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# 2022 COLLEGE FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE

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- KANSAS
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COUNTRY 94.1  
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# Big Storylines, Names to Know and Top 10 Games

By Adam Kramer

Years from now, when there are only two conferences and high school juniors are signing \$10 million dollar deals, college football will look very different.

The sport you know and love is changing quickly. The evolution came without much warning, through the transfer portal and NIL. Before that, the College Football Playoff and a huge infusion of television money sent us on this path.

Regardless of the conference size or the sponsorship amounts, however, Saturdays are still sacred. Waking up to a full Saturday slate is still one of the greatest moments of the year.

You will still chase on Hawaii. You will still embrace kickers being wildly inaccurate, home underdogs thriving off the environment and the imperfections that make college football great.

Yes, the sport is changing. And some of the changes, if we're being honest, we could do without.

But make no mistake about where this is all heading: to the couch, to the parking lot soaked in warm domestic beer, to the sportsbook or your favorite betting app. It's heading back to the places you always consume college football, because these are the proper ways to consume it.

Change all you want, college football – we'll come along for the ride.

## The Five Biggest Storylines Entering the Season

### 1.

#### Welcome back, elite quarterbacks

This is not a knock on the 2021 crop of QBs; that narrative has been exhausted. With only one quarterback selected in the top 73 picks, however, it's clear that NFL teams were unimpressed by last year's class. That is not the case heading into 2022.

Ohio State's C.J. Stroud (+250 to win the Heisman Trophy) and Alabama's Bryce Young (+350) are poised to be the face of the sport and, fittingly, are the favorites to win the Heisman.

But there is also a ton of depth at the position. Caleb Williams (+800), just a true sophomore, should erupt at USC. (More on the Trojans in a moment.)

Dillion Gabriel (30-1) might be the most underappreciated addition of the offseason for Oklahoma. Tyler Van Dyke (35-1) looked fabulous at the end of last year, and he could be in for a massive year for Miami.

The list is deep. Quinn Ewers (35-1), Anthony Richardson (40-1) and many others are legitimate breakout candidates. The position is loaded, and more are likely to join the party.

### 2.

#### Can the champs deliver an encore?

The Georgia defense was the definition of elite last fall. The offense, while secondary to the other side of the ball, was loaded with talent. After watching 15 players from its national championship team find a home in the NFL draft, however, it's reasonable to question what happens next.

The Bulldogs are still +380 to win the title, behind only Alabama and Ohio State. The defense is still ripe with talent, headlined by edge rusher Nolan Smith.

I'm more curious to see what happens at quarterback. Stetson Bennett likely has the upper hand after winning the national championship in somewhat emphatic fashion, although it's not a given. Brock Vandagriff, a former five-star recruit, could push him (as could true freshman Gunner Stockton).

The talent is there, but so are the questions. Oh, and Alabama is loaded. (Shocking.)

### 3.

#### Is 2022 as top-heavy as it seems?

Despite the violent conference movement, transfer portal and coaching carousel, the number of true national championship contenders feels much smaller than it has in some time.

Yes, CFB is entering a volatile phase.

No, that isn't altering expectations in 2022.

There is Alabama (+180), Ohio State (+320), Georgia (+380) and Clemson (+1000).

After that, the field – and odds – opens wide up.

If you like a team like Notre Dame, Oklahoma, Michigan or Texas, you will be able to get them at 40-1 or higher. For playoff contenders – which they all are if things go well – this feels like a decent bargain.

But as we saw with Cincinnati during the College Football Playoff last season, making the final four isn't enough. You must make the playoff, which is difficult, and then you must slay whatever dragon stands in your way.

Given the talent levels of the favorites mentioned above, it won't be easy. As we've seen before, however, college football tends to do weird, college football-y things.

There's plenty of value to be had if you can pick the right teams squarely in the middle of the pack.

### 4.

#### Behold the glorious transfer portal

Recruiting and the NFL draft are no longer the only avenues you need to be aware of during the dormant months. These days, the transfer portal might be the most potent resource of them all.

In terms of meaningful additions this offseason, a few teams stand out.

Alabama loaded up on both offense and defense, adding true difference-makers to a team already overflowing with talent.

USC, Miami and LSU all added meaningful players, as did Texas and Oklahoma. Even Nebraska, which found a way to lose every close game it played last year, did an overhaul in the portal by acquiring more than a dozen players.

This isn't just a theme for 2022; it's a theme from this point forward. Become one with the portal.

### 5.

#### Lincoln Riley's maiden California voyage

The move to the Big Ten will steal some shine, but Riley's Pac-12 stay, no matter how short it might be, is one of the most intriguing components of the 2022 season.

Although they have won 10 games just twice in the past eight years, the Trojans are 30-1 to win the national title, behind only five other teams.

Those odds, frankly, feel excessive.

That said, they play in the right conference, have the right quarterback, are loaded at skill positions and should be a treat to watch on offense. The defense is another story, hence the mild pessimism.

Will we be able to have reasonable discord about USC this season?

Given the hype and expectations, it seems unlikely. Although given the massive uptick in recruitment poised for this year and beyond, this conversation will likely continue.

## The 10 Games You Need to See This Year

Every college football game should be consumed. That is an important disclaimer.

Ranking the best games of the year is always difficult, largely because meaningful football games don't fully take shape until the middle of the year. With that out of the way, here my initial rankings of the top 10 games of 2022.

It's worth noting that meaningful out-of-conference games, especially those played on a college campus, are always given more weight in this exercise.

### 1. Alabama (-16.5) vs. Texas A&M (Oct. 8)

Jimbo Fisher vs. Nick Saban. Before realignment grabbed the steering wheel, this was the primary plot line. Throw in A&M's win over Alabama last year that the Aggies parlayed into a historic recruiting class, along with the offseason war of words and we have ourselves a delightful scenario. Tuscaloosa will be electric.

### 2. Alabama (-14.5) at Texas (Sept. 10)

Yes, we're going double 'Bama off the top. A rematch of the 2010 BCS National Championship Game will headline Week 2. Oh, and the football game will be played in Austin at 11 a.m. local time, where it will likely be 105 degrees.

