



### KANSAS BIO

National Championships - 0



Big 12 Championships: 4  
(Last: 1968)

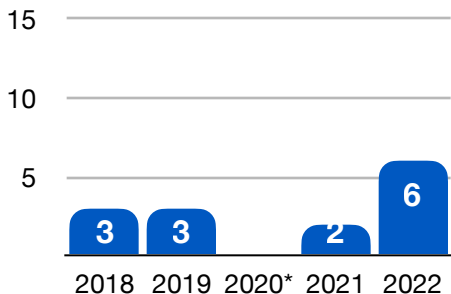
Location: **Lawrence, KS**

All-Time Record: **538-652-54**

2022 Results: **6-7**  
**Lost in Liberty Bowl**

Head Coach: **Lance Leipold**  
3rd Year (8-17)

### 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Memorial Stadium (50,071)

## Jayhawks No Longer “Just” a Basketball School

The Kansas Jayhawks had been one of the most downtrodden programs in all of college football. Fans in Lawrence had suffered through 12 straight seasons with nine or more losses and it didn't seem to matter who was coaching. Even former national championship winning coach Les Miles went 3-18 in two seasons with the Jayhawks. Enter Lance Leipold. After another rebuilding year in 2021, seemingly the entire college football world became Kansas fans after an shocking 5-0 start to the 2022 season. While they did finish the regular season with just a 1-6 record, the Jayhawks claimed a huge victory over #18 Oklahoma State to claim a bowl berth for the first time since 2008.

The offense exploded in year two under Leipold and offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki who has followed Leipold from his previous stops at Division III powerhouse Wisconsin-Whitewater and Buffalo. **Jalon Daniels** quickly emerged as a star quarterback and possesses electric athleticism and playmaking abilities. Daniels completed 66.1% of his passes and threw for 18 touchdowns to just four interceptions. He was injured against TCU, but backup **Jason Bean** stepped in and the Jayhawks offense barely missed a beat. While he's not quite the super-athlete that Daniels is, Bean is plenty capable and also adds a running threat at quarterback. Somehow, even in the transfer portal era, Leipold managed to hang on to both quarterbacks which means the Jayhawks will have one of the best quarterback rooms in the country.

In addition to Daniels and Bean, nearly the entire offense returns for Kansas in 2023. That's incredibly good news considering that the Jayhawks hung 35.6 points per game on their opponents in 2022. Both Daniels and Bean spread the ball around to several receivers to the tune of 32 touchdowns and the entire set of weapons is back including talented tight end **Mason Fairchild**. A junior by eligibility, Fairchild enters his fifth season of college football after hauling in 35 catches for 443 yards and 6 touchdowns. Fellow tight end **Jared Casey** made an impact too with 18 catches for 224 yards. **Lawrence Arnold** was the best Jayhawk pass catcher leading the way with 716 yards and he has breakaway speed. **Luke Grimm** and **Quentin Skinner** combined for over 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns. This unit is in great shape and the passing game should be one of the best in the conference.

The ground game was also near the top of the Big 12 and between Daniels and Bean making an impact with their legs and dynamic running back **Devin Neal** returning, Kansas should again have a balanced, dangerous offense. Neal topped 1,000 yards and the offensive line led the way, guiding the Jayhawks to 184.2 rush yards per game and allowing just 12 sacks. The majority of that offensive line returns including 2nd-Team All-Big-12 center **Mike Novitsky**.

While the offense took a significant step forward, the defense has, to this point, lagged behind. They were worlds better than the humiliating 0-9 season in 2020 where Kansas allowed 46 points per game, but allowing 35.5 points still ranked the Jayhawks in the bottom 10 across the entire FBS. On one hand, a lot of experience returns to the defense but on the other hand that unit wasn't terribly effective. Safety **Kenny Logan** wasn't, and hasn't been part of the problem. The fifth-year senior has back-to-back 100-tackle seasons and, assuming he's healthy, a third season is on the way. The secondary got picked apart but returning corners **Cobee Bryant** and **Mello Dotson** along with LSU transfer **Damarious McGhee** should help this unit improve. The defensive front is the biggest question mark and is the least experienced. **Craig Young** is the team's leading returner in the sack category and will lead the linebackers. The defense will be improved, but will they be good enough to make the Jayhawks a dark horse contender in the Big 12?







