



FIGHTING ILLINI

FOOTBALL

ILLINOIS at PENN STATE

Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020 // 4:30 p.m. CT // FS1
University Park, Pa. // Beaver Stadium



TELEVISION | FS1

» Cory Provus (play-by-play) and Robert Smith (analyst)

RADIO | Busey Bank Illini Sports Network

» Brian Barnhart (play-by-play), Martin O'Donnell (analyst) and Steve Kelly (pregame/halftime/postgame)
» The broadcast can be heard live on **TuneIn** online radio, **Sirius (Ch. 135)**, **XM (Ch. 386)**, **SiriusXM Internet**, and at **FightingIllini.com**.

GAMEDAY

» FightingIllini.com/gameday

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (2-5)

Oct. 23 ... at #14 Wisconsin ... L, 7-45
Oct. 31 ... Purdue ... L, 24-31
Nov. 7 ... Minnesota ... L, 14-41
Nov. 14 ... at Rutgers ... W, 23-20
Nov. 21 ... at Nebraska ... W, 41-23
Nov. 28 ... #3 Ohio State ... *Canceled*
Dec. 5 ... #24 Iowa ... L, 21-35
Dec. 12 ... at #15 Northwestern ... L, 10-28
Dec. 19 ... at Penn State ... 4:30 p.m. CT (FS1)

Rankings are AP poll

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS (3-5)

Oct. 24 ... at Indiana ... L, 35-36 (OT)
Oct. 31 ... #3 Ohio State ... L, 25-38
Nov. 7 ... Maryland ... L, 19-35
Nov. 14 ... at Nebraska ... L, 23-30
Nov. 21 ... Iowa ... L, 21-41
Nov. 28 ... at Michigan ... W, 27-17
Dec. 5 ... at Rutgers ... W, 23-7
Dec. 12 ... Michigan State ... W, 39-24
Dec. 19 ... Illinois ... 4:30 p.m. CT (FS1)

ALL-TIME SERIES

Series: Illinois trails, 5-19
Last: Penn State 63, Illinois 24 (9/21/2018 at Illinois)
Streak: Penn State W2
at Penn State: Illinois trails, 1-9

BIG TEN CHAMPIONS WEEK

ILLINOIS TRAVELS TO PENN STATE FOR WEEK 9

- Illinois learned Sunday morning it would travel to Penn State this weekend.
- This week's games will count towards Big Ten records (excludes Big Ten Championship Game).

COACHING CHANGE

- Illinois Director of Athletics **Josh Whitman** announced Sunday that **Lovie Smith** was relieved of his duties as head football coach after five seasons at the helm of the Fighting Illini. Smith will not coach the Illini at Penn State.
- Smith compiled a 17-39 overall record and 10-33 record in the Big Ten, including a 2-5 mark in 2020. The Fighting Illini's best finish under Smith was fourth place in the Big Ten West Division in 2019 after leading Illinois to two of the most historic wins in school history.
- Offensive coordinator **Rod Smith** will conclude the season as the acting head coach.
- Defensive ends coach **Jimmy Lindsey** will call the defense at Penn State.
- **Miles Smith**, Illinois' linebackers coach and Lovie's son, will not coach at Penn State.

MID-YEAR WINS HIGHLIGHT THE 2020 SEASON

- Illinois won Big Ten road games in consecutive weeks against Rutgers 11/14/20 and Nebraska 11/21/20. It was the first time Illinois had won Big Ten road games in back-to-back weeks since Nov. 3, 2007 at Minnesota (44-17) and Nov. 10, 2007 at No. 1 Ohio State (28-21).
- Illinois dominated in all three phases at Nebraska 11/21/20 in a 41-23 win, the Illini's first win in Lincoln since 1924 (previously five-game losing streak).
 - » QB **Brandon Peters** threw for over 200 yards and RB **Mike Epstein** and RB **Chase Brown** both ran for over 100 yards.
 - » Illinois' defense had five takeaways at Nebraska (3 interceptions, 2 fumbles). The Illini have 3+ interceptions in back-to-back games for the first time in at least 20 years.
 - » P **Blake Hayes** highlighted the special teams with a 14-yard run on an improvised fake punt to pick up a first down on the first possession of the second half.
- Illinois was led by QB **Isaiah Williams'** 192 rushing yards at Rutgers 11/14/20 in his first career start. It was the most rushing yards by a quarterback in program history.
 - » Illinois led for only the last 0:03 of the game at Rutgers. The Illini were down 10-0 after the first quarter and 20-10 in the second half. **James McCourt's** 47-yard field goal with 0:03 left led to the 23-20 win.
 - » **Williams** was named the Big Ten Freshman of the Week and **McCourt** was named the Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week after the Rutgers game.

HANSEN AMONG NATION'S BEST LINEBACKERS

- Senior LB **Jake Hansen** is the only 2019 Butkus Award semifinalist that returned to college football in 2020.
- Hansen has been involved in 14 takeaways in the last two seasons, more than any other player in the nation. He has eight forced fumbles recovered by Illinois, three fumble recoveries (on fumbles he did not force), and three interceptions.
 - » Hansen also has one forced fumble that Illinois did not recover and one fumble recovery on a fumble he forced. In total, Hansen has nine forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries, and three interceptions in the last two seasons (16 games played).
- Hansen has the #6 tackling grade in the nation according to PFF (min. 350 snaps). He has three missed tackles all season according to PFF.
- Current Big Ten ranks: tied for the B1G lead in forced fumbles, #2 in fumble recoveries, #6 in tackles, #7 in interceptions, #9 in TFLs
- Hansen is the #2 active player in the nation in career forced fumbles per game (0.25), behind only Fresno State's David Perales (0.31) and #2 in career forced fumbles (10), behind only Northwestern's Paddy Fisher (11).
- Seven tackles, 2.5 TFLs, one interception, and one fumble recovery at Nebraska 11/21/20
- Team-high 15 tackles at Rutgers 11/14/20, along with 1.0 sack, one interception and one pass breakup
 - » Top-graded linebacker in Power-5 the week of Nov. 13/14 by PFF (81.3)
- Tied for third in Illinois history in forced fumbles (10), behind only Illinois legends **Simeon Rice** (13) and **Whitney Mercilus** (11)
- Led the nation in forced fumbles (7) and ranked fifth in fumbles recovered (3) in 2019
- No. 17 graded linebacker in the nation by PFF and No. 5 in the Big Ten (79.6) in 2019
- Walter Camp National Defensive Player of the Week and Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week after two forced fumbles vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten History

DEPLETED DEFENSE AT NORTHWESTERN

- Illinois was missing 55% of its total starts on defense in 2020 (36/66) at Northwestern. The Illini will get some help back with DB **Nate Hobbs** returning from quarantine to play at Penn State.
- Illinois was missing six of its defenders that started the week prior against Iowa.



QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location: Urbana-Champaign (135,000)

Founded: 1867

Enrollment: 52,331

Colors: Orange & Blue

Nickname: Fighting Illini

Conference: Big Ten (West Division)

President: Timothy L. Killeen

Chancellor: Robert J. Jones

Director of Athletics: Josh Whitman

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (FieldTurf – 60,670)

COACHING STAFF

Acting Head Coach: Rod Smith (Offensive Coordinator / Quarterbacks)

Assistant Coaches:

Bob Ligashesky: Special Teams Coordinator

Mike Bellamy: Running Backs

Al Davis: Defensive Tackles

Andrew Hayes-Stoker: Wide Receivers

Keynodo Hudson: Cornerbacks

Jimmy Lindsey: Defensive Ends

Bob McClain: Offensive Line

Cory Patterson: Tight Ends

John Kyle Davis: Offensive Graduate Assistant

Rob Delaney: Offensive Graduate Assistant

Aaron Gonzales: Defensive Graduate Assistant

Carson Hall: Defensive Graduate Assistant

FOOTBALL INFORMATION

2019 Record: 6-7, 4-5 (4th Big Ten West Division)

Offensive Formation: Multiple

Defensive Formation: 4-3

2019 Starters Returning/Lost: 15/9

Off: 8/3 Def: 5/6 ST (K/P): 2/0

2019 Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 35/18

All-Time Record (Years): 612-600-51 (130) entering 2020

All-Time Big Ten (Years): 347-438-32 (124) entering 2020

Memorial Stadium (Years): 276-243-14 (97) entering 2020

Big Ten Championships (Last): 15 (2001)

National Championships (Last): 5 (1951)

Bowl Appearances (Last): 19 (2019 Redbox Bowl)

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATION

KENT BROWN, Football Contact

Phone: 217-244-6533 (o) / 217-493-9795 (c)

Email: kwbrown3@illinois.edu

BRETT MOORE, Assistant Football Contact

Phone: 309-212-6367 (c)

Email: btmoore3@illinois.edu

SAM ANDERSON, Intern

Email: ska4@illinois.edu

TWITTER: @IlliniStats

CREDENTIAL WEBSITE: FightingIllini.com/media

FIGHTINGILLINI.COM

COVID-19 POSITIVES

- Senior DB **Tony Adams** tested positive for the COVID-19 virus last week. Senior DB **Nate Hobbs** was sidelined for the Northwestern game due to contact tracing, but is available to return for the Penn State game.
- Senior QB **Brandon Peters** and redshirt freshman TE **Griffin Moore** were both sidelined for 21 days following positive test results Oct. 29 for the COVID-19 virus. Both players returned for the Nov. 21 game at Nebraska.
- Contact tracing also sidelined several other players for the Purdue and Minnesota games.
- Illinois was missing 14 potential contributors for the Purdue game and 15 potential contributors for the Minnesota game due to a combination of COVID-19 positives, contact tracing, and injuries.

FOUR QBs

- Illinois started four quarterbacks in the first four games of the season.
 - » **Brandon Peters**, Illinois' QB1, tested positive for COVID after one game played. He missed the next three games before returning to lead Illinois to the road win at Nebraska.
 - » **Isaiah Williams** had 296 yards of total offense (192 rushing, 104 passing) at Rutgers, 67% of the team's total offense, in his first career start and was named Big Ten Freshman of the Week.
 - » **Matt Robinson** started against Purdue in place for Peters, but was hurt on the second drive.
 - » **Coran Taylor** started against Minnesota, the first start of his career.
- This is the first time Illinois has started four quarterbacks in a single season since the program's starters records began being kept in 1975.
- In Peters' two seasons at Illinois, the Illini are 7-7 when Peters starts and plays into the fourth quarter and 1-5 when he does not.
 - » Illinois has won five of their last nine Big Ten games when Brandon Peters starts.

CARNEY'S BREAKOUT YEAR

- Senior DE Owen Carney Jr. is third in the Big Ten in sacks (5.0) and ranks 10th in TFLs (7.0).

GROUND GAME

- Illinois leads the Big Ten in rushing yards (1,416). Penn State is third (1,316).
- Illinois ranks second in rushing yards per game (202.3), behind only Ohio State (251.0).
- Illinois had multiple 100-yard rushers in back-to-back Big Ten games against Rutgers and Nebraska. It was the first time Illinois accomplished the feat since at least 1945 when complete records began.
- Illinois had five 100-yard rushing performances in the three-game stretch of Minnesota, Rutgers, Nebraska.
- RB **Mike Epstein** (113) and RB **Chase Brown** (110) both went over 100 yards at Nebraska.
- QB **Isaiah Williams** (192) and RB **Chase Brown** (131) both went over 100 yards at Rutgers.
 - » **Williams** and **Brown** combined to become the second QB/RB duo to both rush for 130+ yards in a game in Illinois history. RB Rashard Mendenhall (201) and QB Isiah "Juice" Williams (133) both ran for 130+ at Minnesota 11/3/2007.
- **Epstein** ran for 108 yards against Minnesota 11/7/2020.
- Illinois has three players in the Big Ten's top 10 in yards per carry.
 - » **Williams** is fourth in the Big Ten in yards per carry (6.0)
 - » **Epstein** is fifth the Big Ten in yards per carry (5.9)
 - » **Brown** is eighth in the Big Ten in yards per carry (5.5)

IN THE NATIONAL RANKS

- Illinois is 7th in kickoff return defense (16.25).
- Illinois is 11th in the nation in turnover margin (+1.0).
- Illinois is 16th in fewest interceptions against (3).
- Illinois is 22nd in fewest turnovers lost (7).
- Illinois is 27th in the nation in rushing offense (202.3).

ALL-ILLINOIS OFFENSIVE LINE

- The offensive line returned four starters from one of the best groups in the Big Ten in 2019. Junior **Kendrick Green** (Peoria, Ill.), senior **Doug Kramer** (Hinsdale, Ill.), senior **Vederian Lowe** (Rockford, Ill.), and senior **Alex Palczewski** (Mount Prospect, Ill.) returned.
 - » Illinois has started an all-Illinois hometown offensive line every game this season.
 - » RT **Julian Pearl** (Danville, Ill.) is starting in place for RT **Alex Palczewski** who went down with an injury at Rutgers and is out for the season.
 - » Sophomore **Verdis Brown** (Chicago, Ill.) was announced as the starting right guard by head coach Lovie Smith on Oct. 19.
 - » With C **Doug Kramer** and G **Jordyn Slaughter** (Belleville, Ill.) out for the Purdue and Minnesota games, former tight end **Alex Pihlstrom** (Glen Ellyn, Ill.) started at guard.
 - » Palczewski-Kramer-Green-Lowe started 27 games together from 2018-20 (all 12 in 2018, 12 of 13 in 2019, 2 in 2020). The group had started 24 straight games together before Kramer missed the Redbox Bowl with an injury.
 - » The starting group of Palczewski-Brown-Kramer-Green-Lowe has combined for 147 career starts, the most in the Big Ten among starting offensive lines.
 - » Illinois had the highest rated returning offensive line in the Big Ten according to Pro Football Focus. The Illini's returners grade 81.6, ahead of second place Ohio State (80.1) and third place Iowa (79.8).
- **Kendrick Green** is the highest rated guard in the Big Ten and No. 3 in the nation by PFF (min. 400 snaps). Green is the No. 16 graded offensive lineman in the nation and No. 2 in the Big Ten.

NEXT MAN UP

- RT **Julian Pearl** had his first career start at Nebraska after RT **Alex Palczewski** was injured at Rutgers.
 - » Pearl was Illinois' No. 2 graded offensive player in the 41-23 win at Nebraska according to PFF.
- Starting LG **Kendrick Green** was forced to move to center for two games with starting C **Doug Kramer** out. Kramer returned to the starting lineup against Rutgers.
- OL **Alex Pihlstrom** started at left guard against Purdue and Minnesota with Green moving to center. Pihlstrom is a former walk-on tight end that gained 45 pounds (240 to 285) from the 2019 season to 2020 in order to switch to offensive line. He was awarded a scholarship by head coach Lovie Smith after practice on Nov. 5, 2020.
- Fourth-string QB **Coran Taylor** shined against Purdue after being thrown into action following Peters' positive COVID test. **Isaiah Williams** being out, and **Matt Robinson**'s injury early in the Purdue game. Taylor was 17-of-29 passing for 273 yards and two touchdowns along with 32 rushing yards in the first significant playing time of his career. Taylor made his first career start against Minnesota.
- Backup K **Caleb Griffin** was 5-for-5 on extra points in two games and made a 28-yard field goal against Purdue with starting K **James McCourt** out.
- LB **Jake Hansen** left the season opener in the first half with an injury and was replaced by **Tarique Barnes**, who received his first significant playing time. Barnes had a team-high 11 tackles (seven solo), 1.5 TFLs, 1.0 sack, and a 39-yard fumble return for a touchdown.
 - » Barnes was the No. 6 graded linebacker in the nation during Oct. 23/24 according to PFF
 - » Barnes made his first career start at Rutgers and his second at Nebraska

TRANSFER U

- The Illini have had huge success in the transfer market. Some of the notables...
 - » RB **Chase Brown** – Brother of DB Sydney Brown transferred from WMU and has competed for the starting running back spot
 - » LB **Milo Eifler** – Second-year starter for the Illini after transferring from Washington
 - » TE **Luke Ford** – Former No. 1 TE recruit in the nation sat out last year after transferring from Georgia
 - » WR **Brian Hightower** – Former four-star recruit transferred from Miami (Fla.)
 - » TE **Daniel Imatorbhebhe** – Brother of Josh and former USC TE is a grad transfer
 - » WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe** – Illini's leading receiver last year after transferring from USC
 - » WR **Donny Navarro** – Valpo transfer had a big second-half of the season in 2019
 - » DL **Roderick Perry** – NFL Draft prospect grad transferred from South Carolina State
 - » QB **Brandon Peters** – Second-year starter for the Illini after transferring from Michigan
 - » WR **Trevon Sidney** – USC transfer had 16 catches for 123 yards last year before an injury
 - » DB **Derrick Smith** – Potential starter sat out last year after transferring from Miami (Fla.)

BIG TEN PUNTER OF THE YEAR

- Senior P **Blake Hayes** has been a field-flipper for the Fighting Illini.
 - » 2019 Eddleman-Fields Big Ten Punter of the Year
 - » 2019 First-team All-Big Ten by coaches, media, AP & Phil Steele
 - » 2019 Honorable mention All-American by Phil Steele
 - » 77 punts, 3,437 punt yards (44.6 yards/punt), 32 punts inside the 20, 22 punts of 50+ yards in 2019
 - » Led the Big Ten and ranked 18th in the nation in punting average (44.6) in 2019
 - » Illinois single-season record 32 punts downed inside the 20 in 2019
 - » Illinois single-season record 41.6% (32/77) of punts downed inside the 20 in 2019
 - » Illinois single-season record 22 punts of 50+ yards in 2019
 - » Illinois single-season record low two touchbacks and 2.6% touchback rate (2/77) in 2019
 - » Third-best single-season punting average in Illinois history (44.6) in 2019

BIG PLAY BHEBHE

- Senior WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe** made an immediate impact after transferring from USC.
 - » Leads the Illini in receptions (22), receiving yards (297), and receiving touchdowns (3) in 2020
 - » 2019 All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)
 - » 33 receptions, 634 receiving yards, nine receiving touchdowns in 2019
 - » Third in Illinois history in touchdown receptions in a single season (9) in 2019
 - » Fifth in the Big Ten and 32nd in the nation in receiving touchdowns (9) in 2019
 - » Third in the Big Ten and 20th in the nation in yards per reception (19.2) in 2019
 - » Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week after four receptions for a career-high 178 yards, including a career-long 83-yard TD, at Michigan State 11/9/19 to help Illinois win 37-34 in the biggest comeback in Illini history

QB BP

- Michigan transfer QB **Brandon Peters** has been a key addition for the Illini since arriving in 2019.
 - » Peters tested positive for COVID-19. He was out 21 days, per Big Ten rules, and returned for the Nov. 21 game at Nebraska. Peters had one of his most efficient games of his career at Nebraska, connecting on 18-of-25 passes for 201 yards and a touchdown in the Illini's 18-point win.
 - » 75 rushing yards in the opener at Wisconsin 10/23/19, one short of his career high
 - » 152-of-275 passing for 1,884 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2019
 - » 74 carries for 213 yards and three touchdowns in 2019
 - » Fifth in the Big Ten in passing TDs (18), eighth in yards per completion (12.4), ninth in completion percentage (55.3), ninth in passing efficiency (128.6), 10th in passing yards (1,884), and 10th in total offense (190.6) in 2019
 - » Career-high 368 passing yards and three touchdowns against Michigan State 11/9/19 in a 25-point comeback, the biggest comeback in Illinois history, to win 37-34 on a last second touchdown pass to TE Daniel Barker
 - » Four touchdown passes at UConn 9/7/19, tied for the second-most TD passes in a road game in Illinois history
 - » Threw for 174 yards and two touchdowns vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten History

CAREER STARTS LIST

PLAYER	'20	'19	'18	'17	'16	TOT
Palczewski, Alex	4	13	12	11	---	40
Lowe, Vederian	7	13	12	7	---	39
Kramer, Doug	5	12	12	8	---	37
Hobbs, Nate	5	13	7	10	---	35
Green, Kendrick	7	13	12	---	---	32
Hansen, Jake	7	9	12	---	1	29
Brown, Sydney	6	10	10	---	---	26
Adams, Tony	6	10	7	2	---	25
Imatorbhebhe, Josh	7	11	---	---	---	18
Barker, Daniel	5	8	3	---	---	16
Eifler, Milo	4	12	---	---	---	16
Woods, Jamal	3	5	4	4	---	15
Carney Jr., Owen	7	0	8	0	---	15
Peters, Brandon	4	11	---	---	---	15
Martin, Jartavius	1	5	8	---	---	14
Gay, Isaiah	3	5	3	2	---	13
Ware, Delano	2	1	8	---	---	11
Tolson, Khalan	6	4	0	---	---	10
Epstein, Mike	3	0	2	3	---	8
Navarro, Donny	2	6	---	---	---	8
Witherspoon, Devon	5	3	---	---	---	8
Brown, Verdis	7	0	---	---	---	7
Hightower, Brian	6	---	---	---	---	6
Perry, Roderick	6	---	---	---	---	6
Washington, Casey	1	5	---	---	---	6
Brown, Chase	5	0	0	---	---	5
Marchese, Michael	1	0	3	0	---	4
Coleman, Seth	3	0	---	---	---	3
Newton, JerZhan	3	---	---	---	---	3
Robinson, Matt	1	2	0	---	---	3
Pearl, Julian	3	---	---	---	---	3
Sidney, Trevon	---	3	---	---	---	3
Smith, Derrick	3	---	---	---	---	3
Williams, Isaiah	3	---	---	---	---	3
Barnes, Tarique	1	0	---	---	---	2
Ford, Luke	2	---	---	---	---	2
Joseph, Kerby	0	2	0	---	---	2
Pihlstrom, Alex	2	0	---	---	---	2
Avery, Calvin	1	---	---	---	---	1
Barnes, Bryce	1	---	---	---	---	1
Beason, Marquez	1	---	---	---	---	1
Cumby, Kyron	1	---	---	---	---	1
Mondesir, Marc	1	0	0	0	---	1
Pate, Deon	0	0	1	---	---	1
Sandy, Carlos	0	0	1	---	---	1
Taylor, Coran	1	0	---	---	---	1

-- = Redshirted/did not play/not on squad; 0 = Played, didn't start



MCCOURT'S BIG LEG

- Senior K **James McCourt** has one of the biggest legs in the nation.
 - » Game-winning 47-yard field goal with 0:03 left at Rutgers 11/14/20
 - » One of only four kickers in Illini history with two game-winning field goals in the final minute
 - » 13-19 field goals, 42-43 extra points, 65.2% touchback percentage (43/66) in 2019
 - » No. 11 kickoff grade in the nation and No. 2 in the Big Ten by PFF (87.6) in 2019
 - » 39-yard field goal as time expired beat No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to finish the largest upset over a ranked team in the Big Ten in the last 40 seasons
 - » Three 50+ yard field goals made is fourth-most in a career in Illinois history
 - » 50-yard field goal vs. Michigan, 10/12/19, his third 50+ yard field goal of 2019
 - » 57-yard field goal against EMU 9/14/19 tied for the longest in school history
 - » 53-yard field goal at UConn 9/7/19 tied for the longest road field goal in Illinois history

YOUTH BECOMES EXPERIENCE

- The Illini put one of the youngest teams in the nation on the field in the last few years. Now, those young rosters have turned to a veteran 2020 squad.
 - » Illinois has more seniors on the 2020 roster (25) than 2018 and 2019 combined (21).
 - » In 2019, the Illini started a true-freshman just eight times (DB Devon Witherspoon three games and WR Casey Washington five games) after totaling 118 true-freshman starts over the previous two seasons (86 in 2017 and 32 in 2018).
 - » 2020 class breakdown: 25 seniors, 19 juniors, 21 sophomores, 37 freshmen (21 true-frosh, 16 RS frosh)

DEEP TIGHT ENDS ROOM

- Junior TE **Daniel Barker** » 43 catches for 571 yards and six touchdowns in his Illini career
- Junior TE **Luke Ford** » Former top tight end recruit in the nation (No. 1 by Rivals, No. 3 by 247Sports)
- Senior TE **Daniel Imatorbhebhe** » USC grad transfer had first career Illini TD against Purdue

THREE TWO-TIME CAPTAINS

- Five captains for the season: Doug Kramer, Brandon Peters, Jake Hansen, Nate Hobbs, and Blake Hayes.
- The captains were selected by a vote of the student-athletes and staff.
- Kramer, Hansen, and Hayes were named captains for the second consecutive year.
 - » It is the first time in program history the Illini have had three two-time captains on the roster.

OCTOBER START

- Oct. 23 was the latest start date in Illinois football history. The previous latest start date was Oct. 19, 1907 (L, 42-6 vs. Chicago).
- It was the first time Illinois has started the season in October since Oct. 4, 1941, a 45-0 win over Miami (Ohio).

THE SCHEDULE

- The Big Ten will play a 9-game conference-only schedule in 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Illinois has not played a conference-only schedule since 1919, when the Illini went 6-1 to win the Big Ten title and claim to the national championship during the 1918 Flu Pandemic.



• **#97Strong**: All-Big Ten defensive end **Bobby Roundtree** suffered a severe spinal injury on May 18, 2019, in a swimming accident near his home of Largo, Florida. The Illini have kept Roundtree close to the team while recovering. Roundtree regularly FaceTimes into the defensive line meetings and had joined in the post-win celebrations via Facetime. The Illini are wearing '97' stickers on their helmets and touch a '97 Strong' sign before entering the field each home game. Coach Smith and Illinois Athletics setup a GoFundMe page to help raise money toward Roundtree's medical expenses that reached the \$97,000 goal within four days. It has raised over \$130,000.

2020 ILLINOIS HONORS

DB Sydney Brown

- Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten second team
- Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team

LB Milo Eifler

- Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team

QB Kendrick Green

- Outland Trophy watch list
- Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten third team
- Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team

LB Jake Hansen

- Butkus Award watch list (linebacker)
- Bednarik Award watch list (Defensive Player of the Year)
- Nagurski Award watch list (Defensive Player of the Year)
- Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten second team
- Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten third team

P Blake Hayes

- Ray Guy Award watch list
- Ray Guy Award Top Four of the Week 11/16/20
- Phil Steele Preseason All-American third team
- Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten first team
- Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten first team

WR Josh Imatorbhebhe

- Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team

C Doug Kramer

- Wuerffel Award watch list
- Rimington Trophy watch list
- Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten third team
- Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team

K James McCourt

- Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week 11/16/20
- Lou Groza Award "Stars of the Week" 11/16/20

OT Alex Palczewski

- Outland Trophy watch list
- Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten third team
- Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten third team

QB Brandon Peters

- Maxwell Award watch list (Offensive Player of the Year)

LS Ethan Tabel

- Mannelly Award watch list (long snapper)

QB Isaiah Williams

- Big Ten Freshman of the Week 11/16/20





ILLINI FIGHT FOR CHANGE

THE MARCH

- Kendrick Green and members of the Illini football team organized a peaceful march on Aug. 31 that included many members of the Illinois athletics department and community.
- The team was supposed to have practice, but instead went to head coach Lovie Smith with the idea of uniting the athletic student body with a march from Memorial Stadium to Champaign's downtown police station.
- The march was athlete-driven and backed by Lovie Smith, athletic director Josh Whitman, and the athletic department.
- **Kendrick Green:** "We're athletes. We have a platform in our community — especially here at this university. I think that speaks volumes. We need to use our platform in the right, positive way, and this is a great way to do it. I feel like we should have done something like this a long time ago."
- **Kendall Smith:** "Black people have been protesting for years, so I think the most important part today is that it's not just Black people here. I appreciate you guys who are not Black who are here and who are supporting us and who are helping us fight. That's when the change is going to happen."
- **Nate Hobbs:** "Practice don't matter. Football games don't matter compared to a life being taken away and a life being undervalued. There's probably been some stuff that happened to ya'll, but none of that stuff happened to us. We're here for other people. You feel me? If we all can keep doing this and bring other people along, that's how we stop this. That's how we stop systemic racism. That's how we stop people getting killed for the color of their skin. I don't care what anybody says. Love will always be stronger than hatred. This right here is love."

ILLINOIS EMPOWER

- EMPOWER (Enlightened Minorities Pursuing Opportunities Where Everyone Rises), was established within the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics in the Fall of 2019.
- EMPOWER's mission is to provide a family oriented-safe space and support personal development for student-athletes of color as a community. This organization aims to encourage athletes of color at the U of I to be more than an athlete.
- The organization has three primary goals
 - » Provide a comfortable environment that encourages dialogue around local and global issues as well as highly sensitive subjects.
 - » Provide arenas where student-athletes may network with other students, student-athletes, and business professionals.
 - » Host events that promote fun, educational, and engaging interactions between student-athletes of various ethnicities, cultures, and personal ideology.
- Illinois WR Dalevon Campbell is the Public Relations Chair for EMPOWER

ILLINI ALLIES

- Illini Allies serves to create a community to affirm the experiences and rights of LGBTQ+ student-athletes and staff at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Its mission is to provide a safe space for the DIA community to engage in conversation surrounding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and other issues facing the LGBTQ+ community within athletics.

I FIGHT AGAINST RACISM

- Illinois student-athletes received "I FIGHT AGAINST RACISM" shirts and many teams hosted practices with their entire team wearing the shirts.

DIA DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- The Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics is currently working on a diversity and inclusion strategic plan that will be launched in 2021. A culture climate survey was recently sent to all DIA staff members and student-athletes to collect information that will be used for the strategic plan. We received a 65% response rate from staff and a 50% response rate from student-athletes.
- The DIA Diversity and Inclusion committee has been working collaboratively with the University of Illinois Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and civic engagement programming for students and staff.

VOTING

- 100% of eligible Illinois football student-athletes are registered to vote.
- Nov. 3 was an NCAA-mandated off day from athletic activities.

EQUIPMENT

- Illinois wore a solid black Block I decal on its helmets for the season opener at Wisconsin.
- The back of Illinois' helmets have a black fist sticker for the 2020 season.
- Each player could choose one of five messages for the back bumper of their helmets, all of which were selected by a group of student-athletes. The messages are Black Lives Matter, I Fight Against Racism, Together, Equality, and United.
- These initiatives are not supportive of any particular organization, but a belief in equality for all individuals.
- All uniform decisions were student-athlete driven and approved by the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.



FIGHTING ILLINI PLAYER NOTES



18 BRANDON PETERS

QB, 6-5, 220, SR.
AVON, IND. / AVON / MICHIGAN

- » 2020 Maxwell Award watch list
- » Earned bachelor's degree in general studies from Michigan in June 2019
- » Graduated from Illinois' recreation, sport, and tourism master's program last week
- » Threw for a career-high 368 yards and three touchdowns against Michigan State 11/9/19 in a 25-point comeback, the biggest comeback in Illinois history, to win 37-34 on a last second touchdown pass to TE Daniel Barker
- » Played in 10 games for Michigan from 2017-18 with four starts (all four starts were in 2017)
- » No. 34 recruit in the nation, No. 3 pro style quarterback in the nation coming out of Avon HS (Ind.) by 247Sports Composite



PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	INT	YDS	TD	LG	PCT	AVG/P	AVG/G	EFFIC
2017*	6	108	57	2	672	4	48	52.8	6.2	112.0	113.6
2018*	4	2	1	1	8	0	0	50.0	4.0	2.0	-16.4
2019	11	275	152	8	1884	18	83	55.3	6.9	171.3	128.6
2020	4	76	39	0	429	3	28	51.3	5.6	107.2	111.8
TOTAL	15	351	191	8	2313	21	83	54.4	6.6	154.2	125.0
All*	25	461	249	10	2993	25	83	54.0	6.5	119.7	122.1

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2017*	6	17	-36	0	6	0.0	0.0
2018*	4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2019	11	74	213	3	54	2.9	19.4
2020	4	24	136	1	31	5.7	34.0
TOTAL	15	98	349	4	54	3.6	23.3
All*	25	119	313	4	54	2.6	12.5

* - stats include Michigan (2017-18)



1 ISAIAH WILLIAMS

QB, 5-10, 180, R-FR.
ST. LOUIS, MO. / TRINITY

- » Fourth in the Big Ten in yards per carry (6.0)
- » 195 rushing yards at Rutgers 11/14/20 set the Illinois program record for rushing yards by a QB
- » Illinois' highest ranked quarterback recruit since Juice Williams in 2006
- » Four-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
- » Ranked No. 47 recruit in the nation by Rivals, No. 93 by ESPN and No. 295 by 247Sports
- » Ranked as high as No. 25 overall recruit in the nation in February 2018 according to 247Sports Composite
- » High school coach was Illinois tight ends coach Cory Patterson

PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	INT	YDS	TD	LG	PCT	AVG/P	AVG/G	EFFIC
2019	4	10	3	1	38	0	25	30.0	3.8	9.5	41.9
2020	5	45	18	1	273	2	46	40.0	6.1	54.6	101.2
TOTAL	9	55	21	2	311	2	46	38.2	5.7	34.6	90.4

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2019	4	9	16	0	5	1.8	4.0
2020	5	48	287	1	26	6.0	57.4
TOTAL	9	57	303	1	26	5.3	33.7



2 CHASE BROWN

RB, 5-11, 195, SO.
LONDON, ONTARIO / ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL (FLA.) / WESTERN MICHIGAN

- » Fourth in the Big Ten in rushing yards (510) and eighth in yards per carry (5.5) this season
- » Played his freshman season at Western Michigan
- » Identical twin brother, Sydney, is a safety for the Illini
- » Played in four games and redshirted the 2019 season

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2018*	13	71	352	0	29	5.0	27.1
2019	4	3	18	0	14	6.0	4.5
2020	7	93	510	2	39	5.5	72.9
TOTAL	11	96	528	2	39	5.5	48.0
All*	24	167	880	2	39	5.3	36.7

* - stats include Western Michigan (2018)



26 MIKE EPSTEIN

RB, 6-0, 205, SR.
FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA. / ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

- » Fifth in the Big Ten in yards per carry (5.9)
- » Trained with NFL running back Frank Gore during the summer of 2020
- » Injured knee during the season opener against Akron and missed the remainder of the 2019 season
- » Has missed 25 games at Illinois due to injuries (7 in 2017, 5 in 2018, 12 in 2019, 1 in 2020)

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2017	5	57	346	3	58	6.1	69.2
2018	7	60	411	3	43	6.8	58.7
2019	1	8	45	0	14	5.6	45.0
2020	6	61	360	4	63	5.9	60.0
TOTAL	19	186	1162	10	63	6.2	61.2



14 BRIAN HIGHTOWER

WR, 6-3, 220, JR.
LEIMERT PARK, CALIF. / IMG ACADEMY / MIAMI (FLA.)