### 3. Ohio State (-14.5) vs. Notre Dame (Sept. 3)

Speaking of unbelievable football environments, enter Columbus, Ohio. The Buckeyes' loaded offense will welcome Notre Dame to town to begin the season, and the spread is north of two touchdowns. Marcus Freeman's first regular season game as Notre Dame's coach is a tall task.

### 4. Ohio State (-13.5) vs. Michigan (Nov. 26)

The first rivalry staple is always must-see TV. After Michigan finally conquered the Buckeyes, however, Ohio State is likely thinking of revenge. Homefield will certainly be huge for Ohio State, as it normally is in this series. I cannot get enough of this football game.

### 5. Georgia (-17) vs. Oregon (Sept. 3)

The spread, like many meaningful Week 1 lines, is robust. Still, watching Oregon and Georgia tussle is certainly something we welcome. Beyond seeing a remade Georgia roster, former Bulldogs DC Dan Lanning draws his old team in his very first game. I'm in.

### 6. Arkansas (-6.5) vs. Cincinnati (Sept. 3)

From playoff participant to near-touchdown underdog, Cincinnati's season should be fascinating. It begins on the road against a quality opponent with a quality coach powered by a really intriguing QB. I have had this game circled since December.

### 7. Utah (-3.5) vs. USC (Oct. 15)

For now, these two teams will power the Pac-12. Until that changes, and it will, this is likely to be one of the more intriguing games played all season. Utah has a massive home field advantage, and USC will likely need to conquer the Utes if it plans to match the preseason hype.

### 8. Utah (-2) at Florida (Sept. 3)

Speaking of Utah, here is another big one for them. It seems strange seeming Florida as an underdog at home, although it feels, well, right. Bill Napier was a quality hire, although the roster certainly needs some more. Florida QB Anthony Richardson is a fascinating talent, and he is poised to have a say on this outcome.

### 9. Oklahoma (-3) vs. Texas (Oct. 8)

A new coach, two new QBs and two rivals planning exits to the SEC. Yes, the Red River Rivalry delivers. Last year, Texas produced an epic meltdown that led to a season-long meltdown. This year, Brent Venables will get his first taste of this home-grown hate as head coach.

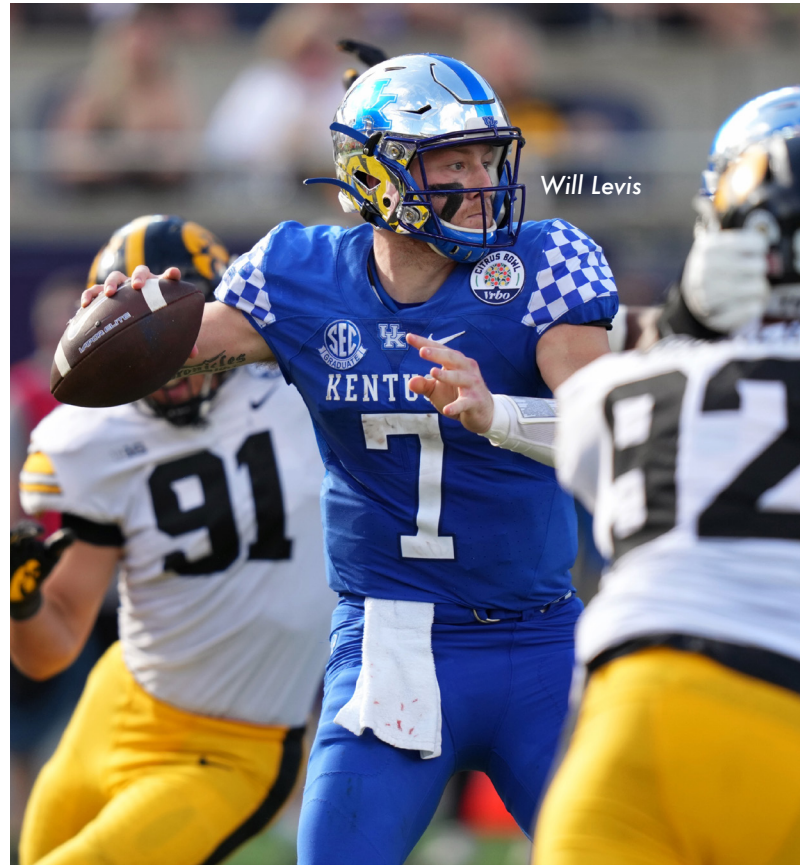
### 10. Texas A&M (-7.5) vs. Miami (Sept. 17)

Call it the NIL Bowl, because both of these teams have it rolling on the recruiting front thanks to massive booster buy-in. Texas A&M feels like it has the more talented roster, although Miami is poised to surge after closing out last year strong.

## Five (non-superstar) Names to Know in 2022

### 1. Will Levis (Kentucky, QB)

We do this every year. We take a quarterback with an NFL build, place him in and around the top 10 of every way-too-early NFL mock draft and then let the madness unfold. Levis has become a hugely popular name in NFL circles, and he has the build and gifts to warrant some of the buzz. But can he live up to it? If you're a believer, you can get him at 50-1 to win the Heisman.



Will Levis

### 2. Cade Klubnik (Clemson, QB)

If you follow recruiting, you know this name well. Clemson's five-star true freshman QB enrolled early, and he is likely to be a fascinating piece to the Tigers' puzzle. The moment D.J. Uiagalelei struggles at all next fall, the chants for Klubnik will begin. Although he hasn't played a down yet, he's still 60-1 to win the Heisman. Stay tuned.

### 3. Devon Achane (Texas A&M, RB)

When the ball is in his hands, there might not be a more exciting player in all of college football – there also might not be a faster player. Achane averaged seven yards per carry and scored nine touchdowns in a reserve role last year. With Isaiah Spiller gone, however, Achane is likely to get a much bigger workload for a team looking for a breakthrough. That is good news for all of us.

### 4. Isaiah Neyor (Texas, WR)

Amid the transfer madness, Texas landed a huge commitment in Neyor. The 6-foot-3 wideout left Wyoming for Austin. Last year, he caught 44 passes, 12 touchdowns and averaged nearly 20 yards per catch. Playing alongside Xavier Worthy in an offensive poised to put up points, Neyor could be in line for a monster season.