**The Bottom Line:** Despite how the season ended, there is a ton of momentum in Lawrence for the first time in over a decade. The offense will be one of the best in the conference and a bowl game is certainly within reach, especially if there is improvement on defense and in the kicking game. Another fast start is possible although Kansas does face Illinois, BYU, and Texas in September alone.

### Projection: 7-5 (8th in Big 12)

#### 2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
<b>35.6</b>	<b>184.2</b>	<b>254.4</b>	<b>+3</b>
21st in FBS	39th in FBS	43rd in FBS	T-49th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
<b>35.5</b>	<b>209.2</b>	<b>260.2</b>	
124th in FBS	125th in FBS	108th in FBS	

## 2023 Kansas Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Fri, Sept 1	 vs. Missouri State
2	Fri, Sept 8	 vs. Illinois
3	Sat, Sept 16	 @ Nevada
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. <b>BYU</b>
5	Sat, Sept 30	 @ <b>Texas</b>
6	Sat, Oct 7	 vs. <b>UCF</b>
7	Sat, Oct 14	 @ <b>Oklahoma St.</b>
8		Bye Week
9	Sat, Oct 28	 vs. <b>Oklahoma</b>
10	Sat, Nov 4	 @ <b>Iowa State</b>
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. <b>Texas Tech</b>
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. <b>Kansas State</b>
13	Sat, Nov 25	 @ <b>Cincinnati</b>

Conference Games in Bold

### KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 9: vs. Illinois** - The Big Ten visits Memorial Stadium for the first time since 2018 when Rutgers was sent packing after a 55-14 blowout. The Fighting Illini could represent the best defense the Jayhawks face all season.

**Sat, Sept 30: @ Texas** - The Jayhawks have been a thorn in the side of the Longhorns of the past few years, can they spring another monumental upset in Austin like they did in a 2021 overtime thriller?

**Sat, Nov 18: vs. Kansas State** - The Sunflower Showdown rival are now the defending Big 12 champions and have goals of repeating. Can the Jayhawks dethrone the Wildcats or will it be 15-straight wins for K-State?

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Jalon Daniels - QB



Daniels was in an early Heisman conversation last season before an injury slowed him down. He returned with a vengeance in the Liberty Bowl and, despite a losing effort, slung the ball 55 times for 544 yards and 5 touchdowns against an SEC defense in Arkansas. He's an accurate, athletic, and poised quarterback who has helped breathe life into this win-starved program.

#### Kenny Logan - S

Few safeties in the country have been as productive as Logan has been the past two years at safety. The Florida native has racked up 289 career tackles along with three forced fumbles and five interceptions. He had six games with double-digit tackles last season including three of the last four games. He's simply one of the best athletes on the field and will even field kickoffs for the Jayhawks. Logan should lead what will hopefully be a KU defensive resurgence.



### 2022 RESULTS (6-7)

**Tennessee Tech (W 56-10)**  
**@ West Virginia (W 55-42)**  
**@ Houston (W 48-30)**  
**Duke (W 35-27)**  
**Iowa State (W 14-11)**  
 TCU (L 31-38)  
 @ Oklahoma (L 42-52)  
 @ Baylor (L 23-35)  
**Oklahoma State (W 37-16)**  
 @ Texas Tech (L 28-43)  
 Texas (L 14-55)  
 @ Kansas State (L 27-47)  
 Arkansas (L 53-55)

# KANSAS

### RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

# 73rd

(Via 24/7 Sports)