- » Transfer from Miami (Fla.) was granted immediate eligibility by the NCAA
- » Played in 11 games in regular season and made three starts as a freshman at Miami (Fla.) in 2018
- » Caught first touchdown pass of career in debut vs. LSU 9/2/18

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2018*	11	4	60	1	32	0.4	15.0	5.5
2019*	7	8	88	0	19	1.1	11.0	12.6
2020	7	9	201	2	46	1.3	22.3	28.7
TOTAL	7	9	201	2	46	1.3	22.3	28.7
All*	25	21	349	3	46	0.8	16.6	14.0

* - stats include Miami (2018-19)



9 JOSH IMATORBHEBHE

WR, 6-2, 220, SR.
SUWANEE, GA. / NORTH GWINNETT / USC

- » Earned bachelor's degree in business administration from USC in May 2019
- » Grad transfer is pursuing a master's degree in strategic brand communication at Illinois
- » Nine touchdown receptions in 2019 is tied for the third-most in a season in Illinois history, one back of the Illinois record

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2017*	6	2	11	0	9	0.3	5.5	1.8
2019	11	33	634	9	83	3.0	19.2	57.6
2020	7	22	297	3	52	3.1	13.5	42.4
TOTAL	18	55	931	12	83	3.1	16.9	51.7
All*	24	57	942	12	83	2.4	16.5	39.2

* - stats include Southern California (2017-18)



86 DONNY NAVARRO

WR, 5-11, 185, JR.
NAPERVILLE, ILL. / NEUQUA VALLEY / VALPARAISO

- » Walk-on was awarded scholarship by Lovie Smith on Nov. 7, 2019
- » First career Illini touchdown on a 48-yard reception vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
- » Led Valparaiso in receptions (32), receiving yards (539), receiving touchdowns (5) as a freshman

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2017*	11	32	539	5	79	2.9	16.8	49.0
TOTAL*	11	32	539	5	79	2.9	16.8	49.0

* - stats include Valparaiso (2017)

2019	13	27	345	2	48	2.1	12.8	26.5
2020	7	8	88	0	25	1.1	11.0	12.6
TOTAL	20	35	433	2	48	1.8	12.4	21.6





8 CASEY WASHINGTON

WR, 6-2, 190, SO.
ROUND ROCK, TEXAS / PFLUGERVILLE

- » Played in 10 games and started five at wide receiver as a true freshman in 2019
- » Five starts was the sixth-most in Illinois history by a true freshman wide receiver
- » Father played football at Kansas State from 1987-89



87 DANIEL BARKER

TE, 6-4, 250, JR.
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. / DEERFIELD BEACH

- » Last-second TD catch at Michigan State 11/9/19 to finish the biggest comeback in Illinois history
- » Became Illinois' second true freshman tight end to start a season opener in program history in 2018, joining Evan Wilson in 2010



88 DANIEL IMATORBHEBHE

TE, 6-3, 240, SR.
SUWANEE, GA. / NORTH GWINNETT / USC

- » Earned bachelor's degree in social science (economics) from USC in Summer 2018
- » Grad transfer is pursuing master's degree in recreation, sport, and tourism at Illinois
- » Appeared in 22 games in his USC career, with nine starts
- » Brother, Josh, was Illinois' leading receiver in 2019



82 LUKE FORD

TE, 6-6, 250, JR.
CARTERVILLE, ILL. / CARTERVILLE / GEORGIA

- » Illinois native sat out last season after transferring from Georgia, where he played nine games in 2018
- » Ranked No. 42 recruit in the nation in the class of 2018 by Rivals, No. 51 by 247Sports, No. 63 by ESPN
- » Ranked No. 1 tight end in the nation by Rivals and No. 3 by 247Sports and ESPN



79 VEDERIAN LOWE

LT, 6-6, 320, SR.
ROCKFORD, ILL. / AUBURN HS

- » 33 straight starts entering the Penn State game
- » 2017 BTN.com All-Freshman Team honorable mention
- » Son, Kingston Lowe, was born in June 2019



53 KENDRICK GREEN

LG/C, 6-4, 315, JR.
PEORIA, ILL. / PEORIA

- » 2020 Outland Trophy watch list
- » No. 3 graded guard in the nation and No. 1 in the Big Ten by PFF (85.9) in 2020
- » No. 9 graded guard in the nation and No. 3 in the Big Ten by PFF (78.3) in 2019
- » 32 straight starts entering the Penn State game



65 DOUG KRAMER

C, 6-2, 300, SR.
HINSDALE, ILL. / HINSDALE CENTRAL

- » 2020 Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten third team
- » No. 8 graded center in the nation and No. 3 in Power-5 by PFF (79.2) in 2019
- » Missed the 2019 Redbox Bowl with an injury, snapping a streak of 27 straight starts



99 OWEN CARNEY JR.

DL, 6-3, 260, SR.
MIAMI, FLA. / MIAMI CENTRAL

- » Third in the Big Ten in sacks (5.0) this season
- » Graduated with a degree in communication
- » Enrolled in the recreation, sport, and tourism master's program
- » 3.0 sacks against Purdue 10/31/20 are tied for seventh-most in a single game in Illinois history



94 JER'ZHAN NEWTON

DL, 6-2, 270, FR.
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. / CLEARWATER CENTRAL CATHOLIC

- » Goes by "Johnny" but chose to be listed on the roster as his real name, Jer'Zhan
- » Forced fumble against Purdue 10/31/20
- » Graded as the No. 1 true freshman defender in the nation and No. 15 overall defender in the nation the week of Oct. 31 (vs. Purdue)

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2019	10	11	132	0	20	1.1	12.0	13.2
2020	7	10	106	0	20	1.4	10.6	15.1
TOTAL	17	21	238	0	20	1.2	11.3	14.0

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2018	12	9	84	1	30	0.8	9.3	7.0
2019	13	18	273	4	52	1.4	15.2	21.0
2020	7	16	214	1	25	2.3	13.4	30.6
TOTAL	32	43	571	6	52	1.3	13.3	17.8

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2016*	13	17	250	4	37	1.3	14.7	19.2
2017*	9	8	144	0	48	0.9	18.0	16.0
2020	4	3	54	1	28	0.8	18.0	13.5
TOTAL	4	3	54	1	28	0.8	18.0	13.5
All*	26	28	448	5	48	1.1	16.0	17.2

* - stats include Southern California (2015-19)

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2018*	9	1	4	0	4	0.1	4.0	0.4
2019	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2020	7	2	15	0	11	0.3	7.5	2.1
TOTAL	7	2	15	0	11	0.3	7.5	2.1
All*	16	3	19	0	11	0.2	6.3	1.2

* - stats include Georgia (2018)

START STATISTICS

YEAR	G	START
2017	8	7
2018	12	12
2019	13	13
2020	7	7
TOTAL	40	40

START STATISTICS

YEAR	G	START
2018	12	12
2019	13	13
2020	7	7
TOTAL	32	32

START STATISTICS

YEAR	G	START
2017	8	8
2018	12	12
2019	12	12
2020	5	5
TOTAL	37	37

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017	10	4	2	6	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2018	12	10	11	21	4.5	17	1	0	1	0	6
2019	13	6	9	15	2.0	8	1	0	0	0	3
2020	7	11	14	25	7.0	50	0	1	0	0	2
TOTAL	42	31	36	67	13.5	75	2	1	1	0	12

SACKS STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOTAL	YDS
2017	10	0	0	0.0	0
2018	12	2	1	2.5	13
2019	13	2	0	2.0	8
2020	7	4	2	5.0	40
TOTAL	42	8	3	9.5	61

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2020	7	5	15	20	1.0-10	1.0-10	0	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	7	5	15	20	1.0-10	1.0-10	0	0	1	0	0





96 RODERICK PERRY II

DL, 6-3, 300, SR.

RALEIGH, N.C. / CARY / SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

- » Transferred to Illinois from South Carolina State as a one year graduate transfer
- » Highest rated draft-eligible defensive tackle in the Big Ten by Phil Steele
- » Was a 2020 Preseason FCS All-American before transferring



91 JAMAL WOODS

DL, 6-2, 275, JR.

HUEYTOWN, ALA. / HUEYTOWN

- » 11 career starts entering the Penn State game
- » Started first four games in 2018 at defensive tackle before a season-ending injury
- » 2017 BTN.com All-Freshman Team honorable mention



92 ISAIAH GAY

DL, 6-3, 240, SR.

NASHVILLE, N.C. / NORTHERN NASH

- » Third-youngest player in FBS to start a game as a freshman in 2017
- » Fumble recovery vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history



44 TARIQUE BARNES

LB, 6-1, 230, SO.

MEMPHIS, TENN. / CORDOVA

- » First career start at Rutgers 11/14/20
- » First significant playing time at Wisconsin 10/23/20 after Jake Hansen left the game with an injury
- » Career-high 11 tackles, 1.5 TFLs, 1.0 sack, and a 39-yard fumble return for a TD at Wisconsin
- » Second on the team in special teams tackles (8) in 2019



5 MILO EIFLER

LB, 6-2, 225, SR.

BERKELEY, CALIF. / BISHOP O'DOWD / WASHINGTON

- » 2020 Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team
- » Sat out the 2018 season due to NCAA transfer rules after transferring from Washington
- » Uses a pink mouth piece for his mother after she beat breast cancer
- » Former #118 high school prospect in the nation by Rivals, #142 by 247Sports and #280 by ESPN



35 JAKE HANSEN

LB, 6-1, 225, SR.

TARPON SPRINGS, FLA. / EAST LAKE

- » The only 2019 Butkus Award semifinalist playing college football in 2020
- » Led the nation in forced fumbles (7) and forced fumbles per game (0.78) in 2019
- » 10 career forced fumbles are tied for third-most in program history (dating back to 1990)
- » 14 takeaways in the last two seasons is the most in the nation



45 KHALAN TOLSON

LB, 6-0, 220, JR.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. / ADMIRAL FARRAGUT ACADEMY

- » Streak of 10 straight starts snapped at Northwestern 12/12/20 (out with injury)
- » Started the final four games of 2019 after Butkus Award semifinalist Jake Hansen was injured
- » Tied for the team lead in kickoff tackles (4) and third on the team in special teams tackles (6) in 2019



6 TONY ADAMS

DB, 6-0, 205, SR.

BELLEVILLE, ILL. / ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HS

- » Fourth-quarter interception vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 led to Illinois' game-winning field goal in one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
- » Interceptions against Wisconsin and at Purdue in 2019 to become the first Illini with interceptions in back-to-back Big Ten games since Vontae Davis and Kevin Mitchell in 2007



3 MARQUEZ BEASON

DB, 5-11, 195, R-FR.

DALLAS, TEXAS / DUNCANVILLE

- » Missed the 2019 season after suffering a knee injury during training camp
- » Four-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
- » Ranked No. 91 recruit in the nation by ESPN, No. 108 by 247Sports and No. 108 by Rivals
- » Beason and Isaiah Williams were Illinois' two highest ranked recruits since 2009 (Terry Hawthorne)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017*	8	11	5	16	4.0	4	1	0	0	0	0
2018*	10	13	4	17	2.5	4	1	0	0	0	1
2019*	11	26	8	32	14.5	57	0	1	1	0	3
TOTAL*	29	50	17	65	21	65	2	1	1	0	4

* - stats include South Carolina State (2017-19)

2020	6	5	12	17	2.5	21	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	5	12	17	2.5	21	1	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2017	11	12	12	24	3.5-7	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	4	11	2	13	4-12	1-2	0	3	0	0	0
2019	9	10	4	14	5.5-19	0.5-3	0	0	1	0	0
2020	4	2	2	4	0.5-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	28	35	20	55	13.5-38	1.5-5	0	3	1	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2017	12	12	8	20	4-17	1-13	0	0	0	0	1
2018	9	14	6	20	1-9	1-9	0	0	0	0	0
2019	11	13	14	27	3.5-5	1-2	0	3	1	1	0
2020	6	8	7	15	2.0-8	1.5-7	0	1	0	1	0
Total	38	47	35	82	10.5-39	4.5-31	0	4	1	2	1

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2019	13	8	5	13	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	0
2020	5	12	13	25	1.5-10	1.0-9	1	1	0	1	0
Total	18	20	18	38	1.5-10	1.0-9	1	1	1	1	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017*	5	4	2	6	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	13	39	24	63	10.0	29	1	0	1	0	0
2020	5	15	6	21	2.5	3	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	54	30	84	12.5	32	2	0	1	0	0
All*	23	58	32	90	12.5	32	2	0	1	0	0

* - stats include Washington (2017)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2016	12	2	6	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	DNP - Injured										
2018	12	48	47	95	8.5-18	1-6	0	1	1	1	0
2019	9	41	31	72	7.5-38	3.5-27	1	1	7	3	0
2020	7	32	27	59	7.5-19	1.0-3	2	4	2	2	0
Total	40	123	111	234	23.5-75	5.5-36	3	6	10	6	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2018	12	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	11	23	15	38	1.5-4	0-0	0	2	0	1	0
2020	6	15	24	39	5.5-21	1.5-11	0	2	2	1	0
TOTAL	29	41	41	82	7.0-25	1.5-11	0	4	2	2	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2017	5	4	4	8	1-1	1-1	1	1	0	0	0
2018	8	29	14	43	3.5-10	1-1	1	5	0	0	0
2019	10	29	10	39	3-6	0-0	2	3	0	0	0
2020	6	25	26	51	0-0	0-0	1	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	29	87	54	141	7.5-17	2.0-2	5	11	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2019	DNP - Injured										
2020	6	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0





30 SYDNEY BROWN

DB, 6-0, 200, JR.
LONDON, ONTARIO / ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL (FLA.)

- » 2019 All-Big Ten third team (coaches)
- » Father played in CFL for three seasons, mother was a figure skater
- » Identical twin brother, Chase, played football at Western Michigan one season before transferring to Illinois in 2019



8 NATE HOBBS

DB, 6-0, 195, SR.
LOUISVILLE, KY. / LOUISVILLE MALE

- » 2019 All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)
- » 35 career starts entering the Penn State game
- » 2017 BTN.com All-Freshman Team



2 DERRICK SMITH

DB, 6-2, 220, JR.
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. / TRINITY CATHOLIC / MIAMI (FLA.)

- » First career Illini start in the season opener at Wisconsin
- » Participated in training camp at Miami (Fla.) in 2019 before transferring to Illinois in August 2019 and sitting out the season due to NCAA transfer rules
- » Has been boxing since middle school



17 KENDALL SMITH

DB, 6-1, 200, SR.
BOLINGBROOK, ILL. / BOLINGBROOK

- » First significant playing time last week against Iowa after DB Nate Hobbs left with an injury
- » Has played both wide receiver and defensive back at Illinois
- » Ranked No. 9 recruit in Illinois by ESPN coming out of high school



31 DEVON WITHERSPOON

DB, 6-0, 170, SO.
PENSACOLA, FLA. / PINE FOREST

- » Only true freshman defender to start a game for Illinois in 2019
- » Chase-down tackle at the goal line in the fourth quarter vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 led to goal-line stop to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
- » Joined the Illini during 2019 training camp after initially attending Hutchinson CC (Kan.)



14 BLAKE HAYES

P, 6-6, 215, SR.
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA / BRIGHTON GRAMMAR

- » Top NFL Draft punting prospect in the nation by Mel Kiper
- » 2020 USA TODAY Preseason All-American second team
- » 2019 Big Ten Punter of the Year
- » Has broken or on pace to break nearly every Illinois punting record



17 JAMES MCCOURT

K, 6-1, 215, SR.
PARKLAND, FLA. / ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

- » Born in Ireland (Illinois' 2021 opener is scheduled to be in Dublin, Ireland against Nebraska)
- » 39-yard field goal as time expired beat No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to finish the largest upset over a ranked team in Big Ten history
- » Enrolled in the management graduate program



56 ETHAN TABEL

LS, 6-0, 210, SR.
BARRINGTON, ILL. / BARRINGTON

- » 42 games as starting long snapper entering the Northwestern game
- » Bilingual in German
- » Talented sketch artist
- » Graduated with a degree in advertising, enrolled in the technology management graduate program

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2018	10	25	30	55	2-4	0-0	1	6	0	0	0
2019	11	51	37	88	2.5-3	0-0	3	4	0	0	0
2020	6	20	16	36	0.5-2	0-0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	27	96	83	179	5.0-9	0-0	4	10	1	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2017	12	31	17	48	2-8	1-7	0	2	1	0	0
2018	9	13	9	22	3-8	0-0	1	2	0	0	0
2019	13	44	23	67	5.5-15	0-0	1	11	0	1	0
2020	5	22	9	31	2-3	0-0	1	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	39	110	58	168	12.5-34	1.0-7	3	18	1	1	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017*	13	10	3	13	1.0	11.5	0	0	0	0	0
2018*	12	6	5	11	0.5	8.5	0	0	0	0	0
2020	7	12	5	17	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	7	12	5	17	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	1
All*	32	28	13	41	2.5	31	0	0	0	0	1

* - stats include Miami (2017-18)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2017	12	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	10	6	4	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	0
2019	2	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	7	3	4	7	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	31	9	9	18	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	UA	A	TOT	TFL-YD	SACKS-YD	INT	PD	FF	FR	BLK
2019	13	23	10	33	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0	0
2020	6	16	12	28	1.0-4	0-0	2	2	0	2	0
TOTAL	19	39	22	61	1.0-4	0-0	2	4	0	2	0

PUNTING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	LG	AVG
2017	12	77	3231	64	42.0
2018	12	62	2701	69	43.6
2019	13	77	3437	70	44.6
2020	7	33	1442	62	43.7
TOTAL	44	249	10811	70	43.4

KICKING STATISTICS

YEAR	PAT	FG	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	PTS	LG
2018	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
2019	42-43	13-19	2-2	4-6	3-6	4-5	81	57
2020	12-12	6-10	4-4	1-2	1-2	0-2	30	47
TOTAL	54-55	19-29	6-6	5-8	4-8	4-7	111	57

GAMES PLAYED STATISTICS

YEAR	G
2017	11
2018	12
2019	13
2020	7
TOTAL	43



SERIES VS. PENN STATE

Series: Penn State leads, 19-5

Last: Penn State 63, Illinois 24
(at Champaign, 9/21/2018)

Streak: Penn State W2

at Penn State: Penn State leads, 9-1



LAST MEETING

#10/9 PENN STATE	63
ILLINOIS	24

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL. // 34,704

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Penn State	7	14	7	35	63
Illinois	7	10	7	0	24

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

PSU: Sanders 14 yd run (Pinegar kick), 9:17 (9-70, 3:32)
ILL: Corbin 2 yd run (McLaughlin kick), 2:16 (6-74, 1:31)

Second Quarter

PSU: Sanders 2 yd run (Pinegar kick), 12:52 (11-75, 4:24)
PSU: Freiermuth 5 yd pass from McSorley (Pinegar kick), 8:11 (8-66, 3:14)
ILL: Smalling 6 yd pass from Rivers II (McLaughlin kick), 6:47 (5-75, 1:34)
ILL: McLaughlin, C. 42 yd field goal, 00:00 (5-32, 0:28)

Third Quarter

ILL: Smalling 17 yd pass from Davis, T. (McLaughlin kick), 10:36 (9-75, 4:24)
PSU: Sanders 48 yd run (Pinegar kick), 8:36 (5-80, 2:00)

Fourth Quarter

PSU: Johnson 16 yd pass from McSorley (Pinegar kick), 14:53 (11-60, 6:11)
PSU: Hamler 21 yd pass from McSorley (Pinegar kick), 14:09 (1-21, 0:09)
PSU: Slade 61 yd run (Pinegar kick), 9:58 (2-66, 0:36)
PSU: Slade 1 yd run (Pinegar kick), 4:24 (6-54, 2:48)
PSU: Brown 6 yd run (Pinegar kick), 1:56 (2-10, 0:50)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	PSU	ILL
First Downs	31	26
Rushes-Yards	51-387	45-245
Passing Yards	204	166
Comp-Att-Int	13-20-1	18-31-2
Total Yards	591	411
Punts-Avg	1-42.0	4-44.8
Kickoff Returns	2-32	2-27
Penalties-Yards	8-72	7-81
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-0
Sacks By	2-14	2-12
Third-down Conv.	9-11	4-12
Time of Possession	29:55	30:05

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): PSU - Sanders 22-200-3, Slade 10-94-2, McSorley 15-92-0. ILL - Corbin 11-87-1, Epstein 13-73-0.

PASSING (Comp-Att-INT-TD-Yds): PSU - McSorley 12-19-3-1-160. ILL - Rivers II 17-28-1-1-166.

RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): PSU - Johnson 4-51-1, Holland 3-53-0, Hamler 2-41-1. ILL - Smalling 2-23-2, Green 4-49-0, Mays 3-26-0.

TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): PSU - Sutherland 8, 1.0-2; Taylor 7, 1.5, 9; Parsons 6, 0.0-0. ILL - Roundtree 12, 2.0-12; Phillips 8, 0.0-0; Brown 5, 0.0-0.

GAME NOTES

- Sophomore DE Bobby Roundtree had a career-high 12 tackles (10 solo), 2.0 TFLs, 1.0 sack and one PBU.
- Freshman QB M.J. Rivers II started for the second straight game. He was 17-for-28 passing for 149 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Rivers rushed 10 times for 24 yards.
- Junior WR Trenard Davis threw his first career touchdown pass in the third quarter, a 17-yard completion to Ricky Smalling that gave Illinois a 24-21 lead.
- Sophomore WR Ricky Smalling caught two touchdowns, his first two in 2018. Smalling had two touchdowns all of the previous season.

THE ILLINOIS-PENN STATE SERIES

- Penn State leads the all-time series against Illinois, 19-5, including a 9-1 advantage at Penn State.
- Illinois has won three of the last 10 meetings (2007, 2010 and 2014). Prior to 2007, Penn State had won 11 of 13 meetings, including seven in a row from 1972-2000.
- Illinois' last win over Penn State was in 2014, when **David Reisner's** 36-yard field goal with eight seconds left secured a 16-14 victory.
- In Illinois' last meeting with Penn State, WR **Trenard Davis** threw his first career touchdown pass on a trick play in the third quarter, a 17-yard completion to WR **Ricky Smalling**, that gave Illinois a 24-21 lead. Penn State then finished the game with 42 unanswered points, including a 35-0 fourth quarter. Then-sophomore DE **Bobby Roundtree** (pictured) had a huge game with 12 tackles (10 solo), 2.0 TFLs, 1.0 sack and one PBU.
- Penn State won during Illinois' last visit to University Park, 39-0, on Halloween in 2015. Current University of Illinois Department of Intercollegiate Athletics operations employee **D.J. Taylor** led the Illini with four catches for 45 yards.
- Last 100-yard rusher vs. Penn State: **Jason Ford**, 100, 10/29/2011
- Last 300-yard passer vs. Penn State: **Nathan Scheelhaase**, 321, 11/2/2013
- Last 100-yard receiver vs. Penn State: **Ryan Lankford**, 104, 9/29/2012

ILLINOIS-PENN STATE CONNECTIONS

- Penn State co-defensive coordinator **Tim Banks** was in the same role at Illinois from 2012-15.
- Former Illini **V'Angelo Bentley** is a graduate assistant for Penn State. Bentley is Illinois' career leader in kickoff return yardage and had the Illini's last kickoff return for a touchdown against Southern Illinois in 2013.



ILLINI NCAA & B1G RANKINGS (2020)

TEAM RANKINGS (130 teams ranked)

CATEGORY	NCAA	B1G	STAT
3rd Down Conversion Pct	62nd	4th	0.408
3rd Down Conversion Pct Defense	97th	12th	0.443
4th Down Conversion Pct	76th	7th	.500
4th Down Conversion Pct Defense	87th	10th	0.625
Completion Percentage	122nd	14th	0.483
Defensive Touchdowns	36th	3rd	1
Fewest Penalties	38th	8th	38
Fewest Penalties Per Game	44th	7th	5.43
Fewest Penalty Yards	55th	10th	391
Fewest Penalty Yards Per Game	76th	8th	55.86
First Downs Defense	67th	13th	167
First Downs Offense	91st	9th	132
Fumbles Lost	32nd	6th	4
Fumbles Recovered	32nd	6th	7
Kickoff Return Defense	7th	2nd	16.25
Kickoff Returns	104th	10th	17.48
Net Punting	25th	4th	40.67
Passes Had Intercepted	16th	1st	3
Passing Offense	112th	14th	157.6
Passing Yards Allowed	55th	8th	226.4
Passing Yards per Completion	35th	2nd	13.29
Punt Return Defense	54th	8th	6.15
Punt Returns	42nd	5th	9.33
Red Zone Defense	95th	10th	0.875
Red Zone Offense	120th	14th	0.667
Rushing Defense	115th	14th	226.6
Rushing Offense	27th	2nd	202.3
Sacks Allowed	36th	5th	1.71
Scoring Defense	83rd	10th	31.9
Scoring Offense	110th	13th	20.0
Tackles for Loss Allowed	29th	3rd	4.86
Team Passing Efficiency	108th	13th	113.98
Team Passing Efficiency Defense	118th	14th	159.70
Team Sacks	82nd	7th	1.86
Team Tackles for Loss	78th	9th	5.7
Time of Possession	107th	10th	27:38
Total Defense	107th	14th	453.0
Total Offense	95th	9th	359.9
Turnover Margin	11th	4th	1.00
Turnovers Gained	41st	5th	14
Turnovers Lost	22nd	4th	7
Winning Percentage	103rd	12th	0.286

NCAA INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS (Top-75)

CATEGORY	PLAYER	STAT	RANK
Forced Fumbles	Hansen	0.29	48th
	Tolson	0.29	48th
Fumbles Recovered	Hansen	2	9th
Interceptions per game	Witherspoon	0.3	42nd
Punting	Hayes	43.7	27th
Rush Yards Per Carry	Epstein	5.90	31st
	C. Brown	5.48	49th
Rushing Yards Per Game	C. Brown	72.9	70th
Sacks	Carney Jr.	0.71	44th
Total Interceptions	Hansen	2	59th
	Witherspoon	2	59th
Total Tackles	Adams	8.5	59th
	Hansen	8.4	63rd

BIG TEN INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

CATEGORY	PLAYER	STAT	RANK
Forced Fumbles	Hansen	0.29	4th
	Tolson	0.29	4th
Fumbles Recovered	Hansen	2	3rd
	Witherspoon	2	3rd
	Barnes	1	10th
	Gay	1	10th
	Tolson	1	10th
Interceptions Per Game	Witherspoon	0.3	8th
Sacks	Carney Jr.	0.71	2nd
Total Interceptions	Hansen	2	7th
	Witherspoon	2	7th
Total Tackles	Adams	8.5	9th
	Hansen	8.4	10th
Punting	Hayes	43.7	4th

AP TOP 25

Rk	Last	Team	Conf.	W-L	Pts.	Coaches Poll	Last Week
1	< 1	Alabama (62)	SEC	10-0	1550	*1	W 52-3 A Arkansas
2	< 2	Notre Dame	ACC	10-0	1482	*2	DNP
3	< 3	Ohio State	Big Ten	5-0	1405	4	DNP
4	< 4	Clemson	ACC	9-1	1388	3	DNP
5	< 5	Texas A&M	SEC	7-1	1286	5	DNP
6	< 7	Cincinnati	AAC	8-0	1248	6	DNP
7	< 8	Indiana	Big Ten	6-1	1140	7	DNP
8	< 10	Iowa State	Big 12	8-2	1059	8	DNP
9	< 11	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	11-0	994	12	W 42-38 A Troy
10	< 12	Georgia	SEC	7-2	968	9	W 49-14 A Missouri
11	< 6	Florida	SEC	8-2	940	11	L 37-34 H LSU
12	< 13	Oklahoma	Big 12	7-2	902	10	DNP
13	< 16	USC	Pac-12	5-0	774	13	W 43-38 A UCLA
14	< 14	BYU	Ind	10-1	724	16	W 28-14 H San Diego State
15	< 15	Northwestern	Big Ten	6-1	691	14	W 28-10 H Illinois
16	< 20	North Carolina	ACC	8-3	631	15	W 62-26 A #9 Miami (FL)
17	< 17	Louisiana	Sun Belt	9-1	566	18	DNP
18	< 19	Iowa	Big Ten	6-2	502	17	W 28-7 H #25 Wisconsin
19	< 9	Miami (FL)	ACC	8-2	454	19	L 62-26 H #20 North Carolina
20	< 18	Tulsa	AAC	6-1	408	20	DNP
21	< 23	Texas	Big 12	6-3	227	24	DNP
22	< 22	Liberty	Ind	9-1	184	21	DNP
23	< 24	Buffalo	MAC	5-0	183	RV	W 56-7 H Akron
24	< NR	NC State	ACC	8-3	137	23	DNP
25	< NR	San Jose State	MWC	6-0	124	25	W 30-20 H Nevada

2020 BIG TEN STANDINGS

WEST DIVISION	BIG TEN		OVERALL		PF	PA
	W	L	W	L		
Northwestern	6	1	6	1	177	102
Iowa	6	2	6	2	254	128
Minnesota	3	3	3	3	174	191
Wisconsin	2	3	2	3	114	77
Purdue	2	4	2	4	163	179
Illinois	2	5	2	5	140	223
Nebraska	2	5	2	5	157	214
EAST DIVISION	W	L	W	L	PF	PA
Ohio State	5	0	5	0	233	116
Indiana	6	1	6	1	211	136
Maryland	2	3	2	3	118	160
Penn State	3	5	3	5	212	228
Rutgers	3	5	3	5	219	261
Michigan	2	4	2	4	170	207
Michigan State	2	5	2	5	126	246

Rush Yards Per Carry	Epstein	5.90	4th
	C. Brown	5.48	5th
Rushing TDs	Epstein	4	9th
Rushing Yards	C. Brown	510	4th
Rushing Yards Per Game	C. Brown	72.9	6th



2020 ILLINOIS BIG PLAYS

(Rush/Pass/Rec/PR over 20 yds & KOR/Def over 40 yds)

Player	Run	Pass	Rec	Def	ST	Tot
Peters	2	9	0	0	0	11
Epstein	4	0	1	0	0	5
Hightower	0	0	5	0	0	5
Taylor	1	9	0	0	0	10
C. Brown	4	0	0	0	0	4
Barker	0	0	7	0	0	7
D. Imatorbhebhe	0	0	1	0	0	1
J. Imatorbhebhe	0	0	5	0	0	5
Williams	3	3	0	0	0	6
Navarro	0	0	2	0	0	2
Hayes	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	15	20	20	0	0	36

WISCONSIN (5)

- 1Q 23 Peters rush
- 2Q 51 Peters rush
- 2Q 20 Epstein rush
- 3Q 26 Hightower reception (from Peters)
- 3Q 22 Epstein reception (from Peters)

PURDUE (9)

- 1Q 33 Taylor rush
- 1Q 30 C. Brown rush
- 2Q 24 Hightower reception (from Taylor)
- 2Q 20 Hightower reception (from Taylor)
- 2Q 44 Hightower reception (from Taylor)
- 3Q 20 Barker reception (from Taylor)
- 3Q 21 Barker reception (from Taylor)
- 4Q 28 D. Imatorbhebhe reception (from Taylor)
- 4Q 20 Barker reception (from Taylor)

MINNESOTA (3)

- 2Q 63 Epstein rush
- 4Q 39 Barker reception (from Taylor)
- 4Q 52 J. Imatorbhebhe reception (from Taylor)

RUTGERS (6)

- 1Q 22 Barker reception (from Williams)
- 3Q 39 C. Brown rush
- 3Q 22 Williams rush
- 4Q 25 Williams rush
- 4Q 20 C. Brown rush
- 4Q 26 Williams rush

NEBRASKA (8)

- 1Q 35 C. Brown rush
- 2Q 28 J. Imatorbhebhe reception (from Peters)
- 2Q 58 Epstein rush
- 2Q 22 J. Imatorbhebhe reception (from Peters)
- 2Q 25 Navarro reception (from Peters)
- 3Q 25 Barker reception (from Peters)
- 3Q 23 Navarro reception (from Peters)
- 4Q 21 Epstein rush

IOWA (2)

- 1Q 24 Barker reception (from Peters)
- 2Q 25 J. Imatorbhebhe reception (from Peters)

NORTHWESTERN (3)

- 2Q 20 Hayes rush
- 4Q 20 J. Imatorbhebhe reception (from Williams)
- 4Q 46 Hightower reception (from Williams)

ILLINOIS SCORING DRIVES

WISCONSIN

2nd 03:22 TD Barnes, Tarique 39 yd fumble recovery (McCourt kick)

PURDUE

2nd 04:46 TD Epstein, Mike 7 yd run (Griffin kick) 7-49-2:32
 2nd 00:23 FG Griffin, Caleb 28 yd field goal 6-69-0:44
 4th 11:44 TD Imatorbhebhe, Daniel 28 yd pass from Taylor (Griffin kick) 8-75-4:10
 4th 06:36 TD Hightower, Brian 9 yd pass from Taylor (Griffin kick) 7-55-2:44

MINNESOTA

2nd 05:32 TD Epstein, Mike 1 yd run (Griffin kick) 6-83-2:37
 4th 11:30 TD Imatorbhebhe, Josh 52 yd pass from Taylor (Griffin kick) 3-79-0:54

RUTGERS

2nd 13:45 TD Williams, Isaiah 3 yd run (McCourt kick) 12-87-5:48
 3rd 08:59 FG McCourt, James 24 yd field goal 12-69-6:01
 3rd 04:54 TD Epstein, Mike 1 yd run (McCourt kick) 6-60-2:43
 4th 13:02 FG McCourt, James 23 yd field goal 12-57-4:31
 4th 00:03 FG McCourt, James 47 yd field goal 6-25-1:14

NEBRASKA

1st 13:31 TD Brown, Chase 3 yd run (McCourt kick) 3-21-1:17
 1st 05:39 TD Brown, Chase 2 yd run (McCourt kick) 9-75-3:41
 2nd 13:48 TD Imatorbhebhe, Josh 28 yd pass from Peters (McCourt kick) 7-65-3:44
 2nd 05:50 TD Epstein, Mike 1 yd run (McCourt kick) 4-89-1:35
 3rd 06:48 FG McCourt, James 24 yd field goal 16-65-6:31
 3rd 02:31 TD Peters, Brandon 1 yd run (McCourt kick) 10-75-4:17
 4th 10:14 FG McCourt, James 21 yd field goal 12-41-5:42

IOWA

1st 08:10 TD Barker, Daniel 24 yd pass from Peters (McCourt kick) 9-70-4:32
 2nd 13:30 TD Imatorbhebhe, Josh 12 yd pass from Peters (McCourt kick) 8-75-3:24
 4th 00:24 TD Sandy, Carlos 29 yd pass from Williams (McCourt kick) 10-75-1:32

NORTHWESTERN

1st 01:49 FG McCourt, James 39 yd field goal 3-0 7:29
 4th 08:47 TD Hightower, Brian 46 yd pass from Williams (McCourt kick) 10-28 1:38



TEAM GAME-BY-GAME STATISTICS

Team	Score	First Downs	Rushing Att-Yd-TD	Passing C-A-Int-TD	Passing Yards	Total Offense	Punt	Fumbles	Penalties	Time Poss
Illinois	7	8	25-131-0	8-22-1-0	87	218	5-216	1-1	5-60	16:32
at Wisconsin	45	23	54-182-1	20-21-0-5	248	430	4-184	1-1	3-15	43:28
Illinois	24	27	44-177-1	20-33-2-2	295	472	2-83	3-2	7-75	29:22
vs. Purdue	31	26	31-85-1	29-35-0-2	371	456	3-98	3-2	11-103	30:38
Illinois	14	14	36-181-1	6-17-0-1	106	287	8-336	2-0	12-120	22:25
vs. Minnesota	41	30	47-325-5	17-27-1-1	216	541	2-51	1-1	2-22	37:35
Illinois	23	23	59-338-2	7-18-0-0	104	445	4-184	2-1	4-40	34:38
at Rutgers	20	19	33-166-0	21-34-3-2	256	422	4-182	0-0	7-56	25:22
Illinois	41	25	52-285-4	18-25-0-1	205	490	3-137	4-0	3-31	36:21
at Nebraska	23	25	44-215-2	18-30-3-1	177	392	2-98	4-2	7-66	23:39
Illinois	21	20	38-149-0	17-35-0-3	199	348	7-266	0-0	3-30	29:34
vs. Iowa	35	22	38-204-1	18-28-0-3	220	424	5-210	0-0	3-22	30:26
Illinois	10	14	35-155-0	7-22-0-1	107	262	4-220	1-0	4-35	25:25
at Northwestern	28	23	58-411-3	7-12-0-1	82	493	2-92	2-1	6-40	34:35

GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

OFFENSIVE STARTERS

GAME	T	G	C	G	T	QB	RB	WR	WR	WR/TE	TE/RB/QB
Wisconsin	Lowe	K. Green	Kramer	V. Brown	Palczewski	Peters	Epstein	Hightower	J. Imatorbhebhe	Navarro	Barker
Purdue	Lowe	Philstrom	Green	V. Brown	Palczewski	Robinson	C. Brown	Hightower	J. Imatorbhebhe	Ford	Barker
Minnesota	Lowe	Philstrom	Green	V. Brown	Palczewski	Taylor	Epstein	Hightower	J. Imatorbhebhe	D. Imatorbhebhe	Barker
Rutgers	Lowe	Green	Kramer	V. Brown	Palczewski	Williams	Epstein	Hightower	J. Imatorbhebhe	Navarro	C. Brown
Nebraska	Lowe	Green	Kramer	V. Brown	Pearl	Peters	C. Brown	Hightower	J. Imatorbhebhe	Cumby	Williams
Iowa	Lowe	Green	Kramer	V. Brown	Pearl	Peters	C. Brown	Hightower	J. Imatorbhebhe	Barker	Williams
Northwestern	Lowe	Green	Kramer	V. Brown	Pearl	Peters	C. Brown	Washington	J. Imatorbhebhe	Barker	Ford
<i>Consecutive</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Career</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>2</i>

DEFENSIVE STARTERS

GAME	DE	DT	DT	DE	LB	LB	LB	CB	S	S	CB
Wisconsin	Carney Jr.	Woods	Perry	Mondesar	Hansen	Tolson	Ware	Hobbs	S. Brown	D. Smith	Adams
Purdue	Carney Jr.	Woods	Perry	Gay	Hansen	Tolson	Eifler	Hobbs	S. Brown	Adams	Witherspoon
Minnesota	Carney Jr.	Newton	Perry	Hansen	Hansen	Tolson	Eifler	Adams	S. Brown	D. Smith	Witherspoon
Rutgers	Carney Jr.	Newton	Perry	Gay	Hansen	Tolson	Barnes	Adams	S. Brown	Ware	Hobbs
Nebraska	Carney Jr.	Newton	Perry	Coleman	Hansen	Tolson	Barnes	Witherspoon	S. Brown	Adams	Hobbs
Iowa	Carney Jr.	Woods	Perry	Coleman	Hansen	Tolson	Eifler	Witherspoon	S. Brown	Adams	Hobbs
Northwestern	Carney Jr.	Barnes	Avery	Coleman	Hansen	Marchese	Eifler	Witherspoon	D. Smith	Martin	Beason
<i>Consecutive</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Career</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1</i>



RECORDS TO WATCH

Through the Northwestern game

ILLINOIS INDIVIDUAL CAREER

CAREER PUNTING AVERAGE

1. Steve Weatherford, 2002-05 43.5 (193-8,402)
2. **Blake Hayes, 2017-present** **43.4 (249-10,811)**
3. Steve Fitts, 1998-2001 41.68

CAREER PUNTING YARDAGE

1. **Blake Hayes, 2017-present** **10,811**
2. Steve Fitts, 1998-2001 10,671
3. Justin DuVernois, 2011-14 10,571
4. Anthony Santella, 2007-10 9,964
5. Phil Vierneisel, 1973-76 9,008
6. Chris Sigourney, 1979-83 8,935
7. Steve Weatherford, 2002-05 8,402
8. Chad Little, 1984-87 8,354
9. Terry Masar, 1969-71 7,587
10. Brett Larsen, 1992-95 7,547

CAREER FORCED FUMBLES *(since 1990)*

1. Simeon Rice, 1992-95 13
2. Whitney Mercilus, 2009-11 11
3. **Jake Hansen, 2016-present** **10**
Stanley Green, 2016-19 10
5. Dana Howard, 1990-94 8
6. Mason Monheim, 2012-15 7
Earnest Thomas III, 2011-2014 7
Kevin Hardy, 1992-95 7

CAREER 50+ YARD FIELD GOALS

1. Chase McLaughlin, 2014-18 5
2. **James McCourt, 2019-present** **4**
Jason Reda, 2004-07 4
Dan Beaver, 1973-76 4



ILLINOIS ACADEMICS

GRADS ON GRADS ON GRADS

The 2020 Fighting Illini roster features 13 student-athletes that already earned degrees prior to the season.