### 5. Jim Knowles (Ohio State, DC)

Of the coordinator hires made this past offseason, none felt more impactful than the addition of Knowles at Ohio State. The former Oklahoma State defensive coordinator was one of the primary reasons behind the Pokes' playoff push in 2021. He will now be expected to have a similar, immediate impact in Columbus. The offense is loaded. If the defense is anything close to "good," Ohio State will be an incredibly tough team to beat.

# How to Make Your Own Power Ratings: A Primer

By Adam Burke

The idea of setting your own game lines probably seems daunting. Oddsmakers have mountains of information and public betting data to work with. However, you can put together something raw and fairly basic that at least gives you a good idea of where a line should be.

Power ratings are an inexact science. They are designed to be a guide to give you a frame of reference. They are subjective in nature, which means nobody's power ratings are 100% accurate. But the ability to look at a game and compare your spread to the spread in the market can be a tremendously valuable resource.

I know people who have all kinds of spreadsheets and numerous sets of power ratings. I am not one of those people. But I can point you in the right direction to design an introductory set of power ratings you can use to try and get ahead of the market.

The function of a power rating is to be able to compare two teams and set a spread. Home-field advantage is included and I have a separate process for that. My process is neither complex nor time-consuming, and the nice thing is we can refer to the game lines that are out for Week 0, Week 1 and the Games of the Year to compare.

## Setting It Up

Here's how to set up a set of positional power ratings:

Talent disparities are bigger in college football than in most sports. Analyzing roster turnover and transfers — from the portal and junior colleges — all go into the process.

Typically, my scale for power ratings ranges from 40 to 100, with teams such as Alabama and Ohio State near the century mark and teams such as UMass and New Mexico State at the bottom of the list.

To get to a max of 100, I use this scale:

QB: 15  
RB: 10  
WR: 10  
OL: 15  
DL: 15  
LB: 10  
DB: 10  
Coaches/special teams: 15

The most important position on the field is the QB. The battle in the trenches is huge and makes up 30% of my power rating number. Coaching is also big and I include special teams as part of the job description since special teams are much harder to analyze.

## Position by Position

### Quarterbacks

A QB such as Bryce Young or CJ Stroud is going to get the highest rating possible at 15. Somebody just a step below that, such as Will Rogers at Mississippi State or Brennan Armstrong at Virginia, might get a 14 or 14.5. Quarterbacks for teams such as UMass, Akron or UConn are likely to be in the 5-6 range. You also have to grade these on a curve by conference, so if CJ Stroud is a 15 at Ohio State, Purdue's Aidan O'Connell would be a 13 or 13.5. Connor Bazelak at Indiana might be an 8 or a 9.

### Running Backs

For a 10, think Bijan Robinson at Texas or the stable of backs at Georgia. If a team passes a lot, you may not want to grade the RBs that highly. On the other hand, a triple-option offense might get a 9 or 9.5 at the RB position while taking away points from WRs.

### Wide Receivers

Wide receivers mean more at Western Kentucky than they do at UAB. There are also some WR corps that have future NFL players and plenty of size, while others are used more for blocking purposes or suffered big losses in the offseason. The best WR group in a conference might be a 9 or 10, so each group after that would go down a bit on the scale.

### Offensive Line

Offensive lines on their own account for 15% of my power rating and that may not be enough. The ability to protect the quarterback impacts all of the above position groups and impacts the defense as well. I've toyed with extending this out to 20 and borrowing from another area, but the best offensive lines in the country are a 15 and the worst are in the 5-6 range.

### Defensive Line

Defensive lines are important as well and I tend to include edge rushers in this group. Does a team stop the run? Does a team get after the quarterback? How do they generate tackles for loss? You also have to consider if there is a new defensive coordinator and if a team moves from a 3-4 to a 4-3. The job description of a defensive lineman changes based on the scheme and some teams may be better equipped for one over the other.

### Linebackers

Linebackers mean so much in football nowadays with all of the RPOs and how often tight ends are used in the passing game. Most college linebackers end up being tackle machines because there are so many different offensive schemes. The best groups get a 10, while the worst get a 4.

### Defensive Backs

Same story here, but defensive backs are often the ones that force the turnovers. With all of the position groups, it's not enough to look at

the starters. I also look at the backups, which is why a magazine such as Phil Steele's is really valuable for this exercise. Injuries are prevalent in college football and the difference between a four-year senior starter and a true freshman can be big. Once again, the best groups get a 10 and the worst get a 4 or 4.5.

### Coaching/special Teams

This is loosely 5 points for special teams and 10 for coaching, but the coaching part means more than just the head coach. Coordinators are taken heavily into account, including new coordinators who are changing schemes. Recruiting is also a small part of the evaluation process, since some coaches can get a lot of talent but won't get as much out of it as others. This scale goes from 7 to 15 for me.

## The SEC as an Example

To show you an example of one conference, here are my SEC Power Ratings:

Alabama: 98.5  
Georgia: 95.5  
Texas A&M: 86  
Tennessee: 82.5  
Arkansas: 81  
Ole Miss: 81  
Mississippi State: 80  
Kentucky: 79.5  
Florida: 79  
Auburn: 78  
LSU: 78  
South Carolina: 74  
Missouri: 69  
Vanderbilt: 55

Based on my "raw power rating," Alabama would be -3 on a neutral field against Georgia. Texas A&M would be -5 against Arkansas. Ole Miss would be -12 against Missouri.

Then I factor in home-field advantage and come up with my own game line. If the market line is off a few points from my line, I'll take that spread early in the week and expect it to move toward my line.

The true skill comes in updating your power ratings as the season goes along, which I'll outline in a future piece.

If you want to try this exercise, try rating one conference and then compare your lines with the Game of the Year lines to do some trial and error. If your research has you higher or lower on a team, that's fine. There's nothing wrong with that. It's your opinion, but use the existing lines from sportsbooks as a guide to make sure you aren't too far off.

I'll be doing a weekly update on VSiN.com of my power ratings, weekly adjustments and game lines to further elaborate on this concept and process.

