



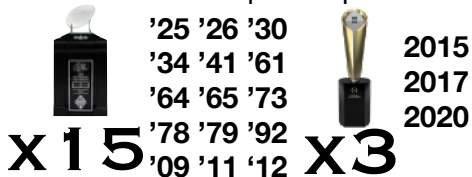
ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

SEC - West Division

Saban Guides "Revenge Tour"

ALABAMA BIO

National Championships - 18



SEC Championships: **29**
(Last: **2021**)

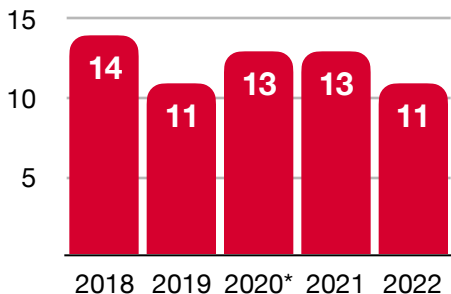
Location: **Tuscaloosa, AL**

All-Time Record: **938-318-41**

2022 Results: **11-2**
Won Sugar Bowl

Head Coach: **Nick Saban**
17th Year (189-27)

5-YEAR WIN TREND



Virtually every college football program in the country would take an 11-win season that ends in a 25-point rout in the Sugar Bowl, but Alabama isn't like other college football programs. The Crimson Tide missed out on an SEC West division title and a chance to add their 30th SEC Championship to the trophy case and also missed out on the College Football Playoff for just the second time since the Playoff's 2014 inception. On one hand, Alabama was just two plays away from knocking off Tennessee and LSU. The Volunteers punched a knuckleball kick through the uprights to win in a frenzied Neyland 52-49 and LSU risked it all and went for two against Saban's tide and won in Baton Rouge 32-31. On the other hand, the Crimson Tide were a couple plays away from going 8-4 as both Texas and Texas A&M had Alabama dead to rights but couldn't find a way to finish the job. The proverbial chip should be back on the shoulder of Saban's team who deals with serious roster turnover. But, as always, Alabama reloads and the last two recruiting classes have been two of Saban's best.

The quarterback position is the most obvious mystery on this year's team. Bryce Young was simply magical for Alabama and the Crimson Tide really might have been 8-4 without the play of the Heisman winner. He was the first overall NFL draft pick to Carolina and does leave a somewhat alarming hole in the offense. When Young went down with injury young redshirt-freshman **Jalen Milroe** was forced into action. He played most of the Texas A&M and did escape with a narrow victory. He's incredibly athletic and ran for 263 yards on just 31 carries over the course of the season, but there was a notable drop off in the passing department between Milroe and Young. Those concerns led to an open quarterback competition that may not be settled until a couple weeks into the season. **Ty Simpson** appeared very briefly in three games but kept his red-shirt intact and will have a chance to win the job as a freshman. To make the quarterback competition just a little more spicy, **Tyler Buchner** transferred in from Notre Dame after spring practices had wrapped up. Buchner dealt with an injury that kept him out of almost the entire season with the Fighting Irish but he did return in the Gator Bowl and threw for 273 yards and 3 touchdowns although he also was intercepted three times. Like Milroe, he'll add yards on the ground although Milroe is the superior athlete. The quarterback room moves from the likes of Jalen Hurts, Tua Tagovailoa, and Bryce Young to a question mark. Saban has won titles in the past without a bona fide star running the offense and we could see Alabama return to that "old school", physical, run-dominant style of offense. Tommy Rees is the new offensive coordinator and comes over from Notre Dame so this could give Buchner a slight edge in the competition.

Jase McClellan should see a heavier dose of carries. He split time with Jahmyr Gibbs last season but the show is his in 2023. As long as the offensive line is a bit more sure, McClellan could easily top 1,000 yards. The receiving group hasn't quite been the same since Devonta Smith's unbelievable Heisman season in 2020 but with **Ja'Corey Brooks** and **Jermaine Burton** back this unit could be a major strength. Maryland transfer **CJ Dippre** could be immediately impactful at tight end. Young talent litters the skill position groups.