Student-Athlete	Bachelor's Degree	Degree Pursuing
Christian Bobak	Finance (May '20)	Technology Management
Owen Carney Jr.	Communication (May '20)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
Desmond Dan Jr.	Individualized Studies (2020 at New Mexico State)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
Jake Hansen	Kinesiology (May '20)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
Daniel Imatorbhebhe	Social Sciences (Econ) (Summer '18 at USC)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
Josh Imatorbhebhe	Business Administration (May '19 at USC)	Strategic Brand Communication
Blake Jerasaty	Economics and Finance (2020 at Wofford)	Finance
Doug Kramer	Finance (May '20)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
James McCourt	Finance (May '20)	Management
Roderick Perry	(2020 at South Carolina State)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
Brandon Peters	General Studies (June '19 at Michigan)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
Trevon Sidney	Communication (June '19 at USC)	Recreation, Sport & Tourism
Ethan Tabel	Advertising (May '20)	Technology Management

ILLINOIS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- During the Spring 2020 semester, 18 of 19 Fighting Illini programs posted team GPAs of 3.00
- During the Spring 2020 semester an Illinois record 78% of student-athletes earned GPAs above 3.00
- In the last three years, Illinois student-athletes have garnered a total of 641 Academic All-Big Ten selections
- Illinois' GSR score of 92 in 2019 was the best in school history.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ACADEMIC RANKS

- #15 Public School in the Nation
- #6 Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs
- #5 in Computer Science
- #3 Accounting Program
- #9 Public Undergraduate Business Programs

* from U.S. News and World Report

ACADEMIC MAJORS – FALL 2020

Tony Adams Political Science
 Bryce Barnes Community Health
 Josh Beetham Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
 John Bickel Kinesiology
Christian Bobak Technology Management (Master's)
 Matt Bobak Community Health
 Chase Brown Communication
 Sydney Brown Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
 Verdis Brown African American Studies
Owen Carney Jr. Recreation, Sport, and Tourism (Master's)
 Edwin Carter Community Health
 Sean Coghlan Accountancy and Finance (Double)
 Thomas Cronin English
Desmond Dan Jr. Recreation, Sport, and Tourism (Master's)
 Isaac Darkangelo Communication
 Cooper Davis Community Health
 Milo Eifler Sociology
 Preston Engel Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
 Mike Epstein Marketing
 Luke Ford Communication
 Isaiah Gay Learning & Education Studies
 Kendrick Green Sociology
 Caleb Griffin Marketing & Management (Double)
 Aidan Hall Systems Engineering and Design
Jake Hansen Recreation, Sport, and Tourism (Master's)
 Blake Hayes Kinesiology
 Brian Hightower Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
 Nate Hobbs Sociology

Ezekiel Holmes Sociology
Daniel Imatorbhebhe Recreation, Sport, and Tourism (Master's)
Josh Imatorbhebhe Strategic Brand Communication (Master's)
 Ryan Ingold Business
Blake Jerasaty Finance (Master's)
 Brevyn Jones Kinesiology
 Kerby Joseph Community Health
Doug Kramer Recreation, Sport, and Tourism (Master's)
 Tailon Leitzsey Kinesiology
 Conner Lillig Economics
 Ty Lindenman Agriculture and Consumer Economics
 Vederian Lowe Communication
 Michael Marchese Economics
 Jartavius Martin Communication
James McCourt Management (Master's)
 Alec McEachern Management & Finance (Double)
 Ryan Meed Kinesiology
 Hayden Metcalf Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
 Marc Mondesir Communication
 Donny Navarro Information Sciences
 Jakari Norwood Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
 Brett Novak Natural Resources and Environmental Science
 Moses Okpala Psychology
 Nick O'Neal Economics
 Alex Palczewski Kinesiology
 Deon Pate Sociology
 Julian Pearl Sociology
Roderick Perry Recreation, Sport, and Tourism (Master's)

Brandon Peters Recreation, Sport, & Tourism (Master's)
 Alex Pihlstrom Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Keith Randolph Jr. Journalism
 Tip Reiman Kinesiology
 Matt Robinson Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Carlos Sandy Communication
 Ben Schultz Agricultural and Consumer Economics
 Anthony Shipton Communication
Trevon Sidney Recreation, Sport, & Tourism (Master's)
 Kenyon Sims Communication
 Jordyn Slaughter Sociology
 Derrick Smith Communication
 Kendall Smith Learning and Education Studies
Ethan Tabel Technology Management (Master's)
 Dylan Thomas Finance
 Khmari Thompson Sociology
 Khalan Tolson Communication
 Kevin Tyler Communication
 Nick Walker Sociology
 Delano Ware Community Health
 Casey Washington Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
 Jamal Woods Community Health
 Terry Zapf Economics

unlisted = undeclared



2020 STARTERS BY POSITION

OFFENSE

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
QB	18	Brandon Peters	4
	12	Matt Robinson	1
	7	Coran Taylor	1
	1	Isaiah Williams	3
RB	2	Chase Brown	5
	26	Mike Epstein	3
WR	9	Josh Imatorbhebhe	7
	14	Brian Hightower	6
	86	Donny Navarro	2
	20	Kyron Cumby	1
	8	Casey Washington	1
TE	87	Daniel Barker	5
	82	Luke Ford	2
	88	Daniel Imatorbhebhe	1
OL	52	Verdis Brown	7
	55	Kendrick Green	7
	79	Vederian Lowe	7
	63	Alex Palczewski	4
	65	Doug Kramer	5
	75	Alex Pihlstrom	2
	54	Julian Pearl	3

DEFENSE

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
DE	99	Owen Carney	7
	49	Seth Coleman	3
	92	Isaiah Gay	3
	54	Marc Mondesir	1
DT	96	Roderick Perry	6
	94	Jer'Zhan Newton	3
	91	Jamal Woods	3
	93	Calvin Avery	1
	48	Bryce Barnes	1
LB	35	Jake Hansen	7
	45	Khalan Tolson	6
	5	Milo Eifler	4
	44	Tarique Barnes	2
	42	Michael Marchese	1
CB	15	Delano Ware	1
	8	Nate Hobbs	5
	31	Devin Witherspoon	5
	6	Tony Adams	3
	3	Marquez Beason	1
	S	30	Sydney Brown
6		Tony Adams	3
2		Derrick Smith	3
21		Jartavius Martin	1
15		Delano Ware	1

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	#	Player	Starts
K	17	James McCourt	5
	11	Caleb Griffin	2
P	14	Blake Hayes	7
LS	56	Ethan Tabel	7

Bold = started last game

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Tarique Barnes	ta-REEK
Marquez Beason	mar-KEZ
Christian Bobak	bo-BACK
Matt Bobak	bo-BACK
Verdis Brown	ver-dis
Dalevon Campbell	DALE-von
Sean Coghlan	KAWG-luhn
Thomas Cronin	CROW-nin
Kyron Cumby	KY-run
Milo Eifler	MEE-LOW EYE-Fler
Preston Engel	EN-gull
Mike Epstein	ep-STEEN
Nick Fedanzo	fa-DON-zo
Daniel Imatorbhebhe	ee-MAT-or-bay-bay
Josh Imatorbhebhe	ee-MAT-or-bay-bay
Tailon Leitzsey	TAY-lon LIT-see
Vederian Lowe	vuh-DARE-ee-an
Michael Marchese	mar-CASE
Jartavius Martin	jar-TAY-vee-us
Alec McEachern	Mc-CARE-un
Marc Mondesir	mon-duh-SEER
Jer'Zhan Newton	jur-ZHON
Tahveon Nicholson	TAH-vee-on
Jakari Norwood	juh-CAR-ee
Moses Okpala	oak-PAH-la
Alex Palczewski	pal-CHESS-key
Alex Pihlstrom	PILL-strum
Tip Reiman	RY-mehn
Tre'Von Riggins	TRAY-von
Trevon Sidney	TRAY-von SID-nee
Blaise Sparks	(Blaze)
Ethan Tabel	tuh-BELL
Coran Taylor	kor-AHN
Khari Thompson	kuh-MAR-ee
Khalan Tolson	KAY-lahn
Devon Witherspoon	DEV-in



2020 ILLINOIS FOOTBALL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN/LAST SCHOOL
1	Isaiah Williams	QB	5-10	180	R-Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Trinity Catholic
2	Chase Brown	RB	5-11	195	So.	London, Ontario/Western Michigan
2	Derrick Smith	DB	6-2	220	Jr.	Jacksonville, Fla./Miami (Fla.)
3	Marquez Beason	DB	5-11	195	R-Fr.	Dallas, Texas/Duncanville
3	Jakari Norwood	RB	5-10	180	So.	Pompano Beach, Fla./Deerfield Beach
4	KhMari Thompson	WR	6-1	210	So.	Lawrenceville, Ga./Central Gwinnett
5	Milo Eifler	LB	6-2	225	Sr.	Berkeley, Calif./Bishop O'Dowd/Washington
5	Trevon Sidney	WR	5-11	180	Sr.	Pasadena, Calif./Bishop Amat/USC
6	Tony Adams	DB	6-0	205	Sr.	Belleville, Ill./St. Louis University HS
6	Deuce Spann	QB	6-4	195	Fr.	St. Petersburg, Fla./Lakewood
7	Coran Taylor	QB	6-2	190	So.	Peoria, Ill./Peoria
8	Nate Hobbs	DB	6-0	195	Sr.	Louisville, Ky./Louisville Male
8	Casey Washington	WR	6-2	190	So.	Round Rock, Texas/Pflugerville
9	Josh Imatorbhebhe	WR	6-2	220	Sr.	Suwanee, Ga./North Gwinnett/USC
10	Desmond Dan Jr.	WR	6-3	195	Sr.	Muskogee, Okla./Checotah/New Mexico State
11	Caleb Griffin	K/PR	6-3	215	So.	Danville, Ill./Danville
11	Carlos Sandy	WR	5-9	180	So.	Dania Beach, Fla./Cardinal Gibbons
12	Matt Robinson	QB	6-1	190	So.	San Juan Capistrano, Calif./J Serra Catholic
13	James Frenchie Jr.	WR	5-10	175	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Trinity Catholic
14	Blake Hayes	P	6-6	215	Sr.	Melbourne, Australia/Brighton
14	Brian Hightower	WR	6-3	220	Jr.	Leimert Park, Calif./IMG Academy (Fla.)/Miami (Fla.)
15	Ty Lindenman	WR	5-6	160	Fr.	Shawnee, Kan./Shawnee Mission Northwest
16	Josh Beetham	QB	6-5	235	Fr.	Yorkville, Ill./Yorkville
17	James McCourt	K	6-1	215	Sr.	Parkland, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
17/16	Kendall Smith	DB	6-1	200	Sr.	Bolingbrook, Ill./Bolingbrook
18	Brandon Peters	QB	6-5	220	Sr.	Avon, Ind./Avon/Michigan
19	Dalevon Campbell	WR	6-4	205	So.	Missouri City, Texas/Fort Bend Marshall
19	Hugh Robertson	P	6-2	225	Fr.	Castlemaine, Australia/Assumption College Kilmore
20	Kyron Cumby	WR	5-8	180	R-Fr.	Plano, Texas/Plano
21	Jartavius Martin	DB	6-0	195	Jr.	Lehigh Acres, Fla./Lehigh Acres
23	Conner Lillig	RB	5-10	190	Jr.	Oak Park, Ill./Fenwick
23	Tahveon Nicholson	DB	5-11	170	Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla./Lee
24	Nick Fedanzo	RB	6-0	205	R-Fr.	Lombard, Ill./Montini Catholic
25	Kerby Joseph	WR/DB	6-1	200	Jr.	Orlando, Fla./Jones
26	Mike Epstein	RB	6-0	205	Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas
27	Matt Bobak	RB	5-11	185	Fr.	Hinsdale, Ill./Hinsdale Central
28	Reggie Love III	RB	5-11	200	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Trinity Catholic
29	Christian Bobak	DB	6-0	200	Sr.	Hinsdale, Ill./Hinsdale Central
30	Sydney Brown	DB	6-0	200	Jr.	London, Ontario/St. Stephens Episcopal School (Fla.)
31	Devon Witherspoon	DB	6-0	170	So.	Pensacola, Fla./Pine Forest
32	Tailon Leitzsey	DB	6-0	190	Sr.	Laurel, Md./Riverside/Missouri Baptist University
33	Ezekiel Holmes	DL	6-5	240	So.	Wichita Falls, Texas/Hirschi
34	Ryan Meed	LB	6-1	220	R-Fr.	Brooklyn, N.Y./Canarsie
35	Jake Hansen	LB	6-1	230	Sr.	Tarpon Springs, Fla./East Lake
36	Ben Schultz	DB	6-3	195	R-Fr.	Champaign, Ill./Central
37	Jaden Jones-Watkins	DB	6-0	175	So.	Fisher, Ill./Fisher
38	Isaac Darkangelo	LB	6-1	225	Fr.	Brighton, Mich./Detroit Catholic Central
39	Aidan Hall	LS	6-2	205	R-Fr.	Glen Ellyn, Ill./Benet Academy
40	Shammond Cooper	LB	6-2	220	R-Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Trinity Catholic
41	Tre'Von Riggins	DL	6-3	270	Fr.	Bradenton, Fla./Lakewood
42	Michael Marchese	DB	6-4	210	Sr.	Vernon Hills, Ill./Stevenson
43	Cooper Davis	DL	6-6	235	Fr.	Melbourne, Fla./Viera
43	Griffin Moore	TE	6-4	235	R-Fr.	Bloomington, Ill./Bloomington
44	Tarique Barnes	LB	6-1	230	So.	Memphis, Tenn./Cordova
45	Khalan Tolson	LB	6-0	220	Jr.	St. Petersburg, Fla./Admiral Farragut Academy
46	Alec McEachern	LB	6-1	235	Jr.	Plainfield, Ill./Benet Academy
47	Quinton McCoy	DL	6-3	280	Fr.	Valrico, Fla./Bloomingdale
48	Bryce Barnes	DL	6-2	270	So.	Gibson City, Ill./Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

2020 ILLINOIS FOOTBALL ROSTER

49	Seth Coleman	DL	6-5	230	R-Fr.	Melbourne, Fla./Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy
51	Sean Coghlan	LB	6-0	225	Jr.	Chicago, Ill./St. Rita
52	Verdis Brown	OL	6-4	320	So.	Chicago, Ill./IMG Academy (Fla.)
53	Kendrick Green	OL	6-4	315	Jr.	Peoria, Ill./Peoria
54	Marc Mondesir	DL	6-2	240	Sr.	Chicago, Ill./St. Rita
54	Julian Pearl	OL	6-6	305	So.	Danville, Ill./Danville
55	Blake Jeresaty	OL	6-2	295	Sr.	Charleston, S.C./Bishop England/Wofford
56	Ethan Tabel	LS	6-0	210	Sr.	Barrington, Ill./Barrington
57	Evan Kirts	OL	6-5	285	R-Fr.	Evergreen Park, Ill./Brother Rice
58/38	Preston Engel	OL	6-0	270	So.	Normal, Ill./Normal Community
59	Josh Plohr	OL	6-3	300	R-Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Christian Brothers College HS
62	Terry Zapf	OL	6-6	300	So.	Winnetka, Ill./New Trier/Williams (Mass.)
63	Alex Palczewski	OL	6-6	310	Sr.	Mount Prospect, Ill./Prospect
65	Doug Kramer	OL	6-2	300	Sr.	Hinsdale, Ill./Hinsdale Central
66	Jordyn Slaughter	OL	6-5	305	So.	Belleville, Ill./Althoff Catholic
68	Ryan Ingold	OL	6-5	305	Fr.	Batavia, Ill./Batavia
69	Moses Okpala	OL	6-7	295	R-Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Ladue Horton Watkins
70	Thomas Cronin	OL	6-4	290	R-Fr.	Oak Park, Ill./Oak Park River Forest
71	Brett Novak	OL	6-6	300	Fr.	Maquon, Ill./Brimfield
72	Phifer Griffin	OL	6-6	300	Fr.	Monroe, N.C./Union Academy
74	Blaise Sparks	OL	6-7	290	Fr.	North Fort Myers, Fla./North Fort Myers
75/95	Alex Pihlstrom	OL	6-6	285	Jr.	Glen Ellyn, Ill./Glenbard West
76	Brevyn Jones	OL	6-5	270	R-Fr.	Center Point, Ala./Huffman/Mississippi State
78	Kevin Tyler	OL	6-3	330	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo./Ritenour
79	Vederian Lowe	OL	6-6	320	Sr.	Rockford, Ill./Auburn
82	Luke Ford	TE	6-6	250	Jr.	Cartersville, Ill./Cartersville/Georgia
83	John Bickel	WR	5-9	170	Fr.	Tinley Park, Ill./Andrew
84	Owen Hickey	WR	6-2	165	Fr.	Des Plaines, Ill./Saint Viator
85	Dylan Thomas	WR	5-11	185	So.	Monticello, Ill./Monticello
86	Donny Navarro	WR	5-11	185	Jr.	Naperville, Ill./Neuqua Valley/Valparaiso
87	Daniel Barker	TE	6-4	250	Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Deerfield Beach
88	Daniel Imatorbhebhe	TE	6-3	240	Sr.	Suwanee, Ga./North Gwinnett/USC
88	Keith Randolph Jr.	DL	6-5	270	R-Fr.	Belleville, Ill./Belleville West
89	Tip Reiman	TE	6-5	230	Fr.	Rapid City, S.D./O'Gorman
90	Anthony Shipton	DL	6-4	305	Jr.	Orange, Calif./Villa Park
91	Jamal Woods	DL	6-2	275	Sr.	Hueytown, Ala./Hueytown
92	Isaiah Gay	DL	6-3	240	Sr.	Nashville, N.C./Northern Nash
93	Calvin Avery	DL	6-2	340	Jr.	Dallas, Tex./Bishop Dunne
94	Jer'Zhan Newton	DL	6-2	270	Fr.	St. Petersburg, Fla./Clearwater Central Catholic
96	Roderick Perry II	DL	6-2	300	Sr.	Raleigh, N.C./Cary/South Carolina State
98	Deon Pate	DL	6-2	280	Jr.	Jacksonville, Fla./Trinity Christian Academy
99	Owen Carney Jr.	DL	6-3	260	Sr.	Miami, Fla./Miami Central

COACHING STAFF

Rod Smith	Acting Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
Jimmy Lindsey	Defensive Ends (Calling the defense vs. Penn State)
Bob Ligashesky	Special Teams Coordinator
Mike Bellamy	Running Backs
Al Davis	Defensive Tackles
Andrew Hayes-Stoker	Wide Receivers
Keynodo Hudson	Defensive Backs
Bob McClain	Offensive Line
Cory Patterson	Tight Ends



THE LAST TIME

AN ILLINOIS PLAYER HAD ...

Rushing

250 yards rushing:
330, Mikel Leshoure vs. Northwestern, 11/20/2010

200 yards rushing:
213, Reggie Corbin vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018

150 yards rushing:
192, Williams at Rutgers, 11/14/2020

125 yards rushing:
192, Williams at Rutgers, 11/14/2020

100 yards rushing:
113, Epstein at Nebraska, 11/21/2020, 110, C. Brown at Nebraska, 11/21/2020

Back-to-back 175-yard rushing games:
Rashard Mendenhall (189 vs. Ball State, 10/27/2007 & 201 at Minnesota, 11/3/2007)

Three consecutive 100-yard rushing games:
Reggie Corbin, 10/20/2018-11/3/2018 (3 games)

Five consecutive 100-yard rushing games:
Mikel Leshoure, 11/6/2010-12/29/2010 (5 games)

2 rushers with 175 yards:
Harvey (215), Havard (175) vs. Middle Tennessee, 9/12/1998

2 rushers with 100 yards:
Epstein (113) and C. Brown. (110) at Nebraska, 11/21/2020

80+ yard rushing play:
80, Reggie Corbin at Wisconsin, 10/20/2018

70+ yard rushing play:
77, Reggie Corbin vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018 (3rd quarter)

Two 40+ runs in one quarter:
56 and 56 (2nd), Kendrick Foster vs. Murray State, 9/3/2016

True-freshman rushed for 100 yards:
Mike Epstein, 111 vs. Western Kentucky, 9/9/2017

True-freshman rushed for 100 yards in first career game:
E.B. Halsey, 139 vs. Missouri, 8/30/2003

40 rushing attempts:
40, Antoino Harris at Wisconsin, 11/9/2002

30 rushing attempts:
31, Williams at Rutgers, 11/14/2020

2 rushers with 2 TDs:
Corbin (2) & Bush, Jr. (2) vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018

8 TDs rushing: Howard Griffith (8) vs. Southern Illinois, 9/22/1990

4 TDs rushing: Antoino Harris (4) vs. Indiana, 10/27/2002

3 TDs rushing: A.J. Bush, Jr. (3) at Nebraska, 11/10/2018

2+ TDs rushing by a QB: A.J. Bush, Jr. (3) at Nebraska, 11/10/2018

Receiving

200 yards receiving:
200, Mike Dudek vs. Purdue, 10/4/2014

150 yards receiving:
178, Josh Imatorbhebhe at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

100 yards receiving:
178, Josh Imatorbhebhe at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

2 receivers with 100 yards receiving:
Turner (164) and Hardee (125) at Northwestern, 11/26/2016

Running back with 100+ yards receiving:
100, Josh Ferguson vs. Northwestern, 10/27/2015

70+ yard pass play:
83, Josh Imatorbhebhe from Brandon Peters at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

60+ yard pass play:
83, Josh Imatorbhebhe from Brandon Peters at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

50+ yard pass play:
52, Josh Imatorbhebhe from Coran Taylor vs. Minnesota, 11/7/2020

10+ receptions: 11, Malik Turner at Northwestern, 11/26/2016

2 receivers with 2 TDs:
Will Judson and Chris Duvalt vs. Missouri, 8/30/2008

3 receiving TDs: A.J. Jenkins (3) vs. Northwestern, 10/11/2011

Offensive lineman caught a pass:
Jeff Allen, (1 rec., 2 yds) vs. Southern Illinois, 9/11/2010

Offensive lineman scored a TD:
Corey Lewis, fumble recovery in end zone at Indiana, 11/9/2013

Passing

600 yards passing: 621, Dave Wilson at Ohio State, 11/8/1980

500 yards passing: 621, Dave Wilson at Ohio State, 11/8/1980

400 yards passing: 456, Wes Lunt vs. Western Kentucky, 9/6/2014

300 yards passing: 369, Brandon Peters. at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

Consecutive 300-yard passing games:
Nathan Scheelhaase at Penn State (321, 11/2/2013) and at Indiana (450, 11/9/2013)

Three consecutive 300-yard passing games:
Jason Verduzco vs East Carolina (352, 8/31/1991), at Missouri (431, 9/14/1991) and vs. Houston (341, 9/21/1991)

6 TDs passing: Dave Wilson at Ohio State, 11/8/1980

5 TDs passing: Nathan Scheelhaase (5) vs. Miami (Ohio), 9/28/2013

4 TDs passing: Brandon Peters (4) at UConn, 9/7/2019

3 TDs passing: Brandon Peters (3) at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

Two 65-plus yard TD passes in the same game:
N. Scheelhaase, 77 & 67 yds to A.J. Jenkins at Indiana, 10/8/11

10+ consecutive completions in a game:
Brandon Peters (10) at UConn, 9/7/2019

Non-QB with passing TD: Trenard Davis vs. Penn State, 9/21/2018

Defense

20 Tackles: J. Leman (20) vs. Missouri, 9/1/2007

19 Tackles: Clayton Fejedelem (19) vs. Wisconsin, 10/24/2015

4 interceptions: Mike Gow (4) vs. Stanford, 9/21/1974

3 interceptions: Eugene Wilson (3) vs. Penn State, 11/10/2001

2 interceptions: Sydney Brown (2) at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

3+ sacks in a game: Owen Carney, Jr. (3.0) vs. Purdue, 10/31/2020

5+ TFLs in a game: Jake Hansen (6.0) vs. Kent State, 9/1/2018

4+ TFLs in a game: Jamal Milan (4.0) at Purdue, 10/26/2019

4+ PBUs in a game: Jaylen Dunlap (4) vs. Michigan State, 11/5/2016

3+ PBUs in a game: Jaylen Dunlap (4) vs. Michigan State, 11/5/2016

3+ PBUs in back-to-back games: Jaylen Dunlap vs. Minnesota (3) and Michigan State (4), 10/29/16-11/5/16

Interception by a lineman:
Michael Buchanan vs. Western Michigan, 9/1/2012

Interception return for TD:
Sydney Brown (76 yards) at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

Two players with interception returns for TD in a game:
Pat Nixon-Youman (68 yards), Jonathan Brown (66 yards) vs. Indiana, 10/23/2010

Fumble recovery for TD:
Tarique Barnes (39 yards) at Wisconsin, 10/23/2020

Scored on a safety: Smoot TFL vs. North Carolina 9/10/2016

Defensive extra point: Nate Hobbs (75 yards) at USF, 9/15/2017

Special Teams

5 field goals: Doug Higgins vs. Michigan State, 10/20/1990

4 field goals: Chase McLaughlin (4) at Maryland 10/27/2018

3 field goals: James McCourt (3) at Rutgers, 11/14/2020

Made 50+ yard field goal:
James McCourt (50) vs. Northwestern 11/30/2019

Blocked a punt: Dawson DeGroot vs. Western Illinois, 9/8/2018

Blocked punt for a touchdown:
Dawson DeGroot (block), Stanley Green (TD) vs. Western Illinois, 9/8/2018

Blocked two field goals: Terrell Washington vs. NIU, 9/8/2001

Blocked two PATs: Rob Bain at Penn State, 10/31/2015

Blocked a field goal: Isaiah Gay at USF, 9/15/2017

Blocked a PAT: Calvin Avery vs. Nebraska, 9/21/2019

Punt return for TD: V'Angelo Bentley (67 yards) vs. OSU, 11/16/2013

Kickoff return for TD:
V'Angelo Bentley (100 yards) vs. Southern Illinois, 8/31/2013

Blocked FG returned for TD:
Travis Williams (66 yards) vs. Illinois State, 9/6/2003

Two-point conversion:
Dre Brown run vs. Michigan, 10/12/2019

Two two-point conversions in the same game:
2 at Ohio State, 11/3/2012 (Russell pass to LaCosse; Russell rush)

AN OPPOSING PLAYER HAD ...

250 yards rushing: 256, Jordan Canzeri, Iowa, 10/10/2015

200 yards rushing: 224, Mohamed Ibrahim, Minnesota, 11/7/2020

150 yards rushing:
224, Mohamed Ibrahim, Minnesota, 11/7/2020

Three 100-yard rushers:
J. Jackson (106), J. Moten IV (105), D. Johnson (101) at USF 9/15/2017

75+ yard rushing play: 79, Justin Jackson, vs. Northwestern, 11/25/17

50+ yard rushing play: 50, Evan Hull, Northwestern, 12/12/2020

Two 40+ TD runs in one quarter:
Carlos Hyde (51, 55 in 4th), Ohio State, 11/16/2013

400 yards passing: 408, Scott Rislav, San Jose State, 9/21/2002

300 yards passing: 371, Aidan O'Connell, Purdue, 10/31/2020

80+ yard pass play:
86, Minnesota (Tanner Morgan to Rashod Bateman), 11/3/2018

70+ yard pass play:
71, Michigan (Shea Patterson to Ronnie Bell), 10/12/2019

50+ yard pass play:
66, Rutgers (Noah Vedral to Bo Melton), 11/14/2020

Non-QB with passing TD:
Nick Scott to Christian Hackenberg at Penn State, 10/31/2015

200 receiving yards: 246, Roy Roundtree, Michigan, 11/6/2010

150 receiving yards: 105, Makai Poulk, California, 12/30/2019

100 receiving yards: 140, Bo Mleton, Rutgers, 11/14/2020

Two 100-yard receivers: David Bell (122), Milton Wright (100), Purdue, 10/31/2020

4 field goals: Keith Duncan, Iowa 11/23/2019

Three 50+ yard field goals: Tim Douglas (51, 58, 51), Iowa, 9/26/1998

Punt return for TD: K. Groenewed (61 yards), Iowa, 11/17/2018

Kickoff return for TD: J. Leake (97 yards), Maryland, 10/27/2018

INT return for TD: Tyler Coyle (52 yards), at UConn, 9/7/2019

Blocked punt for a TD: A.J. Epenesa (19 yards), Iowa, 11/17/2018

Fumble recovery for TD:

Grant Marvin (4 yards), Purdue, 10/31/2020

Safety: Team (tackle in end zone), Minnesota, 10/29/2016

AN ILLINOIS TEAM HAD ...

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: 55 vs. Minnesota(55-31), 11/3/2018

40 points: 41 at Nebraska, 11/21/2020

30 points: 41 at Nebraska, 11/21/2020

0 points: Iowa (0-63), 11/17/2018

0 points in 1st half: vs. Iowa (0-35), 11/17/2018

0 points in 2nd half: at Wisconsin (7-45), 10/23/2020

Did not score a touchdown: vs. Iowa (0-63), 11/17/2018

400 rushing yards: 430 vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018

300 rushing yards: 341 at Rutgers, 11/14/2020

200 rushing yards: 285 at Nebraska, 11/21/2020

Fewer than 100 rushing yards: 14 vs. Northwestern 11/30/2019

Negative yards net rushing: -27 vs. Arizona, 9/18/1993

Three 70+ yard runs: 3 (72, 72, 77) vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018

400 passing yards: 450 vs. Purdue, 10/4/2014

300 passing yards: 369 at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

Fewer than 100 passing yards: 87 at Wisconsin, 10/23/2020

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: 646 vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018

500 total net yards: 509 at Nebraska, 11/10/2018

400 total net yards: 490 at Nebraska, 11/21/2020

Fewer than 100 total net yards: 78 at Wisconsin, 10/8/1977

Consecutive games, 500 total net yards:
at Minnesota (646, 11/11/2008), at Nebraska (509, 11/11/2008),

Five field goals: 5 vs. Wisconsin, 10/20/2001

Shut Out opponent: Western Illinois (44-0), 9/12/2015

9+ sacks in a game: 9 at Purdue, 11/3/2001

6+ sacks in a game: 6 vs. Akron, 8/31/2019

15+ TFL in a game: 15 vs. San Jose St., 9/21/2002

10+ TFL in a game: 10 vs. Rutgers, 11/2/2019

Missed extra point kick: at Michigan State, 11/9/2019

Successful two-point conversion: vs. Michigan, 10/12/2019

2 successful two-point conversions: at Ohio State (2), 11/3/2012

Forced 5+ turnovers: 5 at Nebraska, 11/21/2020

Turned ball over 5+ times: 6 vs. Louisiana Tech, 9/22/2012

10+ passes broken up: 11 vs. Illinois State, 9/12/2009

Blocked two kicks: 2 at South Florida, 9/15/2017

Blocked two punts: 2 vs. Indiana, 10/23/2010

Entire game without punting: vs. Miami (Ohio), 9/28/2013

No penalties: vs. Arkansas State, 9/3/2011

No turnovers: at Northwestern, 12/12/2020

Back-to-back games with no turnovers:
at Nebraska, 11/21/2020 and vs. Iowa, 12/5/2020

No sacks allowed: at Northwestern, 12/12/2020

Back-to-back games with no sacks allowed:
vs. Michigan State, 11/5/2016 and at Wisconsin, 11/12/2016

A successful on-side kick: vs. Penn State, 11/22/2014

Overtime game: Loss vs. Purdue, 34-31 (OT), 10/8/2016

Overtime game at home: Loss vs. Purdue, 34-31 (OT), 10/8/2016

A game with a weather delay: at South Florida, 9/15/2017 (0:37 delay)

A game was postponed: vs. Kent State, 9/4/2015 (2:50 delay)
Eventually postponed and played next day on 9/5/2015

AN OPPOSING TEAM HAD ...