# Steve Makinen's Power Ratings

| TEAM           | RATING | TEAM              | RATING | TEAM              | RATING | TEAM              | RATING |
|----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| ALABAMA        | 73     | LOUISVILLE        | 51.5   | STANFORD          | 41.5   | SOUTHERN MISS     | 33     |
| OHIO STATE     | 72.5   | UCLA              | 51.5   | ARMY              | 41     | E MICHIGAN        | 32.5   |
| GEORGIA        | 69.5   | MISSISSIPPI STATE | 51     | MISSOURI          | 41     | OLD DOMINION      | 32.5   |
| CLEMSON        | 64     | NORTH CAROLINA    | 51     | W KENTUCKY        | 41     | W MICHIGAN        | 32.5   |
| MICHIGAN       | 61     | MINNESOTA         | 50     | WASHINGTON STATE  | 41     | COLORADO STATE    | 32     |
| NOTRE DAME     | 60     | TCU               | 50     | CALIFORNIA        | 40.5   | JAMES MADISON     | 31.5   |
| UTAH           | 59.5   | UCF               | 50     | ILLINOIS          | 40.5   | LOUISIANA TECH    | 31.5   |
| TEXAS A&M      | 58.5   | HOUSTON           | 49.5   | LA LAFAYETTE      | 40.5   | NEVADA            | 31.5   |
| OKLAHOMA       | 58     | PURDUE            | 49.5   | LIBERTY           | 40.5   | S ALABAMA         | 31     |
| PITTSBURGH     | 57.5   | IOWA STATE        | 49     | NORTHWESTERN      | 40.5   | BUFFALO           | 30.5   |
| MIAMI FL       | 57     | KANSAS STATE      | 49     | SAN DIEGO STATE   | 40.5   | GA SOUTHERN       | 30.5   |
| OREGON         | 57     | ARIZONA STATE     | 48     | COASTAL CAROLINA  | 40     | VANDERBILT        | 30.5   |
| NC STATE       | 56.5   | WASHINGTON        | 47.5   | RUTGERS           | 40     | DUKE              | 30     |
| PENN STATE     | 56.5   | MARYLAND          | 47     | GEORGIA TECH      | 39.5   | CHARLOTTE         | 29.5   |
| TEXAS          | 56.5   | BOISE STATE       | 46.5   | INDIANA           | 39.5   | TEXAS STATE UNIV  | 29.5   |
| MICHIGAN STATE | 56     | SMU               | 46     | GEORGIA STATE     | 39     | UNLV              | 29     |
| WISCONSIN      | 56     | SOUTH CAROLINA    | 46     | ARIZONA           | 38.5   | UTEP              | 29     |
| ARKANSAS       | 55     | VIRGINIA          | 46     | TROY              | 38     | ARKANSAS STATE    | 28.5   |
| OLE MISS       | 55     | TEXAS TECH        | 45.5   | TX-SAN ANTONIO    | 38     | KENT STATE        | 28.5   |
| CINCINNATI     | 54.5   | VIRGINIA TECH     | 45.5   | COLORADO          | 37.5   | HAWAII            | 28     |
| LSU            | 54.5   | APPALACHIAN STATE | 45     | MIAMI OHIO        | 37     | OHIO U            | 26.5   |
| OKLAHOMA STATE | 54.5   | FRESNO STATE      | 45     | UTAH STATE        | 37     | BALL STATE        | 26     |
| TENNESSEE      | 54.5   | OREGON STATE      | 45     | C MICHIGAN        | 36.5   | BOWLING GREEN     | 25.5   |
| AUBURN         | 54     | AIR FORCE         | 44     | KANSAS            | 35.5   | TEMPLE            | 25     |
| KENTUCKY       | 54     | BOSTON COLLEGE    | 44     | N ILLINOIS        | 35.5   | RICE              | 24.5   |
| BYU            | 53.5   | SYRACUSE          | 43.5   | TULSA             | 35.5   | AKRON             | 23     |
| IOWA           | 53.5   | WEST VIRGINIA     | 43.5   | SOUTH FLORIDA     | 35     | LA MONROE         | 23     |
| NEBRASKA       | 53     | MARSHALL          | 43     | SAN JOSE STATE    | 34.5   | NEW MEXICO        | 20     |
| FLORIDA STATE  | 52.5   | TOLEDO            | 43     | MIDDLE TENN STATE | 34     | CONNECTICUT       | 19.5   |
| USC            | 52.5   | MEMPHIS           | 42.5   | NAVY              | 34     | MASSACHUSETTS     | 19.5   |
| BAYLOR         | 52     | TULANE            | 42.5   | FLA ATLANTIC      | 33.5   | FLA INTERNATIONAL | 18.5   |
| WAKE FOREST    | 52     | UAB               | 42.5   | NORTH TEXAS       | 33.5   | NEW MEXICO STATE  | 17     |
| FLORIDA        | 51.5   | EAST CAROLINA     | 42     | WYOMING           | 33.5   |                   |        |



# KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

HEAD COACH: CHRIS KLIEMAN (4TH)

OFF. COORDINATOR: COLLIN KLEIN • DEF. COORDINATOR: JOE KLANDERMAN  
MANHATTAN, KS • BILL SNYDER FAMILY FOOTBALL STADIUM

**49** STEVE MAKINEN'S POWER RATING  
(#43 OF 131)

**13** RETURNING STARTERS  
OFFENSE: 6 • DEFENSE: 7

There are two gates with five commercial flights per day out of Manhattan Regional Airport, and the only departures are to Chicago O'Hare (2) and Dallas/Fort Worth (3). Manhattan is almost an hour from Topeka and almost two hours from St. Louis. From a football standpoint, especially in a Power Five conference, this is about as remote as it gets. Recruiting is not easy, yet Kansas State fields a competitive football team virtually every year. The same will be true this season.

## OFFENSE

Head coach Chris Klieman has followed in the footsteps of predecessor Bill Snyder by attacking the transfer portal and the junior-college ranks. This offseason, he just so happened to poach talent from Nebraska, including quarterback Adrian Martinez. Whether or not Klieman and offensive coordinator and Wildcats legend Collin Klein can get the best out of Martinez may define the season.

