

Kansas Football Record History



Kansas football record history is a tale of highs and lows, victories and defeats, and a proud tradition that has shaped the identity of the University of Kansas (KU) football program. Established in 1890, Kansas football has experienced various eras, from its early beginnings to notable modern achievements. This article delves into the history of Kansas football, examining key seasons, notable players, and the evolution of the program over the years.

Early Years of Kansas Football

The University of Kansas football program began in 1890, making it one of the oldest in the country. The team, originally known as the Jayhawks, played its first game against Baker University on November 7, 1890, which ended in a loss. However, the program quickly gained traction and by the late 1890s, Kansas

was competing against other colleges and universities, laying the groundwork for future success.

1900s to 1940s: Establishing a Foundation

During the early 20th century, Kansas football began to establish a reputation. The program had its first significant success in the 1900s. Notably, the 1908 team, coached by the legendary John B. McLendon, finished the season with a 7-0 record, marking the first undefeated season in the program's history.

The team continued to grow, and by the 1940s, Kansas achieved its first conference championship under the Big Six Conference. The 1946 team, led by coach George Sauer, finished with an impressive 8-2 record and earned a trip to the Sugar Bowl, marking the program's first bowl appearance.

The 1950s and 1960s: A Period of Promise

The 1950s and 1960s were significant decades for Kansas football, as the program experienced some of its best years.

1950s Success

The 1950s saw a rise in the program's competitiveness, highlighted by the 1951 season when Kansas finished the year with a 9-1 record. The team was ranked 10th in the nation, achieving its highest ranking to date. The standout player of this era was quarterback John Hadl, who would go on to have a successful career in the NFL.

1960s Transformation

The 1960s brought further transformation under head coach Jack Mitchell. The 1968 season was particularly notable as Kansas finished with a 6-4 record and made another appearance in the bowl games, this time the Orange Bowl. This marked a continued trend of competitiveness that would set the stage for future generations.

1970s to 1990s: A Struggle for Consistency

While the early decades of the program were filled with promise, the 1970s through the 1990s presented

challenges for Kansas football.

1970s Decline

The 1970s were a tough decade for Kansas football, with inconsistent performance and frequent coaching changes. The program struggled to capture the same magic it had in the previous decades, finishing several seasons with losing records.

1980s Resurgence

The 1980s saw a slight resurgence with the hiring of coach Don Fambrough. In 1988, the team finished with a 10-2 record, earning a trip to the Aloha Bowl, which marked a high point for the program during this era. This accomplishment reignited excitement around Kansas football.

1990s Challenges

Despite the momentary resurgence in the 1980s, the 1990s were marked by further challenges. The program went through multiple coaching changes, which contributed to a lack of stability. While there were glimpses of success, such as the 1995 season where Kansas finished with a 6-5 record, overall, the decade was disappointing in terms of consistent performance.

21st Century: A New Era

The turn of the century brought renewed hope for Kansas football, with several seasons that would define the program's modern history.

2007 Breakthrough Season

One of the most significant seasons in Kansas football history occurred in 2007. Under the leadership of head coach Mark Mangino, the Jayhawks achieved a remarkable 12-1 record. This season included impressive victories against ranked teams, and Kansas earned a spot in the Orange Bowl, where they defeated Virginia Tech, marking the program's first BCS bowl victory.

Struggles Post-2007

Following the success of 2007, the program faced difficulties in maintaining that level of performance. The subsequent seasons saw fluctuating records and coaching changes, with Mangino being dismissed in 2009 after allegations of misconduct. The program struggled to regain its footing, leading to a series of challenging seasons.

Recent Developments

In recent years, Kansas football has seen a resurgence under head coach Les Miles, who took over the program in 2018. While the initial seasons were marked by rebuilding efforts, there have been signs of progress, including competitive performances against traditional rivals.

2020s Progress

As of the 2023 season, Kansas football has shown promise with a growing roster and a renewed focus on recruiting. The program is working to establish a competitive identity in the Big 12 Conference, aiming to return to bowl games and compete for conference titles.

Notable Players in Kansas Football History

Throughout its history, Kansas football has produced numerous standout athletes who have made significant contributions to the sport. Here are a few notable players:

- **John Hadl:** A legendary quarterback who played for the Jayhawks in the late 1950s and went on to have a successful NFL career.
- **Gale Sayers:** One of the most iconic running backs in NFL history, Sayers played for Kansas in the 1960s before becoming a Chicago Bears legend.
- **David Jaynes:** A star quarterback in the 1970s, Jaynes left a lasting impact on the program.
- **Quintin Smith:** A key player in the 2007 season, contributing to the team's memorable success.

Conclusion

The **Kansas football record history** is a rich tapestry woven with triumphs, struggles, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. From its humble beginnings in the 1890s to its remarkable 2007 season and the ongoing efforts to rebuild the program, Kansas football remains an integral part of the university's identity. As the team continues to evolve, fans hold onto the hope that the Jayhawks will once again rise to prominence in college football, continuing a legacy that has captivated generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the all-time winning record of the Kansas Jayhawks football team?

As of the end of the 2022 season, the Kansas Jayhawks football team has an all-time record of approximately 600 wins and 700 losses.

When did the Kansas Jayhawks achieve their highest number of wins in a single season?

The Kansas Jayhawks achieved their highest number of wins in a single season in 2007, finishing with a record of 12-1.

How many bowl games have the Kansas Jayhawks participated in?

As of the end of the 2022 season, the Kansas Jayhawks have participated in 13 bowl games.

What year did Kansas win its last conference championship in football?

Kansas last won a conference championship in football in 2007, when they were co-champions of the Big 12 Conference.

Who is the all-time winningest head coach for the Kansas Jayhawks?

The all-time winningest head coach for the Kansas Jayhawks is Mark Mangino, who coached from 2002 to 2009 and led the team to its most successful season in 2007.

What notable player from Kansas football was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame?

John Hadl, a quarterback who played for the Kansas Jayhawks from 1954 to 1956, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1986.

What is the longest losing streak in Kansas football history?

The longest losing streak in Kansas football history is 47 games, which spanned from 2014 to 2016.

How many times has Kansas appeared in the AP Top 25 rankings?

The Kansas Jayhawks have appeared in the AP Top 25 rankings a total of 21 times since the rankings began in 1936.

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