

48



**KANSAS
JAYHAWKS**
1-0, 0-0 Big 12

AT



**MISSOURI STATE
BEARS**
0-1, 0-0 MVFC

17

POSTGAME NOTES

Series History: Kansas leads 3-0

Kansas Captains: Jalon Daniels, Mason Fairchild, Rich Miller, Mike Novitsky

Coin Toss: KU wins the toss, defers

Team Notes

- Kansas is now 597-675-58 all-time, including 9-17 in the Lance Leipold era.
- Kansas improved to 73-54-7 all-time in season openers, including 3-0 under Lance Leipold. KU is 56-26-2 in home season openers.

Offensive Notes

- Kansas amassed 521 yards of total offense, marking the eighth time in the Lance Leipold era the Jayhawks have accumulated 500+ yards of offense.
- On his first carry of the season, junior RB Devin Neal rushed 48 yards for a touchdown, his 20th career touchdown and 18th career rushing score. This marked the second-consecutive season in which Neal scored on his first carry. His first rush of the 2022 season was a 19-yard touchdown against Tennessee Tech. Neal became the fourth FBS player since 2012 with a touchdown run of 15+ yards on his first carry of consecutive seasons, and the only running back of the four.
- Neal scored both a rushing and receiving touchdown in the same game for the third time in his career. Last season at West Virginia (9-10-22), Neal rushed for two touchdowns and caught one. The last time a Kansas player scored touchdowns rushing and receiving in a season opener was Jake Sharp on Sept. 5, 2009, versus Northern Colorado.
- With 94 yards rushing, Neal became the 16th player in KU history to rush for at least 1,800 yards for his career. Neal moved into 15th on the KU career rushing list, currently at 1,891 yards. Neal passed Norris Banks, who rushed for 1,862 yards from 1975-77.
- Redshirt-senior Jason Bean got the start at quarterback on Friday night, starting his 14th game at quarterback while at Kansas. He started four games in 2022 and nine contests in 2021.
- With 276 yards passing, Bean moved into 14th on the Kansas career passing yards list, currently at 2,808. He passed Zac Wegner (2,640 from 1995-99) and Montel Cozart (2,755 from 2013-16).
- Going 22-for-28 passing, Bean is now 211-for-346 (61.0%) passing for his KU career which moves into fourth on the KU career completion percentage. Teammate Jalon Daniels is third at 61.9%.
- Junior WR Luke Grimm recorded his 12th career touchdown reception in the second quarter. He is now tied for 10th on the KU all-time touchdown reception list with Isaac Byrd (1994-96).
- With four catches, Grimm now has 97 career receptions, which is tied for 18th on the KU career receptions list with Kenny Drayton (1988-91) and Quintin Smith (1987-89).
- With 33 receiving yards, Grimm cracked the KU top 20 for career receiving yards, currently at 1,260. Grimm passed Charles Gordon, who had 1,252 yards from 2003-05.
- Junior WR Lawrence Arnold hauled in a 52-yard reception from quarterback Jason Bean early in the second quarter and, in the process surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for career receiving yards. Arnold finished with four receptions for 77 yards, giving him 1,035 receiving yards for his career.
- Redshirt-senior RB Dylan McDuffie scored his first touchdown as a Jayhawk and his second career touchdown on a 17-yard scoring run in the third quarter. McDuffie joined Neal in rushing for a touchdown on his first carry of the season.
- McDuffie and Neal are the second Power Five duo since 2012 to rush for a touchdown of at least 15 yards in their first carry of the season (Ole Miss – Sept. 5, 2015 with Jaylen Walton and Chad Kelly).
- Redshirt-sophomore RB Daniel Hishaw scored his ninth career touchdown, eighth rushing, with a 24-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter. Hishaw scored six touchdowns last season, including five rushing, and had two touchdowns in 2020.
- After finishing two receptions for 22 yards, senior TE Mason Fairchild has caught at least two passes in eight consecutive games dating back to last season. Tonight marks the 15th game in his career he has caught at least two passes.
- With four catches tonight, junior WR Quentin Skinner tied his single-game high for receptions. Skinner caught four passes in three games last season - vs. Texas (11-19-22), at Baylor (10-22-22) and vs. TCU (10-8-22). Skinner tied Arnold with a team-high 77 receiving yards on the night.
- Junior RB Sevon Morrison was the final Jayhawk to find the end zone on Friday night as he scored on a five-yard rush in the closing minutes. For Morrison, he scored his second career touchdown after also scoring in last season's opener against Tennessee Tech (9-2-22).

Defensive Notes

- A pair of Jayhawks recorded interceptions against Missouri State in cornerbacks Cobee Bryant and Kwinton Lassiter. The last time Kansas recorded two interceptions in a season opener was Aug. 31, 2019, against Indiana State.
- For Bryant, the junior corner recorded his sixth career interception. He had three picks last season after recording two in 2021.
- Redshirt-senior defensive end Hayden Hatcher recorded a career-high seven tackles, finishing with two solo and five assist tackles on the night. Hatcher added 2.0 tackles for loss and one quarterback hurry against MSU. His previous career-high for tackles was four at Houston last season (9-17-22).
- Junior defensive end Jerome Robinson recorded his fourth career sack as he corraled Missouri State quarterback Jacob Clark to end the Bears' first drive. Robinson had three sacks last season.
- Lassiter, a redshirt junior, recorded his first interception as a Jayhawk in the fourth quarter and added a pair of tackles from his cornerback position.

Special Teams Notes

- Junior Trevor Wilson's 33-yard kick return in the first quarter was the longest of his career, surpassing a 20-yard return set in 2021 at Oklahoma State (10/30/21). He finished the game with two returns for 61 yards after having one kick return in 2021 and two in 2022.
- Making his Kansas debut, redshirt-senior Seth Keller went 2-for-2 on field goals and hit all five of his extra point attempts. He arrived at Kansas after playing at Texas State, where he had an 86.0% (37-for-43) success rate on field goal attempts.
- Junior kicker Tabor Allen forced eight touchbacks on nine kickoff attempts, averaging the maximum of 65.0 yards per kickoff. For the game, MSU's average field position was its own 27-yard line, while KU averaged its own 36-yard line.