That's assuming Martinez can beat out Will Howard for the job. Given that Howard has a career 54% completion rate and a 9-11 TD-INT ratio, it should happen, but the offense is going to run through Deuce Vaughn anyway. The 5-foot-6 super sophomore rushed for more than 1,400 yards and 18 touchdowns last season, while also finishing with the most receptions and second-most receiving yards. His proficiency created throwing lanes for Skylar Thompson, who was drafted in the seventh round by the Dolphins.

Only two linemen return for the Wildcats, but this is almost always a sound team in the trenches. Klein's offense will have some different wrinkles and spread concepts, so we'll have to see how the Wildcats do with the changes early in the season.

## DEFENSE

This is where the JUCOs almost always come into play. The COVID-altered 2020 season was an outlier for Kansas State, as this defense has held the opposition under 26 points per game in five of the last six seasons, including just 21 points per game in 2021. The Wildcats had their best season against the run since 2017 and limited big plays in the passing game by being fundamentally sound.

Kansas State allowed only 5.4 yards per play and gave up only 18 plays of 20 or more yards. Seven starters are back on this defense with a third-year defensive coordinator in Joe Klanderman, who has been an assistant under Klieman dating to 2014. Questioning whether the defense can put up the same statistics is fair, but this should be another solid unit.

After allowing 37 points to Oklahoma and 33 to Iowa State, the Wildcats allowed only 17.9 points per game in their last six. They do have to replace DB Ross Yeast, who was the captain of the defense and led with 10 pass breakups and four of the team's 11 interceptions.

## OUTLOOK

The Wildcats will be comfortably favored in three nonconference home games before going to Norman to take on the Sooners. Kansas State has pulled off some big upsets in that rivalry, and the games are usually very close. The Wildcats do get five road games with the nine-game Big 12 schedule, including a tough back-to-back against Baylor and West Virginia late in the season, when depth might be a question.

My projections have Kansas State with 7.55 wins, and their posted win total is 6.5, albeit with heavy Over juice. There are a lot of toss-up games on the schedule, though, and the QB play will determine their chances in those. As somebody out on Martinez because of the turnovers, I'd lean more toward pessimism than optimism. — Adam Burke

## 2022 SCHEDULE

| DATE  | OPPONENT (Est. Line)    | OppPR |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| 9/3   | S DAKOTA (-22.5)        | 29.5  |
| 9/10  | MISSOURI (-12)          | 41    |
| 9/17  | TULANE (-10.5)          | 42.5  |
| 9/24  | at Oklahoma (+12)       | 58    |
| 10/1  | TEXAS TECH (-7)         | 45.5  |
| 10/8  | at Iowa St (+3)         | 49    |
| 10/22 | at TCU (+3)             | 50    |
| 10/29 | OKLAHOMA ST (+2.5)      | 54.5  |
| 11/5  | TEXAS (+4)              | 56.5  |
| 11/12 | at Baylor (+6)          | 52    |
| 11/19 | at West Virginia (-1.5) | 43.5  |
| 11/26 | KANSAS (-17)            | 35.5  |

SCHEDULE  
STRENGTH

**45.66**  
(#32 of 131)

FIELD  
RATINGS

**3.3 / -0.1**  
(HOME/ROAD)

SEASON WIN  
TOTAL PLAY

**UNDER 6.5**

BIG 12 CONFERENCE  
ODDS TO WIN

**15/1**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF  
ODDS TO WIN

**250/1**

# TEAM TRENDS

- KANSAS STATE IS 13-2 ATS (L15G) AT HOME AS AP TOP 25
- KANSAS STATE IS 4-9-2 ATS (L15G) ON ROAD AS FAVORITE OF 7 OR LESS POINTS
- KANSAS STATE IS 23-9 OVER (SINCE 2000) AT HOME AS AP TOP 25

## 2021 RESULTS RECORD: 8-5

| DATE  | OPPONENT       | SCORE | SU | CL   | ATS | TOTAL  |
|-------|----------------|-------|----|------|-----|--------|
| 9/4   | vs. Stanford   | 24-7  | W  | -3   | W   | 54.5 U |
| 9/11  | S ILLINOIS     | 31-23 | W  | -17  | L   | 55 U   |
| 9/18  | NEVADA         | 38-17 | W  | 1.5  | W   | 51 O   |
| 9/25  | at Oklahoma St | 20-31 | L  | 6    | L   | 47.5 O |
| 10/2  | OKLAHOMA       | 31-37 | L  | 12.5 | W   | 53 O   |
| 10/16 | IOWA ST        | 20-33 | L  | 6.5  | L   | 51 O   |
| 10/23 | at Texas Tech  | 25-24 | W  | -1   | T   | 60.5 U |
| 10/30 | TCU            | 31-12 | W  | -3.5 | W   | 58.5 U |
| 11/6  | at Kansas      | 35-10 | W  | -24  | W   | 56 U   |
| 11/13 | WEST VIRGINIA  | 34-17 | W  | -6   | W   | 47.5 O |
| 11/20 | BAYLOR         | 10-20 | L  | -2.5 | L   | 49.5 U |
| 11/26 | at Texas       | 17-22 | L  | 3    | L   | 55 U   |
| 1/4   | vs. LSU        | 42-20 | W  | -10  | W   | 47 O   |

## 2021 STATS & RANKS

|                        | OFFENSE<br>STAT RANK |     | DEFENSE<br>STAT RANK |     |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Points Per Game        | 27.3                 | 64  | 20.8                 | 19  |
| Yards Per Point        | 13.2                 | 35  | 16.8                 | 14  |
| Plays Per Game         | 58.1                 | 130 |                      |     |
| Time of Possession     | 29:34                | 76  |                      |     |
| 3rd Down Conv. %       | 44.4%                | 25  | 41.1%                | 82  |
| Total Yards Per Game   | 361                  | 94  | 350.7                | 27  |
| Yards Per Play         | 6.2                  | 22  | 5.3                  | 48  |
| Rush Attempts Per Game | 32.2                 | 110 |                      |     |
| Rush Yards Per Game    | 159.6                | 65  | 132.2                | 29  |
| Yards Per Rush Attempt | 5                    | 31  | 3.8                  | 35  |
| Pass Attempts Per Game | 24.2                 | 116 |                      |     |
| Completion %           | 66.6%                | 16  | 69.3%                | 128 |
| Passing Yards Per Game | 201.4                | 93  | 218.5                | 47  |
| Yards Per Pass Attempt | 8.3                  | 24  | 7.5                  | 74  |
| Turnovers              | 0.8                  | 10  | 1.2                  | 86  |