200 yards rushing: 411, at Northwestern, 12/12/2020

300 yards rushing: 411, at Northwestern, 12/12/2020

400 yards rushing: 411, at Northwestern, 12/12/2020

Fewer than 100 yards rushing: 83, Purdue, 10/31/2020

Fewer than 50 yards rushing: 10, UConn, 9/7/2019

Fewer than 20 yards rushing: 10, UConn, 9/7/2019

Negative yards rushing: -10, Murray State, 9/3/2016

One first down: Missouri, 9/10/1994

Zero first downs: Michigan, 10/27/1934

300 yards passing: 371, vs. Purdue, 10/31/2020

400 yards passing: 411, USF, 9/15/2018

Fewer than 100 yards passing: 82, at Northwestern 12/12/2020

500 net yards: 674, vs. Nebraska, 9/21/2019

600 net yards: 674, vs. Nebraska, 9/21/2019

700 net yards: 712, Maryland, 10/27/2018

Fewer than 100 net yards: 96, South Dakota State, 9/10/2011

Fewer than 250 net yards: 192, Akron, 8/31/2019

40 points: 41, vs. Minnesota (41-14), 11/7/2020

50 points: 54, at Nebraska (54-35), 11/10/2018

60 points: 63, Maryland (63-33), 10/27/2018

70 points: 70, Michigan (70-21), 11/7/1981

A shutout: Penn State (39-0), 10/31/2015

Did not score: Western Illinois (0-44), 9/12/2015

Did not score a touchdown: Akron, (3-42) 8/31/2019

Scoreless half: Rutgers, (2nd) 11/2/2019

Missed PAT: Minnesota, 11/7/2020

A two-point conversion: Nebraska, 9/21/2019

Two two-point conversions: Northwestern (2), 11/29/2014

Defense scored all points in victory: Arizona, 16 points, 9/18/1993

Entire game without punting: at Nebraska, 10/1/2016





SMITH FOOTBALL CENTER



The Standard of Excellence

Opened in 2019, The Henry Dale and Betty Smith Football Center is a 107,650 square foot facility adjoining the south end of the Irwin Indoor Practice Facility. The facility features new and expanded strength and conditioning and sports medicine space, coaches' offices, position meeting rooms, player development areas, locker rooms, and other areas for recruiting and prospect hosting.



GAME SUMMARIES

GAME 1

ILLINOIS 7
 #14 WISCONSIN 45

OCT. 23, 2020

CAMP RANDALL STADIUM // MADISON, WIS. // 0

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	7	0	0	7
Wisconsin	7	21	0	17	45

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

WIS: Stokke 10 yd pass from Mertz (Larsh kick), 11:37 (6-33, 2:58)

Second Quarter

WIS: Ferguson 5 yd pass from Mertz (Larsh kick), 11:54 (14-88, 8:17)
 ILL: Barnes 39 yd fumble recovery (McCourt kick), 03:22
 WIS: Ferguson 14 yd pass from Mertz (Larsh kick), 01:06 (5-72, 2:10)
 WIS: Davis 53 yd pass from Mertz (Larsh kick), 00:28 (1-53, 0:08)

Fourth Quarter

WIS: Chenal 2 yd run (Larsh kick), 12:23 (10-66, 5:44)
 WIS: Ferguson 3 yd pass from Mertz (Larsh kick), 04:53 (11-74, 6:46)
 WIS: Larsh 19 yard fg, 00:56 (7-15)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	WISCONSIN
First Downs	8	23
Rushes-Yards	25-131	54-182
Passing Yards	87	248
Comp-Att-Int	8-22-1	20-21-0
Total Yards	218	430
Punts-Avg	5-43.2	4-46.0
Kickoff Returns	6-89	2-28
Penalties-Yards	5-60	3-15
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Sacks By	2-16	3-12
Third-down Conv.	2-10	8-14
Time of Possession	16:32	43:28

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): WISCONSIN - Groshek 13-70-0, Wtason 19-62-0.
 ILL - Peters 7-75-0, Epstein 8-36-0, C. Brown 3-12-0.
PASSING (Comp-Att-Int-TD-Yds): WISCONSIN - Mertz 20-21-5-0-248. ILL - Peters 8-19-0-0-87.
RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): WISCONSIN - Davis 2-72-1, Ferguson 7-72-3, Pryor 3-44-0.
 ILL - Imatorbhebe 3-26-0, Hightower 1-26-0, Epstein 1-22-0.
TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): WISCONSIN - Wilder 4, 0.0, 0, Chenal 4, 0.0, 0, Benton 4, 0.0, 0. ILL - Barnes 11, 1.5, 10; Hobbs 9, 2.0-3; S. Brown 9, 0.0-0.

GAME NOTES

- Illinois is 42-39-7 all-time against Wisconsin, including a 16-24-4 record in Madison.
- Illinois is 2-12 all-time against Wisconsin teams ranked in the AP Poll. Illinois beat No. 5 Wisconsin, 31-26, on 10/6/2007, and beat No. 6 Wisconsin, 24-23, on 10/19/2019.
- Illinois started an all-Illinois offensive line of LT Vederian Lowe, LG Kendrick Green, C Doug Kramer, RG Verdis Brown, and RT Alex Palczewski
- Oct. 23 was the latest start date in Illinois football history. The previous latest start date was Oct. 19, 1907 (L, 42-6 vs. Chicago).
- Illinois started the season in October for the first time since Oct. 4, 1941, a 45-0 win over Miami (Ohio).
- Illinois played its second game ever without fans. Illinois' only previous game without fans was a 7-0 loss to Great Lakes on Oct. 12, 1918. The game was limited to players, coaches, and staff for health concerns during the 1918 Flu Pandemic.
- Five players made their first Illini career start - OL Verdis Brown, WR Brian Hightower, DE Marc Mondesir, DT Roderick Perry II, DB Derrick Smith
- Illinois started six transfers - QB Brandon Peters, WR Brian Hightower, WR Josh Imatorbhebe, WR Donny Navarro, DL Roderick Perry II, DB Derrick Smith
- Eight of Illinois' 22 starters at Wisconsin have 20+ starts: OT Alex Palczewski (37th), C Doug Kramer (33rd), OT Vederian Lowe (33rd), DB Nate Hobbs (31st), OG Kendrick Green (26th), LB Jake Hansen (23rd), DB Sydney Brown (21st), DB Tony Adams (20th)
- Illinois captains: LB Jake Hansen, P Blake Hayes, CB Nate Hobbs, OL Doug Kramer, QB Brandon Peters

GAME 2

PURDUE 31
 ILLINOIS 24

OCT. 31, 2020

MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL. // 838

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Purdue	7	10	14	0	31
Illinois	0	10	0	14	24

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

PUR: Horvath 1 yd run (Dellinger kick), 09:26 (5-80, 1:21)

Second Quarter

PUR: Wright 45 yd pass from O'Connell (Dellinger kick), 11:01 (7-91, 3:28)
 ILL: Epstein 7 yd run (Griffin kick), 04:46 (7-49, 2:32)
 PUR: Dellinger 36 yd field goal, 01:13 (8-51, 3:33)
 ILL: Griffin 28 yd field goal, 00:23 (6-69, 00:44)

Third Quarter

PUR: Bell 3 yd pass from O'Connell (Dellinger kick), 08:47 (4-23, 1:47)
 PUR: Grant 3 yd fumble recovery (Dellinger kick), 00:54

Fourth Quarter

ILL: Imatorbhebe 28 yd pass from Tylor (Griffin kick), 11:44 (8-75, 3:16)
 ILL: Hightower 9 yd pass from Taylor (Griffin kick), 06:36 (7-55, 2:44)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	PURDUE
First Downs	27	26
Rushes-Yards	44-177	31-85
Passing Yards	295	371
Comp-Att-Int	20-33-2	29-35-0
Total Yards	472	456
Punts-Avg	2-41.5	3-32.7
Kickoff Returns	3-24.7	1-14.0
Penalties-Yards	7-75	11-103
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	3-2
Sacks By	4-33	2-12
Third-down Conv.	4-13	5-11
Time of Possession	29:22	30:38

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): PURDUE - Horvath 22-102-1, Anderson. 1-8-0, O'Connell 5-21-0.
 ILL - C. Brown 11-73-0, Epstein 13-63-1, Taylor 17-32-0.
PASSING (Comp-Att-Int-TD-Yds): PURDUE - O'Connell 29-35-0-2-371. ILL - Taylor 17-29-2-2-273.
RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): PURDUE - Bell 9-122-1, Wright 6-100-1, Durham 4-52-0.
 ILL - Hightower 4-97-1, Barker 5-74-0, J. Imatorbhebe 4-43-0, D. Imatorbhebe 2-43-1.
TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): PURDUE - Mitchell 11, 1.0-11, Barnes 8, 0.0, 0; Thienman 7, 0.0, 0. ILL - Hansen 14, 2.0, 3; Adams 9, 0.0-0; Witherspoon 9, 0.0-0.

GAME NOTES

- Illinois is 42-40-7 all-time against Purdue, including a 16-25-4 record at home.
- Illinois is 92-34-5 all-time in home-openers.
- Illinois is 10-8-1 all-time on Halloween.
- Illinois forced the Boilermakers to turn the ball over twice within their own five-yard line - one on downs and one on a forced fumble from Jer'Zhan Newton, with Jake Hansen recovering the ball.
- Illinois started an all-Illinois offensive line of LT Vederian Lowe (Rockford, Ill.), C Kendrick Green (Peoria, Ill.), RG Verdis Brown (Chicago, Ill.), RT Alex Palczewski (Mount Prospect, Ill.) and LG Alex Pihlstrom (Glen Ellyn, Ill.).
- Illinois started six transfers - RB Chase Brown, WR Brian Hightower, WR Josh Imatorbhebe, TE Luke Ford, WR Donny Navarro, DL Roderick Perry II,
- Seven of Illinois' 22 starters against Purdue have 20+ starts: OT Alex Palczewski (38th), OT Vederian Lowe (34rd), DB Nate Hobbs (32st), OG Kendrick Green (27th), LB Jake Hansen (24rd), DB Sydney Brown (22nd), DB Tony Adams (21st).
- Illinois captains: LB Jake Hansen, P Blake Hayes, CB Nate Hobbs, - other captains QB Brandon Peters and C Doug Kramer were out.
- Illinois senior quarterback Brandon Peters and redshirt freshman tight end Griffin Moore were both sidelined for 21 days following positive test results Thursday for the COVID-19 virus. Per Big Ten Conference protocol, following recovery both players will be eligible to return for the Nov. 21 game at Nebraska.

GAME 3

MINNESOTA 41
 ILLINOIS 14

NOV. 7, 2020

MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL. // 863

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Minnesota	7	21	7	6	41
Illinois	0	7	0	7	14

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

MINN: Potts 9 yd run (Lantz kick), 03:29 (11-93, 4:24)

Second Quarter

MINN: Bateman 5 yd pass from Morgan (Lantz kick), 13:23 (6-61, 1:58)
 MINN: Ibrahim 1 yd run (Lantz kick), 08:09 (8-77, 4:08)
 ILL: Epstein 1 yd run (Griffin kick), 05:32 (6-83, 2:37)
 MINN: Ibrahim 2 yd run (Lantz kick), 00:24 (10-75, 5:08)

Third Quarter

MINN: Ibrahim 1 yd run (Lantz kick), 00:21 (7-71, 3:53)

Fourth Quarter

ILL: J. Imatorbhebe 52 yd pass from Taylor (Griffin kick), 11:30 (3-79, 0:54)
 MINN: Ibrahim 4 yd run (Lantz kick), 08:27 (5-62, 2:58)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	MINNESOTA
First Downs	14	30
Rushes-Yards	36-181	47-325
Passing Yards	216	106
Comp-Att-Int	6-17-0	17-27-1
Total Yards	287	541
Punts-Avg	8-42.0	2-25.5
Kickoff Returns	3-17.7	1-27.0
Penalties-Yards	12-120	2-22
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	1-1
Sacks By	1-10	4-23
Third-down Conv.	3-12	8-10
Time of Possession	22:25	37:35

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): MINNESOTA - Ibrahim 30-224-4, Wiley 9-57-0, Potts 3-49-1.
 ILL - Epstein 11-108-1, Taylor 19-42-0, C. Brown 4-31-0.
PASSING (Comp-Att-Int-TD-Yds): MINNESOTA - Morgan 17-27-1-1-216. ILL - Taylor 6-17-0-1-106.
RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): MINNESOTA - Bateman 10-139-1, Ibrahim 2-31-0, Geary 1-18-0.
 ILL - J. Imatorbhebe 2-60-1, Barker 1-21-0, D. Imatorbhebe 1-11-0.
TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): MINNESOTA - Howden 6, 0.0-0-0, Mafe 6, 2.0-13; Nubin 5, 0.0, 0. ILL - Adams 11, 0.0, 0; Eifler 7, 0.5-0; Martin 7, 0.0-0.

GAME NOTES

- Illinois is 39-31-3 all-time against Minnesota, including a 19-16-1 record at home.
- Illinois started an all-Illinois offensive line of LT Vederian Lowe (Rockford, Ill.), C Kendrick Green (Peoria, Ill.), RG Verdis Brown (Chicago, Ill.), RT Alex Palczewski (Mount Prospect, Ill.) and LG Alex Pihlstrom (Glen Ellyn, Ill.).
- Illinois started six transfers - WR Brian Hightower, LB Milo Eifler, WR Josh Imatorbhebe, TE Daniel Imatorbhebe, DL Roderick Perry II, DB Derrick Smith
- Seven of Illinois' 22 starters against Minnesota have 20+ starts: OT Alex Palczewski (39th), OT Vederian Lowe (35th), OL Kendrick Green (28th), LB Jake Hansen (25rd), DB Sydney Brown (23rd), DB Tony Adams (22nd).
- Illinois captains: LB Jake Hansen, P Blake Hayes, CB Nate Hobbs - other captains QB Brandon Peters and C Doug Kramer were out.
- Sophomore QB Coran Taylor and freshman DL Jer'Zhan Newton made their first career starts.
- Senior P Blake Hayes moved into third all-time in career punting average with 10,004 yards. He trails Steve Fitts (10,671) and Justin DuVernois (10,571).
- Senior LB Jake Hansen had his 10th career forced fumble, his ninth in the last 12 games. He now trails only Simeon Rice and Whitney Mercilus for the most
- Jer'Zhan Newton became the first Illinois true freshman defensive lineman to start a game since Bobby Roundtree, Isaiah Gay, and Jamal Woods in 2017. He is the 18th true freshman to start a game on the defensive line in Illinois history. Some of the notables include Bobby Roundtree (2017), Corey Liuget (2008), Fred Wakefield (1997), and Mark Butkus (1980).



GAME SUMMARIES

GAME 4

ILLINOIS 23
 RUTGERS 20

NOV. 14, 2020
 SHI STADIUM // PISCATAWAY, N.J. // 0

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	0	7	10	6	23
Rutgers	10	3	7	0	20

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

RU: Melton 29 yd pass from Vedral (Ambrosio kick), 13:03 (6-75, 1:57)
 RU: Ambrosio 29 yd field goal, 04:33 (6-18, 3:19)

Second Quarter

ILL: Williams 3 yd run (McCourt kick), 13:45 (12-87, 5:48)
 RU: Ambrosio 26 yd field goal, 04:19 (9-75, 4:02)

Third Quarter

ILL: McCourt 24 yd field goal, 08:59 (12-69, 6:01)
 RU: Melton 66 yd pass from Vedral (Ambrosio kick), 07:43 (5-80, 1:10)
 ILL: Epstein 1 yd run (McCourt kick), 04:54 (6-60, 2:43)

Fourth Quarter

ILL: McCourt 23 yd field goal, 13:02 (12-57, 4:31)
 ILL: McCourt 47 yd field goal, 00:03 (6-25, 1:14)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	RUTGERS
First Downs	23	19
Rushes-Yards	59-338	33-166
Passing Yards	104	256
Comp-Att-Int	7-18-0	21-34-3
Total Yards	445	422
Punts-Avg	4-46.0	4-45.5
Kickoff Returns	3-13.0	2-19.5
Penalties-Yards	4-40	7-56
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Sacks By	1-3	1-1
Third-down Conv.	7-16	4-14
Time of Possession	34:38	25:22

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): RUTGERS - Pacheco 21-138-0, Vedral 5-17-0, Adams 3-6-0.

ILL - Williams 31-192-1, C. Brown 17-131-0, Epstein 10-18-1.

PASSING (Comp-Att-INT-Yds): RUTGERS - Vedral 21-34-3-2-256.

ILL - Williams 7-18-0-104.

RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): RUTGERS - Melton 4-140-2, Washington 3-55-0, Young 2-18-0.

ILL - Hobbs 2-36-0, Barker 1-22-0, Washington 1-16-0.

TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): RUTGERS - Fogg 14, 0.0-0.0, Izien 11, 0.0-0.0; Fatukasi 9, 1.5, 2. ILL - Hansen 15, 1.0, 3; Tolson 10, 2.5-4; Hobbs 7, 0.0-0.

GAME NOTES

- Illinois is 5-2 all-time against Rutgers, including a 3-1 record in New Jersey.
- Illinois has won three straight against Rutgers.
- Illinois forced 3+ Rutgers' turnovers for the fifth straight year.
- Illinois started an all-Illinois offensive line of LT **Vederian Lowe** (Rockford, Ill.), LG **Kendrick Green** (Peoria, Ill.), C **Doug Kramer** (Hinsdale, Ill.) RG **Verdis Brown** (Chicago, Ill.), RT **Alex Palczewski** (Mount Prospect, Ill.).
- Illinois started five transfers - RB **Chase Brown**, WR **Brian Hightower**, WR **Josh Imatorbhebe**, WR **Donny Navarro**, DL **Roderick Perry II**.
- Seven of Illinois' 22 starters against Minnesota have 20+ starts: OT Alex Palczewski (40th), OT Vederian Lowe (36th), OL Kendrick Green (29th), LB Jake Hansen (26th), DB Sydney Brown (24th), CB Nate Hobbs (33rd), DB Tony Adams (23rd)
- Redshirt-Freshman QB **Isaiah Williams** and Sophomore LB **Tarique Barnes** made their first career starts.
- QB **Isaiah Williams** rushed for an Illinois record 192 yards. The most single-game rushing yards by a quarterback.
- Isaiah Williams (192) and Chase Brown (131) ran for 100 yards. The last game Illinois had two rushers with over 100 yards vs. Minnesota, 11/3/2018 with RB Reggie Corbin (213) and QB A.J. Bush, Jr. (127)
- Jer'Zhan Newton** is the 16th true freshman to start 2+ games on the defensive line in Illinois history.

GAME 5

ILLINOIS 41
 NEBRASKA 23

NOV. 21, 2020
 MEMORIAL STADIUM // LINCOLN, NEB. // 0

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	14	14	10	3	41
Nebraska	7	3	7	6	23

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

ILL: Brown 3 yd run (McCourt kick), 13:31 (3-21, 1:17)
 NEB: McCaffrey 5 yd run (Culp kick), 09:20 (12-71, 4:05)
 ILL: Brown 2 yd run (McCourt kick), 05:39 (9-75, 3:41)

Second Quarter

ILL: J. Imatorbhebe 28 yd pass from Peters (McCourt kick), 13:48 (7-65, 3:44)
 NEB: Culp 30 yd field goal, 07:32 (10-52, 4:00)
 ILL: Epstein 1 yd run (McCourt kick), 05:50 (4-89, 1:35)

Third Quarter

ILL: McCourt 24 yd field goal, 08:23 (16-65, 6:31)
 NEB: McCaffrey 1 yd run (Culp kick), 06:48 (6-75, 1:35)
 ILL: Peters 1 yd run (McCourt kick), 02:31 (10-75, 4:17)

Fourth Quarter

ILL: McCourt 21 yd field goal, 10:14 (12-41, 5:42)
 NEB: Falck 4 yd pass from Martinez (Martinez rush failed), 02:12 (7-54, 1:58)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	NEBRASKA
First Downs	25	25
Rushes-Yards	52-285	44-215
Passing Yards	205	177
Comp-Att-Int	18-25-0	18-30-3
Total Yards	490	392
Punts-Avg	3-45.7	2-49.0
Kickoff Returns	2-20.0	3-21.0
Penalties-Yards	3-31	7-66
Fumbles-Lost	4-0	4-2
Sacks By	3-28	1-8
Third-down Conv.	11-17	4-12
Time of Possession	36:21	23:39

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): NEBRASKA - McCaffrey 26-122-2, Robinson 7-60-0, Scott 8-22-0.

ILL - Epstein 13-113-1, C. Brown 26-110-2, Peters 8-36-1.

PASSING (Comp-Att-INT-Yds): NEBRASKA - McCaffrey 15-26-3-0-134. ILL - Peters 18-25-0-1-205.

RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): NEBRASKA - Robinson 6-60-0, Allen 5-43-0, Martin 2-30-0.

ILL - J. Imatorbhebe 4-71-1, Navarro 5-58-0, Barker 3-42-0.

TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): NEBRASKA - Honas 10, 1.5-8, Domann 8, 2.0-2; Reimer 7, 1.0, 2. ILL - Adams 13, 0.0, 0; Tolson 10, 1.0-2; Hansen 7, 2.5-5.

GAME NOTES

- Illinois won at Nebraska for the first time since 1924.
- Illinois is 4-13-1 all-time against Nebraska, including a 2-9 record in Lincoln.
- Illinois won Big Ten road games in consecutive weeks for the first time since Nov. 3, 2007 at Minnesota (44-17) and Nov. 10, 2007 at No. 1 Ohio State (28-21).
- Mike Epstein and Chase Brown both rushed for over 100 yards. It is the first time since the 2000 season Illinois as had 100+ yard rushers in back-to-back games. Rocky Harvey and Antonio Harris both rushed for over 100 yards against Middle Tennessee (9/2/00) and San Diego State (9/9/00)
- Illinois forced 5 Nebraska turnovers.
- Illinois was 10-14 on third downs and 1-1 on fourth downs.
- Illinois started four different QBs in the first four games and two QBs at Nebraska.
- Illinois started two quarterbacks for the first time since 10/19/2013 against Wisconsin when Nathan Scheelhaase and Aaron Bailey were both in on the first play.
- Illinois started an all-Illinois offensive line of LT **Vederian Lowe** (Rockford, Ill.), LG **Kendrick Green** (Peoria, Ill.), C **Doug Kramer** (Hinsdale, Ill.) RG **Verdis Brown** (Chicago, Ill.), RT **Julian Pearl** (Danville, Ill.).
- RB **Mike Epstein** rushed for a touchdown, making four straight games with him reaching the endzone. Epstein tied his career high 113 rushing yard Illinois history.
- RB **Mike Epstein** rushed for a touchdown, making three straight games with him reaching the endzone.

ILL-OSU CANCELED

ILLINOIS -
 #4 OHIO STATE -

NOV. 28, 2020
 MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

GAME NOTES

- The Ohio State at Illinois football game scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28, WAS canceled because of an elevated number of COVID-19 cases within Ohio State's program.
- The game is considered a "no contest" by the Big Ten Conference.



GAME 6

ILLINOIS 21
 #19 IOWA 35

DEC. 5, 2020

MEMORIAL STADIUM // CHAMPAIGN, ILL. // 875

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	7	7	0	7	21
Iowa	0	13	8	14	35

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

ILL: Barker 24 yd pass from Peters (McCourt kick), 08:10 (9-70, 4:32)

Second Quarter

ILL: J. Imatorbhebhe 12 yd pass from Peters (McCourt kick), 13:30 (8-75, 3:24)
 IOWA: LaPorta 22 yd pass from Petras (Duncan kick), 06:18 (8-52, 3:35)
 IOWA: Duncan 40 yd field goal, 02:54 (6-32, 2:16)
 IOWA: Duncan 27 yd field goal, 00:14 (8-44, 1:15)

Third Quarter

IOWA: Smith-Marsette 4 yd pass from Petras (Goodson pass from Petras), 08:24 (9-70, 4:35)

Fourth Quarter

IOWA: Beyer 16 yd pass from Petras (Duncan kick), 12:40 (2-32, 0:45)
 IOWA: Smith-Marsette 13 yd run (Duncan kick), 01:56 (10-88, 5:35)
 ILL: Sandy 29 yd pass from Williams (McCourt kick), 00:24 (10-75, 1:32)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	IOWA
First Downs	20	22
Rushes-Yards	38-149	38-204
Passing Yards	199	220
Comp-Att-Int	17-35-0	18-28-0
Total Yards	348	424
Punts-Avg	7-38.0	5-42.0
Kickoff Returns	2-22.0	2-24.0
Penalties-Yards	3-30	3-22
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Sacks By	2-10	1-8
Third-down Conv.	9-18	4-12
Time of Possession	29:34	30:26

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): IOWA - Goodson 17-92-0, Sargent 10-54-0, Smith-Marsette 2-44-1.
 ILL - C. Brown 18-83-0, Williams 6-38-0, Peters 7-17-0.
PASSING (Comp-Att-INT-Yds): IOWA - Petras 18-28-0-3-220. ILL - Peters 10-18-0-2-116.
RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): IOWA - Smith 5-58-0, LaPorta 4-57-1, Smith-Marsette 4-32-1.
 ILL - J. Imatorbhebhe 4-48-1, Barker 4-40-1, Campbell 2-24-0.
TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): IOWA - Niemann 8, 0.0-0, Golston 8, 0.5-4; Nixon 5, 0.5, 4. ILL - Adams 10, 0.0, 0; Hansen 7, 0.0-0; Carney Jr. 7, 0.5-1.

GAME NOTES

- The game was tied for the latest regular season game in Illinois football history. Illinois and Fresno State also played on Dec. 5 in 2009.
- Illinois is 38-36-2 all-time against Iowa, including a 20-10 record at home.
- Illinois honored 33 seniors prior to the game.
- Illinois has an all-time record of 46-62-2 on Homecoming.
- Illinois captains: LB **Jake Hansen**, P **Blake Hayes**, CB **Nate Hobbs**, C **Doug Kramer**, QB **Brandon Peters**.
- Illinois started an all-Illinois offensive line of LT **Vederian Lowe** (Rockford, Ill.), LG **Kendrick Green** (Peoria, Ill.), C **Doug Kramer** (Hinsdale, Ill.) RG **Verdis Brown** (Chicago, Ill.), RT **Julian Pearl** (Danville, Ill.).
- Illinois started six transfers - RB **Chase Brown**, LB **Milo Eifler**, WR **Brian Hightower**, WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe**, QB **Brandon Peters**, DL **Roderick Perry II**.
- Seven of Illinois' 22 starters against Iowa have 20+ starts: OT **Vederian Lowe** (38th), OL **Kendrick Green** (33rd), LB **Jake Hansen** (28th), DB **Sydney Brown** (26th), CB **Nate Hobbs** (35th), DB **Tony Adams** (25th)
- Senior LT **Vederian Lowe** started for the 32nd straight game.
- Junior OL **Kendrick Green** started for the 33rd straight game.

GAME 7

ILLINOIS 10
 NORTHWESTERN 28

DEC. 12, 2020

RYAN FIELD // EVANSTON, ILL. // 0

SCORING BY QUARTER

Team	1	2	3	4	F
Illinois	3	0	0	7	10
Northwestern	0	14	14	0	28

SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

ILL: McCourt 39 yd field goal, 01:49 (14-59, 7:29)

Second Quarter

NU: Mangieri 2 yd pass from Ramsey (Kuhbender kick), 14:56 (6-75, 1:53)
 NU: Porter 2 yd run (Kuhbender kick), 00:24 (17-64, 7:02)

Third Quarter

NU: Porter 18 yd run (Kuhbender kick), 10:53 (9-75, 4:07)
 NU: Hull 32 yd run (Kuhbender kick), 04:02 (10-81, 6:04)

Fourth Quarter

ILL: Hightower 46 yd pass from Williams (McCourt kick), 08:47 (7-86, 1:38)

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	ILL	NU
First Downs	14	23
Rushes-Yards	35-155	58-411
Passing Yards	107	82
Comp-Att-Int	7-22-0	7-12-0
Total Yards	262	493
Punts-Avg	4-55.0	2-46.0
Kickoff Returns	4-16.2	1-0.0
Penalties-Yards	4-35	6-40
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-1
Sacks By	0-0	0-0
Third-down Conv.	3-12	6-15
Time of Possession	25:25	34:35

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING (Carries-Yards-TD): NU - Hull 13-149-1, Porter 24-142-2, Ramsey 9-47-0.
 ILL - C. Brown 14-70-0, Williams 7-38-0, Epstein 6-22-0.
PASSING (Comp-Att-INT-Yds): NU - Ramsey 7-12-0-1-82. ILL - Williams 4-8-0-1-86.
RECEIVING (Rec-Yards-TD): NU - McGowan 4-72-0, Lees 1-5-0, Porter 1-3-0.
 ILL - J. Imatorbhebhe 3-34-0, Hightower 2-60-1, Washington 2-13-0.
TACKLE LEADERS (Tackles, TFL-Yds): NU - Fisher 7, 0.0-0, Gallagher 6, 1.0-1; Joseph 6, 0.0, 0. ILL - Martin 12, 0.0, 0; Hansen 8, 1.0-3; Eifler 7, 0.0-0.

GAME NOTES

- Today was the latest regular season game in Illinois football history.
- Illinois is 55-54-5 all-time against Northwestern, including a 30-30-3 record in Evanston.
- Illinois had three defenders make their first career starts: Calvin Avery, Bryce Barnes, and Marquez Beason.
- Illinois had two defenders make their first starts of the season: Michael Marchese and Jartavius Martin.
- P Blake Hayes is now the leader in career punting yardage with 10811 yards. Hayes also had one rush for 20 yards.
- Illinois captains: LB **Jake Hansen**, P **Blake Hayes**, C **Doug Kramer**, QB **Brandon Peters**. Other captain CB **Nate Hobbs**, was out.
- Illinois started an all-Illinois offensive line of LT **Vederian Lowe** (Rockford, Ill.), LG **Kendrick Green** (Peoria, Ill.), C **Doug Kramer** (Hinsdale, Ill.) RG **Verdis Brown** (Chicago, Ill.), RT **Julian Pearl** (Danville, Ill.).
- Illinois started six transfers - RB **Chase Brown**, LB **Milo Eifler**, TE **Luke Ford**, WR **Josh Imatorbhebhe**, QB **Brandon Peters**, DB **Derrick Smith**
- Four of Illinois' 22 starters against Iowa have 20+ starts: OT **Vederian Lowe** (39th), OL **Doug Kramer** (37th), OL **Kendrick Green** (34th), LB **Jake Hansen** (29th)
- Senior LT **Vederian Lowe** started for the 33rd straight game.
- Junior OL **Kendrick Green** started for the 34th straight game.
- Six of Illinois' defensive starters from last week were not available at Northwestern: DB **Adams**, DB **Brown**, DB **Hobbs**, DL **Perry**, LB **Tolson**, DL **Woods**
- Illinois was missing 55% of its total starts on defense this season (36/66).
- Entering the game, Illinois had 17 defenders that had played 100+ snaps this season. Eight of those defenders were not available for the game.
- Illinois senior defensive back **Tony Adams** missed the game following a positive test result for the COVID-19 virus. Contact tracing also sidelined senior defensive back **Nate Hobbs**.



