earned his first start as a Wildcat, hauling in two passes for 38 yards, which included opening K-State's scoring on the season with a 33-yard contested catch in the end zone on the Wildcats' first offensive drive... It was his first start since earning three starts at Ole Miss in 2021... He carded his second-career touchdown and first since his true freshman season of 2019 at Ole Miss when he had one at Alabama.