## STEVE MAKINEN'S EFFECTIVE STATISTICS

| SEASON | NEW HC? | SM PR | EFF STRG | EYPP+/- | SM BR | OFFRS-NEW | EOPPG | EOYPP | EOYPPT | DEFRS-NEW | EDPPG | EDFYPP | EDYPPT |
|--------|---------|-------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|
| 2021   |         | 51.5  | 21.5     | 2.59    | -22.8 | 10-QB     | 32.5  | 7.24  | 12.71  | 6         | 12.2  | 4.65   | 25.07  |
| 2020   |         | 44    | 16.7     | 0.18    | -8.5  | 3-QB      | 28.8  | 5.96  | 12.43  | 6, DC     | 28    | 5.78   | 15.02  |
| 2019   | Yes     | 51.5  | 25.3     | 1.14    | -20.8 | 6-QB, OC  | 37.1  | 6.52  | 11.72  | 8, DC     | 12.6  | 5.38   | 25.42  |
| 2018   |         | 47.5  | 14.1     | 1       | 0     | 8-QB, OC  | 30.1  | 6.15  | 13.57  | 5-DC      | 16    | 5.15   | 21.81  |



# KANSAS JAYHAWKS

HEAD COACH: LANCE LEIPOLD (2ND)

OFF. COORDINATOR: ANDY KOTELNICKI • DEF. COORDINATOR: BRIAN BORLAND  
LAWRENCE, KS • DAVID BOOTH KANSAS MEMORIAL STADIUM

**35.5** STEVE MAKINEN'S POWER RATING  
(#90 OF 131)

**17** RETURNING STARTERS  
OFFENSE: 9, QB • DEFENSE: 8

Rock (almost never) Chalk Jayhawk pulled off one huge stunner in Lance Leipold's first year in Lawrence. Kansas beat Texas 57-56 in overtime to snap a 56-game road losing streak in Big 12 play. On the whole, the Jayhawks were a lot more competitive last season, though they were favored only once (-12.5 vs. South Dakota) and a dog of more than two touchdowns in every other game. Kansas hasn't won more than three games since 2009. Is this the year?

## OFFENSE

QB Jalon Daniels looked like somebody to build around as the starter over the last three games. Not only did he lead the upset win over the Longhorns, but he completed nearly 71% of his passes with a 6-3 TD-INT ratio in those games. Kansas can create some interesting packages with Daniels and backup QB Jason Bean, who was the team's second-leading rusher with 400 yards.

The running back room looks upgraded with Minnesota transfer Ky Thomas and super sophomore Devin Neal, who averaged 4.5 yards per carry last season. The Kansas ground game managed only 3.8 yards per carry, but the offensive line yielded only 16 sacks after allowing 47 in just nine games the previous season.

This won't look like the offense we saw with Todd Reesing during the Mark Mangino years, but the Jayhawks are trending up, and any positives with low expectations would represent another step in the right direction.

## DEFENSE

Help is still needed, but the defense simply can't be as bad as it has been over the last decade. Last year's unit allowed more than 42 points per game and more than 7 yards per play. With a limited offense, those numbers make it virtually impossible to win. As the season went along, though, there were some bright spots, including competent efforts to end the season against TCU and Virginia in close losses as big underdogs.

Leading sack man Kyron Johnson is gone, but Kansas should continue to get more pressure now that the transition to a 4-3 defense has taken hold. There are eight starters back on defense and Leipold and his assistants dug into the transfer portal for some depth. The Jayhawks especially added help in the secondary with transfers from Michigan State (Kalon Gervin) and Purdue (Marvin Grant).

## OUTLOOK

Nobody is expecting miracles, but four wins and more interest in the program at a major basketball school would be a huge stepping stone. I don't think Kansas gets there, as my projections have 2.33 wins, but Kansas will be favored over Tennessee Tech and Duke in nonconference. For a team that has been favored only 17 times in the last 10 seasons, that's a step in the right direction.

Kansas will still be a double-digit dog in every conference game and has five on the road with the nine-game Big 12 schedule. Another shocker may be possible, but this season is less about wins and losses and more about individual player development. — Adam Burke

## 2022 SCHEDULE

| DATE  | OPPONENT (Est. Line)   | OppPR |
|-------|------------------------|-------|
| 9/2   | TENNESSEE TECH (-33.5) | 3.5   |
| 9/10  | at West Virginia (+12) | 43.5  |
| 9/17  | at Houston (+17)       | 49.5  |
| 9/24  | DUKE (-7)              | 30    |
| 10/1  | IOWA ST (+12)          | 49    |
| 10/8  | TCU (+13)              | 50    |
| 10/15 | at Oklahoma (+25.5)    | 58    |
| 10/22 | at Baylor (+19.5)      | 52    |
| 11/5  | OKLAHOMA ST (+17.5)    | 54.5  |
| 11/12 | at Texas Tech (+13)    | 45.5  |
| 11/19 | TEXAS (+19)            | 56.5  |
| 11/26 | at Kansas St (+17)     | 49    |

SCHEDULE  
STRENGTH

**45.98**  
(#31 of 131)

FIELD  
RATINGS

**1.4 / -0.2**  
(HOME/ROAD)

SEASON WIN  
TOTAL UNDER

**UNDER 2.5**

BIG 12 CONFERENCE  
ODDS TO WIN

**250/1**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF  
ODDS TO WIN

**2000/1**

# TEAM TRENDS

- KANSAS IS 5-1-2 ATS (L8G) WHEN AVENGING A LOSS VS. - WEST VIRGINIA
- KANSAS IS 0-10 ATS (L10G) WHEN AVENGING A LOSS VS. - BAYLOR
- KANSAS IS 8-1-1 OVER (L2Y) ON ROAD WHEN AVENGING A LOSS