- » 18 receptions, 273 receiving yards, four touchdowns on the season
- » 25th in the Big Ten in receiving touchdowns (4)
- » Second on the team in receiving touchdowns (4) and third in receiving yards (273)
- » Game-winning last-second touchdown catch at Michigan State 11/9/19 to help Illinois finish the biggest comeback in program history in 37-34 win
- » Three receptions for 37 yards vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
- » Career-highs in receptions (4, tied), receiving yards (90), and long reception (52) against Eastern Michigan 9/14/19
- » Caught a touchdown at UConn 9/7/19, his second straight game with a TD to start the season

2018 Freshman:

- » Played all 12 games with three starts at tight end
- » Sixth-most starts at TE by a true freshman in Illinois history
- » Nine receptions for 84 yards and one touchdown on season
- » First career touchdown against Minnesota 11/3/18 on a career-long 30-yard reception
- » First career reception against South Florida 9/15/18
- » First career start in season opener against Kent State 9/1/18
- » Second true freshman tight end to start a season opener in program history, joining Evan Wilson in 2010

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals
- » Ranked No. 66 tight end in the nation by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 237 recruit in Florida by 247Sports
- » 2017 Sun Sentinel honorable mention
- » High school teammate of fellow Illini Jakari Norwood
- » Verbally committed to Illinois in July 2017
- » Offers included Kentucky, Pittsburg, FIU, FAU, Marshall, Southern Miss, Toledo, UAB and UCF

Personal:

- » Born Sept. 23, 1999
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Receptions: 5 vs. Purdue, 10/31/20
 Receiving Yards: 90 vs. Eastern Michigan, 9/14/19
 Long Reception: 52 vs. Eastern Michigan, 9/14/19
 Receiving Touchdowns: 1, three times (last at Michigan State, 11/9/19)
 All-Purpose Yards: 90 vs. Eastern Michigan, 9/14/19

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2018	12	9	84	1	30	0.8	9.3	7.0
2019	13	18	273	4	52	1.4	15.2	21.0
2020	7	16	214	1	25	2.3	13.4	30.6
TOTAL	32	43	571	6	52	1.3	13.3	17.8

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	0	0	0	0	2	15	0	9
PUR	0	0	0	0	5	74	0	21
MIN	0	0	0	0	1	21	0	21
@RUT	0	0	0	0	1	22	0	22
@NEB	0	0	0	0	3	42	0	25
OSU					Game Canceled			
IOWA	0	0	0	0	16	214	1	25
@NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2019	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
AKRON	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
@UCONN	0	0	0	0	2	44	1	26
EMU	0	0	0	0	4	90	0	52
NEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@MIN	0	0	0	0	2	15	0	11
MICH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIS	0	0	0	0	3	37	0	19
@PUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@MSU	0	0	0	0	2	21	1	16
@IOWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	9
vs. CAL	0	0	0	0	3	55	1	40

2018	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
KENT ST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USF	0	0	0	0	4	30	0	11
PENN ST	0	0	0	0	3	19	0	20

@RUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@WIS	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	5
@MD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MINN	0	0	0	0	1	30	1	30
@NEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IOWA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

48 BRYCE BARNES

DL, 6-2, 270, SO.
 GIBSON CITY, ILL. / GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY

2020 Sophomore:

- » Made first career start at Northwestern 12/12/20
- » Plays primarily on special teams

2019 Freshman:

- » Played in all 13 games, primarily on special teams
- » Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron

High School:

- » Champaign News-Gazette 2018-19 Male Athlete of the Year
- » Helped lead GCMS to back-to-back IHSA Class 2A State Championships in 2017 and '18
- » Played for head coach Mike Allen at GCMS
- » Also played basketball at GCMS, scoring over 1,000 career points and
- » Helping basketball team to third place at IHSA 2A state finals

Personal:

- » Born Aug. 18, 2000
- » Picked Illinois because, "it is a top University and earning a degree from this school will be my ticket to any job I would like to get in the future."
- » Majoring in community health

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2019	13	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	7	0	2	2	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	20	0	2	2	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MIN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@RUT	0	1	1	0.5-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
OSU				Game Canceled						
IOWA	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NW	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

44 TARIQUE BARNES

LB, 6-1, 230, SO.
 MEMPHIS, TENN. / CORDOVA

Pronunciation: ta-REEK

2020 Sophomore:

- » First career interception at Nebraska 11/21/20
- » Made first career start at Rutgers 11/14/20
- » First career fumble recovery, touchdown, and sack at Wisconsin 10/23/20

2019 Freshman:

- » Played in all 13 games, primarily on special teams
- » 13 tackles, one forced fumble on the season
- » Tied for the team lead in kickoff tackles (4)
- » Second on the team in special teams tackles (8)
- » Second on the team in punt return tackles (4)
- » Career-high four tackles at Michigan State 11/9/19 to help Illinois win 37-34 in the biggest comeback in program history
- » First career forced fumble at UConn 9/7/19 on kickoff coverage
- » Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron

High School:

- » Played for head coach Marcus Wimberly at Cordova
- » Led Cordova to the 2017 Tennessee 4A state title
- » Also wrestled and participated in track and field in high school
- » Principals List
- » Honor Roll

Personal:

- » Born Nov. 23, 2000
- » Son of Darlene Shinault and Melvin Barnes
- » Four brothers, Tyler, Justyn, Meltavious, and Darrion
- » Picked Illinois because, "I felt that it would give me a good opportunity to grow and excel after college."
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 11 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
 Sacks: 1.0 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
 TFL: 1.5 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
 Fumbles Forced: 1 at UConn, 9/7/19
 Fumbles Recovered: 1 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
 Interceptions: 1 at Nebraska 11/21/20

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2019	13	8	5	13	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2020	5	12	13	25	1.5	10	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	18	20	18	38	1.5	10	1	1	1	0	0

INTERCEPTION STATISTICS

YEAR	G	INT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2019	13	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2020	5	1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	18	1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@WIS	7	4	11	1.0-9	1.5-10	0	1-39	0-0	0	0
PUR	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MIN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@RUT	2	4	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NEB	3	4	7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-0	0	0
OSU				Game Canceled						
IOWA				DNP - Injured						
@NW				DNP - Injured						

2019	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
AKRON	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@UCONN	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0
EMU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NEB	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MIN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MICH	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@PUR	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
RUT	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MSU	2	2	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@IOWA	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NW	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
vs. CAL	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

3 MARQUEZ BEASON

DB, 5-11, 195, R-FR.
 DALLAS, TEXAS / DUNCANVILLE

Pronunciation: mar-KEZ

2020 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Made first career start at Northwestern 12/12/20
- » Backup defensive back
- » Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year watch list

2019 Freshman:

- » Missed the season after suffering a knee injury during training camp

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
- » Ranked No. 91 recruit in the nation by ESPN, No. 108 by 247Sports and No. 108 by Rivals
- » Ranked No. 4 athlete in the nation by 247Sports and No. 12 by Rivals
- » Ranked No. 11 cornerback in the nation by ESPN
- » Ranked No. 14 recruit in Texas by Rivals and ESPN and No. 15 by 247Sports
- » No. 8 recruit in Illinois' last 17 years according to 247Sports



- » Beason and Isaiah Williams are Illinois' two highest ranked recruits since Terry Hawthorne in 2009 and the highest combo since Arrelious Benn and Martez Wilson in 2007
- » Ranked as high as No. 54 overall recruit in the nation in March 2018 according to 247Sports Composite
- » Four-year letterwinner in football
- » Played for head coach Reginald Samples at Duncanville
- » 2019 Under Armour All-American selection
- » 2018 The Opening Finals participant
- » 2019 Polynesian Bowl All-Star
- » Led Duncanville to the 2018 6A Division 1 state title runner-up finish at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas and a 14-1 record
- » Helped Duncanville upset USA Today's No. 1-ranked team in the country, Allen, in the 2018 6A Division 1 state semifinals at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas
- » Played defense and offense in high school
- » 207 receiving yards and two TDs on 11 receptions as a senior
- » 520 receiving yards and eight touchdowns on 35 receptions as a junior
- » 320 rushing yards and four touchdowns on 36 carries as a junior
- » Also ran track in high school with a personal best 10.46 in the 100-meter dash
- » Verbally committed to Illinois in March 2018
- » Offers included Arizona, Arizona State, Arkansas, Baylor, Colorado, Florida, Florida State, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas State, Louisville, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, Mississippi State, Missouri, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Ole Miss, Oregon, Oregon State, Purdue, Rutgers, TCU, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, UCF, USC, Utah, Washington, Washington State, and Wisconsin

Personal:

- » Born April 6, 2001
- » Son of Ketra and Archie Beason
- » One brother, Zeriaah, one sister, Rayshauna
- » Nicknamed "ezmoneyquez" and "playstation"
- » Chose No. 3 because he is the youngest of three
- » Picked Illinois because of the, "family environment and great coaches."
- » Enrolled in general curriculum with plans to major in communication
- » Plans to become a sports analyst following his playing career

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 4 at Northwestern, 12/12/20

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2020	6	5	1	6	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	5	1	6	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@WIS	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MIN					DNP					
@RUT	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
OSU					Game Canceled					
IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NW	4	0	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

16 JOSH BEETHAM

QB, 6-5, 235, FR.

YORKVILLE, ILL. / YORKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

High School:

- » Named All-Conference and All-Area his junior and senior seasons
- » Named All-State honorable mention 2019
- » Played basketball and named All-Conference and All-Area
- » Honor roll and member of the National Honor society

Personal:

- » Son of Brad and Jeni Beetham
- » Born June 29, 2001

- » Two sisters, Madi and Addi, and two brothers, Jake and Jack
- » Majoring in recreation, sport, and tourism

83 JOHN BICKEL

WR, 5-9, 170, FR.

TINLEY PARK, ILL. / PROSPER HIGH SCHOOL

High School:

- » Named All-Conference senior year
- » 2019 Defensive player of the year
- » 2019 Offensive player of the year
- » Named All-State for track and field in 100m and 4x100m

Personal:

- » Son of John and Lynn Bickel
- » Younger brother, Shane
- » Majoring in kinesiology
- » Chose Illinois because of "great academics and the coaches made me feel wanted here."
- » Wants to be physical therapist

29 CHRISTIAN BOBAK

DB, 6-0, 200, SR.

HINSDALE, ILL. / HINSDALE CENTRAL

Pronunciation: bo-BACK

2020 Senior:

- » Plays primarily on special teams

2019 Junior:

- » Played in all 13 games, primarily on special teams
- » Three tackles on the season

2018 Sophomore:

- » Played all 12 games, primarily on special teams
- » Nine tackles on season
- » Career-high two tackles three times (WIU, Penn State, Maryland)
- » Spent most of his first two seasons as a running back before moving to the defensive backfield late in the 2017 season
- » Academic All-Big Ten

2017 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Walkon played in all 12 games, primarily on special teams
- » Practiced as both a running back and as a safety at different points in the season
- » Three tackles on season
- » Made Fighting Illini debut in the opener against Ball State
- » First career carry in the season finale vs. Northwestern
- » Academic All-Big Ten

2016 Freshman:

- » Member of UI squad
- » Joined team as a walkon in summer 2016

High School:

- » 2015 West Suburban Conference All-Silver Division
- » Rushed for 1,133 yards and 12 TDs as senior to earn Team MVP and *Suburban Life* All-Area
- » Averaged 125.9 rushing yards per game a senior
- » Six 100-yard games a senior, including two 230+ yard games
- » Zero fumbles in 149 carries as a senior
- » Rushed for 374 yards on 77 carries as a junior
- » Averaged 6.7 yards per rush during his high school career
- » Led Hinsdale Central to a 7-3 record & state playoffs as senior
- » Played for head coach Dan Hartman at Hinsdale Central
- » Also ran track (three years) and played hockey (two years) in high school
- » Qualified for the state track meet and was team captain

Personal:

- » Born May 30, 1998
- » Full name is Christian Francis Bobak
- » Son of Stan and Stella Bobak

- » Has two brothers, Dominic and Matthew
- » Brother, Matthew, plays football at Illinois
- » Illinois State Scholar and Honor Roll student in high school
- » Lists Michael Jordan as favorite athlete because "his work ethic and success are models for the mindset I want to emulate."
- » Graduated with an undergraduate degree in finance
- » Enrolled in the technology management master's program

CAREER HIGHS

Carries: 1 vs. Northwestern, 11/25/17
 Rushing Yards: -1 vs. Northwestern, 11/25/17
 Long Run: -1 vs. Northwestern, 11/25/17
 Kick Returns: 1, five times (last at Northwestern, 11/24/18)
 Kick Return Yards: 15 at Northwestern, 11/24/18
 Long Kick Return: 15 at Northwestern, 11/24/18
 All-Purpose Yards: 15 at Northwestern, 11/24/18
 Tackles: 2, three times (last at Maryland, 10/27/18)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017	12	2	1	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	12	6	3	9	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	13	2	1	3	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	5	2	2	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	12	7	19	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@WIS	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MIN					DNP					
@RUT					DNP					
@NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
OSU					Game Canceled					
IOWA	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NW	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2019	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
AKRON	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@UCONN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
EMU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MIN	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MICH	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@PUR	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
RUT	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MSU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NW	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
vs. CAL	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2018	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
KENT ST	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIU	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
USF	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PENN ST	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@RUT	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MD	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MINN	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NEB	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NW	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2017	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
BALL ST	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WKU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@USF	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@IOWA	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
RUT	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MIN	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@PUR	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
IND	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@OSU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NW	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

27 MATT BOBAK

RB, 5-11, 185, FR.

HINSDALE, ILL. / HINSDALE CENTRAL

High School:

- » Three-year letterwinner
- » 2018 All-West Suburban Conference
- » 2018 All-Area Honorable Mention
- » 2018 Hinsdale Central MVP



- » School record three touchdowns in a single playoff game
- » 2018 team rushing and scoring leader
- » Rushed for 1,132 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior
- » Averaged 103 rushing yards per game as a senior
- » Averaged 5.4 yards per rush during his high school career
- » Led Hinsdale Central to a 8-3 record and state playoffs as a senior
- » Hinsdale Central Athlete of the Month October 2018
- » Also ran track and qualified for the state track meet
- » Honor Roll student

Personal:

- » Born February 16, 2001
- » Son of Stan and Stella Bobak
- » Has two brothers, Dominic and Christian
- » Brother, Christian, plays football at Illinois
- » Majoring in community health
- » Plans to attend med school
- » Plays the violin and guitar
- » Chose Illinois because, "Illinois has always been my dream school and I had a great opportunity to play on the same team as my brother Christian."

2 CHASE BROWN

RB, 5-11, 195, R-SO.

LONDON, ONTARIO / ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL (FLA.) / WMU

2020 Redshirt Sophomore:

- » Part of the running back rotation
- » Ran the ball for 100+ yards in back-to-back games
- » Ran for a career high 131 yards on 17 carries at Rutgers 11/14/20
- » Carried the ball 11 times for 73 yards in his first start for Illinois against Purdue 10/31/20

2019 Sophomore:

- » Played in four games and redshirted the season
- » Three carries for 18 rushing yards on the season
- » Made his Illinois debut against Michigan 10/12/19
- » Granted a waiver on appeal to become immediately eligible to play in 2019, starting with the Michigan game 10/12/19
- » Transferred to Illinois with three years of eligibility remaining

2019 Freshman (Western Michigan):

- » Played in all 13 games
- » Season-high 15 carries and 52 rushing yards against Ohio 11/1/18
- » 71 carries for 352 yards (5.0 ypr), 10 rec. for 75 yards (7.5 ypc) and 12 kickoff returns for 227 yards (18.9 ypr) on season

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports Composite
- » No. 59 running back in the nation by 247Sports Composite
- » No. 144 recruit in Florida by 247Sports Composite
- » State champion and leading rusher in Manatee County
- » 2017 Offensive MVP, first team all-conference and second team all-state
- » School's all-time leading rusher, as a senior
- » 1,508 yards on 98 carries (15.9 yards/carry) and 150 yards per game with 27 touchdowns
- » Anchored the state champion 400-meter relay in track and field and holds school record in the 100-meter dash
- » Offers included Purdue, UCF, Syracuse, Illinois, Ole Miss, Indiana, Tulane and Wake Forest

Personal:

- » Born March 21, 2000
- » Son of Darren Issac and Raechel Brown
- » Twin brother, Sydney and one sister, Mya
- » Brother, Sydney, also plays football at Illinois
- » Father played in CFL for three seasons
- » Mother was a figure skater
- » Majoring in communication

CAREER HIGHS (ILLINOIS)

Rush attempts: 26, at Nebraska 11/21/20
 Touchdowns: 2, at Nebraska 11/21/20
 Rush yards: 131, at Rutgers 11/14/20
 Long rush: 39, at Rutgers 11/14/20
 Receptions: 2, vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Receiving yards: 15, vs vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Long reception: 18 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 All-purpose yards: 131, at Rutgers 11/14/20
 Kick returns: 4, at Wisconsin 10/23/20
 Kick return yards: 62, at Wisconsin 10/23/20
 Long kick return: 20, at Wisconsin 10/23/20

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2019	4	3	18	0	14	6.0	4.5
TOTAL	11	96	528	2	39	5.5	48.0

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2019	4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2020	7	5	30	0	18	0.7	6.0	4.3
TOTAL	11	5	30	0	18	0.5	6.0	2.7

KICK RETURN STATISTICS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2019	4	1	15	0	15	15.0	3.8
2020	7	4	62	0	20	15.5	8.9
TOTAL	11	5	77	0	20	15.4	7.0

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	3	12	0	12	1	-2	0	0
PUR	11	73	0	30	1	5	0	5
MIN	4	31	0	16	0	0	0	0
@RUT	17	131	0	39	0	0	0	0
@NEB	26	110	2	35	1	12	0	12
OSU					Game Canceled			
IOWA	18	83	0	17	2	15	0	18
@NW	14	70	0	16	0	0	0	0

2019	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
AKRON					DNP - NCAA rules			
@UCONN					DNP - NCAA rules			
EMU					DNP - NCAA rules			
NEB					DNP - NCAA rules			
@MIN					DNP - NCAA rules			
MICH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@PUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUT	3	18	0	14	0	0	0	0
@MSU					DNP			
@IOWA					DNP			
NW					DNP			
vs. CAL					DNP			

2018-WMU	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
SU	4	40	0	13	0	0	0	0
@UM	7	34	0	15	1	-3	0	0
DSU	6	48	0	29	0	0	0	0
GSU	6	34	0	11	2	16	0	13
@MIA	4	-1	0	4	1	16	0	16
EMU	3	23	0	9	0	0	0	0
BGSU	4	17	0	15	0	0	0	0
CMU	5	23	0	9	0	0	0	0
TOL	6	28	0	13	2	26	0	22
OHIO	15	52	0	18	0	0	0	0
@BSU	2	21	0	19	0	0	0	0
NIU	5	18	0	10	1	7	0	7
BYU	4	15	0	5	3	13	0	6

KICK RETURN/PUNT RETURNS GAME-BY-GAME

2019	KR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG
AKRON					DNP - NCAA rules			
@UCONN					DNP - NCAA rules			
EMU					DNP - NCAA rules			
NEB					DNP - NCAA rules			
@MIN					DNP - NCAA rules			
MICH	1-15	15.0	0	15	0-0	0	0	0
WIS	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
@PUR	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
RUT	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
@MSU					DNP			
@IOWA					DNP			
NW					DNP			

30 SYDNEY BROWN

DB, 6-0, 200, JR.

LONDON, ONTARIO / ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL (FLA.)

2020 Junior:

- » Starting defensive back
- » First career forced fumble at Wisconsin 10/23/20

- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten second team
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team

2019 Sophomore:

- » Played in 11 games and started 10 at safety
- » All-Big Ten third team (coaches)
- » All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)
- » 88 tackles, 2.5 TFLs, three interceptions on the season
- » Second in the Big Ten in interceptions (3) and sixth in tackles per game (8.0)
- » Tied for the team lead in interceptions (3) and was second in tackles (88)
- » Career-high 13 tackles, two interceptions, and a 76-yard interception returned for a touchdown at Michigan State 11/9/19 to help Illinois win 37-34 in the biggest comeback in program history
- » Did not play the first two games of the season due to injury

2018 Freshman:

- » Played and started in 10 games (seven starts at safety and three at nickel)
- » Tied for second-most starts by an Illinois true freshman defensive back, behind only Vontae Davis' 11
- » Second on the team in PBUs (5) and fifth in tackles (55)
- » 55 tackles, 2.0 TFLs, five PBUs, one interception and one QB hurry on season
- » First career interception against Purdue 10/13/18
- » First career start in the season opener vs. Kent State 9/1/18
- » Missed the South Florida and Iowa games with injuries

High School:

- » Transferred to St. Stephen's Episcopal School from London South Collegiate Institute
- » Played for head coach Todd Creneti at St. Stephen's
- » Led St. Stephen's Episcopal to back-to-back Sunshine State Athletic Conference independent state championships
- » 51 tackles, 7.0 TFLs, two interceptions, five passes defended, one fumble recovery and one forced fumble as a senior
- » 81 tackles, 2.0 TFLs, one INT and five PBUs as a junior
- » Also ran track in high school
- » Florida state finalist in 400m, 4x400m and 4x100m as asenior
- » Florida state finalist in the 4x100m as a junior

Personal:

- » Born March 21, 2000
- » Son of Darren Issac and Raechel Brown
- » Twin brother, Chase and one sister, Mya
- » Hometown is London, Ontario, Canada
- » Father played in CFL for three seasons
- » Mother was a figure skater
- » Twin brother, Chase, played football at Western Michigan one season before transferring to Illinois in 2019
- » Picked Illinois because, "I personally choose to attend the University of Illinois because of how much the University had to offer as a student and as an athlete. From all the schools that I had visited before coming to visit Illinois, none of them could compete with how special the University is itself."
- » Majoring in recreation, sport, and tourism

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 13 at Michigan State, 11/9/19
 TFLs: 1.0, three times (last at Iowa, 11/23/19)
 QB Hurries: 1 vs. Minnesota, 11/3/18
 Fumbles Forced: 1 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
 PBUs: 2 vs. Purdue, 10/13/18
 Interception: 2 at Michigan State, 11/9/19
 Interception Return Yards: 76 at Michigan State, 11/9/19
 Long Interception Return: 76 at Michigan State, 11/9/19
 Touchdowns: 1 at Michigan State, 11/9/19

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2018	10	25	30	55	2.0	4	6	0	0	0	1
2019	11	51	37	88	2.5	3	4	0	0	0	0
2020	6	20	16	36	0.5	2	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	96	83	179	5.0	9	10	1	0	0	1

INTERCEPTION STATISTICS

YEAR	G	INT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2018	10	1	2	0	2	2.0	0.2
2019	11	3	84	1	76	28.0	7.6



2020	6	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	27	4	86	1	76	21.5 3.2

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU	
@WIS	8	1	9	0.0-0	0.0-0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	
PUR	3	4	7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
MIN	3	3	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@RUT	3	2	5	0.5-2	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@NEB	1	5	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
OSU	Game Canceled										
IOWA	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@NW	DNP - Injured										

2019	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU	
AKRON	DNP - Injured										
@UCONN	DNP - Injured										
EMU	4	3	7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
NEB	1	2	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@MIN	3	4	7	0.5-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
MICH	6	4	10	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
WIS	3	8	11	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@PUR	6	2	8	1.0-2	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
RUT	1	4	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@MSU	8	5	13	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	2-76	0	1	
@IOWA	6	0	6	1.0-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-8	0	0	
NW	5	5	10	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
vs. CAL	8	0	8	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	

2018	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU	
KENT ST	2	3	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
WIU	1	2	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
USF	DNP - Injured										
PENN ST	3	2	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1	
@RUT	4	2	6	1.0-2	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1	
PUR	4	8	12	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-2	0	2	
@WIS	2	3	5	0.5-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@MD	5	3	8	0.5-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
MINN	1	5	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	
@NEB	3	2	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1	
IOWA	DNP - Injured										
@NW	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	

52 VERDIS BROWN

DL, 6-4, 320, SO.

CHICAGO, ILL. / IMG ACADEMY (FLA.)

Pronunciation: ver-dis

2020 Sophomore:

» Won battle for starting right guard

2019 Redshirt Freshman:

» Played in all 13 games, primarily on special teams

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by ESPN and Rivals
- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 199 recruit in the nation by ESPN and No. 397 by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 2 center in the nation by Rivals, No. 3 by ESPN and No. 7 by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 36 recruit in Florida by Rivals, No. 54 by 247Sports and No. 65 by ESPN
- » 2017 Under Armour All-America Game invitation
- » Announced his commitment to Illinois on December 22, 2017
- » Offers included Florida State, Indiana, LSU, Michigan, Michigan State, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Purdue, Tennessee, UCF, UCLA and Wisconsin

Personal:

- » Born Jan. 12, 2000
- » Majoring in African-American studies

19 DALEVN CAMPBELL

WR, 6-4, 205, R-FR.

MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS / FORT BEND MARSHALL

Pronunciation: DALE-ven

2019 Freshman:

- » Played in five games, primarily on special teams
- » Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron

High School:

- » 21 catches for 545 yards and seven TDs as a senior
- » Also ran track at Fort Bend Marshall, winning the Texas 5A 4x200 meter relay state title with a school record time of 1:23.52 helping Fort Bend Marshall to the team title.

Personal:

- » Born Dec. 7, 2000
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Receptions: 2, vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Receiving yards: 24 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Long reception: 18, vs Iowa 12/5/20
 All-purpose yards: 24, vs Iowa 12/5/20

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2019	5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2020	5	2	24	0	18	0.4	12.0	4.8
TOTAL	10	2	24	0	18	0.2	12.0	2.4

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@RUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OSU	Game Canceled							
IOWA	0	0	0	0	2	24	0	18
NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

99 OWEN CARNEY JR.

DL, 6-3, 260, SR.

MIAMI, FLA. / MIAMI CENTRAL

2020 Senior:

- » Starting defensive end
- » Career high three sacks against Purdue 10/31/20 is tied for 7th all-time in a game for an Illini player

2019 Junior:

- » Played in all 13 games at defensive end
- » 15 tackles, 2.0 TFLs, 2.0 sacks on the season

2018 Sophomore:

- » Played all 12 games with eight starts on DL
- » 21 tackles, 4.5 TFLs, 2.5 sacks, one PBU, one fumble recovery and six QB hurries on season
- » Career-high 2.0 TFLs and 1.0 sack vs. Iowa 11/17/18
- » Career-high five tackles at Nebraska 11/10/18
- » First career start against South Florida 9/15/18

2017 Freshman:

- » Played in 10 games at defensive end as a true freshman
- » Six tackles, one QB hurry on the season
- » Made his Illinois debut against Western Kentucky
- » Enrolled at Illinois for spring semester and participated in 2017 spring practices

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by Rivals
- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN & Scout
- » Ranked as a top 500 recruit in the nation by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 16 weakside DE by Rivals and No. 30 by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 46 recruit in Florida by Rivals, No. 78 by 247Sports and No. 90 by ESPN
- » Ranked No. 13 recruit in Miami by the Miami Herald
- » Helped Miami Central win fourth straight state title in 2015
- » Played football at Miami Central for head coach Roland Smith
- » Honor Roll in high school

Personal:

- » Born Feb. 8, 1999
- » Son of Owen Carney Sr. and Valeria Elmore-Carney
- » Has one sister, O'Neshia, and one brother, O'Juan

- » Relatives Keir Thomas (South Carolina) and Da'Marrio Jackson-Smith (Kansas State) play college football
- » Picked Illinois because, "of the relationship developed with the coaching staff."
- » Graduated with a degree in communication
- » Enrolled in the recreation, sport, and tourism master's program

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 7 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Sacks: 3.0 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 TFLs: 3.5 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 QB Hurries: 1, twice (last vs. South Florida, 9/15/18)
 Fumbles Forced: 1vs Purdue 10/31/20
 Fumbles Recovered: 1 at Nebraska, 11/10/18
 PBUs: 1, twice (last vs. Michigan, 10/12/19)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017	10	4	2	6	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2018	12	10	11	21	4.5	17	1	0	1	0	6
2019	13	6	9	15	2.0	8	1	0	0	0	3
2020	7	11	14	25	7.0	50	0	1	0	0	2
TOTAL	42	31	36	67	13.5	75	2	1	1	0	12

SACKS STATISTICS

2017	10	0	0	0.0	0
2018	12	2	1	2.5	13
2019	13	2	0	2.0	8
2019	13	2	0	2.0	8
2020	7	4	2	5.0	40
TOTAL	42	8	3	9.5	61

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU	
@WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
PUR	4	2	6	3.5-23	3-23	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
MIN	1	4	5	0.5-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	2	0	
@RUT	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@NE	1	2	3	1.5-16	1.5-16	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
OSU	Game Canceled										
IOWA	2	5	7	0.5-1	0.5-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	
@NW	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	

2019

UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
AKRON	1	1	2	1.0-7	1.0-7	0	0-0	0-0	0
@UCONN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
EMU	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1
NEB	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
@MIN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
MICH	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1
WIS	0	3	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1
@PUR	3	1	4	1.0-1	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0
RUT	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
@MSU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1
@IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
NW	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
vs. CAL	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0

2018

UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
KENT ST	1	3	4	0.5-2	0.5-2	0	0-0	0-0	0
WIU	1	0	1	1.0-2	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1
USF	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1
PENN ST	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
@RUT	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	2
PUR	2	0	2	1.0-9	1.0-9	0	0-0	0-0	0
@WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
@MD	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
MINN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1
@NEB	2	3	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	1-2	0-0	0
IOWA	1	3	4	2.0-4	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0
@NW	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0				

2019 Sophomore:

» Played 12 games, primarily on special teams

208 Redshirt Freshman:

» Played four games, primarily on special teams
 » Made his Illinois debut against Minnesota 11/3/18
 » Academic All-Big Ten

2017 Freshman:

» Walkon redshirted the 2017 season

High School:

» Played for head coach Todd Kuska at St. Rita
 » 2016 CCL Blue Defensive Player of the Year
 » Gold Honor Roll
 » Two-time Heaney Award winner (straight A's)
 » Also played volleyball in high school

Personal:

» Born Jan. 31, 1999
 » Son of Dennis and Peggy Coghlan
 » One brother, Quinn, and three sisters, Erin, Emma and Kara
 » Father attended the University of Illinois
 » Sister, Erin, plays club lacrosse at Wisconsin
 » Chose Illinois because, "There is a history of my family coming here, Illinois is a very prestigious school with a meaningful degree and I could not turn down the opportunity to play Big Ten football."
 » Plans to pursue a career in the business world following his playing career
 » Double majoring in accountancy and finance

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2018	4	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	12	4	1	5	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	4	1	0	1	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	20	5	1	6	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

49 SETH COLEMAN

DL, 6-5, 230, R-FR.

MELBOURNE, FLA. / HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL ACADEMY

2020 Redshirt Freshman:

» First career start at Nebraska 11/21/20
 » Part of the defensive line rotation

2019 Freshman:

» Played in three games and redshirted the season
 » Made Illinois debut against Nebraska

High School:

» Three-star recruit by 247Sports and ESPN
 » Two-star recruit by Rivals
 » Ranked No. 110 weak side DE in nation by 247Sports
 » Ranked No. 74 outside linebacker in the nation by ESPN
 » Ranked No. 135 recruit in Florida by ESPN and No. 265 by 247Sports
 » 101 tackles, 28.0 TFL and 13.0 sacks as a senior
 » Played for coach Nate Hooks at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy
 » Also played basketball at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy
 » Verbally committed to Illinois in July 2018
 » Offers included Baylor, Navy, Nebraska, Pitt, Rutgers, South Florida, TCU, Utah, and Virginia

Personal:

» Born Dec. 7, 2000
 » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 3, twice (last at Northwestern 12/12/20)
 TFLs: 2.0 at Northwestern, 12/12/20

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2019	3	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	7	5	5	10	3.5	8	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	5	5	10	3.5	8	0	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH PBU	
@WIS	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
PUR	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
MIN	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
@RUT	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
@NEB	0	2	2	0.5-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
OSU				Game Canceled						
IOWA	2	1	3	1.0-3	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
@NW	2	1	3	2.0-4	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	

40 SHAMMOND COOPER

LB, 6-2, 220, R-FR.

ST. LOUIS, MO. / TRINITY CATHOLIC

2020 Redshirt Freshman:

» Backup linebacker

2019 Freshman:

» Played in three games and redshirted the season
 » Five tackles on the season
 » Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron

High School:

» Four-star recruit by 247Sports and ESPN
 » Three-star recruit by Rivals
 » Ranked No. 149 recruit in the nation by ESPN and No. 531 by 247Sports
 » Ranked No. 26 inside LB in the nation by 247Sports and No. 30 by Rivals
 » Ranked No. 13 outside linebacker in the nation by ESPN
 » Ranked No. 4 recruit in Missouri by ESPN and No. 10 by 247Sports and Rivals
 » Ranked as high as No. 128 overall recruit in the nation in May 2017 according to 247Sports Composite
 » 2019 Under Armour All-American Game
 » 2018 St. Louis Post-Dispatch Defensive Player of the Year
 » 2018 USA TODAY All-USA Missouri first team
 » 2018 Missouri Football Coaches Association Class 3 All-State first team
 » 2018 The Opening Finals participant
 » 137 tackles, 16.0 TFL and 5.0 sacks as a senior
 » Led Trinity Catholic to Missouri Class 3 state title as a senior
 » Led Trinity Catholic with 8.0 tackles in 2018 Missouri Class 4 state title game to help Trinity Catholic beat Cardinal Ritter
 » Led Trinity Catholic in tackles for four years
 » Played for coach Cory Patterson through junior year when Patterson left Trinity Catholic to become TE coach at Illinois
 » Played for coach Terrence Curry at Trinity Catholic as a senior
 » High school teammate of fellow Illinois signee Isaiah Williams
 » Offers included Arkansas, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Indiana, Iowa, Iowa State, Kansas State, Kentucky, Louisville, LSU, Michigan State, Minnesota, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Ole Miss, Oregon, Oregon State, South Carolina, Syracuse, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M, and Wisconsin

Personal:

» Born March 15, 2001
 » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 5 vs. Akron, 8/31/19
 TFLs: - 0.5 at Wisconsin 10/23/20

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2019	3	2	3	5	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	4	2	1	3	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	4	4	8	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH PBU	
@WIS	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
PUR				DNP						
MIN				DNP						
@RUT				DNP						
@NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
OSU				Game Canceled						
IOWA	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	

@NW	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0
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2019	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH PBU	
AKRON	2	3	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
@UCONN				DNP						
EMU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	
@MIN				DNP						
MICH				DNP						
WIS				DNP						
@PUR				DNP						
RUT				DNP						
@MSU				DNP						
@IOWA				DNP						
NW				DNP						
vs. CAL				DNP						

70 THOMAS CRONIN

OL, 6-4, 290, R-FR.

OAK PARK, ILL. / OAK PARK RIVER FOREST

Pronunciation: CROW-nin

2019 Freshman:

» Redshirted the 2019 season

High School:

» Lettered in football as a senior
 » Played for head coach John Hoerster at Oak Park River Forest
 » Also played baseball and golf in high school
 » Did not start playing football until senior year

Personal:

» Born May 25, 2001
 » Son of Regan and Thomas Cronin
 » Eight sisters, Caroline, Anne-Claire, Jilly, Tamsen, Rory, Regan Mary, Tess, Eileen, and one brother, Marshall
 » Aunt swam at Illinois
 » Picked Illinois because he, "connected with the coaching staff right away, Illinois is my home town state, I have family here, and I love the colors orange and blue."
 » Plans to own his own business or become a lawyer following his playing career
 » Majoring in English

20 KYRON CUMBY

WR, 5-8, 180, R-FR.

PLANO, TEXAS / PLANO

Pronunciation: KY-ran

2020 Redshirt Freshman:

» First career start at Nebraska 11/21/20
 » Backup wide receiver

2019 Freshman:

» Played in four games and redshirted the season
 » Two receptions for 31 yards and two punt returns for 11 yards on the season
 » Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron

High School:

» Three-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
 » Ranked No. 16 all-purpose back in the nation by 247Sports
 » Ranked No. 33 running back in the nation by ESPN
 » Ranked No. 61 recruit in Texas by ESPN and No. 184 by 247Sports
 » 897 rushing yards on 119 carries and 17 touchdowns as a senior
 » 523 receiving yards on 43 receptions and five receiving touchdowns as a senior
 » Played for head coach Jaydon McCullough at Plano
 » Verbally committed to Illinois in June 2018
 » Offers included Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas, Texas Tech and Washington State
 » Also ran track at Plano

Personal:



- » Born Feb. 10, 2001
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Carries: 1 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 Rushing Yards: 9 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 Long Run: 9 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 Receptions: 2, at Nebraska 11/21/20
 Receiving Yards: 31 vs. Akron 8/31/19
 Long Reception: 31 vs. Akron 8/31/19
 Kick returns: 2, at Nebraska 11/21/20
 Kick return yards: 40, at Nebraska 11/21/20
 Long kick return: 22, at Nebraska 11/21/20
 All-Purpose Yards: 31 vs. Akron 8/31/19

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2019	4	2	31	0	31	0.5	15.5	7.8
2020	5	3	16	0	17	0.6	5.3	3.2
TOTAL	9	5	47	0	31	0.6	9.4	5.2

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2019	4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2020	5	2	11	0	9	5.5	2.2
TOTAL	9	2	11	0	9	5.5	1.2

PUNT RETURN STATISTICS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2019	4	2	11	0	6	5.5	2.8
2020	5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	9	2	11	0	6	5.5	1.2

KICK RETURNS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2019	4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2020	5	2	40	0	22	20.0	8.0
TOTAL	9	2	40	0	22	20.0	4.4

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUR	1	9	0	9	1	17	0	17
MIN	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
@RUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0	2	-1	0	0
OSU								
IOWA								
@NW								

Game- Canceled

2019	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
AKRON	0	0	0	0	1	31	0	31
@UCONN								
EMU								
NEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@MIN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
MICH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIS								
@PUR								
RUT								
@MSU								
@IOWA								
NW								
vs. CAL								

2019	KR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG
AKRON	0-0	0	0	0	1-6	6.0	0	6
@UCONN								
EMU								
NEB								
@MIN	0-0	0	0	0	1-5	5.0	0	5
MICH	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
WIS								
@PUR								
RUT								
@MSU								
@IOWA								
NW								
vs. CAL								

KICK/PUNT RETURN GAME-BY-GAME

2020	KR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG
@WIS	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
MIN	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
@RUT	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
@NEB	2	40	0	22	0-0	0	0	0
OSU								
IOWA								
@NW								

Game - Canceled

10 DESMOND DAN JR.

WR, 6-3, 190, SR.
 MUSKOGEE, OKLA. / CHECOTAH HS / NEW MEXICO STATE

2019 Redshirt Junior (New Mexico State):

- » Played in three games with one start before suffering a season-ending injury
- » Finished his shortened season with five catches for 49 yards
- » Caught two passes for 27 yards in the season opener at #23 Washington State (8/31)
- » Two receptions for 22 yards at #2 Alabama (9/7)
- » Ran the ball two times for 22 yards against the nationally ranked Crimson Tide.

2018 Redshirt Sophomore (New Mexico State):

- » Played in all 12 games with 11 starts
- » Fourth on the team in receptions and receiving yards with 37 catches for 491 yards
- » Tied for the team lead with three receiving touchdowns
- » Began the season with two catches for 60 yards and a touchdown in the opener against Wyoming 8/25/18
- » Season-high seven catches and a season-high 85 receiving yards in the season finale at Liberty 11/24/18

2017 Redshirt Freshman (New Mexico State):

- » Played in all 13 games
- » Completed the season with 11 catches for 91 yards
- » Breakout game at Appalachian State 10/7/17 with five catches for 44 yards
- » Began the season with five combined catches in the first three weeks of the season
- » Season-long catch was 15 yards at Appalachian State.