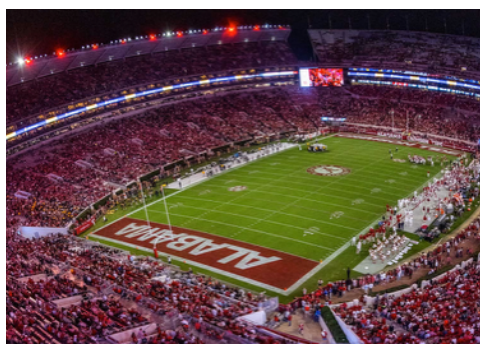
The Tide lose their top five tacklers from last season including Will Anderson who was arguably the best player in college football the past two seasons. As always, the defense (led by new coordinator Kevin Steele) should simply reload. Good luck throwing the ball against Alabama with **Kool-Aid McKinstry** and **Terrion Arnold** at corner. It's simply impossible to match the production of last year's linebacker corps but **Dallas Turner** and **Chris Braswell** are two NFL-caliber options and **Trezmen Marshall** transfers in from Georgia. Most of last year's 38 sacks exited via the NFL Draft so players like **Tim Smith** and **Jaheim Oatis** will have to carry the load on the defensive line.

The Bottom Line: Alabama gets the opportunity to avenge both of their losses last year at home when Tennessee and LSU come to town. The Tide also rematch the Texas Longhorns in week two and the SEC schedule is filled with other hurdles, especially if teams like Mississippi and Texas A&M figure things out. The revenge tour won't be totally complete until Saban gets another shot at Kirby Smart and the Bulldogs in the SEC title game and I fully expect to see the Tide in Atlanta. They could even go undefeated so long as the quarterback situation is figured out and doesn't hamper the team in the end.

Projection: 11-1 (1st in SEC West)













2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
41.1	195.5	281.5	-2
5th in FBS	30th in FBS	19th in FBS	T-80th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
18.2	130.4	187.8	
10th in FBS	36th in FBS	17th in FBS	



Bryant-Denny Stadium (101,821)

2023 Alabama Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 vs. Mid Tennessee
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. Texas
3	Sat, Sept 16	 @ South Florida
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. Mississippi
5	Sat, Sept 30	 @ Mississippi St.
6	Sat, Oct 7	 @ Texas A&M
7	Sat, Oct 14	 vs. Arkansas
8	Sat, Oct 21	 vs. Tennessee
9	Bye Week	
10	Sat, Nov 4	 vs. LSU
11	Sat, Nov 11	 @ Kentucky
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. Chattanooga
13	Sat, Nov 25	 @ Auburn

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

Sat, Sept 9: vs. Texas - With a healthy Quinn Ewers the Longhorns may have very well defeated Alabama last season. The Tide nailed a 33-yard field goal to stave off an upset and will give Texas a glimpse of an SEC home crowd in week two.

Sat, Oct 21: vs. Tennessee - The Volunteers won an instant classic last season as time expired to snap a 15-game losing streak against the Tide in the "Third October in Saturday" rivalry.

Sat, Nov 4: vs. LSU - The Tigers not only knocked the Crimson Tide out of playoff contention but they also ultimately spoiled their chance of winning an SEC title. Saban won't be quick to forget and LSU, although extremely talented, will have their hands full.

KEY PLAYERS

Jase McClellan - RB



Alabama has recently been noted more for their quarterbacks than their running backs (at least, since Najee Harris left in 2020) but McClellan would have every opportunity to remind college football that Alabama is "RB U". He ran for 655 yards and 7 touchdowns on 112 carries and I wouldn't be surprised if all of those numbers double this season. He's a gifted pass catcher out of the backfield and scored an additional three touchdowns via the pass.

Kool-Aid McKinstry - CB

McKinstry would have been drafted last season if he were eligible and could be the first cornerback taken in the 2024 NFL Draft. In the meantime, he returns to Alabama as one of the premier defenders in the sport and is ready to lock down the best receivers the SEC has to offer. Last season he broke up 15 passes and ran an interception back 26-yards against Austin Peay. Opposing quarterbacks would be wise to avoid him.



2022 RESULTS (11-2)

Utah State (W 55-0)

@ Texas (W 20-19)

ULM (W 63-7)

Vanderbilt (W 55-3)

@ Arkansas (W 49-26)

Texas A&M (W 24-20)

@ Tennessee (L 49-52)

Mississippi State (W 30-6)

@ LSU (L 31-32)

@ Mississippi (W 30-24)

Austin Peay (W 34-0)

Auburn (W 49-27)

Kansas State (W 45-20)

RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

1st

(Via 24/7 Sports)