## 2021 RESULTS RECORD: 2-10

| DATE  | OPPONENT            | SCORE | SU | CL    | ATS | TOTAL  |
|-------|---------------------|-------|----|-------|-----|--------|
| 9/3   | S DAKOTA            | 17-14 | W  | -11.5 | L   | 55 U   |
| 9/10  | at Coastal Carolina | 22-49 | L  | 27    | T   | 52 O   |
| 9/18  | BAYLOR              | 7-45  | L  | 17    | L   | 48.5 O |
| 9/25  | at Duke             | 33-52 | L  | 16    | L   | 57.5 O |
| 10/2  | at Iowa St          | 7-59  | L  | 34.5  | L   | 57 O   |
| 10/16 | TEXAS TECH          | 14-41 | L  | 18    | L   | 67.5 U |
| 10/23 | OKLAHOMA            | 23-35 | L  | 38.5  | W   | 66.5 U |
| 10/30 | at Oklahoma St      | 3-55  | L  | 28.5  | L   | 54.5 O |
| 11/6  | KANSAS ST           | 10-35 | L  | 24    | L   | 56 U   |
| 11/13 | at Texas            | 57-56 | W  | 31    | W   | 61.5 O |
| 11/20 | at TCU              | 28-31 | L  | 21    | W   | 64 U   |
| 11/27 | WEST VIRGINIA       | 28-34 | L  | 15.5  | W   | 55.5 O |

## 2021 STATS & RANKS

|                        | OFFENSE |      | DEFENSE |      |
|------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|
|                        | STAT    | RANK | STAT    | RANK |
| Points Per Game        | 21.1    | 105  | 44.7    | 130  |
| Yards Per Point        | 15.8    | 94   | 11.4    | 128  |
| Plays Per Game         | 63.5    | 124  |         |      |
| Time of Possession     | 30:28   | 44   |         |      |
| 3rd Down Conv. %       | 36.7%   | 86   | 57.8%   | 130  |
| Total Yards Per Game   | 333.6   | 105  | 507.9   | 126  |
| Yards Per Play         | 5.3     | 85   | 7.4     | 128  |
| Rush Attempts Per Game | 35.7    | 78   |         |      |
| Rush Yards Per Game    | 146.8   | 73   | 258.5   | 128  |
| Yards Per Rush Attempt | 4.1     | 73   | 6.3     | 128  |
| Pass Attempts Per Game | 26.5    | 105  |         |      |
| Completion %           | 61.0%   | 66   | 72.3%   | 130  |
| Passing Yards Per Game | 186.8   | 103  | 249.5   | 92   |
| Yards Per Pass Attempt | 7       | 82   | 9.4     | 124  |
| Turnovers              | 1.2     | 48   | 1.5     | 47   |

## STEVE MAKINEN'S EFFECTIVE STATISTICS

| SEASON | NEW HC? | SM PR | EFF STRG | EYPP+/- | SM BR | OFFRS-NEW | EOPPG | EOYPP | EOYPPT | DEFRS-NEW | EDPPG | EDFYPP | EDYPPT |
|--------|---------|-------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|
| 2021   | Yes     | 30.5  | -3.4     | -0.01   | 5.4   | 8-QB, OC  | 28.3  | 6.19  | 13.73  | 9, DC     | 31.7  | 6.2    | 13.18  |
| 2020   |         | 24.5  | -8.8     | -2.19   | 16.2  | 6, OC     | 20.7  | 3.96  | 13.57  | 5, DC     | 42.6  | 6.16   | 10.01  |
| 2019   | Yes     | 35.5  | 5.2      | 1.58    | -9.5  | 5, OC     | 30.8  | 6.94  | 14.5   | 5, DC     | 26.4  | 5.36   | 15.66  |
| 2018   |         | 39    | 10.2     | 0.81    | 6.5   | 9-QB      | 31.3  | 6.07  | 13.18  | 10        | 21.1  | 5.26   | 17.24  |



# MISSOURI TIGERS

HEAD COACH: ELIAH DRINKWITZ (3RD)

OFF. COORDINATOR: CURTIS LUPER • DEF. COORDINATOR: BLAKE BAKER  
COLUMBIA, MO • FAUROT FIELD AT MEMORIAL STADIUM

**41** STEVE MAKINEN'S POWER RATING  
(#68 OF 131)

**14** RETURNING STARTERS  
OFFENSE: 6 • DEFENSE: 8

The ceiling is low and the floor is high at Missouri. The Tigers haven't won a bowl game since 2014 and haven't finished higher than third in the East Division since that same season, but they also haven't really bottomed out except for Barry Odom's first season in 2016. The projection looks about the same this year, but the Tigers have some huge holes to fill.

## OFFENSE

No hole is bigger than the one left by RB Tyler Badie. Badie finished as the program's second-leading rusher of all time with 1,669 yards in his senior season and also led the team in receptions with 54. He covered up a ton of offensive shortcomings with a quarterback in Connor Bazelak who threw 11 interceptions and just 16 touchdown passes.

The Tigers had 5.9 yards per play but rushed for 5 yards per carry, as the passing game ranked outside the top 100 in yards per attempt. Maybe sophomore QB Brady Cook, who started one game and played in parts of others, can add some more dynamism to the aerial attack. He did complete almost 80% of his passes, though he had only 59 attempts.

The Tigers did secure the top freshman wide receiver in the nation in Luther Burden III, who should be deployed like Rondale Moore was by Purdue in his freshman season. Junior Tauskie Dove also had 15.2 yards per reception and led the team in yards. The offense, despite the loss of Badie, has the chance to improve with a better passing attack.

## DEFENSE

The defense, which was a work in progress last season, has to start from scratch. The Tigers will have to learn a new defensive scheme as Blake Baker takes over after a one-year stop for longtime NFL assistant Steve Wilks. Baker is only 39 but has been a defensive coordinator for seven seasons.

The Tigers were serviceable against the pass last season but couldn't stop the run at all. Opponents rushed for 5.3 yards per carry, and depth was a really big problem. SEC teams gained almost 6.7 yards per play and the bowl game performance against a one-dimensional Army team helped the late-season numbers.