2016 Freshman (New Mexico State):

- » Redshirted the season

High School:

- » Played at Checotah HS under Chad Hendricks
- » Selected First Team All-State as a wide receiver by OCA
- » Named First Team All-State as a kickoff returner for OK Preps after finishing No. 1 in state in return yards
- » Amassed 888 return yards and four touchdowns on 33 returns with a 26.9 return yard average
- » Finished as No. 3 wide receiver in state of Oklahoma by OK Preps
- » Racked up 1,150 receiving yards and 13 touchdowns on 54 receptions
- » Had a 21.3 average for receiving yards
- » #27 overall prospect in state by OK Preps
- » 4.0 GPA
- » National Honor Society

Personal:

- » Son of Desmond Drew Dan Sr. and Jennifer McMann
- » Has six brothers and one sister
- » Enrolled in the recreation, sport, and tourism master's program

38 ISAAC DARKANGELO

LB, 6-1, 225, FR.
 BRIGHTON, MICH. / DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL

High School:

- » Named First team All-State 2016
- » First team All Catholic league in 2016 and 2017
- » Team captain in 2017
- » Three time district champion
- » State-runner up 2016
- » Also played golf, lacrosse and wrestling

Personal:

- » Born April 26, 2000
- » Son of Anthony and JoAnn
- » Majoring in communication
- » Has two brothers and three sisters
- » Brother, Anthony, played college football at Ferris State for four years, then professionally in Germany

- » Sister, Shiann, is a professional women's hockey player who is a world champion with Team USA (2016)
- » Mother, JoAnn, is a national champion in college volleyball
- » Chose to wear 38 because "my older Brother Anthony Darkangelo II has always been 38. I've always looked up to him and he is someone that inspires me."

43 COOPER DAVIS

DE, 6-5, 245, FR.
 MELBOURNE, FLA. / VIERA

2020 Freshman:

- » Made Illinois debut at Northwestern 12/12/20

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247, ESPN, and Rivals
- » National ranks: #903 (247 Composite), #1349 (247)
- » Strong-side defensive end ranks: #34 (Rivals), #46 (247 Composite), #52 (ESPN), #68 (247)
- » Florida ranks: #90 (ESPN), #120 (247 Composite), #155 (247)
- » Finished fourth in Florida 7A Player of the Year voting
- » 103 tackles, 22.0 sacks, 39.0 TFLs, 18 quarterback hurries, one interception as a senior
- » 97 tackles, 21.0 sacks, 29.0 TFLs, one forced fumble, two fumble recoveries as a junior
- » Also played basketball in high school
- » Committed to Illinois on Dec. 11, 2019

Personal:

- » Born Sept. 24, 2001
- » Majoring in community health

5 MILO EIFLER

LB, 6-2, 225, SR.
 BERKELEY, CALIF. / BISHOP O'DOWD / WASHINGTON

Pronunciation: MEE-low EYE-fler

2020 Senior:

- » Starting linebacker
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten fourth team

2019 Junior:

- » Played in all 13 games and started 12 at linebacker
- » 69 tackles, 10.0 TFLs, one PBU, one fumble recovery on the season
- » Sack on the first defensive play of the game in the Redbox Bowl against California
- » Career-highs in tackles (10), TFLs (2.5), and sacks (1.0) in 38-10 win against Rutgers 11/2/2019
- » Eight tackles vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
- » First career touchdown on a fumble recovery return at Minnesota 10/5/19
- » Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron

2018 Sophomore:

- » Sat out the season due to NCAA transfer rules
- » Two years of eligibility remaining beginning in 2019

2017 Redshirt Freshman (Washington)

- » Played in all 13 games at Washington
- » Six tackles (four solo)
- » Washington Special Teams Player of the Game at Oregon State
- » Two tackles in the Apple Cup win over Washington State

2016 Freshman (Washington)

- » Redshirted the season at Washington

High School:

- » Played linebacker and running back at Bishop O'Dowd
- » Played for Napoleon Kaufman at Bishop O'Dowd



- » First-team All-West Alameda County Conference-Foothill League at outside linebacker as a senior
- » Helped Bishop O'Dowd to a 7-6 record and the semi-finals of the CIF North Coast Section Division 3 playoffs as a senior
- » 2015 U.S. Army All-American Bowl invitation
- » Helped Bishop O'Dowd to the North Coast Section playoffs as a junior
- » First-team All-WACC, third-team All-East Bay and honorable mention San Francisco Chronicle All-Metro as a junior
- » 2014 CalHiSports.com junior-class all-state
- » Tacoma News Tribune "Western 100"
- » No. 94 prospect in the nation by Scout, No. 118 by Rivals, No. 142 by 247Sports and No. 280 by ESPN
- » No. 21 prospect in California by 247Sports, No. 23 by Rivals and No. 31 by ESPN
- » No. 6 outside linebacker prospect in the nation by Scout, No. 11 by Rivals, No. 11 by 247Sports and No. 15 by ESPN
- » Participated in the shot, discus, high jump and long jump for the track team, winning league titles in the shot put as a sophomore and junior

Personal:

- » Born Feb. 13, 1998
- » Majoring in sociology

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 10 vs. Rutgers, 11/2/19
TFLs: 2.5 vs. Rutgers, 11/2/19
Sacks: 1.0, twice (last vs. California, 12/30/19)
Fumbles Recovered: 1 at Minnesota, 10/5/19
PBUs: 1, twice (last vs. Iowa 12/5/20)
Touchdowns: 1 at Minnesota, 10/5/19

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017*	5	4	2	6	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	13	39	24	63	10.0	29	1	0	1	0	0
2020	5	15	6	21	2.5	3	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	54	30	84	12.5	32	2	0	1	0	0
All*	23	58	32	90	12.5	32	2	0	1	0	0

* - stats include Washington (2017)

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@WIS	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PUR	2	1	3	1-1	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MIN	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@RUT				DNP - Injured						
@NEB				DNP - Injured						
OSU				Game Canceled						
IOWA	3	0	3	1.0-2	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1
@NW	5	2	7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2019	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
AKRON	1	2	2	1.0-5	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1
@UCONN	5	2	7	0.5-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
EMU	1	3	4	1.0-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NEB	1	4	5	1.0-3	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MIN	3	2	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	1-7	0-0	0	0
MICH	3	1	4	1.0-4	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIS	3	5	8	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@PUR	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
RUT	7	3	10	2.5-6	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MSU	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@IOWA	5	0	5	2.0-4	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NW	4	2	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
vs. CAL	4	0	4	1.0-6	1.0-6	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2017-UW	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@RUT				DNP						
MONT	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
FRESNO	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@COL	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@ORST	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
CAL				DNP						
@ASU				DNP						
UCLA				DNP						
OREGON				DNP						
@STAN				DNP						
WASHST	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
vs. PSU				DNP						

58 PRESTON ENGEL

OL, 6-0, 270, SO.

NORMAL, ILL. / NORMAL COMMUNITY

Pronunciation: EN-gull

2020 Sophomore:

- » Plays primarily on special teams

2019 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Played in two games, primarily as an extra blocker
- » Made Illinois debut against Rutgers

2018 Freshman:

- » Redshirted the 2018 season (Did not play)

High School:

- » Three-year letterwinner in football
- » Played for head coach Wes Temples at Normal Community
- » 2018 All-Big 12 Conference first team
- » 2018 senior captain
- » Also played basketball as a freshman and sophomore

Personal:

- » Born March 14, 2000
- » Son of Melissa and Greg Engel
- » Father played center at Illinois from 1989-94 and was captain of the 1993 team before playing in the NFL
- » Mother is the Director of Internal Operations for Advancement at the University of Illinois
- » Older brother, McClain, is a manager for the Illinois men's basketball team
- » Picked Illinois because, "it is the school I've always been a fan of. It also has a lot more to offer than just a great football program, the academics here are outstanding as well."
- » Plans to major in business
- » Lists LeBron James as his favorite athlete because, "no matter where he goes, he makes everyone around him a better player and person."
- » Majoring in recreation, sport, and tourism

26 MIKE EPSTEIN

RB, 6-0, 205, SR.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA. / ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Pronunciation: ep-STEEN

2020 Senior:

- » Part of running back rotation
- » Tied career-high 113 rushing yards at Nebraska 11/21/20
- » Scored a touchdown in four straight games
- » Scored his first touchdown since Rutgers 10/5/18 against Purdue 10/31/20
- » Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year watch list

2019 Junior:

- » Injured knee during the season opener against Akron and missed the remainder of the season
- » Eight carries for 45 yards against Akron

2018 Sophomore:

- » Played seven games with two starts at running back
- » 411 rushing yards on 60 carries (6.8 yards per carry) and three touchdowns on season
- » 10 receptions for 86 yards on season
- » Missed the last five games and most of the game at Wisconsin 10/20/18 due to injury
- » Third on the team in rushing yards (411) and tied for third in rushing touchdowns (3)
- » Career-high five receptions for career-high 56 receiving yards against South Florida 9/15/18
- » Back-to-back 100-yard rushing games against Western Illinois 9/8/18 and South Florida 9/15/18
- » Career-high 113 rushing yards against South Florida 9/15/18 for third career 100-yard game
- » Second career 100-yard game (eight carries for 105 yards) against Western Illinois 9/8/18
- » Touchdown in the season opener against Kent State 9/1/18
- » Academic All-Big Ten

2017 Freshman:

- » Played in the first five games of the season with three starts at running back
- » Missed the last seven games with an injury
- » 57 carries for 346 rushing yards and three touchdowns, along with 4 catches for 59 yards and one touchdown on season
- » Led Illinois in rushing yards (346) and yards per carry (6.1)
- » Fifth true freshman in program history to lead the team in rushing yards
- » Tied for the team lead in touchdowns (4; 3 rushing, 1 receiving)
- » Third on the team in all-purpose yards (424)
- » Led Illinois in all-purpose yards per game (84.8)
- » Team-high 111 rushing yards vs. Western Kentucky, his first career 100-yard game
- » Two touchdowns and 105 all-purpose yards in his Illinois debut in the opener against Ball State
- » One of six true freshmen in the nation to score multiple touchdowns during the season opener
- » Two touchdowns against South Florida (one receiving, one rushing)
- » Team-long 58-yard rush at Iowa
- » First career start vs. Western Kentucky Sept. 9

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by Rivals, ESPN and Scout
- » Ranked No. 58 running back in the nation by Scout, No. 59 by 247Sports and No. 89 by ESPN
- » Ranked No. 92 recruit in Florida by Rivals, No. 143 by 247Sports and No. 197 by ESPN
- » Played at St. Thomas Aquinas for head coach Roger Harriott
- » 2016 Sun Sentinel All-Broward Football Player of the Year
- » 2016 Sun Sentinel 7A All-State first team
- » 2016 Sun Sentinel 7A All-County
- » Led St. Thomas Aquinas to 2016 Florida 7A state championship with 45-6 win over Tampa Plant in title game
- » Scored four touchdowns in the state semifinal against Venice
- » Helped St. Thomas Aquinas beat Bingham (Utah) 33-25 in State Champions Bowl Series on ESPNU
- » Rushed for 1,173 yards on 156 carries (7.5 yards per rush) and 16 touchdowns as a senior
- » Totaled over 1,500 yards as a senior
- » Lettered three years in high school
- » Missed his junior season with a knee injury
- » Spent his first two years of high school at Cypress Bay (Weston, Florida)

Personal:

- » Born Aug. 6, 1998
- » Son of Elizabeth and David Epstein
- » Has one sister, Melanie, and one brother, Danny
- » Brother, Danny, played football at Colgate (2011-12) and Bryant (2012-15)
- » Picked Illinois because, "of the great coaching staff, great fit for me, being one of the top academic schools in the country and the opportunity to play Big Ten football."
- » Majoring in marketing

CAREER HIGHS

Touchdowns: 2, twice (last at South Florida, 9/15/17)
Carries: 21 vs. Western Kentucky, 9/9/17
Rushing Yards: 113 twice (last at Nebraska 11/21/20)
Long Run: 63 vs. Minnesota, 11/7/20
Rushing Touchdowns: 2 vs. Ball State, 9/2/17
Receptions: 5 vs. South Florida, 9/15/18
Receiving Yards: 56 vs. South Florida, 9/15/18
Long Reception: 32 vs. South Florida, 9/15/18
Receiving Touchdowns: 1 at South Florida, 9/15/17
Kickoff Returns: 1 vs. Ball State, 9/2/17
Kickoff Return Yardage: 19 vs. Ball State, 9/2/17
All-Purpose Yards: 169 vs. South Florida, 9/15/18

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2017	5	57	346	3	58	6.1	69.2
2018	7	60	411	3	43	6.8	58.7
2019	1	8	45	0	14	5.6	45.0
2020	6	61	360	4	63	5.9	60.0
TOTAL	19	186	1162	10	63	6.2	61.2

RECEIVING STATISTICS



YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	YDS/C	YDS/G
2017	5	4	59	1	21	0.8	14.8	11.8
2018	7	10	86	0	32	1.4	8.6	12.3
2019	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2020	6	2	29	0	22	0.3	14.5	4.8
TOTAL	19	16	174	1	32	0.8	10.9	9.2

KICK RETURN STATISTICS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2017	5	1	19	0	19	19.0	3.8
2018	7	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2019	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2020	5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	18	1	19	0	19	19.0	1.1

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	8	36	0	20	1	22	0	22
PUR	13	63	1	33	1	7	0	7
MIN	11	108	1	63	0	0	0	0
@RUT	10	18	1	11	0	0	0	0
@NEB	13	113	1	58	0	0	0	0
OSU	Game Canceled							
IOWA	DNP							
@NW	6	22	0	8	0	0	0	0

2019	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
AKRON	8	45	0	14	0	0	0	0
@UCONN	DNP - Injured							
EMU	DNP - Injured							
NEB	DNP - Injured							
@MIN	DNP - Injured							
MICH	DNP - Injured							
WIS	DNP - Injured							
@PUR	DNP - Injured							
RUT	DNP - Injured							
@MSU	DNP - Injured							
@IOWA	DNP - Injured							
NW	DNP - Injured							
vs. CAL	DNP - Injured							

2018	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
KENT ST	8	33	1	6	0	0	0	0
WIU	8	105	0	38	1	5	0	5
USF	19	113	1	43	5	56	0	32
PENN ST	13	73	0	18	2	19	0	13
@RUT	9	63	1	41	0	0	0	0
PUR	1	10	0	10	2	6	0	4
@WIS	2	14	0	11	0	0	0	0
@MD	DNP - Injured							
MINN	DNP - Injured							
@NEB	DNP - Injured							
IOWA	DNP - Injured							
@NW	DNP - Injured							

2017	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
BALL ST	11	54	2	14	2	32	0	17
WKU	21	111	0	13	0	0	0	0
@USF	8	56	1	45	2	27	1	21
NEB	10	42	0	13	0	0	0	0
@IOWA	7	83	0	58	0	0	0	0
RUT	DNP - Injured							
@MIN	DNP - Injured							
WIS	DNP - Injured							
@PUR	DNP - Injured							
IND	DNP - Injured							
@OSU	DNP - Injured							
NW	DNP - Injured							

KICK RETURN/PUNT RETURNS GAME-BY-GAME

2017	KR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG
BALL ST	1-19	19.0	0	19	0-0	0	0	0
WKU	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
@USF	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
NEB	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
@IOWA	0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0
RUT	DNP - Injured							
@MIN	DNP - Injured							
WIS	DNP - Injured							
@PUR	DNP - Injured							
IND	DNP - Injured							
@OSU	DNP - Injured							
NW	DNP - Injured							

24 NICK FEDANZO

RB, 6-0, 205, R-FR.
LOMBARD, ILL. / MONTINI CATHOLIC

Pronunciation: fa-DON-zo

2020 Redshirt Freshman:
» Plays primarily on special teams

2019 Freshman:
» Played in three games and redshirted the season

» Made Illinois debut against Eastern Michigan

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports and ESPN
- » Two-star recruit by Rivals
- » Ranked No. 81 running back in the nation by 247Sports and No. 97 by ESPN
- » Ranked No. 25 recruit in Illinois by ESPN and No. 28 by 247Sports
- » Played for head coach Mike Bukovsky at Montini
- » 2018 USA TODAY All-USA Illinois second team
- » 2018 Class 5A IHSFCA All-State
- » Led Montini to an IHSFA 5A state runner-up finish as a senior at Memorial Stadium
- » 17 carries for 186 yards and three touchdowns in the 2018 state championship game against Joliet Catholic
- » Also ran track in high school

Personal:

- » Born Nov. 13, 2000
- » Son of Natalie and Joe Fedanzo
- » One brother, Michael, and one sister, Danielle
- » Nicknamed "Zo"
- » Picked Illinois because of, "the family atmosphere."
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

82 LUKE FORD

TE, 6-6, 250, JR.
CARTERVILLE, ILL. / CARTERVILLE / GEORGIA

2020 Junior:

- » First career start at Northwestern 12/12/20
- » Made Illinois debut at Wisconsin 10/23/20

2019 Sophomore:

- » Sat out 2019 season due to NCAA transfer rules after hardship waiver request was denied
- » Enrolled at Illinois for spring 2019 semester and participated in 2019 spring practices

2018 Freshman (Georgia):

- » Played in nine of 14 games for the Bulldogs
- » One reception for four yards in collegiate debut against Austin Peay 9/1/18

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
- » Ranked No. 42 recruit in the nation in the class of 2018 by Rivals, No. 51 by 247Sports and No. 63 by ESPN
- » Ranked No. 1 tight end in the nation by Rivals and No. 3 by 247Sports and ESPN
- » Ranked No. 1 recruit in Illinois by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
- » 2018 U.S. Army All-America Bowl
- » The Opening 2017 Finals
- » PrepStar Magazine Top 150 Dream Team
- » 2017 Illinois High School Football Coaches Association All-State honorable mention
- » 2017 MaxPreps Preseason Medium School All-America First Team offense
- » Two-time News-Gazette All-State Special Mention 100
- » Played for head coach Dennis Drust at Carterville
- » Also played basketball in high school, helping Carterville to the IHSFA Regional Finals each of the last three seasons
- » Also competed in the long jump and 200 meters for the Carterville track and field team
- » Offers included Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Baylor, Florida, Florida State, Illinois, Iowa, Louisville, LSU, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, NC State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Oregon, Pitt, Rutgers, Syracuse, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M, and West Virginia

Personal:

- » Born Sept. 27, 1999

» Majoring in communication

CAREER HIGHS

Receptions: 1, twice (last vs. Iowa 12/5/20)
Receiving yards: 11 vs Iowa 12/5/20
Long reception: 11 vs Iowa 12/5/20
All-purpose yards: 11 vs Iowa 12/5/20

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	YDS/C	YDS/G
2018*	9	1	4	0	4	0.1	4.0	0.4
2020	7	2	15	0	11	0.3	7.5	2.1
TOTAL	7	2	15	0	11	0.3	7.5	2.1
ALL*	16	3	19	0	11	0.2	6.3	1.2

* - stats include Georgia (2018)

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	4
MIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@RUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OSU	Game Canceled							
IOWA	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	11
@NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

13 JAMES FRENCHIE JR.

WR, 5-10, 175, FR.
ST. LOUIS, MO. / TRINITY CATHOLIC

2020 Freshman:

- » Plays primarily on special teams
- » Made Illinois debut at Wisconsin 10/23/20

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by ESPN, three-star recruit by 247 and Rivals
- » National ranks: #203 (ESPN), #408 (247 Composite), #646 (247)
- » Wide receiver ranks: #32 (ESPN), #40 (Rivals), #68 (247 Composite), #111 (247)
- » Missouri ranks: #5 (ESPN), #6 (247 Composite), #11 (247), #15 (Rivals)
- » 2019 Missouri Football Coaches Association Class 3 All-State First Team
- » 1,524 receiving yards, 821 rushing yards, 3,204 all-purpose yards, 40 total touchdowns during his high school career
- » 33 receptions, 453 receiving yards, five receiving touchdowns, 43 carries, 264 rushing yards, six rushing touchdowns, two kick return touchdowns, 1,052 all-purpose yards as a senior
- » 10 receptions, 310 receiving yards, three receiving touchdowns, 30 carries, 400 rushing yards, nine rushing touchdowns, one punt return touchdown, 798 all-purpose yards as a junior
- » 13 receptions, 444 receiving yards, seven receiving touchdowns, 715 all-purpose yards as a sophomore
- » 19 receptions, 317 receiving yards, three receiving touchdowns, 18 carries, 150 rushing yards, two rushing touchdowns, 639 all-purpose yards as a freshman
- » Played for head coach Cory Patterson, who is now an Illinois assistant, during his first two high school seasons
- » Missed most of his senior season with an injury
- » Committed to Illinois on Aug. 24, 2019
- » Offers included Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Kentucky, Louisville, Missouri, Nebraska, Purdue, South Carolina, Syracuse, and Tennessee

Personal:

- » Born Nov. 10, 2001
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

All-purpose yards: 8 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
Punt returns: 1 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
Punt return yards: 8 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20
Long punt return: 8 at Wisconsin, 10/23/20

PUNT RETURN STATISTICS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2020	6	1	8	0	8	8.0	1.3
TOTAL	6	1	8	0	8	8.0	1.3

KICK/PUNT RETURN GAME-BY-GAME



- » Born Oct. 20, 1999
- » Son of Chris and Erin Griffin
- » Older brother, Cameron, and younger sister, Kedzie
- » Brother played soccer at Quincy University for one year
- » Father played soccer at Illinois College for two years
- » Chose No. 38 because his home is 38 miles from Memorial Stadium
- » Chose Illinois because, "The relationship I was able to build with all of the coaches."
- » Plans to work in sports following his playing career
- » Double major in marketing and management

CAREER HIGHS

Points: 6 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 PATs Made: 3 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 Field goals made: 1 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 Longest field goal: 28 vs Purdue 10/31/20
 All-purpose yards: 4 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Punt returns: 1 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Punt return yards: 4 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Long punt return: 4 vs Iowa 12/5/20

KICKING STATISTICS

YEAR	PAT	FG	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	PTS	LG
2018	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
2019	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
2020	3-3	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	28
TOTAL	3-3	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	6	28

KICKOFF STATISTICS

YEAR	G	KO	YDS	AVG.	TB	TB%	OB	ON-SIDE
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	2	8	503	62.9	5	63%	1	0
TOTAL	2	8	503	62.9	5	63%	1	0

PUNT RETURN STATISTICS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2020	3	1	4	0	4	4.0	1.3
TOTAL	3	1	4	0	4	4.0	1.3

KICKING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	FG			KICKOFF				
	MD-ATT	LG	BLKD	NO	YDS	AVG	TB	OB
@WIS				DNP				
PUR	1-1	28	0	5	319	63.8	3	1
MIN	0-0	0	0	3	184	61.3	2	0
@RUT				DNP				
@NEB				DNP				
OSU				Game Canceled				
IOWA	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@NW				DNP				

KICK/PUNT RETURN GAME-BY-GAME

2020	KR-YDS AVG			TD	LG	PR-YDS AVG			TD	LG
	KR	YDS	AVG			PR	YDS	AVG		
@WIS						DNP				
PUR	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
MIN	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
@RUT						DNP				
@NEB						DNP				
OSU					Game Canceled					
IOWA	0	0	0	0	1-4	0	4	4		
@NW						DNP				

72 PHIFER GRIFFIN

OT, 6-6, 300, FR.
MONROE, N.C. / UNION ACADEMY

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247 and ESPN, two-star recruit by Rivals
- » National ranks: #945 (247), #1341 (247 Composite)
- » Offensive tackle ranks: #77 (247), #96 (ESPN), #109 (247 Composite)
- » North Carolina ranks: #28 (247), #34 (ESPN), #42 (247 Composite)
- » 2019 Greater Charlotte Offensive Lineman of the Year
- » Committed to Illinois on July 21, 2019
- » Offers included Air Force, Eastern Kentucky, Georgia State, Liberty, Marshall, and West Virginia

Personal:

- » Born Oct. 28, 2001
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

39 AIDAN HALL

LS, 6-2, 205, R-FR.
GLEN ELLYN, ILL. / BENET ACADEMY

2020 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Made Illinios debut at Northwestern 12/12/20

2019 Freshman:

- » Redshirted the 2019 season

High School:

- » Played for head coach Pat New at Benet Academy
- » Two-year letterwinner
- » 2018 Benet Special Teams MVP
- » Graduated with Honors
- » Honor Roll all eight semesters

Personal:

- » Born Oct. 27, 2000
- » Son of Brian and Patty Hall
- » Two brothers, Colin and Brogan
- » Majoring in systems engineering and design
- » Picked Illinois because, "I had the opportunity to study engineering at a top tier university while participating in Big Ten athletics."

35 JAKE HANSEN

LB, 6-1, 225, SR.
TARPON SPRINGS, FLA. / EAST LAKE

Career Notes:

- » Hansen's 10 career forced fumbles are tied for third-most in program history (dating back to 1990)

2020 Senior:

- » Four straight games with a forced fumble, fumble recovery or interception
- » Matched career high 15 tackles, a sack and interception in Illinois' win at Rutgers 11/14/20
- » 14 tackles, two TFLs, forced fumble and fumble recovery against Purdue 10/31/20
- » Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten second team
- » Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten third team
- » Bednarik Award watch list
- » Butkus Award watch list
- » Nagurski Award watch list

2019 Junior:

- » Butkus Award semifinalist
- » Played and started nine games at linebacker
- » Missed the final four games with an injury
- » All-Big Ten honorable mention (coaches)
- » All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)
- » 72 tackles, 7.5 TFLs, 3.5 sacks, one interception, seven forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries on the season
- » Led the nation in forced fumbles (7) and forced fumbles per game (0.78)
- » Ranked sixth in the nation in fumbles recovered (3)
- » As many or more forced fumbles (7) than 30 FBS teams on the season
- » No. 17 graded linebacker in the nation and No. 5 in the Big Ten by PFF (79.6)
- » Walter Camp National Defensive Player of the Week and Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week after two forced fumbles vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 led Illinois to one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history

2018 Sophomore:

- » Started all 12 games at linebacker
- » 95 tackles, 8.5 TFLs, 1.0 sack, one PBU, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, one QB hurry on season
- » Tied for the Illinois lead in tackles (95) and led Illinois in solo tackles (48)

- » Second on the team in TFLs (8.5)
- » First career forced fumble against Minnesota 11/3/18
- » First career sack at Maryland 10/27/18
- » First career PBU at Rutgers 10/6/18
- » Illinois single-game record-tying 6.0 TFLs in the season opener against Kent State 9/1/18
- » The 6.0 TFLs against Kent State 9/1/18 tied for the seventh-most in Big Ten history
- » Game-high and career-high 15 tackles (10 solo) against Kent State 9/1/18
- » PFF National Team of the Week and Big Ten Co-Defensive Player of the Week after 15 tackle, 6.0 TFL performance vs. Kent State.
- » Won team's Bruce Capel Award for courage

2017 Sophomore:

- » Did not play in 2017 after suffering season-ending injury during training camp.

2016 Freshman:

- » Played in all 12 games, primarily on special teams, with one start at linebacker
- » Eight tackles and one QB hurry on the season
- » First career start vs. Minnesota
- » Two tackles against Minnesota and Northwestern
- » QB hurry at Northwestern

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by Scout
- » Ranked among the top 100 O LBs nationally by Scout (No. 99)
- » Ranked among the top 100 inside linebackers nationally by ESPN.com (No. 60) and 247Sports (No. 98)
- » Totaled 103 tackles (75 solo) and 2.0 sacks as a senior
- » Class 7A Associated Press All-State second team in 2015
- » Also played basketball and ran track and field in high school
- » Honor roll student (4.3 GPA)

Personal:

- » Born June 19, 1998
- » Son of Shad and Lori Hansen
- » Has two younger siblings, Lane (brother) and Jessie (sister)
- » Father, Shad Hansen, played football at BYU from 1989-92 and is the school's all-time leading tackler (408)
- » Graduated with a degree in kinesiology
- » Enrolled in the recreation, sport, and tourism master's program

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 15, twice (last at Rutgers, 11/14/20)
 TFLs: 6.0 vs. Kent State, 9/1/18
 Sacks: 1.0, three times (last at Minnesota, 10/5/19)
 QB Hurries: 1 at Northwestern, 11/26/16
 Fumbles Forced: 2, twice (last vs. Wisconsin, 10/19/19)
 Fumbles Recovered: 2 vs. Nebraska, 9/21/19
 Interception: 1, three times (last at Nebraska 11/21/20)
 Long interception return: 8, at Nebraska 11/21/20
 Pass breakups: 1, three times (last at Northwestern, 12/12/20)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2016	12	2	6	8	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2017					DNP - Injured						
2018	12	48	47	95	8.5	18	1	1	1	0	1
2019	9	41	31	72	7.5	38	1	7	3	0	0
2020	7	32	27	59	7.5	19	4	2	2	0	0
TOTAL	28	121	105	226	23.5	75	6	10	6	0	1

INTERCEPTION STATISTICS

YEAR	G	INT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2016	12	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2017		DNP - Injured					
2018	12	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2019	9	1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2020	7	2	12	0	8	6.0	1.7
TOTAL	28	3	12	0	8	4.0	0.4

SACKS STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOTAL	YDS
2016	12	0	0	0	0
2017		DNP - Injured			
2018	12	1	0	1.0	6
2019	9	3	1	3.5	27
2020	7	1	0	1.0	3
TOTAL	28	5	1	5.5	36

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME



- » All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)
- » 33 receptions, 634 receiving yards, nine receiving touchdowns on the season
- » Second in Illinois history in touchdown receptions in a single season (9), one behind the record of 10 set by David Williams in 1985 and Brandon Lloyd in 2001
- » Fifth in the Big Ten and 32nd in the nation in receiving touchdowns (9)
- » Third in the Big Ten and 20th in the nation in yards per reception (19.2)
- » 16th in the Big Ten in receiving yards (634)
- » Led Illinois in receptions (33), receiving yards (634), and touchdowns (9)
- » Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week after four receptions for a career-high 178 yards, including a career-long 83-yard touchdown, at Michigan State 11/9/19 to help Illinois win 37-34 in the biggest comeback in program history
- » 52-yard touchdown reception in 38-10 win over Rutgers 11/2/2019
- » Two receptions for 42 yards and a touchdown vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
- » Career-high five receptions and 102 receiving yards against Michigan 10/12/19, including one touchdown
- » 91 receiving yards against Eastern Michigan 9/14/19
- » First career touchdown as part of a two-touchdown game at UConn 9/7/19
- » Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron
- » Immediately eligible as a graduate transfer with two years of eligibility remaining

2018 Redshirt Sophomore (USC):

- » Played in one game for the Trojans

2017 Redshirt Freshman (USC):

- » Backup wide receiver as a redshirt freshman
- » Played in six games (Stanford, Texas, Washington State, Oregon State, Notre Dame, Ohio State)
- » Two receptions for 11 yards on season
- » Nine-yard reception at Washington State and a two-yard catch against Oregon State

2016 Freshman (USC):

- » Redshirted the 2016 season
- » Enrolled at USC in the spring of 2016 after graduating a semester early from high school

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by 247Sports Composite
- » No. 123 recruit in the nation by 247Sports Composite
- » No. 18 wide receiver in the nation by 247Sports Composite
- » No. 13 recruit in Georgia by 247Sports Composite
- » 2015 Prep Star All-American Dream Team
- » 2015 Gwinnett Daily Post All-County third team
- » Caught 31 passes for 452 yards (14.6 yards/catch) with three touchdowns as a senior
- » Also threw a touchdown, had a 66-yard rush and averaged 19.0 yards on five kickoff returns as a senior
- » 2014 All-Region 7-AAAAAA first team
- » Helped North Gwinnett advance to the 2014 Class AAAAAA state championship game
- » 59 receptions for 1,072 yards (18.2 yards/catch) with 15 touchdowns as a junior
- » Five receptions for 55 yards (11.0 yards/catch) with a touchdown as sophomore
- » Also played basketball at North Gwinnett

Personal:

- » Born April 12, 1998
- » Brother, Daniel, played football at USC and transferred to Illinois for the 2020 season
- » Majored in business administration at USC
- » Enrolled in the strategic brand communication master's program

- » Traveled to Santiago, Chile, as part of the USC Marshall School of Business' Learning About International Commerce (LINC) program

CAREER HIGHS

Receptions: 5 vs. Michigan, 10/12/19
 Receiving Yards: 178 at Michigan State, 11/9/19
 Long Reception: 83 at Michigan State, 11/9/19
 Rec. Touchdowns: 2, twice (last at Michigan State, 11/9/19)
 All-Purpose Yards: 178 at Michigan State, 11/9/19

RECEIVING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	LG	REC/G	AVG/C	AVG/G
2017*	6	2	11	0	9	0.3	5.5	1.8
2019	11	33	634	9	83	3.0	19.2	57.6
2020	7	22	297	3	52	3.1	13.5	42.4
TOTAL	18	55	931	12	83	3.1	16.9	51.7
All*	24	57	942	12	83	2.4	16.5	39.2

* - stats include Southern California (2017-18)

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	0	0	0	0	3	26	0	11
PUR	0	0	0	0	4	43	0	17
MIN	0	0	0	0	2	60	1	52
@RUT	0	0	0	0	2	15	0	9
@NEB	0	0	0	0	4	71	1	28
OSU					Game Canceled			
IOWA	0	0	0	0	4	48	1	25
@NWO	0	0	0	0	3	34	0	20

2019	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
AKRON	0	0	0	0	2	34	0	22
@UCONN	0	0	0	0	4	42	2	14
EMU	0	0	0	0	4	91	1	36
NEB	0	0	0	0	1	26	1	26
@MIN	0	0	0	0	4	27	0	10
MICH	0	0	0	0	5	102	1	35
WIS	0	0	0	0	2	42	1	29
@PUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUT	0	0	0	0	3	56	1	52
@MSU	0	0	0	0	4	178	2	83
@IOWA	0	0	0	0	4	36	0	14
NW					DNP - Injured			
vs. CAL					DNP - Injured			

2017-USC	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
WMU					DNP			
STAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEXAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@CAL					DNP			
@WASHST	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	9
ORST	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2
@ND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@ASU					DNP			
ARIZ					DNP			
@COL					DNP			
UCLA					DNP			
vs. STAN					DNP			
vs. OSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

68 RYAN INGOLD

OL, 6-5, 305, FR.

BATAVIA, ILL. / BATAVIA

High School:

- » 2019 DuKane Conference Champs
- » Played golf and baseball for three years
- » Honor Roll student

Personal:

- » Son of Barry and Barb
- » Older Brother, Kevin
- » Chose Illinois because it was "perfect match for me to continue athletics and get a great education. Coaches make you feel at home."
- » Enrolled in the Gies College of Business

55 BLAKE JERESATY

OL, 6-2, 295, R-SR.

CHARLESTON, S.C. / BISHOP ENGLAND / WOFFORD

2020 Senior:

- » Will miss the 2020 season with an injury

Wofford Career:

- » Played in 35 games with 29 games started at center

- » Recorded 275 career knockdown blocks

2019 Redshirt Junior (Wofford):

- » Started all 12 games at center
- » Led the team with 127 knockdown blocks
- » Recipient of the Southern Conference Jacobs Blocking Award »
- » Named All-Southern Conference first team by the coaches and second team by the media
- » Named first team Associated Press All-America, second team STATS FCS and AFCA All-America, and third team Phil Steele All-America
- » Led the team in knockdown blocks in six games
- » In the season opener at South Carolina State (8/31) had ten knockdown blocks
- » Against Samford (9/14) had 14 knockdown blocks
- » Recorded nine knockdown blocks each against Gardner-Webb (9/21) and at VMI (9/28)
- » At ETSU (10/5) had 22 knockdown blocks
- » Against Chattanooga (10/26) recorded 12 knockdown blocks
- » Against Furman (11/16) had 15 knockdown blocks
- » In the NCAA FCS Playoffs against Kennesaw State (11/30) had ten knockdown blocks
- » Recipient of the Southern Conference Pinnacle Award for the highest GPA on the championship team
- » Named CoSIDA Academic All-District
- » Named to the Southern Conference Fall All-Academic Team
- » Named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll

2018 Redshirt Sophomore (Wofford):

- » Started 12 games at center
- » Recorded 68 knockdown blocks on the season
- » Tied for the team high with seven knockdown blocks in the season opener against The Citadel (9/1)
- » Ten knockdown blocks at Gardner-Webb (9/29) to lead the team
- » Added seven knockdown blocks each at Chattanooga (10/6) and against Mercer (10/27)
- » At Western Carolina (11/10) had eight knockdown blocks »
- » In the NCAA FCS Playoffs against Elon (11/24) had seven knockdown blocks
- » Named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll and the Southern Conference Fall All-Academic Team
- » Recipient of the Southern Conference Pinnacle Award for the highest GPA on the championship team
- » CoSIDA Academic All-District

2017 Redshirt Freshman (Wofford):

- » Played in 11 games with five starts at center
- » Finished season with 80 knockdown blocks
- » Made first career start in the season opener against Furman (9/2) and had 15 knockdown blocks
- » Added 12 knockdown blocks at Mercer (9/9) and ten against Gardner-Webb (9/23)
- » At The Citadel (10/14) had 12 knockdown blocks
- » Against Samford (10/21) had seven knockdown blocks
- » Recipient of the Southern Conference Pinnacle Award for the highest GPA on the championship team
- » Named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll and the Southern Conference Fall All-Academic Team

2016 Freshman (Wofford):

- » Redshirted the season
- » Named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll

High School:

- » A three-year starter at center for Bishop England High School
- » A three-time All-Region selection, during his senior season he was named Region Lineman of the Year, first team All-Low Country, first team All-State, and a North-South All-Star
- » Team won the 6AA region championship his freshman, sophomore and senior seasons, with a state title his freshman year as the squad was 13-1 overall
- » Also played basketball for three seasons and lacrosse for two seasons



Personal:
» Born April 21, 1998
» Enrolled in the finance graduate program

76 BREVYN JONES

OL, 6-5, 270, R-FR.
CENTER POINT, ALA. / HUFFMAN / MISSISSIPPI STATE

2020 Sophomore:
» Made Illinois debut at Northwestern 12/12/20
» Immediate eligible after receiving an NCAA waiver

2019 Freshman (Mississippi State):
» Redshirted the season

High School:
» Three-star offensive tackle by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
» #33 recruit from the state of Alabama by ESPN
» #56 offensive tackle in the 2019 recruiting class by ESPN
» Played at Huffman High under head coach Alex Wilson
» Originally committed to Mississippi State on Oct. 31, 2018

Personal:
» Born Jan. 6, 2001
» Son of Beverly and Brantley Jones
» Majoring in kinesiology

37 JADEN JONES-WATKINS

DB, 6-0, 175, SO.
FISHER, ILL. / FISHER

2020 Sophomore:
» Joined the team as a walk-on

High School:
» Two-year letterwinner after beginning football as a junior
» 2017 all-state
» 2017 Illinois Shrine Game participant
» Two-time all-conference
» Two-time team offensive player of the year
» Also played basketball and ran track
» Four-year starter for the basketball team
» Four-time Honor Roll
» Graduated in May 2018

Personal:
» Born June 6, 1999
» Son of Kevin Jones and Miranda Watkins
» Two younger brothers, Chandler and Kai, and two younger sisters, Reese and Juliana
» Chose Illinois because, "It is one of the best schools in the country and I know I will be able to leverage my degree to obtain a great job post graduation."
» Majoring in communication

25 KERBY JOSEPH

DB, 6-1, 200, JR.
ORLANDO, FLA. / JONES

2020 Junior:
» Back up defensive back.

2019 Sophomore:
» Played in 12 games and started two at safety
» 17 tackles, 1.0 TFL, three PBUs on the season
» Career-high two PBUs at UConn 9/7/19 despite missing the first half due to targeting penalty suspension
» Targeting penalty in the second half against Akron 8/31/19 and did not play in the first half at UConn 9/7/19

2018 Freshman:
» Played 10 games

» Nine tackles and one PBU on season
» First career PBU against Minnesota 11/3/18
» Career-high three tackles against Kent State 9/1/18
» Made his Illinois debut in the season opener against Kent State 9/1/18
» Missed the Wisconsin and Maryland games with an injury

High School:
» Three-star recruit by Rivals
» Two-way player
» Four interceptions and 7.0 TFLs as a senior, plus five touchdown receptions
» Played for head coach Elijah Williams at Jones
» Also ran track and played volleyball in high school
» Volleyball team's MVP
» Verbally committed to Illinois in December 2017
» Offers included Mississippi State, Syracuse, USF and FAU

Personal:
» Born Nov. 14, 2000
» Picked Illinois because, "I love the chemistry."
» Plans to major in elementary education
» Majoring in community health

CAREER HIGHS
Tackles: 11 vs. Nebraska, 9/21/19
TFLs: 0.5, twice (last at UConn, 9/7/19)
Fumbles Forced: 1 vs. Iowa, 11/17/18
Fumbles Recovered: -
PBUs: 2 at UConn, 9/7/19

Table with columns: YEAR, G, UA, A, TOT, TFL, YDS, PD, FF, FR, BLK, QBH. Rows for 2018, 2019, 2020, and TOTAL.

Table with columns: 2020, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH, PBU. Rows for @WIS, PUR, MIN, @RUT, @NEB, OSU, IOWA, @NW.

Table with columns: 2019, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH, PBU. Rows for AKRON, @UCONN, EMU, NEB, @MIN, MICH, WIS, @PUR, RUT, @MSU, @IOWA, NW, vs. CAL.

Table with columns: 2018, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH, PBU. Rows for KENT ST, WIU, USF, PENN ST, @RUT, PUR, @WIS, @MD, MINN, @NEB, IOWA, @NW.

57 EVAN KIRTS

OL, 6-5, 285, R-FR.
EVERGREEN PARK, ILL. / BROTHER RICE

2019 Freshman:
» Did not play in a game and redshirted

High School:
» Three-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN

» Ranked No. 116 offensive tackle in the nation by ESPN and No. 141 by 247Sports
» Ranked No. 24 recruit in Illinois by ESPN and No. 42 by 247Sports
» Two-year letterwinner in football
» Played for coaches Tim Lyons and Brian Badke at Brother Rice
» 2018 USA TODAY All-USA Illinois second team
» 2018 EdgyTim.com All-State 5A-8A
» 2018 Daily Southtown All-Area First Team
» Led Brother Rice to an IHSA 8A state runner-up finish as a senior at Memorial Stadium
» Helped Brother Rice score 405 points as a senior
» Also played rugby in high school and was a state champion and all-conference selection
» High Honor Roll & National Honor Society
» Verbally committed to Illinois in November 2018
» Offers included Ball State, Eastern Michigan, Northern Illinois, Virginia, and Western Michigan

Personal:
» Born Sept. 19, 2000
» Son of Dawn and Evan Kirts
» One brother, Tyler, and one sister, April
» Nicknamed "Cheese"
» Picked Illinois because he, "loved my visit, coaches were awesome, liked the idea of playing for my home state."
» Enrolled in general curriculum with plans to major in psychology

65 DOUG KRAMER

OL, 6-2, 300, SR.
HINSDALE, ILL. / HINSDALE CENTRAL

2020 Senior:
» Starting center
» Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten third team
» Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten fourth Team
» Wuerffel Trophy watch list

2019 Junior:
» Started all 12 regular season games at center
» Missed the Redbox Bowl with an injury, snapping a streak of 27 straight starts
» All-Big Ten honorable mention (coaches)
» All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)
» No. 8 graded center in the nation and No. 3 in Power-5 by PFF (79.2)
» Did not allow a sack in 751 snaps

2018 Sophomore:
» Started all 12 games at center
» Part of an OL that paved the way for the most-improved running game in the nation (+137.4 ypg from 2017 to '18), finishing 12th in FBS and second in the Big Ten at 243.0 ypg.
» Academic All-Big Ten

2017 Redshirt Freshman:
» BTN.com All-Freshman Team honorable mention
» Played and started eight games at center
» Missed four games with an injury
» Made his Illinois debut and first career start in the opener against Ball State
» Academic All-Big Ten

2016 Freshman:
» Member of the Illinois squad

High School:
» Three-year letterwinner at Hinsdale Central
» Played for head coach Dan Hartman
» 2015 West Suburban Conference Offensive Lineman of the Year
» 2015 All-West Suburban Conference



- » 2015 All-State honorable mention
- » Also was a member of the track and field team at Hinsdale Central
- » Dean's List all four years of high school

Personal:

- » Born June 4, 1998
- » Son of Lisa Kramer and Doug Kramer Sr.
- » Both parents graduated from the University of Illinois
- » Has one brother, Dan, and one sister, Carrie
- » Lists Dee Brown as his favorite athlete
- » Plans to coach following his playing career
- » Graduated with a degree in finance
- » Enrolled in the recreation, sport, and tourism master's program

32 TAILON LEITZSEY

DB, 6-0, 190, SR.

LAUREL, MD. / RIVERSIDE / MISSOURI BAPTIST

Pronunciation: TAY-lon LIT-see

2020 Senior:

- » Has played in one game

2019 Junior:

- » Did not play in a game

2018 Sophomore:

- » Redshirted 2018 season (Did not play)
- » Joined squad in September after walk-on tryouts

Personal:

- » Born Feb. 6, 1999
- » Majoring in kinesiology

23 CONNER LILLIG

RB, 5-10, 190, JR.

OAK PARK, ILL. / FENWICK

2019 Sophomore:

- » Played in one game at running back
- » First career carries against Rutgers 11/2/19

2018 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Member of Illinois team (Did not play)
- » Joined squad in September after walkon tryouts
- » Academic All-Big Ten

Personal:

- » Born June 8, 1999
- » Majoring in economics

15 TY LINDENMAN

WR, 5-6, 160, FR.

SHAWNEE, KAN. / SHAWNEE MISSION NORTHWEST

2020 Freshman:

- » Made Illinois debut at Northwestern 12/12/20

High School:

- » Named 1st team All-State, All-Metro, and Sunflower League
- » Gatorade player of the year nominee
- » Played basketball and baseball all four years
- » Sunflower league champions sophomore year (baseball)
- » 72 receptions for 1,491 yards and 19 touchdowns, he also returned 15 kickoffs for 455 yards (30.3) and a touchdown his senior year
- » Finalist for the Otis Taylor Award
- » Honor Roll, 4.2 GPA

Personal:

- » Son of Andrew and Kris Lindenman

- » One brother, Blake, and two sisters, Sydney and Andi
- » Born December 15, 2001
- » Majoring in agriculture and consumer economics

28 REGGIE LOVE III

RB, 5-11, 200, FR.

ST. LOUIS, MO. / TRINITY CATHOLIC

2020 Freshman:

- » Plays primarily on special teams as punt returner
- » Made Illinois debut at Wisconsin 10/23/20

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by Rivals, three-star recruit by 247 and ESPN
- » National ranks: #178 (Rivals), #430 (247 Composite), #815 (247)
- » Running back ranks: #8 (Rivals), #31 (247 Composite), #56 (247), #65 (ESPN)
- » Missouri ranks: #4 (Rivals), #8 (247 Composite), #15 (247), #17 (ESPN)
- » 108 carries for 668 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns during his high school career
- » Played for head coach Cory Patterson, who is now an Illinois assistant, during his first two high school seasons
- » 2019 all-state, all-district, and all-metro
- » National Honor Society
- » Elizabeth Seton Scholar
- » Committed to Illinois on April 4, 2019, becoming the first commit to the Illini's class
- » Offers included Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Kentucky, Louisville, Minnesota, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Penn State, Purdue, Syracuse, TCU, Tennessee, Utah, Vanderbilt, and Wisconsin

Personal:

- » Born Oct. 11, 2001
- » Son of Reginald Love Jr. and Kimberly Dennis
- » One brother, Reginald, and three sisters, Reianra, Reginae, and Jordyn
- » Chose Illinois because it, "felt like home."
- » Plans to run his own business following his playing career
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Rush attempts: 6, vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Rush yards: 13 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 Long rush: 8 vs Iowa 12/5/20
 All-purpose yards: 13 vs Iowa 12/5/20

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2020	7	10	12	0	8	1.2	1.7
TOTAL	7	10	12	0	8	1.2	1.7

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@RUT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OSU					Game Canceled			
IOWA	6	13	0	8	0	0	0	0
@NW	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0

79 VEDERIAN LOWE

OL, 6-6, 320, SR.

ROCKFORD, ILL. / AUBURN

Pronunciation: vuh-DARE-ee-an

2020 Senior:

- » Starting left tackle

2019 Junior:

- » Started all 13 games at left tackle
- » Ended the season with 26 straight starts

2018 Sophomore:

- » Started all 12 games at left tackle
- » Part of an OL that paved the way for the most-improved running game in the nation (+137.4 ypg from 2017 to '18), finishing 12th in FBS and second in the Big Ten at 243.0 ypg

2017 Freshman:

- » BTN.com All-Freshman Team honorable mention
- » Played in eight games with seven starts at tackle
- » Teamed with Alex Palczewski and Larry Boyd to be Illinois' first ever true-freshmen trio to start the same game on the offensive line
- » Made his Illinois debut and first career start at Iowa

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals, ESPN and Scout
- » Ranked No. 68 offensive guard in nation by Scout
- » Ranked No. 108 OT in nation by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 16 recruit in Illinois by Rivals, No. 25 by ESPN, No. 26 by Scout and No. 29 by 247Sports
- » Three-time all-conference
- » Led Auburn to a 10-2 record and the Illinois state quarterfinals as a senior
- » Helped Auburn rush for 271.1 yards per game in 2016
- » Played for head coach Dan Appino

Personal:

- » Born April 17, 1999
- » Son of Eric Lowe and Veneka Cockrell
- » Son, Kingston Lowe, was born in June 2019
- » Chose Illinois because, "I love this program, the coaches, the school and my teammates."
- » Majoring in communication

42 MICHAEL MARCHESE

DB, 6-4, 210, SR.

VERNON HILLS, ILL. / STEVENSON

Pronunciation: mar-CASE

2020 Senior:

- » Plays primarily on special teams
- » Made first start of the season at Northwestern 12/12/20

2019 Senior:

- » Plays primarily on special teams

2019 Junior:

- » Played in 12 games, primarily on special teams
- » Five tackles, one interception on the season
- » Second career interception at UConn 9/7/19

2018 Sophomore:

- » Played 11 games with three starts at safety
- » 21 tackles, two PBUs, one interception, one fumble recovery and one QB hurry on season
- » Career-high 11 tackles at Northwestern 11/24/18
- » First career start and first career interception against Western Illinois 9/8/18
- » Missed the season opener with an injury
- » Academic All-Big Ten

2017 Freshman:

- » Walkon played in five games, primarily on special teams
- » Two tackles, one fumble recovery on the season
- » Made his Illinois debut against Wisconsin in the eighth game of the season
- » First career fumble recovery on a muffed punt at Purdue

High School:

- » Two-year letterwinner in football
- » Three-year letterwinner in baseball
- » All-conference and all-area selection in football
- » Four-time member of the Green Honor Roll



- » Ranked No. 7 recruit in Missouri by Rivals and ESPN and No. 12 by 247Sports
» No. 48 recruit in Illinois' last 19 years according to 247Sports
» Four-year letterwinner in football and basketball
» Played for head coaches Mike Tarpey and Chad Anderson and Ladue
» Led Ladue Horton Watkins to 2018 Missouri Class 4 state title as a senior and 2017 state runner-up finish
» 0.5 TFL and one QB hurry in the 2018 Missouri Class 4 state title game
» 2018 USA TODAY All-USA Missouri first team
» Two-time all-state defensive end
» Four-year Honor Roll member
» Four-year Ram Pride Award recipient
» National Honor Society
» Verbally committed to Illinois in November 2018
» Offers included Arkansas, Iowa State, Kentucky, Michigan State, Minnesota, Mississippi State, Missouri, Nebraska, Northwestern, Ole Miss, Purdue, Vanderbilt, Virginia, and Wisconsin

Personal:

- » Born Sept. 19, 1999
» Son of Moses E. Okpala and Ngozi Okpala
» American parents are Kim and Gary Bussard
» Five brothers, Chinedu Okpala, Chukwuebuka Okpala, Goodluck Okpala, Godsgift Okpala and Bryce Bussard, and three sisters, Onyinye Okpala, Haley Bussard and McKenzie Bussard.
» Nicknamed "Big Mo"
» Picked Illinois because, "The academics, the coaches and a welcoming environment."
» Only played basketball before coming to the United States
» Plans to become a lawyer following playing career
» Majoring in psychology

63 ALEX PALCZEWSKI

OL, 6-6, 310, SR.
MOUNT PROSPECT, ILL. / PROSPECT

Pronunciation: pal-CHESS-key

2020 Senior:

- » Starting right tackle
» Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten third team
» Athlon Preseason All-Big Ten third team
» Outland Trophy watch list

2019 Junior:

- » Started all 13 games at right tackle
» Ended the season with 36 straight starts
» All-Big Ten third team (coaches)
» All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)

2018 Sophomore:

- » All-Big Ten honorable mention (media)
» Pro Football Focus All-Big Ten first team
» Started all 12 games at right tackle
» 23 straight starts
» No. 30 rated tackle in the nation by PFF
» No. 4 rated tackle in the Big Ten by PFF
» No. 9 rated run-blocking tackle in the nation by PFF
» Part of an OL that paved the way for the most-improved runnig game in the nation (+137.4 ypg from 2017 to '18), finishing 12th in FBS and second in the Big Ten at 243.0 ypg.
» PFF National Team of the Week 11/11/18
» Academic All-Big Ten

2017 Freshman:

- » BTN.com All-Freshman Team honorable mention
» Started the final 11 games at guard

- » Teamed with Vederian Lowe and Larry Boyd to be Illinois' first ever true-freshmen trio to start the same game on the offensive line
» Missed the opener with an injury
High School:
» Three-star recruit by Rivals and Scout
» Ranked No. 45 offensive tackle in the nation by Scout and No. 120 by 247Sports
» Ranked No. 12 recruit in Illinois by Scout and No. 39 by 247Sports
» Ranked No. 2 offensive tackle in Illinois by Scout
» Mid-Suburban League East All-Conference
» Played for football coach Mike Sebestyen
» Also wrestled (4 years), played water polo (2 years) and was on the track and field team (2 years) in high school

Personal:

- » Born Aug. 3, 1999
» Son of Andrzej and Bozena Palczewski
» Has two older brothers, Adam and Alan
» Picked Illinois because, "It is the flagship of my hometown state, and I want to play for where I grew up."
» Majoring in kinesiology

98 DEON PATE

DL, 6-2, 280, JR.
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. / TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2020 Junior:

- » Backup defensive lineman

2019 Sophomore:

- » Played in nine games at defensive tackle
» Seven tackles on the season

2018 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Played eight games with one start
» First career start against Iowa 11/17/18
» Made his Illinois debut at Rutgers 10/6/18

2017 Freshman:

- » Redshirted the 2017 season

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
» Ranked No. 56 strong-side defensive end by 247Sports and No. 107 by ESPN
» Ranked No. 165 recruit in Florida by 247Sports
» Played at Trinity Christian Academy for head coach Verlon Dorminey
» Lettered three years in football
» Trinity Christian Academy won four straight state titles during his high school career
» 32 TFLs and 15 sacks a senior
» 2016 all-county first team
» 2016 Florida 3A all-state second team
» Honor Roll for three years

Personal:

- » Born Feb. 14, 1998
» Son of Melinda and Deon Pate Sr.
» Father, Deon Sr., was a member of the Chicago Bulls practice team
» Has one brother, Dylan Pate
» Picked Illinois because, "it was the best fit for me and I love the vision that the coaches have for the program."
» Wants to go into law enforcement following his playing career
» Majoring in sociology

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 3 vs. Eastern Michigan, 9/14/19

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Table with columns: YEAR, G, UA, A, TOT, TFL, YDS, PD, FF, FR, BLK, QBH. Rows for 2018 and 2019.

Table with columns: 2020, 7, 1, 1, 2, 0.0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: 2020, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH PBU. Rows for @WIS, PUR, MIN, @RUT, @NEB, OSU, IOWA, @NW.

Table with columns: 2019, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH PBU. Rows for AKRON, @UCONN, EMU, NEB, @MIN, MICH, WIS, @PUR, RUT, @MSU, @IOWA, NW vs. CAL.

Table with columns: 2018, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH PBU. Rows for KENT ST, WIU, USF, PENN ST, @RUT, PUR, @WIS, @MD, MINN, @NEB, IOWA, @NW.

54 JULIAN PEARL

OL, 6-6, 305, SO.
DANVILLE, ILL. / DANVILLE

2020 Sophomore:

- » First career start at Nebraska 11/21/20
» Backup offensive lineman

2019 Freshman:

- » Played in three games as a backup lineman
» Made Illinois debut in the season opener against Akron

2018 Freshman:

- » Redshirted 2018 season (Did not play)

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports and ESPN
» Two-star recruit by Rivals
» Ranked No. 531 recruit in the nation by 247Sports
» Ranked No. 41 OT in the nation by 247Sports and No. 107 by ESPN
» Ranked No. 7 recruit in Illinois by 247Sports and No. 28 by ESPN
» Played for head coach Marcus Forrest at Danville
» 2017 USA Today All-USA Illinois second team
» 2017 IHSFCA 6A All-State honorable mention
» 2017 All-Big 12 first team
» 2017 Champaign News-Gazette All-Area
» Led Danville to back-to-back IHSA playoff berths
» High school teammate of fellow Illini Caleb Griffin
» Also played basketball in high school
» Verbally committed to Illinois in April 2017
» Also offered by Northern Illinois

Personal:

- » Born Oct. 6, 1999
» Son of Ronique Heard
» Two older brothers, Tayvian Johnson and Avery Pearl, and one younger sister, Dasia Middlebrooks
» Brother, Tayvian Johnson, played Division III football
» Brother, Avery, played Division III basketball



17 KENDALL SMITH

DB, 6-1, 200, SR.

BOLINGBROOK, ILL. / BOLINGBROOK

2020 Senior:

- » Made season debut at defensive back at Northwestern 12/12/20
- » Plays primarily on special teams

2019 Junior:

- » Played in two games, primarily on special teams

2018 Sophomore:

- » Played 10 games, primarily on special teams
- » Former wide receiver moved to safety
- » 10 tackles and one forced fumble on season
- » Career-high three tackles at Maryland 10/27/18
- » First career forced fumble against Western Illinois 9/8/18

2017 Freshman:

- » Wide receiver played in all 12 games, primarily on special teams
- » Made one special teams tackle on the season
- » Made Illinois debut in the opener against Ball State

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals, ESPN and Scout
- » Ranked No. 100 wide receiver in the nation by Rivals, No. 118 by ESPN, No. 123 by Scout
- » Ranked No. 9 recruit in Illinois by ESPN, No. 15 by Rivals, No. 19 by 247Sports
- » Played at Bolingbrook High School for head coach John Ivlow
- » 2016 Illinois High School Football Coaches Association all-state honorable mention

Personal:

- » Born Jan. 3, 1999
- » Son of Vonetta Wade
- » Has two sisters, Sierra and Madison
- » Picked Illinois because, "it was always a favorite school of mine and I want to be a part of the change."
- » Majoring in learning and education studies

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 4 vs. Iowa 12/5/20

Fumbles Forced: 1 vs. Western Illinois, 9/8/18

PBUs: 1, vs. Iowa 12/5/20

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	BLK	QBH
2017	12	0	1	1	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	10	6	4	10	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2019	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	7	3	4	7	0.0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	31	9	9	18	0.0	0	1	1	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@WIS	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MIN	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@RUT	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
OSU				Game Canceled						
IOWA	1	3	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1
@NW	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2019	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
AKRON	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@UCONN					DNP					
EMU					DNP					
NEB					DNP					
@MIN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MICH					DNP					
WIS					DNP					
@PUR					DNP					
RUT					DNP					
@MSU					DNP					
@IOWA					DNP					
NW					DNP					
vs. CAL					DNP					

2018 UA AS TOT TFL-Yds QBS-Yds FF FR-Yds INT-Yds QBH PBU

KENT ST	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIU	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0
USF	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PENN ST										
@RUT					DNP - Injured					
PUR	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MD	3	0	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MINN	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NW	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2017	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
BALL ST	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WKU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@USF	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NEB	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
RUT	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MIN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIS	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@PUR	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
IND	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@OSU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NW	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

6 DEUCE SPANN

QB, 6-4, 195, FR.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. / LAKEWOOD

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247, ESPN, and Rivals
- » National ranks: #905 (247 Composite), #1556 (247)
- » Dual-threat quarterback ranks: #22 (Rivals), #25 (247 Composite), #27 (ESPN), #32 (247)
- » Florida ranks: #81 (Rivals), #121 (247 Composite), #135 (ESPN), #178 (247)
- » 6,972 yards of total offense during his high school career
- » 4,771 passing yards, 45 passing touchdowns, 2,165 rushing yards, 27 rushing touchdowns during his high school career
- » Led Lakewood to the state semifinals as a senior
- » 117-253 passing, 1,937 passing yards, 25 passing touchdowns, 847 rushing yards, 10 rushing touchdowns as a senior
- » 122-270 passing, 1,860 passing yards, 12 passing touchdowns, 883 rushing yards, 9 rushing touchdowns as a junior
- » 63-142 passing, 974 passing yards, 8 passing touchdowns, 435 rushing yards, 8 rushing touchdowns as a sophomore
- » Father, Greg Spann Sr., played wide receiver at Jackson State and was drafted in the seventh round of the 1996 NFL Draft by the Jacksonville Jaguars. He went on to play professionally in the Arena League and XFL
- » Committed to Illinois on Dec. 13, 2019
- » Also ran track in high school
- » Offers included Auburn, Boston College, Cincinnati, Duke, Florida State, Georgia, Louisville, Maryland, Miami (Fla.), Mississippi, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Syracuse, UCF, USF, Utah, and Virginia Tech

Personal:

- » Born Jan. 27, 2002
- » Son of Greg and Kim Spann
- » First name is Gregory, nickname is Deuce
- » One brother, Diezel, and two sisters, Courtney and Conner
- » Cousin, Tom Carter, was the No. 17 overall draft pick by the Washington Redskins in 1993 and played nine seasons in the NFL
- » Chose Illinois because, "I wanted to help them win games and I knew I could make a name for myself here."
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

74 BLAISE SPARKS

OT, 6-7, 290, FR.

NORTH FORT MYERS, FLA. / NORTH FORT MYERS

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247, ESPN, and Rivals
- » National ranks: #1947 (247 Composite), #2217 (247)
- » Offensive tackle ranks: #161 (247 Composite), #161 (247), #173 (ESPN)
- » Florida ranks: #263 (247 Composite), #274 (247), #299 (ESPN)
- » Committed to Illinois on July 31, 2019
- » Offers included Kent State, Pittsburgh, Southern Miss, Temple, USF

Personal:

- » Born Sept. 10, 2001
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

56 ETHAN TABEL

LS, 6-0, 210, SR.

BARRINGTON, ILL. / BARRINGTON

Pronunciation: tuh-BELL

2020 Senior:

- » Patrick Mannelly Award watch list

2019 Junior:

- » Started all 13 games at long snapper
- » Second on the team in punt return tackles (4)
- » Snapped for James McCourt's game-winning 39-yard field goal as time expired vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
- » Walk-on was awarded a scholarship by coach Lovie Smith at a team meeting on Aug. 26, 2019

2018 Sophomore:

- » Starting long snapper for all 12 games
- » Nolan's Long Snapping College Snapper of the Year
- » Academic All-Big Ten

2017 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Started 11 games as the long snapper for field goals and extra points
- » Walk-on made his Illinois debut in opener against Ball State

High School:

- » Started long snapping late in his junior season of high school
- » Two-year letterwinner
- » 2015 Barrington Unsung Hero Special Teams Award
- » 2015 Academic All-Conference
- » Helped Barrington to the second round of IHSA Playoffs in 2015
- » 2016 State Scholar
- » Four-year member of the honor roll

Personal:

- » Born August 27, 1997
- » Son of Todd and Tamara Tabel
- » One brother, Bryce
- » Father competed in javelin, shot put and discus at Winona State
- » Chose Illinois because, "Illinois gives student-athletes the tools to learn at one of the nation's best schools while also competing at an incredibly high level in the Big Ten. They were one of the only Division I programs to take a chance on me and I knew it would be a perfect fit."
- » Plans on working in international advertising or football after his playing career
- » Bilingual in German
- » Graduated with a degree in advertising
- » Enrolled in the technology management graduate program



7 CORAN TAYLOR

QB, 6-2, 190, SO.
PEORIA, ILL. / PEORIA

Pronunciation: kor-AHN

2020 Sophomore:

- » Made first career start against Minnesota 11/7/20
- » 17-for-29 passing for 273 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for 32 yards in his first significant playing time as an Illini against Purdue 10/31/20

2019 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Played in the fourth quarter against Rutgers

2018 Freshman:

- » Redshirted the 2018 season (Did not play)

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals
- » Ranked No. 22 dual-threat QB in the nation by ESPN, No. 23 by 247Sports and No. 29 by Rivals
- » Ranked No. 12 recruit in Illinois by ESPN, No. 20 by 247Sports
- » Completed 86 of 161 passes for 1,546 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior
- » Rushed for 1,048 yards (9.7 yards per carry) and 14 touchdowns as a senior
- » 2016 Illinois Football Coaches Association First Team All-State
- » Led Peoria to 2016 Illinois 5A state championship as a junior
- » Threw for 215 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 134 yards and three touchdowns in the 5A state title game at Illinois' Memorial Stadium in a 62-48 win over Vernon Hills
- » Helped Peoria set Illinois state records in total points (805) and points per game (57.5) in 2016
- » Accounted for 3,215 yards of offense (1,548 passing & 1,662 rushing) and 39 total TDs (17 passing & 22 rushing) in 2016
- » Verbally committed to Illinois in April 2017
- » High school teammate of Illini OL Kendrick Green
- » Played for the same little league team and attended same middle school as Illinois DL Jer'Zhan Newton

Personal:

- » Born Dec. 16, 1999
- » Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Rush attempts: 19 vs. Minnesota 11/7/20
 Rush yards: 42 vs. Minnesota 11/7/20
 Long rush: 33 vs. Purdue 10/31/20
 Pass attempts: 29 vs. Purdue 10/31/20
 Pass completions: 17 vs. Purdue 10/31/20
 Pass yards: 273 vs. Purdue 10/31/20
 Pass TDs: 2 vs. Purdue 10/31/20
 Long pass: 52 vs. Minnesota 11/7/20
 All-purpose yards: 42 vs. Minnesota 11/7/20

PASSING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	INT	YDS	TD	LG	PCT	AVG/P	AVG/G	EFFIC
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2019	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2020	2	46	23	2	379	3	52	50.0	8.2	189.5	132.0
TOTAL	3	46	23	2	379	3	52	50.0	8.2	126.3	132.0

RUSHING STATISTICS

YEAR	G	ATT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/C	AVG/G
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2019	1	2	11	0	6	5.5	11.0
2020	2	36	74	0	33	2.1	37.0
TOTAL	3	38	85	0	33	2.2	28.3

PASSING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	ATT	CMP	INT	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS						
PUR	29	17	2	273	2	44
MIN	17	6	0	106	1	52
@RUT						
@NEB						
OSU						
IOWA						
@NW						

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

2020	CAR	YDS	TD	LG	REC	YDS	TD	LG
@WIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUR	17	32	0	33	0	0	0	0
MIN	19	42	0	16	0	0	0	0
@RUT								

@NEB	DNP
OSU	Game Canceled
IOWA	DNP
@NW	SNP

85 DYLAN THOMAS

WR, 5-11, 185, SO.
MONTICELLO, ILL. / MONTICELLO

2019 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Missed the season with an injury

2018 Freshman:

- » Redshirted the 2018 season (Did not play)

High School:

- » Four-year letterwinner in football and three-year letterwinner in track
- » Played for head coach Cully Welter at Monticello
- » Led Monticello to conference titles as a junior and senior
- » 2017 All-Illini Prairie Conference first team
- » High Honor Roll

Personal:

- » Born April 5, 2000
- » Son of Darcy and Bryan Thomas
- » Father attended the University of Illinois
- » Older sister, Danielle
- » Step-grandfather is Barry Alvarez
- » Picked Illinois because he, "it allows me to play Division I football and also get a degree from one of the best business schools in the world."
- » Majoring in finance

4 KHMARI THOMPSON

WR, 6-1, 210, SO.
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA. / CENTRAL GWINNETT / MISSOURI

2020 Sophomore:

- » Plays primarily on special teams as kick off returner

2019 Redshirt Freshman (Missouri):

- » Did not play in a game
- » Also ran track and finished fourth in the 200-meter dash at the Mizou Open 1/25/19, setting a personal record
- » Ran in the 4x100-meter relay at the SEC Championships 5/11/19, finishing in seventh place and contributing to a relay personal record of 40.74

2018 Freshman (Missouri):

- » Played in three games and redshirted
- » Played against UT-Martin, Wyoming, and Tennessee

High School:

- » Three-star wide receiver by Rivals and 247Sports.com
- » Played for head coach Todd Wofford at Central Gwinnett
- » Did not play high school football as a sophomore or junior to focus on track
- » 83 receptions for 1,131 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns as a senior
- » Offers included Kansas State, Missouri, Purdue, Tulane, and Georgia Southern

Personal:

- » Born Aug. 3, 2000
- » Majoring in sociology

CAREER HIGHS

All-purpose yards: 74 vs. Purdue 10/31/20
 Kick returns: 3, three times (last at Rutgers 11/14/20)
 Kick return yards: 74 vs. Purdue 10/31/20
 Long kick return: 35 vs. Purdue 10/31/20

KICK RETURN STATISTICS

YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/R	AVG/G
2018*	3	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
2020	5	12	234	0	35	19.5	46.8
TOTAL	5	12	234	0	35	19.5	46.8

All*	8	12	234	0	35	19.5	29.2
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* - stats include Missouri (2018)

KICK RETURN/PUNT RETURNS GAME-BY-GAME

2017	KR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG	PR-YDS	AVG	TD	LG
@WIS	2-27	13.5	0	16	0-0	0	0	0
PUR	3-74	24.7	0	35	0-0	0	0	0
MIN	3-53	17.7	0	19	0-0	0	0	0
@RUT	3-59	19.7	0	24	0-0	0	0	0
@NEB								
OSU								
IOWA	1-21	21	0	21	0-0	0	0	0
@NW								

45 KHALAN TOLSON

LB, 6-0, 220, JR.
ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. / ADMIRAL FARRAGUT ACADEMY

Pronunciation: KAY-lahn

2020 Junior:

- » Career high 10 tackles and 2.5 TFL in Illinois' win at Rutgers 11/14/20
- » First career solo sack against Iowa 12/5/20
- » Part of the linebacker rotation

2019 Sophomore:

- » Played in 11 games with four starts at linebacker
- » Started the final four games after Butkus Award semifinalist Jake Hansen was injured
- » 38 tackles, 1.5 TFL, two PBUs, one fumble recovery, one quarterback hurry on the season
- » Tied for the team lead in kickoff tackles (4)
- » Third on the team in special teams tackles (6)
- » Nine tackles, 0.5 TFLs, and one fumble recovery at Michigan State 11/9/19 in his first career start to help Illinois win 37-34 in the biggest comeback in program history

2018 Freshman:

- » Played all 12 games, primarily on special teams
- » Five tackles on season
- » Made his Illinois debut in the season opener against Kent State 9/1/18

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals
- » Ranked No. 799 recruit in the nation by 247Sports
- » Ranked No. 55 OLB in nation by 247Sports and No. 83 by ESPN
- » Ranked No. 125 recruit in Florida by 247Sports and No. 197 by ESPN
- » 15.0 TFLs and 11.0 sacks as a junior
- » Played for Team Florida in the 2016 7-on-7 AAU Jr. Olympics
- » Verbally committed to Illinois in July 2017
- » Offers included Cincinnati, Indiana, Iowa State, Louisville, Michigan, Michigan State, Mississippi State, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Syracuse, UCF and USF

Personal:

- » Born Dec. 27, 1999
- » Majoring in communication

CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 10, twice (last at Nebraska 11/21/20)
 TFLs: 2.5, at Rutgers 11/14/20
 Sacks: 1 vs. Iowa 12/5/20
 Fumbles Forced: 1, twice (last at Nebraska 11/21/20)
 Fumbles Recovered: 1, twice (last at Nebraska 11/21/20)
 PBUs: 1, three times (last at Rutgers 11/14/20)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOT	TFL	YDS	PD	FF	FR	FR	BLK	QBH
2018	12	3	2	5	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	11	23	15	38	1.5	4	2	0	1	0	1	0
2020	6	15	24	39	6.0	21	2	2	1	0	1	1
TOTAL	29	41	41	82	7.5	25	4	2	2	0	2	2

SACKS STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOTAL	YDS
2018	12	0	0	0	0.0
2019	11	0	0	0	0.0
2020	6	1	1	1.5	11
TOTAL	29	1	1	1.5	11

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH/PBU
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Table with columns: Opponent, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH, PBU. Rows include @WIS, PUR, MIN, @RUT, @NEB, OSU, IOWA, @NW.