Missouri hit the transfer portal hard and will hope that those guys are able to step in and do a better job than what was there last season.

## OUTLOOK

Another mediocre season looks to be in the cards for the Tigers. The ceiling could be lifted if Cook is the real deal. The wide receivers are small, but Eli Drinkwitz is a quality head coach who does a lot of interesting things. It will just take a big performance from the offense with a defense that looks below average.

The Tigers draw Auburn and Arkansas from the West Division and face Georgia at home. There aren't a lot of clear wins on the schedule for Missouri outside of nonconference play, and some of the toss-up games are on the road. My projection calls for 5.4 wins and the win total is right at 5.5. — Adam Burke

## 2022 SCHEDULE

| DATE  | OPPONENT (Est. Line)      | OppPR |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| 9/1   | LOUISIANA TECH (-13)      | 31.5  |
| 9/10  | at Kansas St (+12)        | 49    |
| 9/17  | ABILENE CHRISTIAN (-29.5) | 14.5  |
| 9/24  | at Auburn (+17)           | 54    |
| 10/1  | GEORGIA (+26)             | 69.5  |
| 10/8  | at Florida (+15)          | 51.5  |
| 10/22 | VANDERBILT (-14)          | 30.5  |
| 10/29 | at South Carolina (+8)    | 46    |
| 11/5  | KENTUCKY (+9.5)           | 54    |
| 11/12 | at Tennessee (+16.5)      | 54.5  |
| 11/19 | NEW MEXICO ST (-28)       | 17    |
| 11/25 | ARKANSAS (+10.5)          | 55    |

SCHEDULE  
STRENGTH

**43.54**  
(#50 of 131)

FIELD  
RATINGS

**3.2 / -0.7**  
(HOME/ROAD)

SEASON WIN  
TOTAL PLAY

**UNDER 5.5**

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE  
ODDS TO WIN

**300/1**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF  
ODDS TO WIN

**500/1**

# TEAM TRENDS

- MISSOURI IS 5-1 ATS (L2Y) IN NOVEMBER
- MISSOURI IS 2-12 ATS (L3Y) ON ROAD
- MISSOURI IS 9-1 UNDER (L3Y) IN NOVEMBER

## 2021 RESULTS RECORD: 6-7

| DATE  | OPPONENT          | SCORE | SU | CL    | ATS | TOTAL  |
|-------|-------------------|-------|----|-------|-----|--------|
| 9/4   | C MICHIGAN        | 34-24 | W  | -14   | L   | 59 U   |
| 9/11  | at Kentucky       | 28-35 | L  | 5.5   | L   | 56.5 O |
| 9/18  | SE MISSOURI ST    | 59-28 | W  | -35.5 | L   | 59 O   |
| 9/25  | at Boston College | 34-41 | L  | 1     | L   | 58.5 O |
| 10/2  | TENNESSEE         | 24-62 | L  | -2.5  | L   | 66.5 O |
| 10/9  | NORTH TEXAS       | 48-35 | W  | -18.5 | L   | 69 O   |
| 10/16 | TEXAS A&M         | 14-35 | L  | 11.5  | L   | 59.5 U |
| 10/30 | at Vanderbilt     | 37-28 | W  | -16   | L   | 62 O   |
| 11/6  | at Georgia        | 6-43  | L  | 40    | W   | 59 U   |
| 11/13 | SOUTH CAROLINA    | 31-28 | W  | 0     | W   | 57 O   |
| 11/20 | FLORIDA           | 24-23 | W  | 9.5   | W   | 69 U   |
| 11/26 | at Arkansas       | 17-34 | L  | 14.5  | L   | 63 U   |
| 12/22 | vs. Army          | 22-24 | L  | 7     | W   | 54 U   |

## 2021 STATS & RANKS

|                        | OFFENSE |      | DEFENSE |      |
|------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|
|                        | STAT    | RANK | STAT    | RANK |
| Points Per Game        | 26.6    | 69   | 34.3    | 109  |
| Yards Per Point        | 14.7    | 72   | 12.8    | 108  |
| Plays Per Game         | 71.8    | 46   |         |      |
| Time of Possession     | 30:17   | 53   |         |      |
| 3rd Down Conv. %       | 42.1%   | 41   | 43.3%   | 101  |
| Total Yards Per Game   | 391.9   | 64   | 439.8   | 104  |
| Yards Per Play         | 5.5     | 73   | 6.1     | 105  |
| Rush Attempts Per Game | 35.8    | 76   |         |      |
| Rush Yards Per Game    | 176.6   | 48   | 222.3   | 120  |
| Yards Per Rush Attempt | 4.9     | 33   | 5.1     | 112  |
| Pass Attempts Per Game | 34.5    | 36   |         |      |
| Completion %           | 65.5%   | 22   | 59.9%   | 55   |
| Passing Yards Per Game | 215.3   | 78   | 217.4   | 44   |
| Yards Per Pass Attempt | 6.2     | 110  | 8.3     | 104  |
| Turnovers              | 1.1     | 35   | 1.3     | 75   |

## STEVE MAKINEN'S EFFECTIVE STATISTICS

| SEASON | NEW HC? | SM PR | EFF STRG | EYPP+/- | SM BR | OFFRS-NEW | EOPPG | EOYPP | EOYPPT | DEFRS-NEW | EDPPG | EDFYPP | EDYPPT |
|--------|---------|-------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|
| 2021   |         | 41.5  | 9.8      | 1.04    | -8.8  | 8-QB      | 37.1  | 6.76  | 12.85  | 8, DC     | 27.5  | 5.72   | 14.28  |
| 2020   | Yes     | 45.5  | 15.5     | 0.36    | -4.9  | 4, OC     | 30.4  | 6.06  | 14.25  | 7         | 28    | 5.7    | 13.63  |
| 2019   |         | 51    | 22.3     | 1.84    | -23.4 | 7         | 35.4  | 6.11  | 12.25  | 6         | 14.3  | 4.27   | 19.21  |
| 2018   |         | 58    | 31.2     | 2.52    | -14.8 | 9-QB, OC  | 46.6  | 7.33  | 12.12  | 7         | 15.4  | 4.8    | 21.02  |



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