Table with columns: Year, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH, PBU. Rows include 2019 AKRON, @UCONN, EMU, NEB, @MIN, MICH, WIS, @PUR, RUT, @MSU, @IOWA, NW, vs. CAL.

Table with columns: Year, UA, AS, TOT, TFL-Yds, QBS-Yds, FF, FR-Yds, INT-Yds, QBH, PBU. Rows include 2018 KENT ST, WIU, USF, PENN ST, @RUT, PUR, @WIS, @MD, MINN, @NEB, IOWA, @NW.

78 KEVIN TYLER

OT, 6-3, 330, FR. ST. LOUIS, MO. / RITENOUR

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247 and ESPN, two-star recruit by Rivals
» National ranks: #1009 (247), #1373 (247 Composite)
» Offensive tackle ranks: #86 (247), #111 (247 Composite)
» Offensive guard ranks: #58 (ESPN)
» Missouri ranks: #16 (ESPN), #24 (247), #25 (247 Composite)
» 2019 Missouri Football Coaches Association Class 5 All-State First Team
» 2018 Missouri Football Coaches Association Class 6 All-State Second Team
» Committed to Illinois on July 28, 2019
» Offers included Houston, Indiana, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Memphis, Minnesota, Missouri, Northern Illinois, Purdue, SMU, Syracuse, Western Michigan, and Wyoming

Personal:

- » Born Aug. 29, 2001
» Majoring in communication

8 CASEY WASHINGTON

WR, 6-2, 190, SO. ROUND ROCK, TEXAS / PFLUGERVILLE

2020 Sophomore:

- » Part of the wide receiver rotation

2019 Freshman:

- » Played in 10 games and started five at wide receiver
» 11 receptions for 132 yards on the season
» Five starts was the sixth-most in Illinois history by a true freshman wide receiver
» One reception for four yards at Michigan State 11/9/19 to help Illinois win 37-34 in the biggest comeback in program history
» First career start in 24-6 win at Purdue 10/26/19
» 18-yard reception on a fourth-quarter touchdown drive vs. No. 6 Wisconsin 10/19/19 to help Illinois win 24-23 and complete one of the biggest upsets in Big Ten history
» First career catch against No. 16 Michigan 10/12/19

High School:

- » Three-star recruit by 247Sports and ESPN
» Two-star recruit by Rivals
» Ranked No. 138 wide receiver in the nation by ESPN and No. 190 by 247Sports
» Ranked No. 175 recruit in Texas by ESPN and No. 201 by 247Sports
» 42 receptions for 565 yards and five touchdowns as a senior
» Played for head coach Charles Taylor at Pflugerville
» Verbally committed to Illinois in July 2018
» Offers included Kansas, South Alabama, Tulane, and UTSA

Personal:

- » Born March 6, 2001
» Son of Jennifer and Greg Washington
» Father played football at Kansas State from 1987-89
» One older sister, Loren
» Sister, Loren, played volleyball at Texas A&M-Kingsville
» Picked Illinois because of the, "solid degree, family environment, make an impact ASAP."
» Majoring in recreation, sport and tourism
» Plans to become a coach following his playing career

CAREER HIGHS

Receptions: 3 at Iowa, 11/23/19
Long Reception: 20, three times (last at Rutgers 11/14/20)
Receiving Yards: 21 at Iowa, 11/23/19
All-Purpose Yards: 21 at Iowa, 11/23/19

RECEIVING STATISTICS

Table with columns: YEAR, G, REC, YDS, TD, LG, REC/G, AVG/C, AVG/G. Rows include 2019, 2020, and TOTAL.

RUSHING/RECEIVING GAME-BY-GAME

Table with columns: Opponent, CAR, YDS, TD, LG, REC, YDS, TD, LG. Rows include @WIS, PUR, MIN, @RUT, @NEB, OSU, IOWA, @NW.

Table with columns: Year, Opponent, CAR, YDS, TD, LG, REC, YDS, TD, LG. Rows include 2019 AKRON, @UCONN, EMU, NEB, @MIN, MICH, WIS, @PUR, RUT, @MSU, @IOWA, NW, vs. CAL.

1 ISAIAH WILLIAMS

QB, 5-10, 180, R-FR. ST. LOUIS, MO. / TRINITY CATHOLIC

2020 Redshirt Freshman:

- » Set the Illinois single-game rushing record by a quarterback with 192 yards in his first career start Rutgers 11/14/20.

2019 Freshman:

- » Played in four games and redshirted the season
» 3-of-10 passing for 38 yards, nine carries for 16 yards, and three receptions for nine yards on the season
» Played wide receiver for the first time during the Redbox Bowl and had three receptions for nine yards
» Made Illinois debut against Nebraska 9/21/19 on two designed quarterback runs

High School:

- » Four-star recruit by 247Sports, Rivals and ESPN
» Ranked No. 47 recruit in the nation by Rivals, No. 93 by ESPN and No. 295 by 247Sports

- » Ranked No. 5 athlete in the nation by 247Sports, No. 8 by ESPN and No. 16 by Rivals
» Ranked No. 1 recruit in Missouri by Rivals and ESPN and No. 5 by 247Sports
» No. 9 ranked recruit in Illinois' last 17 years according to 247Sports
» Williams and Marquez Beason are Illinois' two highest ranked recruits since Terry Hawthorne in 2009 and the highest combo since Arrelious Benn and Martez Wilson in 2007
» Illinois' highest ranked quarterback recruit since Juice Williams in 2006
» Ranked as high as No. 25 overall recruit in the nation in February 2018 according to 247Sports Composite
» Played for head coach Cory Patterson through his junior year when Patterson left Trinity Catholic to become the tight ends coach at Illinois
» Played for head coach Terrence Curry at Trinity Catholic as a senior
» 2019 Under Armour All-American selection
» 2018 Elite 11 Finals invitation
» 2018 and 2019 Missouri Gatorade Player of the Year
» 2018 USA TODAY Missouri Offensive Player of the Year
» 2018 USA TODAY All-USA Missouri first team
» 2018 Missouri Football Coaches Association Class 3 All-State first team

- » 2,470 passing yards and 33 touchdowns as a senior
» 1,132 rushing yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior
» 1,898 passing yards and 29 touchdowns as a junior
» Threw for 175 yards and four touchdowns and ran for 23 yards in the 2018 Missouri Class 4 state title game to help Trinity Catholic beat Cardinal Ritter

- » Also played basketball and ran track at Trinity Catholic
» Verbally committed to Illinois in March 2018
» Offers included Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, Indiana, Iowa, Iowa State, Kansas State, Kentucky, Louisville, LSU, Maryland, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Ole Miss, Oregon, Penn State, Purdue, South Carolina, Stanford, Syracuse, TCU, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M, UCF, Virginia, and Wisconsin

Personal:

- » Born Jan. 29, 2001
» Son of Ashley Harris and Wendell Williams
» One brother, Wendell Williams Jr., and two sisters, Zariyah Martin and Keira Williams
» Nicknamed "1"
» Has worn No. 1 since he started playing sports
» Picked Illinois because it is a, "prestigious university and family oriented."
» Plans to open a training facility following his playing career
» Enrolled in general curriculum

CAREER HIGHS

Touchdowns: 1, at Rutgers 11/14/20
Attempts: 4 vs. Michigan, 10/12/19
Pass attempts: 18, at Rutgers 11/14/20
Pass completions: 7, twice (last vs. Iowa 12/5/20)
Pass yards: 104, at Rutgers 11/14/20
Passing Touchdowns: 1, twice (at Northwestern, 12/12/20)
Long pass: 46, at Northwestern, 12/12/20
Carries: 31, at Rutgers 11/14/20
Rushing Yards: 192, at Rutgers 11/14/20
Long Rush: 5, three times (last at Wisconsin 10/23/20)
Receptions: 3 vs. California, 12/30/19
Receiving Yards: 9 vs. California, 12/30/19
Long Reception: 4 vs. California, 12/30/19
Total Offense: 299, at Rutgers 11/14/20
All-Purpose: 195, at Rutgers 11/14/20

PASSING STATISTICS

Table with columns: YEAR, G, ATT, CMP, INT, YDS, TD, LG, PCT, AVG/P, AVG/G, EFFIC. Rows include 2019, 2020, and TOTAL.

RUSHING STATISTICS

Table with columns: YEAR, G, ATT, YDS, TD, LG, AVG/C, AVG/G. Rows include 2019.



2020 ILLINOIS FOOTBALL // GAME NOTES

2020	4	2	2	4	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	28	35	20	55	13.5	38	3	1	0	0	1

SACKS STATISTICS

YEAR	G	UA	A	TOTAL	YDS
2017	11	0	0	0.0	0
2018	4	1	0	1.0	2
2019	9	0	1	0.5	3
2020	4	0	0	0.0	0
TOTAL	28	1	1	1.5	5

DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME

2020	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
@WIS	1	1	2	0.5-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
PUR	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MIN										
@RUT										
@NEB	1	2	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
OSU										
IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@NW										

2019	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
AKRON	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@UCONN	2	2	4	2.0-7	0.5-3	1	0-0	0-0	0	0
EMU										
NEB	2	0	2	2.0-11	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MIN	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MICH	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIS	2	1	3	1.5-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@PUR	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
RUT										
@MSU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@IOWA										
NW										
vs. CAL	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

2018	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
KENT ST	2	0	2	2.0-7	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIU	4	1	5	1.0-2	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	1	2
USF	3	1	4	1.0-3	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1
PENN ST	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@RUT										
PUR										
@WIS										
@MD										
MINN										
@NEB										
IOWA										
@NW										

2017	UA	AS	TOT	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	INT-Yds	QBH	PBU
BALL ST										
WKU	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@USF	3	1	4	1.0-1	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NEB	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@IOWA	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
RUT	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@MIN	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
WIS	0	2	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@PUR	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
IND	3	5	8	2.5-6	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
@OSU	3	0	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0
NW	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0

62 TERRY ZAPF

OL, 6-6, 300, SO.

WINNETKA, ILL. / NEW TRIER / WILLIAMS (MASS.)

2019 Freshman (Williams):

- » Starter as a freshman at Williams College
- » All-NESCAC second team, the only freshman lineman named to an all-conference team

High School:

- » Played for head coach Brian Doll at New Trier
- » 2017 and 2018 all-area
- » 2018 All-CSL South
- » Also participated in track and field and rugby in high school
- » Honor Roll

Personal:

- » Born Aug. 30, 2000
- » Son of Matthew and Christine Zapf
- » Has two brothers, Matt and Brian, and two sisters, Tricia and Caitlin
- » Majoring in economics



TEAM STATISTICS

Team Statistics	ILL	OPP
SCORING	140	223
Points Per Game	20.00	31.86
FIRST DOWNS	131	168
Rushing	69	80
Passing	49	76
Penalty	13	12
RUSHING YARDAGE	1416	1588
Yards gained	1572	1753
Yards lost	156	165
Attempts	289	305
Avg Per Attempt	4.9	5.2
Avg Per Game	202.3	226.9
TDs Rushing	8	13
PASSING YARDAGE	1103	1570
Att-Comp-Int	172-83-3	187-130-7
Avg Per Attempt	6.41	8.40
Avg Per Catch	13.29	12.08
Avg Per Game	157.57	224.29
TDs Passing	8	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	2519	3158
Total Plays	461	492
Avg Per Play	5.5	6.4
Avg Per Game	359.9	451.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YARDS	23-402	12-195
PUNT RETURNS: #-YARDS	3-28	13-80
INT RETURNS: #-YARDS	7-61	3-30
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.48	16.25
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	9.33	6.15
INT RETURN AVERAGE	8.71	10.00
FUMBLES-LOST	13-4	13-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	38-391	39-324
Avg Per Game	55.86	46.29
PUNTS-YARDS	33-1442	22-915
Avg Per Punt	43.70	41.59
Net Punt Avg	40.67	39.41
KICKOFFS-YARDS	31-1902	42-2499
Avg Per Kick	61.35	59.50
Net Kick Avg	44.10	43.26
TIME OF POSSESSION	03:14:17	03:45:43
Per Game	27:45	32:15
3RD-DOWN CONVERSIONS	39-98	39-88
3rd-Down Pct	39.80 %	44.32 %
4TH-DOWN CONVERSIONS	7-14	10-16
4th-Down Pct	50.00 %	62.50 %
SACKS BY-YARDS	13-100	12-64
MISC YARDS	0	0
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	17	29
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	7-11	7-7
ON-SIDE KICKS	0-0	0-1
RED-ZONE SCORES	16-24	28-32
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	10-24	22-32
PAT-ATTEMPTS	17-17	26-27
ATTENDANCE	2,576	0
Dates-Avg Per Date	3-859	4-0
Neutral Site #-Avg	-	0-0



INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

#	Rushing	GP	ATT	GAIN	LOSS	NET	AVG	TD	LG	AVG/G
2	Brown, Chase	7	93	522	12	510	5.5	2	39	72.86
26	Epstein, Mike	6	61	366	6	360	5.9	4	63	60.00
1	Williams, Isaiah	5	48	290	3	287	6.0	1	26	57.40
18	Peters, Brandon	4	24	161	25	136	5.7	1	31	34.00
7	Taylor, Coran	2	36	149	75	74	2.1	0	33	37.00
14	Hayes, Blake	7	2	34	0	34	17.0	0	20	4.86
28	Love III, Reggie	7	10	26	14	12	1.2	0	8	1.71
20	Cumby, Kyron	5	2	11	0	11	5.5	0	9	2.20
12	Robinson, Matt	2	4	9	4	5	1.3	0	8	2.50
23	Lillig, Conner	2	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3	1.50
3	Norwood, Jakari	1	2	1	0	1	0.5	0	1	1.00
	Team	7	6	0	17	-17	-2.8	0	0	-2.43
	Total	7	289	1572	156	1416	4.9	8	63	202.29
	Opponents	7	305	1753	165	1588	5.2	13	53	226.86

#	Passing	GP	Rating	COMP-ATT-INT	PCT	YDS	TD	LG	AVG/G
18	Peters, Brandon	4	111.76	39-76-0	51.32 %	429	3	28	107.25
7	Taylor, Coran	2	132.03	23-46-2	50.00 %	379	3	52	189.50
1	Williams, Isaiah	5	101.18	18-45-1	40.00 %	273	2	46	54.60
12	Robinson, Matt	2	121.20	3-4-0	75.00 %	22	0	12	11.00
	Team	7	0.00	0-1-0	0.00 %	0	0	0	0.00
	Total	7	113.98	83-172-3	48.26 %	1103	8	52	157.57
	Opponents	7	159.03	130-187-7	69.52 %	1570	15	66	224.29

#	Receiving	GP	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	LG	AVG/G
9	Imatorbhebhe, Josh	7	22	297	13.50	3	52	42.43
87	Barker, Daniel	7	16	214	13.38	1	25	30.57
14	Hightower, Brian	7	9	201	22.33	2	46	28.71
8	Washington, Casey	7	10	106	10.60	0	20	15.14
86	Navarro, Donny	7	8	88	11.00	0	25	12.57
88	Imatorbhebhe, Daniel	4	3	54	18.00	1	28	13.50
2	Brown, Chase	7	5	30	6.00	0	18	4.29
26	Epstein, Mike	6	2	29	14.50	0	22	4.83
11	Sandy, Carlos	3	1	29	29.00	1	29	9.67
19	Campbell, Dalevon	6	2	24	12.00	0	18	4.00
20	Cumby, Kyron	5	3	16	5.33	0	17	3.20
82	Ford, Luke	7	2	15	7.50	0	11	2.14
	Total	7	83	1103	13.29	8	52	157.57
	Opponents	7	130	1570	12.08	15	66	224.29

#	Punt Returns	NO	YRDS	AVG	TD	LG
86	Navarro, Donny	1	16	16.00	0	16
13	Frenchie Jr., James	1	8	8.00	0	8
11	Griffin, Caleb	1	4	4.00	0	4
	Total	3	28	9.33	0	16
	Opponents	13	80	6.15	0	21

#	Interceptions	NO	YRDS	AVG	TD	LG
35	Hansen, Jake	2	12	6.00	0	8
31	Witherspoon, Devon	2	0	0.00	0	0
8	Hobbs, Nate	1	26	26.00	0	26
6	Adams, Tony	1	23	23.00	0	23
44	Barnes, Tarique	1	0	0.00	0	0
	Total	7	61	8.71	0	26
	Opponents	3	30	10.00	0	12

#	Kick Returns	NO	YRDS	AVG	TD	LG
4	Thompson, Khmari	12	234	19.50	0	35
15	Lindenman, Ty	4	65	16.25	0	26
2	Brown, Chase	4	62	15.50	0	20
20	Cumby, Kyron	2	40	20.00	0	22
46	McEachern, Alec	1	1	1.00	0	1
	Total	23	402	17.48	0	35
	Opponents	12	195	16.25	0	29

#	Fumble Returns	NO	YRDS	AVG	TD	LG
44	Barnes, Tarique	1	39	39.00	1	39
	Total	1	39	39.00	1	39
	Opponents	0	0	0	1	0



INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

#	Scoring	TD	FG	PAT					SAF	PTS
				KICK	RUSH	RCV	PASS	DXP		
17	McCourt, James	—	6	12-12	—	—	—	—	—	30
26	Epstein, Mike	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
9	Imatorbhebhe, Josh	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
2	Brown, Chase	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
14	Hightower, Brian	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
11	Griffin, Caleb	—	1	5-5	—	—	—	—	—	8
87	Barker, Daniel	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
44	Barnes, Tarique	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
88	Imatorbhebhe, Daniel	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
18	Peters, Brandon	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
11	Sandy, Carlos	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
1	Williams, Isaiah	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total		17	7	17-17	—	—	—	—	—	140
Opponents		29	7	26-27	0-1	1	1-1	—	—	223

#	Field Goals	FGM-FGA	PCT	I20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	LG	BLK
17	McCourt, James	6-10	60.00 %	0-0	4-4	1-2	1-2	0-2	47	0
Total		7-11	63.64 %	0-0	5-5	1-2	1-2	0-2	47	0
Opponents		7-7	100.00 %	1-1	2-2	2-2	2-2	0-0	40	0

FG Sequence	Illinois	Opponents
Wisconsin	-	(19)
PURDUE	(28)	(36)
MINNESOTA	-	-
Rutgers	(24),(23),54,46,(47)	(29),(26)
Nebraska	(24),(21)	(30)
IOWA	-	(40),(27)
Northwestern	32,(39),53	-

Numbers in (parentheses) indicate field goal was made.

#	Total Offense	G	Plays	Rush	Pass	Total	AVG/G
18	Peters, Brandon	4	100	136	429	565	141.25
1	Williams, Isaiah	5	93	287	273	560	112.00
2	Brown, Chase	7	93	510	0	510	72.86
7	Taylor, Coran	2	82	74	379	453	226.50
26	Epstein, Mike	6	61	360	0	360	60.00
14	Hayes, Blake	7	2	34	0	34	4.86
12	Robinson, Matt	2	8	5	22	27	13.50
28	Love III, Reggie	7	10	12	0	12	1.71
20	Cumby, Kyron	5	2	11	0	11	2.20
23	Lillig, Conner	2	1	3	0	3	1.50
3	Norwood, Jakari	1	2	1	0	1	1.00
	Team	7	7	-17	0	-17	-2.43
Total		7	461	1416	1103	2519	359.86
Opponents		7	492	1588	1570	3158	451.14

#	Punting	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TB	FC	I20	50+	BLK
14	Hayes, Blake	33	1442	43.70	62	1	8	13	7	0
Total		33	1442	43.70	62	1	8	13	7	0
Opponents		22	915	41.59	66	1	9	10	6	0

#	Kickoffs	NO	YDS	AVG	TB	OB
11	Griffin, Caleb	8	503	62.9	5	1
17	McCourt, James	23	1399	60.8	12	0
Total		31	1902	61.4	17	1
Opponents		42	2499	59.5	14	1



INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

#	All Purpose	G	RUSH	RCV	PR	KR	IR	Total	AVG/G
2	Brown, Chase	7	510	30	0	62	0	602	86.00
26	Epstein, Mike	6	360	29	0	0	0	389	64.83
9	Imatorbhebhe, Josh	7	0	297	0	0	0	297	42.43
1	Williams, Isaiah	5	287	0	0	0	0	287	57.40
4	Thompson, Khmari	5	0	0	0	234	0	234	46.80
87	Barker, Daniel	7	0	214	0	0	0	214	30.57
14	Hightower, Brian	7	0	201	0	0	0	201	28.71
18	Peters, Brandon	4	136	0	0	0	0	136	34.00
8	Washington, Casey	7	0	106	0	0	0	106	15.14
86	Navarro, Donny	7	0	88	16	0	0	104	14.86
7	Taylor, Coran	2	74	0	0	0	0	74	37.00
20	Cumby, Kyron	5	11	16	0	40	0	67	13.40
15	Lindenman, Ty	1	0	0	0	65	0	65	65.00
88	Imatorbhebhe, Daniel	4	0	54	0	0	0	54	13.50
14	Hayes, Blake	7	34	0	0	0	0	34	4.86
11	Sandy, Carlos	3	0	29	0	0	0	29	9.67
8	Hobbs, Nate	5	0	0	0	0	26	26	5.20
19	Campbell, Dalevon	6	0	24	0	0	0	24	4.00
6	Adams, Tony	6	0	0	0	0	23	23	3.83
82	Ford, Luke	7	0	15	0	0	0	15	2.14
28	Love III, Reggie	7	12	0	0	0	0	12	1.71
35	Hansen, Jake	7	0	0	0	0	12	12	1.71
13	Frenchie Jr., James	6	0	0	8	0	0	8	1.33
12	Robinson, Matt	2	5	0	0	0	0	5	2.50
11	Griffin, Caleb	3	0	0	4	0	0	4	1.33
23	Lillig, Conner	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	1.50
3	Norwood, Jakari	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.00
46	McEachern, Alec	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.17
	Team	7	-17	0	0	0	0	-17	-2.43
	Total	7	1416	1103	28	402	61	3010	430.00



DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

#	Defensive Leaders	GP	Tackles				Sacks NO-YDS	Pass Defense			Fumbles		Blocked	
			Solo	ASST	TOT	TFL-YDS		INT-YDS	BU	QBH	RCV-YDS	FF	KICK	SAF
35	Hansen, Jake	7	32	27	59	7.5-19	1.0-3	2-12	2	—	2-0	2	—	—
6	Adams, Tony	6	25	26	51	—	—	1-23	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	Tolson, Khalan	7	15	24	39	6.0-21	1.5-11	—	2	2	1-0	2	—	—
30	Brown, Sydney	6	20	16	36	0.5-2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
8	Hobbs, Nate	5	22	9	31	2.0-3	—	1-26	2	—	—	—	—	—
31	Witherspoon, Devon	6	16	12	28	1.0-4	—	2-0	—	—	2-0	—	—	—
21	Martin, Jartavius	7	18	8	26	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
44	Barnes, Tarique	5	12	13	25	1.5-10	1.0-9	1-0	—	—	1-39	—	—	—
99	Carney Jr., Owen	7	11	14	25	7.0-50	5.0-40	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
5	Eifler, Milo	5	15	6	21	2.5-3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
94	Newton, Jer'Zhan	7	5	15	20	1.0-10	1.0-10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
96	Perry II, Roderick	6	5	12	17	2.5-21	2.0-20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
2	Smith, Derrick	7	12	5	17	1.0-1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
92	Gay, Isaiah	6	8	7	15	2.0-8	1.5-7	—	1	—	1-0	—	—	—
25	Joseph, Kerby	6	8	4	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	Ware, Delano	5	7	4	11	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
49	Coleman, Seth	7	5	5	10	3.5-8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
93	Avery, Calvin	6	6	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
42	Marchese, Michael	3	5	3	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
17	Smith, Kendall	7	3	4	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3	Beason, Marquez	6	5	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
88	Randolph Jr., Keith	4	4	2	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
29	Bobak, Christian	5	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
91	Woods, Jamal	4	2	2	4	0.5-0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
51	Coghlan, Sean	7	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40	Cooper, Shammond	4	2	1	3	0.5-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
54	Mondesir, Marc	4	2	1	3	0.5-2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
48	Barnes, Bryce	7	—	2	2	0.5-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	Campbell, Dalevon	6	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	Fedanzo, Nick	6	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46	McEachern, Alec	6	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
98	Pate, Deon	7	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
87	Barker, Daniel	7	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Brown, Chase	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	Epstein, Mike	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	Holmes, Ezekiel	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34	Meed, Ryan	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
63	Palczewski, Alex	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75	Pihlstrom, Alex	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
89	Reiman, Tip	7	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
41	Riggins, Trevon	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32	Leitzsey, Tailon	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Total	7	279	236	515	40.0-164	13.0-100	7-61	15	7	7-39	8	—	—
	Opponents	7	259	192	451	34.0-105	12.0-64	3-30	18	19	4-0	6	—	—



ILLINOIS GAME-BY-GAME

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
Oct 23	at Wisconsin	25	131	0	31	8	87	0	26	8-22-1	87	0	26	6	89	0	20	1	8	0	8	218
Oct 31	PURDUE	44	177	1	33	20	295	2	44	20-33-2	295	2	44	3	74	0	35	1	16	0	16	472
Nov 07	MINNESOTA	36	181	1	63	6	106	1	52	6-17-0	106	1	52	3	53	0	19	0	0	0	0	287
Nov 14	at Rutgers	59	338	2	39	7	104	0	22	7-18-0	104	0	22	3	59	0	24	0	0	0	0	442
Nov 21	at Nebraska	52	285	4	58	18	205	1	28	18-25-0	205	1	28	2	40	0	22	0	0	0	0	490
Dec 05	IOWA	38	149	0	17	17	199	3	29	17-35-0	199	3	29	2	22	0	21	1	4	0	4	348
Dec 12	at Northwestern	35	155	0	20	7	107	1	46	7-22-0	107	1	46	4	65	0	26	0	0	0	0	262
Opponents		289	1416	8	63	83	1103	8	52	83-172-3	1103	8	52	23	402	0	35	3	28	0	16	2519
		305	1588	13	53	130	1585	15	66	130-187-7	1585	15	66	12	195	0	29	13	80	0	21	3173

Games: 7 • Avg/rush: 4.9 • Avg/catch: 13.3 • Pass effic: 113.98 • KR avg: 17.5 • PR avg: 9.3 • All purpose avg/game: 430.0 • Total offense avg/gm: 359.9

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks		Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd kick	PAT Attempts			off		
		ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick		rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts	
Oct 23	at Wisconsin	52	26	78	7.0-24	2.0-16	1	1-39	0-0	0	0	0	0	1-1	0	0	0	7	7
Oct 31	PURDUE	36	38	74	8.0-38	4.0-33	3	2-0	0-0	0	2	0	3-3	0	0	0	7	24	
Nov 07	MINNESOTA	37	36	73	5.0-24	1.0-10	1	1-0	1-0	3	2	0	2-2	0	0	0	7	14	
Nov 14	at Rutgers	35	34	69	5.0-11	1.0-3	1	0-0	3-30	2	6	0	2-2	0	0	0	6	23	
Nov 21	at Nebraska	36	44	80	8.0-45	3.0-28	1	2-0	3-31	0	1	0	5-5	0	0	0	17	41	
Dec 05	IOWA	35	40	75	4.0-15	2.0-10	0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	3-3	0	0	0	0	21	
Dec 12	at Northwestern	48	18	66	3.0-7	0.0-0	1	1-0	0-0	2	2	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	10	
Opponents		279	236	515	40.0-164	13.0-100	8	7-39	7-61	7	15	0	17-17	0	0	0	44	140	
		259	192	451	34.0-105	12.0-64	6	4-0	3-21	19	18	0	26-27	0	1	0	34	223	

Date	Opponent	Punting							Field Goals			Kickoffs						
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
Oct 23	at Wisconsin	5	216	43.2	54	0	0	2	1	2	0-0	0	0	2	126	63.0	0	0
Oct 31	PURDUE	2	83	41.5	53	0	1	0	1	1	1-1	28	0	5	319	63.8	3	1
Nov 07	MINNESOTA	8	336	42.0	54	0	0	2	1	2	0-0	0	0	3	184	61.3	2	0
Nov 14	at Rutgers	4	184	46.0	59	0	0	3	1	3	3-5	47	0	6	388	64.7	4	0
Nov 21	at Nebraska	3	137	45.7	49	0	0	0	0	0	2-2	24	0	8	515	64.4	5	0
Dec 05	IOWA	7	266	38.0	49	0	0	1	0	2	0-0	0	0	4	200	50.0	1	0
Dec 12	at Northwestern	4	220	55.0	62	0	0	0	3	3	1-3	39	0	3	170	56.7	2	0
Opponents		33	1442	43.7	62	0	1	8	7	13	7-11	47	0	31	1902	61.4	17	1
		22	915	41.6	66	0	1	9	6	10	7-7	40	0	42	2499	59.5	14	1



OPPONENT GAME-BY-GAME

Date	Opponent	Rushing				Receiving				Passing				Kick Returns				Punt Returns				tot off
		no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	cmp-att-int	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	no.	yds	td	lg	
Oct 23	at Wisconsin	54	182	1	13	20	248	5	53	20-21-0	248	5	53	2	28	0	28	1	0	0	0	430
Oct 31	PURDUE	31	85	1	35	29	371	2	45	29-35-0	371	2	45	1	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	456
Nov 07	MINNESOTA	47	325	5	53	17	231	1	32	17-27-1	231	1	32	1	27	0	27	1	8	0	8	556
Nov 14	at Rutgers	33	166	0	32	21	256	2	66	21-34-3	256	2	66	2	39	0	20	1	-1	0	0	422
Nov 21	at Nebraska	44	215	2	32	18	177	1	31	18-30-3	177	1	31	3	63	0	29	3	29	0	21	392
Dec 05	IOWA	38	204	1	31	18	220	3	24	18-28-0	220	3	24	2	24	0	12	5	29	0	18	424
Dec 12	at Northwestern	58	411	3	50	7	82	1	33	7-12-0	82	1	33	1	0	0	0	2	15	0	17	493
Illinois		305	1588	13	53	130	1585	15	66	130-187-7	1585	15	66	12	195	0	29	13	80	0	21	3173
Illinois		289	1416	8	63	83	1103	8	52	83-172-3	1103	8	52	23	402	0	35	3	28	0	16	2519

Games: 7 • Avg/rush: 5.2 • Avg/catch: 12.2 • Pass effic: 159.70 • KR avg: 16.2 • PR avg: 6.2 • All purpose avg/game: 495.6 • Total offense avg/gm: 453.3

Date	Opponent	Tackles				Sacks		Fumble		Pass Defense			blkd kick	PAT Attempts			off		
		ua	a	total	tfl-yds	no-yds	ff	fr-yds	int-yds	qbh	brup	kick		kick	rush	rcv	saf	t/o	pts
Oct 23	at Wisconsin	30	10	40	6.0-17	3.0-12	1	1-0	1-10	2	2	0	6-6	0	0	0	0	10	45
Oct 31	PURDUE	42	36	78	4.0-16	2.0-12	1	2-0	2-11	3	3	0	4-4	0	0	0	21	31	
Nov 07	MINNESOTA	31	18	49	4.0-23	4.0-23	1	0-0	0-0	3	4	0	5-6	0	0	0	0	41	
Nov 14	at Rutgers	42	42	84	5.0-5	1.0-1	1	1-0	0-0	3	1	0	2-2	0	0	0	3	20	
Nov 21	at Nebraska	39	44	83	6.0-14	1.0-8	2	0-0	0-0	2	1	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	23	
Dec 05	IOWA	41	24	65	4.0-21	1.0-8	0	0-0	0-0	2	6	0	3-3	0	1	0	0	35	
Dec 12	at Northwestern	34	18	52	5.0-9	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	4	1	0	4-4	0	0	0	0	28	
Illinois		259	192	451	34.0-105	12.0-64	6	4-0	3-21	19	18	0	26-27	0	1	0	34	223	
Illinois		279	236	515	40.0-164	13.0-100	8	7-39	7-61	7	15	0	17-17	0	0	0	44	140	

Date	Opponent	Punting										Field Goals			Kickoffs			
		no.	yds	avg	long	blkd	tb	fc	50+	i20	md-att	long	blkd	no.	yds	avg	tb	ob
Oct 23	at Wisconsin	4	184	46.0	60	0	0	1	1	2	1-1	19	0	8	470	58.8	1	0
Oct 31	PURDUE	3	98	32.7	51	0	0	0	1	0	1-1	36	0	6	389	64.8	3	0
Nov 07	MINNESOTA	2	51	25.5	30	0	0	0	0	2	0-0	0	0	7	454	64.9	4	0
Nov 14	at Rutgers	4	182	45.5	66	0	0	3	1	1	2-2	29	0	5	303	60.6	1	0
Nov 21	at Nebraska	2	98	49.0	56	0	0	1	1	2	1-1	30	0	4	224	56.0	1	0
Dec 05	IOWA	5	210	42.0	54	0	0	3	1	2	2-2	40	0	7	413	59.0	4	0
Dec 12	at Northwestern	2	92	46.0	54	0	1	1	1	1	0-0	0	0	5	246	49.2	0	1
Illinois		22	915	41.6	66	0	1	9	6	10	7-7	40	0	42	2499	59.5	14	1
Illinois		33	1442	43.7	62	0	1	8	7	13	7-11	47	0	31	1902	61.4	17	1

